

Great Ships of The U. S. Navy

U.S.S. Alabama

by Mike Prero

The *USS Alabama* (BB-60), a South Dakota-class battleship, was the sixth completed ship of the United States Navy named for the U.S. state of Alabama, however she was only the third commissioned ship with that name. Alabama was commissioned in 1942 and served in World War II in the Atlantic and Pacific theaters. She was decommissioned in 1947 and assigned to the reserve duty. She was retired in 1962. In 1964, Alabama was taken to Mobile Bay and opened as a museum ship the following year. The ship was added to the National Historic Landmark registry in 1986.

According to data found at the USS Alabama Monument in Mobile, Alabama, this battleship fired over 1,250 16 in (410 mm) shells on the enemy during supporting bombardments, shot down 22 enemy aircraft and never incurred any damage due to enemy action. The Alabama suffered only five casualties during the war, the result of one of the ship's guns accidentally firing on one of the ship's other guns. She did not lose a single man due to enemy action, thus earning it the nickname the "Lucky A".

Citizens of the state of Alabama had formed the "USS Alabama Battleship Commission" to raise funds for the preservation of Alabama as a memorial to the men and women who served in World War II. (Nearly \$100,000 was raised by Alabama schoolchildren, mostly in the form of small change and a corporate fundraising effort completed the nearly \$1 million donation.) The ship was awarded to that state on 16 June 1964, and was formally turned over on 7 July 1964 in ceremonies at Seattle. Alabama was then

towed to her permanent berth at Battleship Memorial Park, arriving in Mobile Bay on 14 September 1964 and opening as a museum ship on 9 January 1965. She was joined in 1969 by the Gato-class submarine USS Drum which was moored behind Alabama until it was damaged in Hurricane Georges. It's now on shore. [[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS_Alabama_\(BB-60\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS_Alabama_(BB-60))]

