

20 Feb 1994

Dear Brian Lamb -

on 6 June 1994 there will be an celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Landings at Normandy, France "D-Day" on board the Battleship, USS Texas BB-35 which took a very active part in that engagement of which I was a former crew member

As many former crew members who are able to attend will be on board for that special weekend (on the 1st weekend in June 94)

It would be most appreciated & wonderful for a lot of folks in the

Country if
C-Span Bus was able
to be there to cover
the event -

The USS Texas BB-35
is a special Battleship,
one of her kind left
with a great history

Thank you Brian, Love
your C-Span call in
shows, watch them
every morning (Friday I
enjoy most) as well
as other C-Span coverage
you & your staff
do a wonderful job -

Smooth Sailing
& - Go Navy -

-GO NAVY-

BELMONT, NH 03220

-GO NAVY-

BB 35 THE BATTLESHIP TEXAS



Welcome Aboard The Battleship TEXAS

She is the last of the "Dreadnoughts" and the only surviving U.S. naval vessel to have seen service in both World Wars.

When the U.S.S. TEXAS was commissioned in 1914, she was the most powerful weapon in the

world; the most complex product of an industrial nation just beginning to become a force in global events. The TEXAS projected American pride and power over the world's oceans for 32 years. Her big guns brought dread to her enemies and hope to her friends in the Pacific in 1945 as she had in the North Sea in 1918.

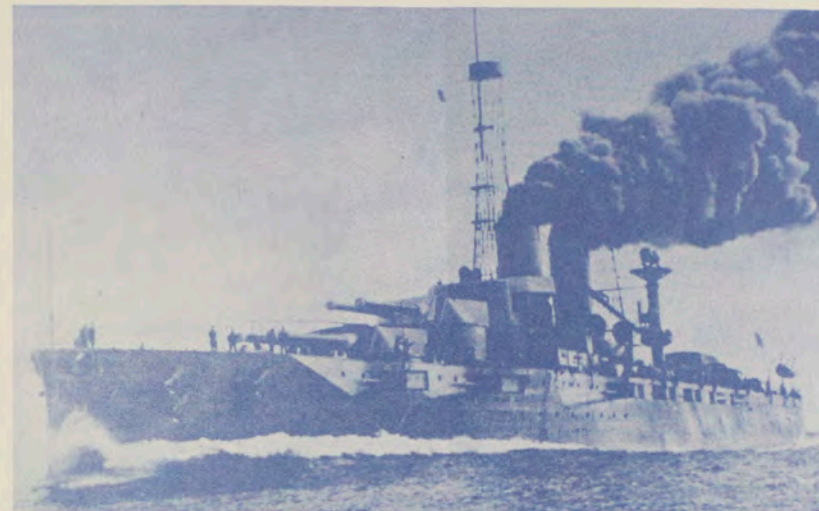
Always a proud ship, imbued with the spirit of her namesake, the TEXAS serves us still: a monument to those who built and served on her, a powerful reminder of the skill, sacrifice, hardship and courage demanded and freely given by Americans in their country's defense.

Touring the TEXAS

The Battleship TEXAS is a large and complicated artifact. Getting around in her can be confusing, even to a sailor. A Visitor Tour Path indicated by signs and arrows about the ship can help you get the most from your visit.

PLEASE BE CAREFUL. High coamings (door sills), steep ladders and obstructions about the decks make a battleship hazardous to the unwary. Please supervise children closely (**no running**).

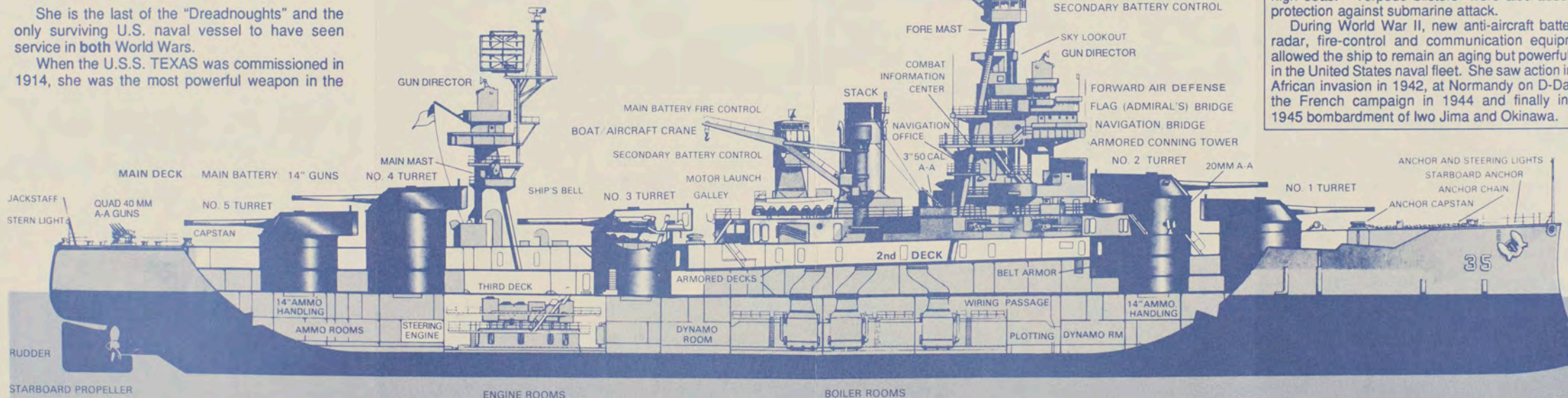
ENJOY YOUR VISIT.



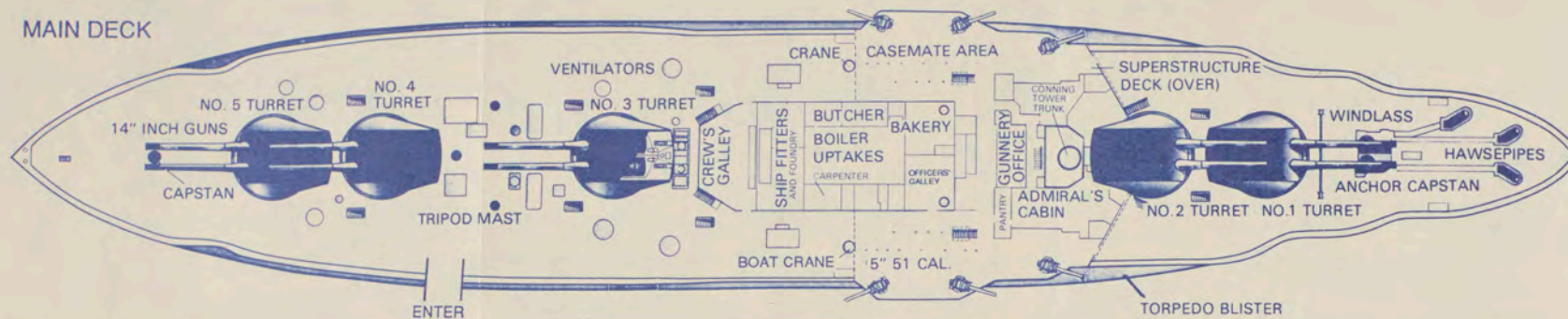
The U.S.S. TEXAS as outfitted for World War I shows the twin "basket" masts, twin stacks and billowing coal smoke from her original boilers.

In 1925, the TEXAS underwent major modifications. She was converted to oil-fired boilers; tripod masts and a single stack were added to the main deck; and the 5" guns which bristled from her sides were reduced in number and moved to the main deck to minimize problems with heavy weather and high seas. "Torpedo blisters" were also added as protection against submarine attack.

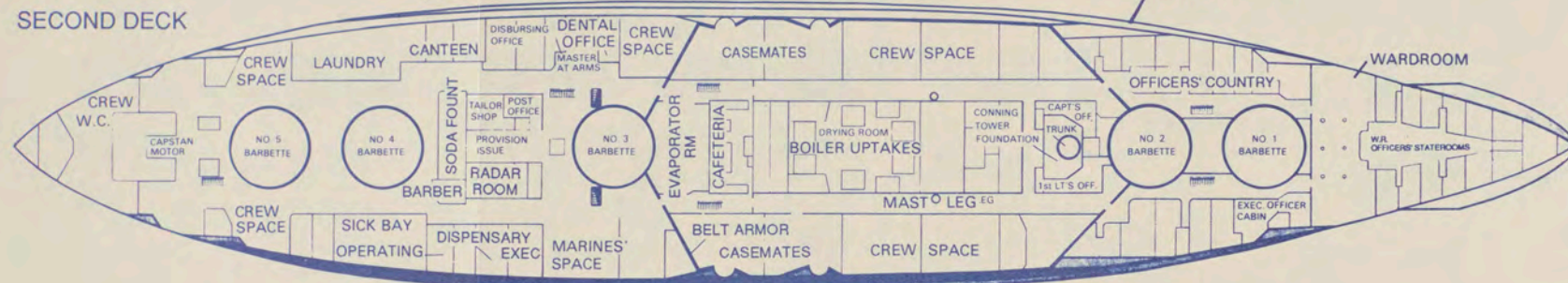
During World War II, new anti-aircraft batteries, radar, fire-control and communication equipment allowed the ship to remain an aging but powerful unit in the United States naval fleet. She saw action in the African invasion in 1942, at Normandy on D-Day, in the French campaign in 1944 and finally in the 1945 bombardment of Iwo Jima and Okinawa.



MAIN DECK



SECOND DECK



Restoration of a Battleship

In September 1983, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department assumed responsibility for the Battleship TEXAS and began research and planning projects aimed at restoring and preserving the ship. The Battleship TEXAS Advisory Board, appointed by the governor, was given the task of seeking additional funding for the project. As plans neared completion, individuals and businesses throughout the state stepped forward with donations of money, time and materials without which the work could not have progressed.

Major repair work began in December 1988 when the TEXAS was towed to Todd Shipyard in Galveston and concluded when she returned to her improved berth at San Jacinto Battleground State Historical Park in July 1990. Initial projects concentrated on restoring the ship's watertight integrity. Nearly 350,000 pounds of steel plating were replaced on the hull, tanks and torpedo blisters; gun tubs and some anti-aircraft gun

mounts, previously removed by the Navy, were once again added to the main deck; and structural repairs were made to the masts and superstructure of the ship. Following the removal of the non-historic layer of concrete on the main deck, work began on the installation of new wooden decking. But the most obvious change was a new paint scheme. Instead of a peace-time gray, the TEXAS was painted the dark blue she wore during service in the Pacific in 1945 (Navy specification Camouflage Measure 21).

The work of saving the TEXAS has involved a tremendous effort and has been a great source of pride throughout the state. But while the ship officially reopened to the public on September 8, 1990, her restoration is not complete. Over a period of several years, many compartments and work areas on the ship will be carefully refurbished to portray life on a warship in 1945. Some of the spaces scheduled for work have never been available for public tour. Although this phase of the restoration will be exciting, it will also require considerable time

and resources. Assisted by former crew members, volunteers, interested groups and contributors, the Parks and Wildlife Department will continue to bring new life to the TEXAS.

Battleship TEXAS GENERAL DATA:

Hull Number: BB35
 Builder: Newport News Shipbuilding and Drydock Co.
 Laid Down: 17 April 1911; Launched: 18 May 1912;
 Commissioned: 12 March 1914
 Length Overall: 573'
 Max. Beam: (1914): 95' (1927): 106'
 Normal Draft: (1914): 28'5" (1927): 28'6"
 Displacement: (1914): 28,000 tons
 (1927): 34,000 tons
 Speed: (1914): 21 knots
 (1927): 20.4 knots
 Complement: Crew, 1,625; Officers 100;
 Marines 84 (peacetime)

Active through 32 years of rapid change in the machinery of naval warfare, the TEXAS has undergone much modification in guns, armor and propulsion. She helped pioneer naval aviation between the wars, and was kept up-to-date with advances in fire control, radio and radar as the focus of her defense shifted to the sky. Her basic reasons for being, however, remained the same: to float the big guns of her main battery into an action, and to keep them firing against any enemy response.

Armament:

Main Battery: 10 14 inch/45 cal. guns in 5 turrets

Range: 12 miles
 Projectiles: Armor Piercing: 1500 lbs
 High Explosive: 1275 lbs
 Full Broadside (Armor Piercing): 15,000 lbs
 Rate of Fire: 1.5 Rounds per Minute
 Turret Crew: 70 men

	1914	1945
Secondary Battery:	(21) 5"/51	(6) 5"/51
Torpedo Tubes:	(4) 21" TT	—
Anti-Aircraft:	—	(10) 3"/50 (10) 40mm quads (44) 20mm

The Battleship TEXAS is owned by the people of Texas and administered by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

FOR INFORMATION:

Battleship TEXAS
 3527 Battleground Road
 La Porte, Texas 77571
 (713) 479-2411

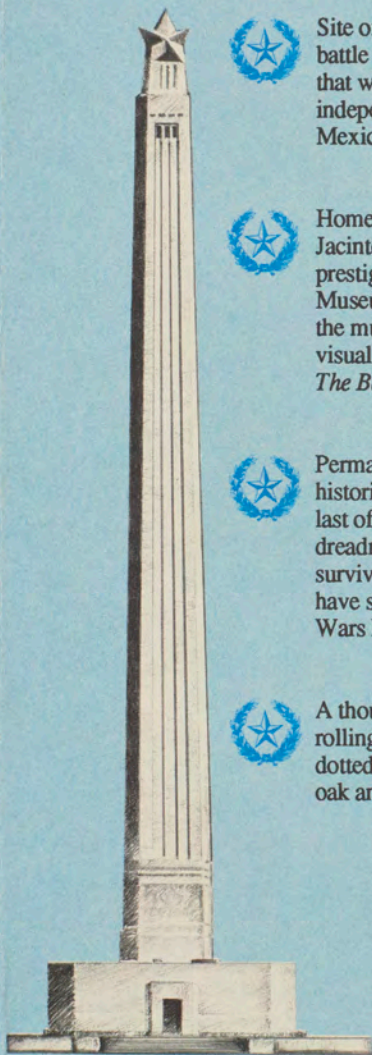
ADMISSION CHARGED

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-GO NAVY-

SAN JACINTO BATTLEGROUND STATE HISTORICAL PARK



Site of the short, furious battle of April 21, 1836 that won Texas independence from Mexico.



Home of the towering San Jacinto Monument, the prestigious San Jacinto Museum of History and the multi-image audio-visual hit *Texas Forever!! The Battle of San Jacinto*.



Permanent berth of the historic Battleship *Texas*, last of the World War I-era dreadnoughts and the only surviving combat ship to have served in both World Wars I and II.



A thousand acres of rolling green meadowland, dotted with stands of live oak and picnic sites.

THEN

Late in the afternoon of April 21, 1836, the broad green plain of San Jacinto rumbled with the sounds of battle drums, cannon and musket fire as General Sam Houston led his ragged but determined troops in a surprise attack against the encamped forces of General Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna.

In less than 20 minutes of fierce fighting, the outcome was determined; the arrogant Mexican general whose army outnumbered the Texans nearly two-to-one was defeated, his commanders bewildered and his soldiers in complete disarray.

Casualties on the Mexican side were horrific and continued to mount for another two hours as Houston's men, fired by memories of The Alamo and the massacre at Goliad, continued to exact revenge. Finally, as sunset neared, the killing stopped, and the battle that would attract the curiosity of military tacticians for years to come was over.

On the following day, Santa Anna, president of Mexico and self-styled "Napoleon of the West," was captured nearby and brought before the wounded Houston, who was lying under a giant live oak near the edge of the battlefield. There, the conquered dictator, who had fled the battle disguised as an army private, agreed to the cessation of all hostilities. He ordered his remaining 3,000 to 4,000 troops, stationed a few miles away near the Brazos River, to withdraw from Texas and return to Mexico.

Victory was complete. Independence from Mexico had been won. The Republic of Texas was at last a reality.

NOW

Today, the site of that decisive battle is a peaceful "green zone," 22 miles east of Houston, Texas. Rolling meadowland, low brush, stands of live oak and the striking 570-foot San Jacinto Monument provide a quiet and elegant setting for the lessons of history to be learned here. Historical markers dot the landscape, depicting highlights of the battle.

Within the base of the towering Monument, the San Jacinto Museum of History invites visitors, school children and scholars to learn about the people, the artifacts and events that shaped Texas history.

On the park's western border, near the Houston Ship Channel, the Battleship *Texas* floats in her berth, impressive in the "midnight blue" camouflage paint scheme she wore in 1945 at the Battle of Okinawa. Her massive 14-inch guns are still, her giant engines no longer churn the water, but her decks are alive with visitors who marvel at what she once was — the most powerful warship afloat.

There's much to see and learn at San Jacinto Battleground State Historical Park. But it's also a place for relaxation, recreation, picnics and bar-b-ques. Texans and all others are cordially invited to visit this unique historic complex.



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THE MONUMENT

The memorial, constructed in 1936-1939 with Federal and State funds at a cost of approximately \$1,500,000, commemorates the heroes of the Battle of San Jacinto and all others who helped win the independence of Texas. The monument, 570 feet high, is built of reinforced concrete faced with Texas fossilized buff limestone. The museum proper, which forms the base of the building, is 125 feet square.

On the museum's four bronze doors are flags, in relief, of the six governments which exercised sovereignty over Texas. On the outside of the base are eight massive panels on which is engraved a brief account of the history of the Texas revolution against Mexico. Above the panels, at the base of the shaft, is a frieze depicting significant phases in the Anglo-American

colonization of Texas.

The shaft is 47 feet square at its foundation, tapering to 30 feet square at the observation tower. At the apex of the building is a star 35 feet high, weighing 220 tons. The approximate weight of the building is 70,300,000 pounds. It rests

on a single concrete foundation 125 feet square by 15 feet deep.

Visitors may ride the elevator to the Monument's 489-foot high Observation Floor which provides a spectacular view of the downtown Houston skyline and the Houston Ship Channel.



SAN JACINTO MUSEUM OF HISTORY

The San Jacinto Museum of History is a private, non-profit educational organization chartered in 1938. The Museum's exhibits interpret four centuries of Texas and regional history and reflect its research collection of over 100,000 objects and 250,000 documents, manuscripts, books and graphic materials.

The museum store features a wide variety of gift items and an exceptional selection of history books for adults and children.

A new addition to the Museum is the 162-seat Jesse H. Jones Theater for Texas Studies, housing the award-winning, multi-image presentation *Texas Forever!! The Battle of San Jacinto*.

Now, for the first time, the real story of this decisive battle, fought on the plain of San Jacinto on the afternoon of April 21, 1836, is brought to the screen in a magnificent modern format. Utilizing 42 projectors, over 3,000 slides and the latest computer technology, the show incorporates motion picture sequences, archival illustrations and maps and 35 original paintings.

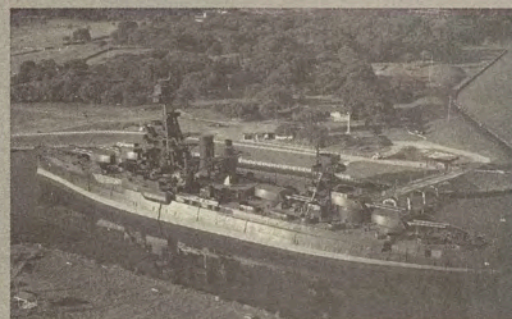
The 35-minute production brings back to life the courage, pride and dauntless spirit of the ordinary men — not the legends they would become — who won this brief but momentous battle, the aftermath of which would eventually push the boundaries of the United States to the Pacific Ocean.



BATTLESHIP TEXAS

Commissioned in 1914, the Battleship *Texas* (BB-35) was recognized at the time as the most powerful warship afloat. Armed with ten 14-inch guns, she was powered by two massive, steam-driven, four-cylinder engines.

Throughout her 32 years of commissioned service, *Texas* was at the forefront of technical advances in armament, armor, fire control, engineering and communications. She also played a major role in the development of naval aviation prior to the introduction of the aircraft carrier.



Texas sailed "in harm's way" at the Allied invasion of North Africa, at Normandy, Iwo Jima and Okinawa. The men of the *Texas*, sailors and Marines, served with pride and earned a lasting reputation for excellence throughout the fleet.

In 1948, the Navy presented her to the people of Texas as the first memorial ship. Since then she has called the San Jacinto Battleground her homeport.

Beginning in late 1988, *Texas* underwent a major overhaul in drydock as part of a long-term restoration program undertaken by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. The restoration will continue for the next several years, but the ship remains open and welcomes all visitors.

HOW TO GET TO THE BATTLEGROUND

The San Jacinto Battleground State Historical Park is located 22 miles east of downtown Houston off Texas Highway 225 East. Turn north on Highway 134 (Battleground Road), and in a few short miles you will see the San Jacinto Monument rising above the prairie.

San Jacinto Battleground State Historical Park
Open seven days a week (Closed December 24, 25)
8 a.m. - 9 p.m. from March 1 to October 31
8 a.m. - 7 p.m. from November 1 to February 29
Admission Free

San Jacinto Museum of History
Located in the San Jacinto Monument
Open seven days a week (Closed December 24, 25)
9 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Admission Free
Elevator ride to Observation Floor: modest charge

Texas Forever!! The Battle of San Jacinto
In the Jesse H. Jones Theatre for Texas Studies in the Monument

Shown every hour from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Admission: Adults - \$3.50

Children under 12 - \$2.00
Senior citizen and group discounts

Battleship Texas
Self-guided tours, Wednesday through Sunday, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Admission: Adults - \$3.00; Children 6 - 12 - \$1.50
Bus tours (20 or more) \$1.50 per person

For more information, please call:
San Jacinto Battleground (713) 479-2431
San Jacinto Monument (713) 479-2019
San Jacinto Museum of History (713) 479-2421
Battleship Texas (713) 479-2411

