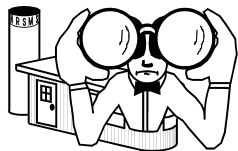


## From The Bridge



## Mystery Photo



Recently, a mistake was pointed out that I made in a book review. No big deal, I thought, I'll just explain it away the modern way, the way our elected officials and talking heads always do. I'll side step responsibility and double talk my way out of the issue by using some lame explanation. Everyone will buy it and no one will get hurt.

Well, it is a big deal. And, before I use up a highway designer's bucket of twists and turns weaving a sad tale, let me take responsibility and set the record straight. In my recent review of the book *Warship 2007* for the summer issue of the Nautical Research Journal (NRJ), I identified the French warship *Mogador* as a cruiser instead of by its proper title *contre-torpilleur*. The transgression may be slight but it has lasting effects. If I let it go, my writing will be no better than the local newspaper which is fond of calling modern destroyers battleships.

Accuracy has a place outside of the ship model. It has a place in the research material we all read and use on our lifelong journey to understand all things nautical. Poor documentation has harmed us all and once errors creep into the lexicon it is virtually impossible to remove them. Look at what the lack of documentation and fact checking has done to some Internet resources. Look at what poor research information has done to the quality and scale fidelity of ship models.

We shouldn't stand for it and that is why I tell this story. If you screw it up or don't get it right, you need to fix the problem.

Your most humble servant

John

Mystery Photo #264: I salute this month's Mystery Photo provider. With start of the Tour-De-France and Bastille Day just around the corner, what better way to recognize our friends across the pond than by running a bona fide mystery image of one of their proud capital ships? And he did it in fine style. And those that played, I'm sure, have come to appreciate how difficult it is to identify older foreign dreadnaughts. Responses came from Dave Baker, Bob Comet, and Tim Wood.

Dave replied first and claims "the easy part is that the photo is of the three 1912 Program French Navy BRETAGNE-class battleship and that it was taken by the famous French photographer Marius Bar in the vicinity of Toulon. From the paint job, it was taken in the late 1920s when the French Navy painted their main battery turrets a darker shade than the rest of the ship. The HARD part is which of the three..." Bob followed with puzzle details of his own: "My first impression was that the battleship was a British dreadnought, but couldn't find a match. I then looked at German Dreadnoughts, no match. Then on an odd chance, looked at French Dreadnaughts and found a close match in my Jane's WWI, in the *Bretagne* class, and the silhouettes showed the addition of a tripod foremast in 1919." Finally, Tim is PG and positive that he is "99.999% sure the photo of the month is the French dreadnought *Provence*, of the *Bretagne* class." These guys are serious!

Dave defines the hard part as a real limitation due to the fact that his "collection of books... on the French Navy... is a bit weak." Now we all know that **if** Dave is limited in his personal library, my statement on the "difficulty" of "identifying foreign battleships" is justified. He adds: "From what I do have, I believe that she is the BRETAGNE herself, given the stack configuration and the shape of the command bridge." Bob using the now familiar "web search on Google" found "picture[s] of *Bretagne* that [are] a close match, so" in his words "I'm sure of the class." He identifies the three vessels of "the class: *Bretagne*, *Lorraine*, and *Provence*." But

*(Continued on page 2)*

## NAUTICAL TERM

**Down Easter (also Downeaster)** Any large wooden sailing ship built in Maine, from about the end of the Civil War to the early XX century. The latter-day vessels were mostly coasting schooners, but the earlier ones were square-riggers: ships, barks, and barkentines.

Submitted By: Tim Wood

## MEETING NOTICE

**Date:** Saturday July 12, 2008

**Place:** Mariners' Museum

**Time:** 1400 Hours

(Continued from page 1)



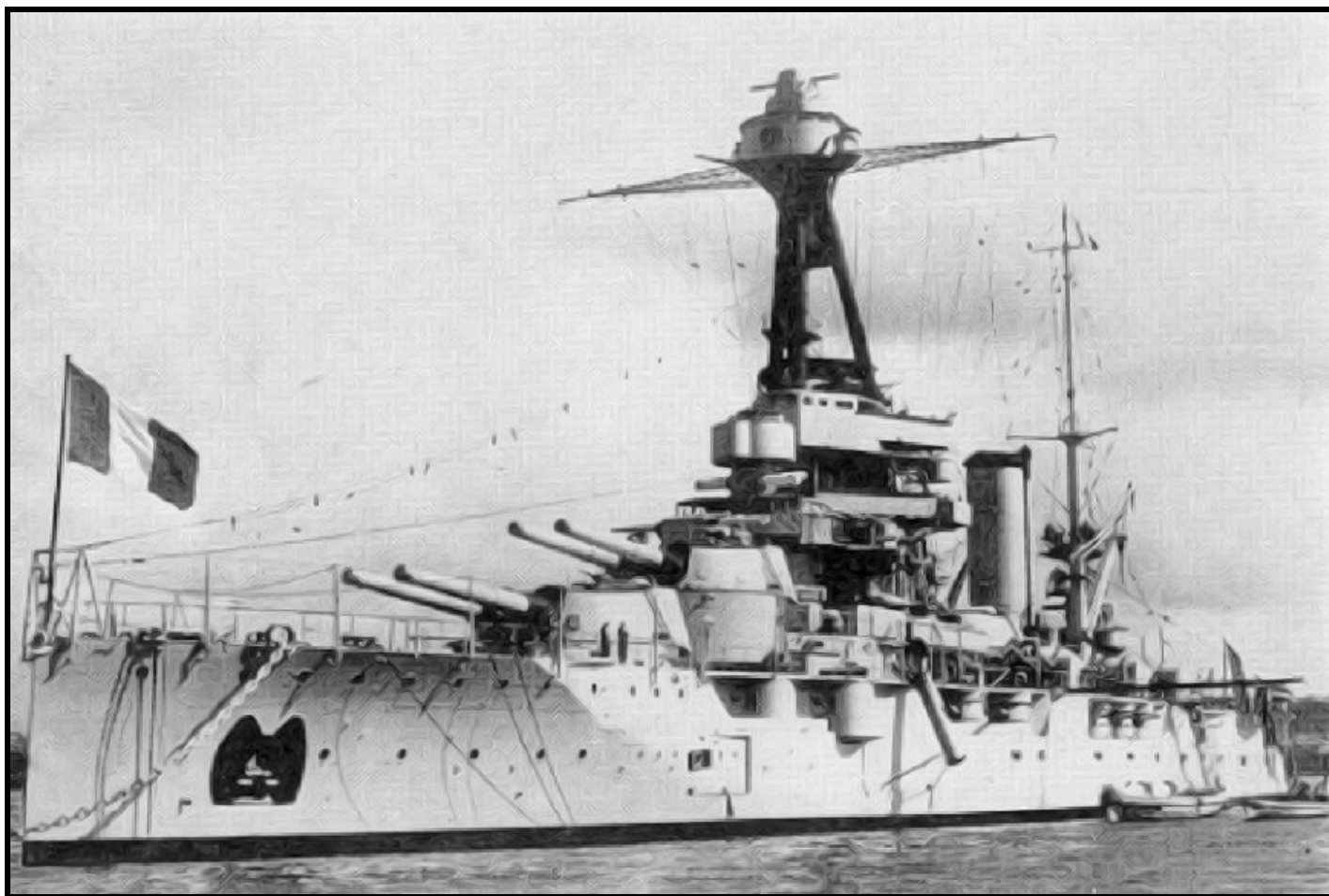
Mystery Photo

“was unable to find anything that distinguishes the three from each other so” like Dave, he is “guessing it’s a photo of the *Bretagne*.” Tim also identified a specific unit of the class. Why did he choose a different ship than Dave and Bob? We’ll see. Limitations or not, all three players found the range and bearing to select the French *Bretagne*-class battleship. Who chose correctly?

Also from the responses, we see that the class was much modified over its service life. As was the case with most battleships built just prior to the Great War, these ships finished their careers in much modified and much improved form. Dave mentions that of the three units in the class,

Around 1922 these ships had their forward pole mast replaced by a tripod mast that carried an enclosed fire control position and a unique square-faced range clock. Also, at this time, the forward stack height was increased and many of the bridge superstructure decks were extended. During a re-boiling in the early 30’s the height of the after stack was raised to make it level with the forward one. Since the stacks in our Mystery Photo are uneven and the ship carries the tripod foremast, we are safe to limit our time line to the years between 1922 and 1935.

Dave and Tim were kind to provide some general characteristics: They are typical of the class except for building yard and exact construction and service dates. “[She] was built at the French Navy’s Brest Dockyard and was laid down



*Lorraine* “was significantly altered during 1934-35, with the amidships 340-mm (13.4-in.) turret removed and replaced by an aircraft catapult.” Bob states that “some time between 1919 and 1927 when they were converted to oil.” But adds, “The black smoke in the photo indicates it was taken before the oil conversion, but it’s something that is not necessarily definitive.” Do these comments help narrow the time line for our identification?

Apart from difficult to discern modernizations, which included a coal to oil conversion and up-gunning, and if you discount *Lorraine*’s removal of the center turret, external physical changes were minor and easily cataloged.

during July 1912, launched on 21 April 1913, and delivered during September 1915. In the 1920s, at the time of the photo, she displaced 23,549 tons full load and had a crew of 57 officers and 1,133 enlisted. The ship was 541.5 ft overall and had a beam of 88.5 ft and draft of about 20 ft. Her 6 Indret small-tube boilers provided steam to four sets of Parsons geared steam turbines and produced a maximum of 43,000 shaft horsepower.

In the 1920s, the armament for all three ships was five twin 340-mm main battery turrets, 14 single 138-mm

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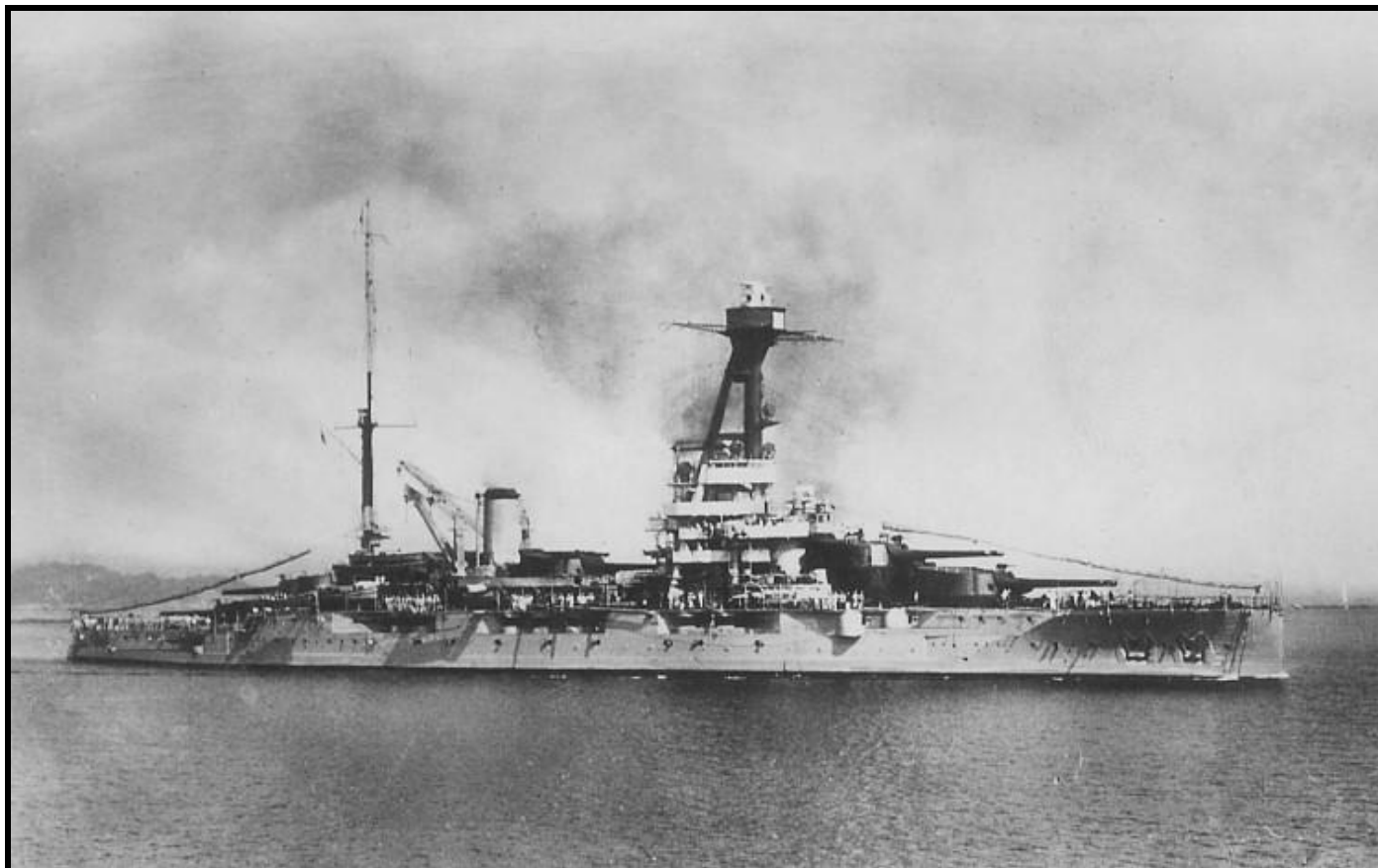


Mystery Photo

(5.5-in.) low-angle guns mounted in casemates, eight (four in PROVENCE) single 14-pounder AA guns, four single 3-pounder guns for AA and saluting duties, and two single 1-pounders. They also carried four submerged, fixed 18-in torpedo tubes. The main armor belt amidships was a modest 10.75 in. thick and 7.5- in. thick at the ends (the belt was shortened by 10 meters at the bow immediately after World War I to save weight, al-

because he “can't figure out what the two items are located above the water line at the bow, below the hawse pipe. Torpedo tubes?” If you know or think you know the answer, contact Bob or send it in to the editor for inclusion in the next Logbook.

John Cheevers



though a transverse armored bulkhead was added at the termination point), and the 380-mm turrets had 17-in. faces.”

Still don't know which ship she is? Tim says she is *Provence*, and in spite of his Ivory soap confidence, doesn't explain his choice. I suspect he found his answer on the Internet. During my search, at a site named [WWW.Naval-History.net](http://WWW.Naval-History.net), I found our Mystery Photo with a caption that reads in part “...**PROVENCE** (of Provence) (*right*)...” and I suspect Tim found this as well. But how do we know if the site is correct?

There is only one way I know of to definitely identify our Mystery vessel. I found the answer in Siegfried Breyer's book Battleships and Battle Cruisers 1905-1970. In the book, which incidentally contains no pictures, on page 422, Breyer says “in contrast to other ships of this class, *Provence* carried a steam pipe on the after edge of the after funnel.” Looking at the Mystery Photo one more time I see that steam pipe on the after edge of the after funnel.

Case closed, I got a bike race to watch.

Well not exactly. Bob raises his own mystery of sorts

## THE ANSWER

The answer to Mystery Photo 264:

Provence (1913) - sunk at Mers-el-Kébir 3 July 1940, refloated, and repaired at Toulon, scuttled November 1942, refloated 1943, scuttled 1944, refloated and BU 1949.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_battleships\\_of\\_France](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_battleships_of_France)

### Dictionary of American Naval Fighting Ships



Bonefish

Bonefish is a name for the ladyfish, dogfish, and sturgeon.

(SS-223: dp. 1526; l. 311'9"; b. 27'3"; dr. 17'; a. 20.3 k.; cpl. 60; a. 1 4", 10 21" TT.; cl. Gato)

Bonefish (SS-223) was launched 7 May 1943 by Electric Boat

# MINUTES



HAMPTON ROADS SHIP MODEL SOCIETY  
Monthly Meeting  
June 14 2008  
Mariners' Meeting

The meeting was called to order, by the Skipper, John Cheevers, at 1414 hours. A query for guests elicited no response. There were no corrections to the minutes as published. The Skipper said that he omitted Bob Comet's correct response to the Mystery Photo of the Niagara. Late arriving Eric Harfst gave the purser's report. There was no Webmaster's report.

Old Business: The Skipper discussed participation in the International Plastic Model Society (IPMS) Convention, August 6-9 and directed the Purser to write a check to pay for the HRSMS tables and trophy sponsorship. The Skipper put a sign-up sheet on the table for those who would like to man the HRSMS table during the convention. If you would like to participate, contact the Skipper. Visit the IPMS web site (<http://www.ipmsusa2008.org/>) for information on schedule and activities.

New Business: The Skipper announced that the August meeting would be moved to Saturday the 16th due to the conflict with the IPMS convention. Ron Lewis invited the members to join the Mariners' Museum's Bronze Door Society. He detailed the benefits of joining the society. The cost is museum membership + \$150.00 for society. For more information, contact Ron Lewis or see the museum's web site.

Show & Tell: John Wyld showed a plastic kit of the *USS Buchanan* DD484. Bob Comet talked about his work on the 1:96 cast resin *Albemarle* model. Dean Sword showed the book *Architectura Navalis Mercatoria: The Classic of Eighteenth-Century Naval Architecture* published by Dover Press. Ryland Craze talked about a model workshop he attended, conducted by David Antscherl. He also showed David Antscherl's two-volume set, *The Fully Framed Model, HMN Swan Class Sloops, 1767-1780*. Bill Clarke showed several books acquired from the other side of the pond. Charles Landrum showed Dragon's 1:700 Essex Class Carrier and the 1:350 *San Francisco* and the French battleship *Richelieu*.

The meeting was adjourned to a presentation "Tools for the Ship Modeler", John Cheevers.

"Anyone can hold the helm when the sea is calm."  
-Syrus Publilius

"One of the best temporary cures for pride and affection is seasickness". -- Henry Wheeler Shaw

The following quiz was submitted by Tim Wood. The 43 questions will appear in the next several issues of the Logbook. Keep track of your score.

## Battleship Quiz Part 2

15. On September 9th, 1943, a battleship was sunk by a guided missile. Name the ship. (1 point) Bonus: Name the nation that launched the attack to sink her. (1 point)

16. Which nation completed the most battleships between 1-Sep-1939 and 2-Sep-1945? (1 point) Bonus question: Name them. (1 point each)

17. What battleship was nicknamed "McKinley's Bulldog"? (1 point) Bonus question: Why was she named a "bulldog"? (2 points)

18. What was the former battleship designation of Gunnery Training Ship AG17? (2 points)

19. What was the former designation of Gunnery Training Ship EAG 128? (2 points)

20. What battleship was rushed into battle with the Bismarck when barley completed? (1 point)

21. What battleship sank the Scharnhorst? (1 point)

22. What was the only battleship to get underway during the Pearl Harbor attack? (1 point)

23. Name the battleships known as the "big five." (1 point)

24. True or False: It was not until the "second generation" battleships of North Carolina class that the US Navy had 16 inch guns in service. (1 point)

25. Name the three cruisers that engaged the Graf Spee, and damaged her to result in her scuttling. (1 point each) Bonus: What was the main armament of each? (1 point each correct answer)

26. Why were American battleships limited to a beam of 108 feet? (1 point)

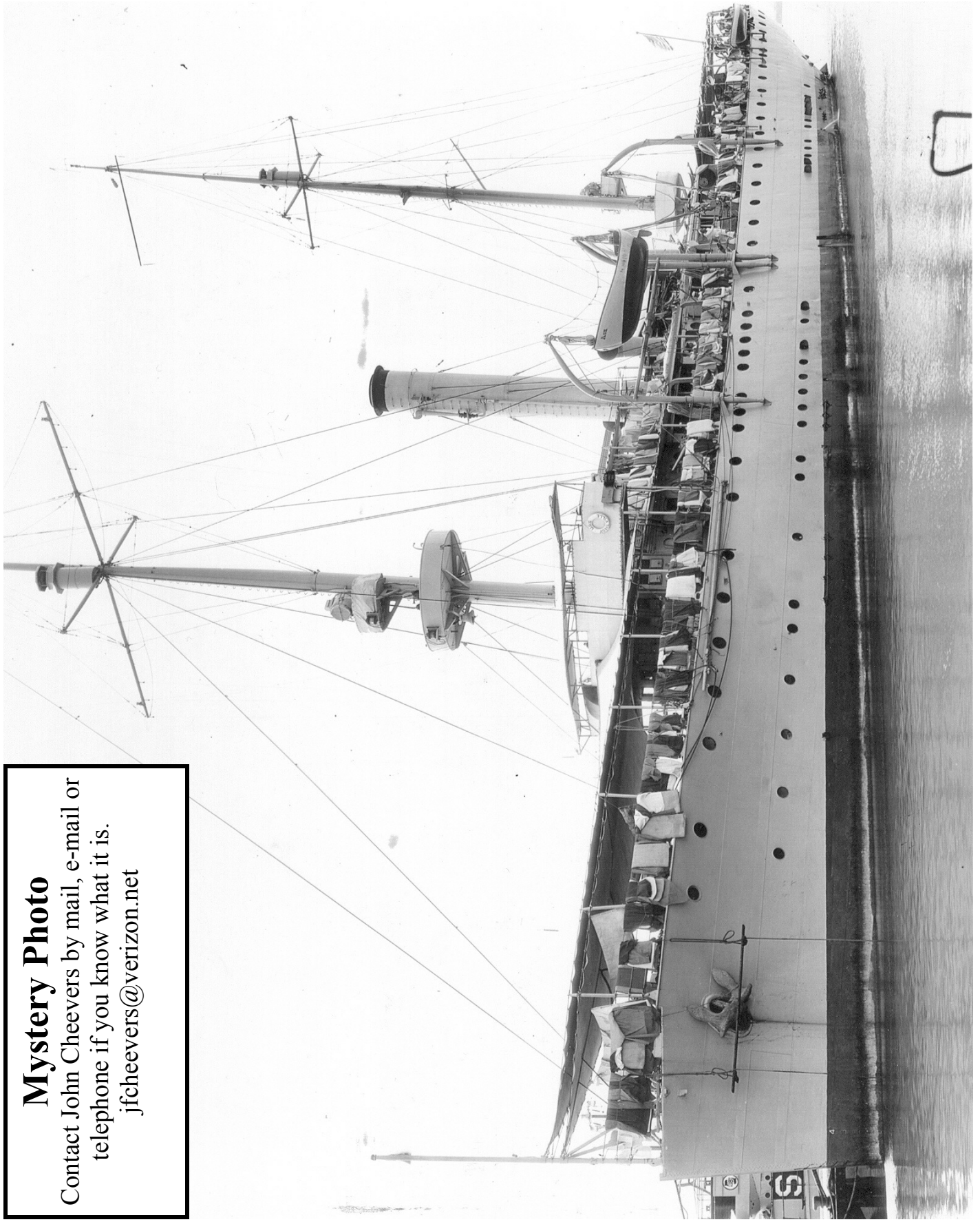
27. The original USS Idaho (BB24) and USS Mississippi (BB23) were sold to what country? (1 point) Bonus question: What happened to them? (1 point)

28. True or False: No American battleship has ever lost at sea-they were all sunk in port. (1 point)

29. Six weeks into the Second World War Britain lost one of her battleships. Which one? (1 point) Bonus: How was she lost? (1 point)

## **Mystery Photo**

Contact John Cheevers by mail, e-mail or telephone if you know what it is.  
[jfcheevers@verizon.net](mailto:jfcheevers@verizon.net)



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## NOTABLE EVENTS

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### JULY

- 12 **HRSMS** Monthly Meeting: Mariners' Museum  
Presentation "Scale; A Matter of Proportion"  
by Tony Clayton

### AUGUST

- 6-9 IPMS National Convention, Virginia Beach, Va.  
16 **HRSMS** Monthly Meeting: Mariners' Museum  
Presentation "Shipmodeling Research via the Internet"  
by John Wyld

### SEPTEMBER

- 13 **HRSMS** Monthly Meeting: Mariners' Museum  
Presentation "Tall Ships Op Sail Photographs"  
by Peter Tagg


### OCTOBER

- 11 **HRSMS** Monthly Meeting: Picnic, Newport News Park

### NOVEMBER

- 15 **HRSMS** Monthly Meeting: Mariners' Museum  
Presentation "Photographing Ship Models using Digital  
Cameras", by Tim Wood

*(Continued from page 3)*

 Co., Groton, Conn.; sponsored by Mrs. F. A. Daubin,  
wife of Rear Admiral Daubin; commissioned 31 May  
1943, Commander T. W. Hogan in command; and re-  
ported to the Pacific Fleet.

Bonefish arrived at Brisbane, Australia, 30 August 1943. Be-  
tween 15 September 1943 and June 1945 she completed seven  
war patrols in the South China, East China, Java, Celebes,  
Sulu, and Sibuyan Seas. Bonefish sank 12 Japanese vessels  
totaling 61,345 tons, including the destroyer Inazuma, 14 May  
1944 in 05°08' N., 119°38' E.

Bonefish departed Guam 28 May 1945 for her eighth patrol as  
part of a submarine group under Commander G. W. Price for  
operations in the Sea of Japan. On the morning of 18 June  
Bonefish received permission to conduct a patrol of Toyama  
Wan, Honshu. She was never heard from again. Bonefish was  
probably the submarine attacked by the Japanese 18 June in  
37°18' N., 137°25' E.

Bonefish received the Navy Unit Commendation for her first,  
third, fourth, fifth, and sixth war patrols as well as seven bat-  
tle stars during World War II.

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## NOTE!

**The date of the August meeting has been  
changed due to a conflict with the  
IPMS Convention**

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**Have you paid your 2008 dues?**

**Please save the Purser a stamp!**

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## Battleship Quiz (Answers)

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15. The Italian battleship Roma was sunk by the Germans on  
her way to surrender at Malta.  
16. The United States!  
BB55 - USS North Carolina  
BB56 - USS Washington  
BB57 - USS South Dakota  
BB58 - USS Indiana  
BB59 - USS Massachusetts  
BB60 - USS Alabama  
BB61 - USS Iowa  
BB62 - USS New Jersey  
BB63 - USS Missouri  
BB64 - USS Wisconsin  
17. BB3 - USS Oregon. She was called a "bulldog" at the bat-  
tle of Santiago (Cuba), where the name stuck. She appeared  
as a tough dog, speeding into a fight, and the white wake off  
her bow was said to appear as a "bone" clenched in her teeth.  
18. BB32 - USS Wyoming  
19. BB41 - USS Mississippi  
20. HMS Prince of Wales  
21. HMS Duke of York  
22. BB36 - USS Nevada  
23. BB43 - USS Tennessee  
BB44 - USS California  
BB45 - USS Colorado  
BB46 - USS Maryland  
BB48 - USS West Virginia  
(they were the last, and largest, of the pre-Washington Treaty  
Battleships)  
24. False! The Colorado Class also had 16 inch guns.  
25. HMS Exeter - 8 inch guns in three twin turrets  
HMNZS Achilles - 6 inch guns in four twin turrets  
HMS Ajax - 6 inch guns in four twin turrets  
26. To fit through the Panama Canal which is 110 feet wide.  
27. Greece. The Kilkis and Lemnos (as they were renamed)  
were sunk by German dive bombers in World War 2.  
28. True. (All were anchored or moored.)  
29. The HMS Royal Oak was torpedoed and sunk at Scapa  
Flow by the German submarine U-47.

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**WATCH, QUARTER  
AND  
STATION BILL**



- 
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