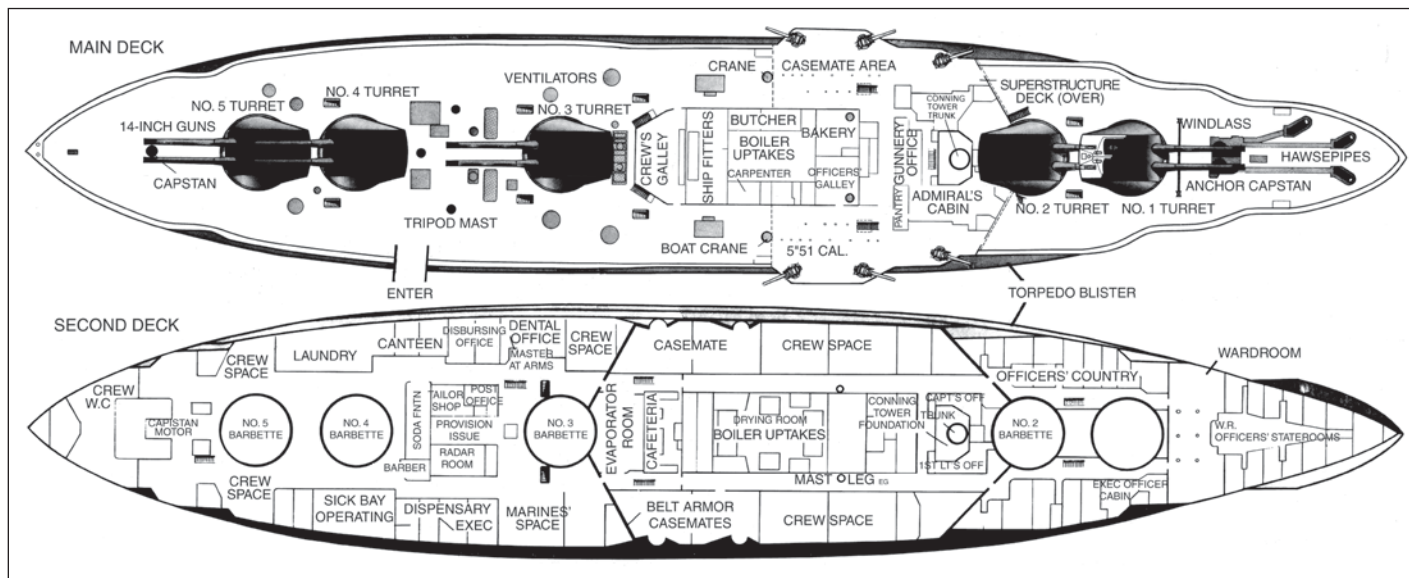


During World War II, *Texas* was an aging ship, but she remained up-to-date with the addition of radar, fire-control and communication equipment, and new anti-aircraft batteries between 1941 and 1945. She saw action in the invasions of North Africa (November 1942), Normandy (June 1944) and Southern France (August 1944).

During the attack on the port of Cherbourg, France, in June 1944, *Texas* was struck twice by large-caliber coastal defense guns, causing the only known casualties in action during *Texas*' long service. Moving into the Pacific in late 1944, she provided support for the landing at Iwo Jima from February 18 to March 7, 1945, firing 923 rounds from her main battery. On April 1, she took part in the invasion of Okinawa, the largest amphibious assault of the Pacific theater. For six weeks she bombarded the coast and fired 2,019 rounds of 14-inch ammunition, but when *Texas* withdrew from Okinawa on May 14, she was untouched by the attacks from enemy guns and swarms of suicide planes. At the end of the war, she carried many prisoners of war from the Philippines to Pearl Harbor, and made three "Magic Carpet" voyages from Pearl Harbor to California, bringing nearly 5,000 troops home from the Pacific.

After her service, Battleship *Texas* was retired to Hawkins Point, Baltimore, from June 1946 to January 1948. She was scheduled to be used as a bombing target, but *Texas* citizens launched a successful statewide fund drive to save her. The U.S. Navy towed her to *Texas* to become the nation's first permanent memorial battleship, and she was officially transferred to the state in ceremonies at San Jacinto Battleground on April 21, 1948. For 35 years, *Texas* was administered by the Battleship *Texas* Commission. During that time she was designated a National Historic Engineering Landmark (1975) and a National Historic Landmark (1977). She became part of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department on September 1, 1983.



TOURING TEXAS

Battleship *Texas* is a large and complicated artifact. Getting around her can be confusing, even to a sailor, so please be careful. High coamings (door sills), steel ladders and obstructions throughout the decks make a battleship hazardous to the unwary. Please supervise children closely and refrain from running.

Hours of operation:

10 a.m. - 5 p.m., seven days a week; closed on Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. School group tours are available by reservation at reduced rates. Call (281) 479-2431 for information.

