

she was there at all was largely due to the guns of NORTH CAROLINA. The enemy had suffered a stinging blow. American planes had sunk a carrier and damaged a cruiser and a destroyer. The Japanese were all but stripped of carrier support and broke off the fight. On 14 September, patrolling off Guadalcanal, "The Showboat" was hit by a torpedo from Japanese submarine I-15. The fish had passed under destroyer MUSTIN (intended target) and struck the battleship's port bow. It opened an 80-foot hole and killed five men. "The Showboat" remained in formation until dusk, then retired to Pearl Harbor for repairs.

NORTH CAROLINA was fit again by December and took part in the Battle of Rennell Island in January, 1943. She patrolled out of Noumea until June, then moved to participate in the New Georgia campaign. In November she worked the Gilberts. At 0700 on 8 December NORTH CAROLINA began bombarding Nauru, and thus became the first American battleship to send 16" shells into Japanese territory. In January, 1944, NORTH CAROLINA joined Task Force 58 to bulldoze through the Marshalls, the Carolines and the Marianas. She was in Task Force 38 at New Guinea and Truk. On 1 May she bombarded Ponape for 80 minutes. On 13 June she shelled Saipan and Tinian for seven hours. In July she retired to Bremerton for shaft repairs. By November "The Showboat" steamed into South China Sea for the Luzon operations, then moved northward with Fifth Fleet for air strikes on Japan's home islands. On 19 February, 1945, NORTH CAROLINA pulled into position off Iwo Jima. In a four-day period she fired her entire supply of large ammunition.

After a 46-day stint in the Kamikaze-infested waters off Okinawa, where she again dished out 16" punishment, NORTH CAROLINA put into Pearl Harbor for overhaul. Ready again, she joined Third Fleet and shelled Hitachi. On 5 September she triumphantly entered Tokyo Bay with the fleet. "The Showboat" had spent 40 months in the Pacific and had steamed 307,000 miles. She had earned 12 battle stars. Today, those battle stars are still proudly displayed, as NORTH CAROLINA stands at Wilmington, N.C., where she has been berthed since 1961 as the state's memorial to all North Carolinians who died in service during World War II. Citizens of the state donated funds to acquire the ship, after the Navy in 1960 announced that she was to be scrapped. (NORTH CAROLINA had been in reserve at Bayonne, N.J., since 1947).

#### NORTH CAROLINA--STILL THE "SHOWBOAT"

More than two million persons have toured "The Showboat" since she was opened to the public. The ship is secured in a slip in the bank of the Cape Fear River, directly across from the City of Wilmington. Entrance to the parking area is off U.S. 17. The ship is open every day year around from 0800 until sunset (Admission: adults 75 cents, children 25 cents). Visitors may tour the superstructure, main deck, second deck, and No. 4 engine room. Both 16" and 5" turrets are open. All compartments are well-equipped and there are displays of bosun's gear, radio equipment, and ordnance. A large museum contains busts of wartime leaders, combat photographs, flags, a mural of Pacific action, the ship's silver service, models and engineering displays and scenes of the ship arriving at Wilmington. Principal exhibit is a Roll of Honor of 10,000 North Carolinians who died in the war.

During summer months a sound-and-light spectacular is presented every night at 2100. The production re-creates the ship's wartime career and all guns visible are rigged for simulated firing. Intricate lighting patterns follow the dialogue, which is carried by stereophonic speakers to the audience (seated in a grandstand off the port bow). The

show was written by Earle Luby, author of the "Twentieth Century" series for television, and is narrated by Alexander Scourby. The lighting is by Pierre Arnaud of France. Since its opening three years ago, the show has become one of the leading dramatic productions of the state. It is, today, the only public illustration of a battleship in action.

"The Showboat" still lives.

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#### SHOWBOAT'S SISTER RUNS INTO TROUBLE

The sister ship to the USS NORTH CAROLINA, the USS WASHINGTON, became the center of attention in a naval engagement-in-miniature fought by the Chicago Naval Wargamers. The situation was this: The previous night, the Allied Fleet had met the German Battle Fleet and virtually annihilated it. However, in the process, WASHINGTON took a severe mauling. Before proceeding to exploit his victory, the Commander of the Allied force sent WASHINGTON home with three smaller damaged ships in company. A German squadron, hurrying to join its own fleet, knew nothing of this when it met the cripples. The ships engaged were:

<u>American</u>	Previous Damage	Points <u>Left</u>	<u>Guns</u>	<u>Knots</u>
WASHINGTON (flag)	199,800	58,595	3 - 16"	7
CLEVELAND	16,900	38,683	8 - 6"	22
RADFORD	3,100	5,244	4 - 5"	22
WM. D. PORTER	3,100	5,244	4 - 5"	22

<u>German</u>	Point <u>Value</u>	<u>Guns</u>	<u>Torpedo Tubes</u>
PRINZ EUGEN (flag)	53,424	8 - 8"	12
ADMIRAL HIPPER	51,451	8 - 8"	12
Z-23	10,767	4 - 5.9"	8
Z-24	10,767	4 - 5.9"	8
Z-26	10,767	4 - 5.9"	8
Z-27	10,767	4 - 5.9"	8

Initially, the American Force Commander deployed his destroyers to the eastward to screen himself and CLEVELAND. The German Commander sent his destroyers northeast and took PRINZ EUGEN and HIPPER northwest to set up a converging torpedo attack. WASHINGTON first clipped HIPPER and then turned her guns on the approaching destroyers. On move three she reduced Z-24 to one knot. On move four CLEVELAND, RADFORD and PORTER hit Z-23 one each and on the next move WASHINGTON added a 16-inch hit to finish Z-23.

On the sixth move RADFORD and PORTER put fourteen fish in the water and Z-24 fired his last torpedo. Next Z-26 fired four torpedos toward the American destroyers which were the nearest targets. Meanwhile, WASHINGTON caught PRINZ EUGEN with two and then one 16-inch hits cutting her to four guns while one of PORTER'S