

The revolution in warship design between 1797 and 1945, as told by America's historic ships



Or: What I did on my holidays

I am not a historian.

~~Valentine's Day~~

Battle of Cape St Vincent (1797)



"Nelson's patent bridge for boarding enemy vessels."

How did this happen?



San Salvador (replica), 1500-40 ish

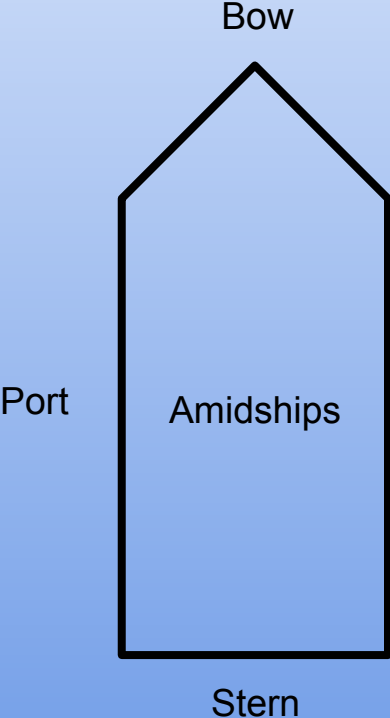


USS Constitution, 1797



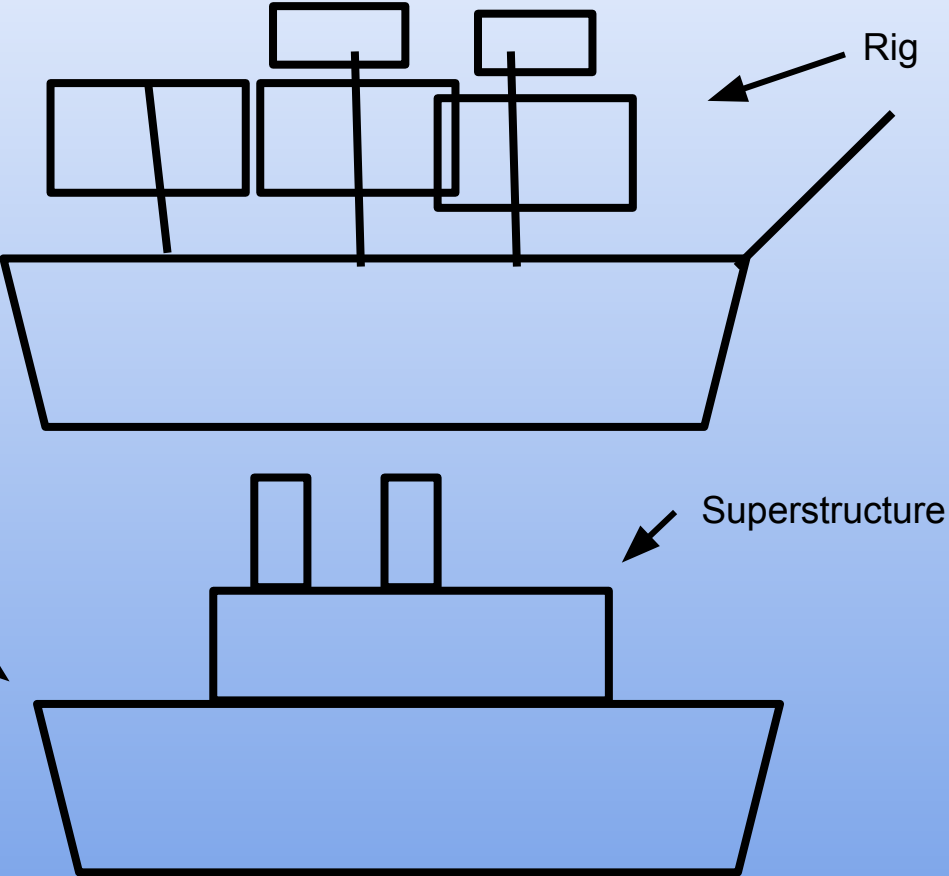
USS New Jersey, 1943

Bits of a ship



Hull

Starboard



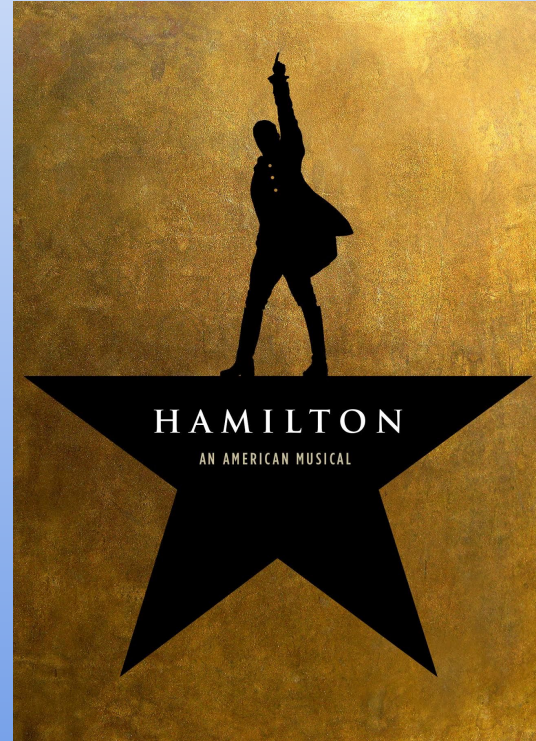
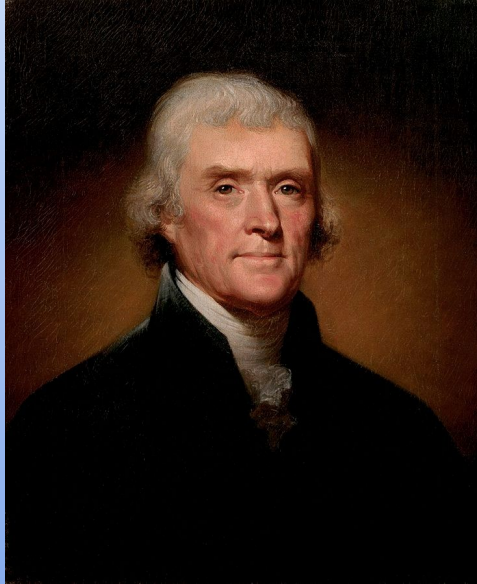
Battle of the Chesapeake (1781)



USS *Constitution* (1797), Boston



Who needs a navy?



Warships are really expensive



USS *Constitution* (1897) =
\$300000 \approx \$ 10 million in 2020



USS *Gerald R. Ford* (2017) = \$ 13+ billion

What kind of navy?



HMS *Surprise* (replica), frigate
San Diego



HMS *Victory*, first-rate ship of the line
Portsmouth

What kind of navy?



HMS *Surprise* (replica)



USS *Constitution*, heavy frigate

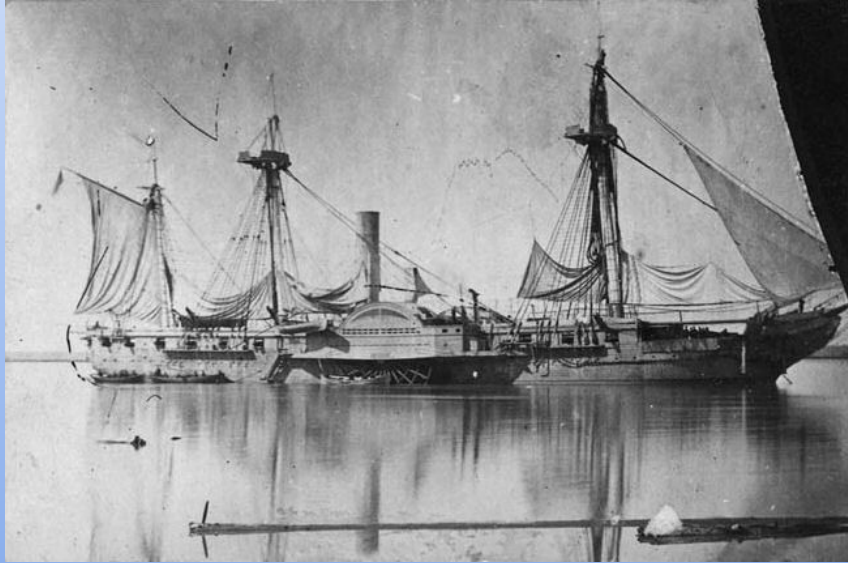


USS *Victory*, first-rate ship of the line

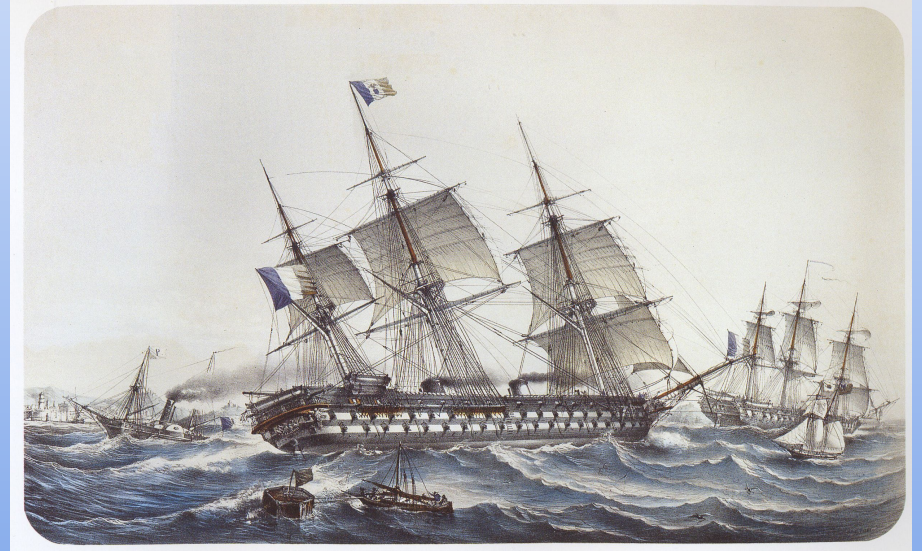
Heavy frigates



From sail to steam



USS Mississippi (1841)

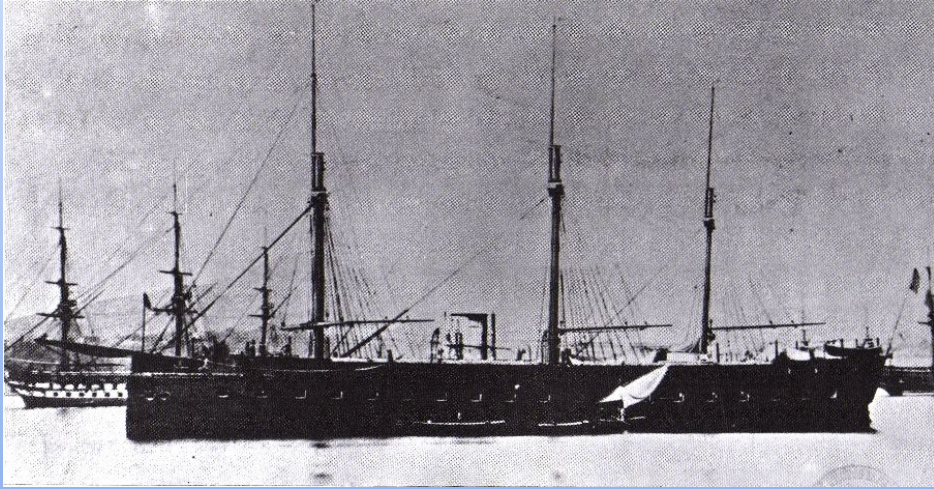


Napoléon (1850)

USS *Constellation* (1854), Baltimore



Ironclads



Glorie (1859)

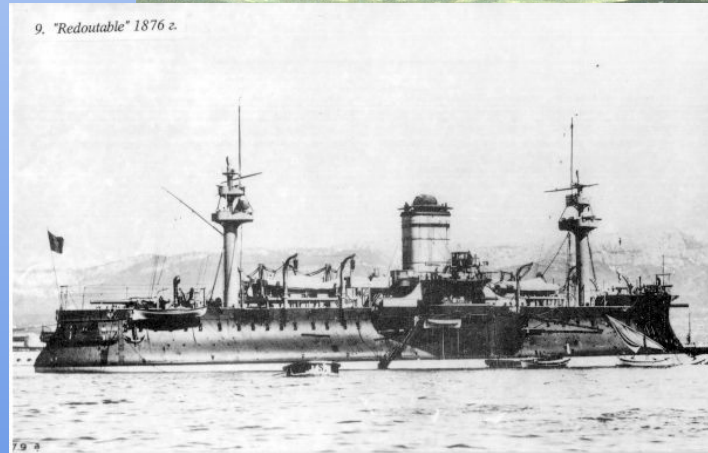
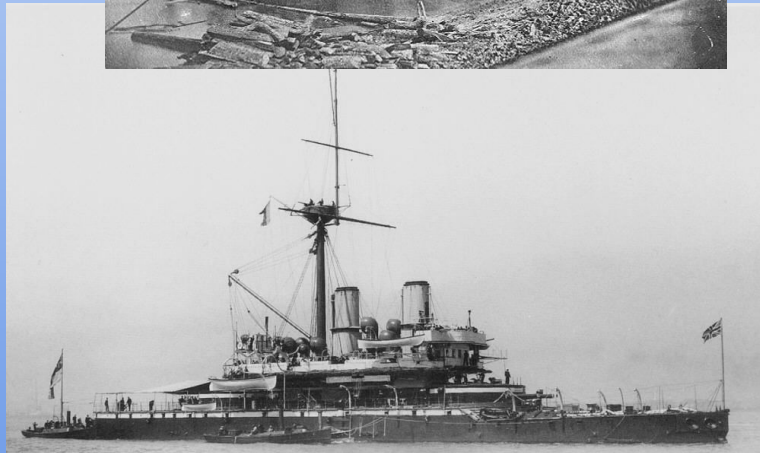
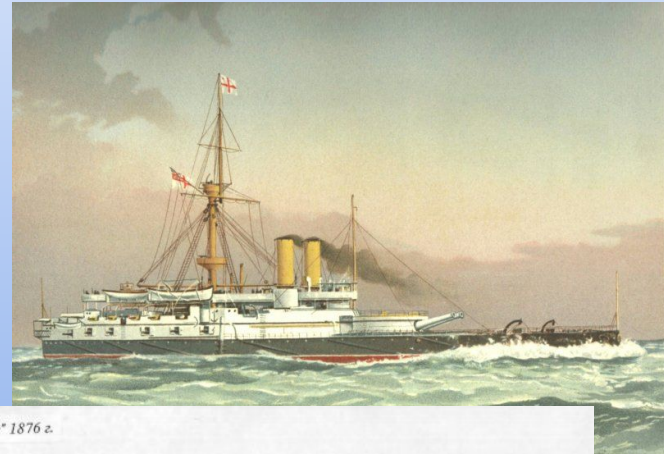
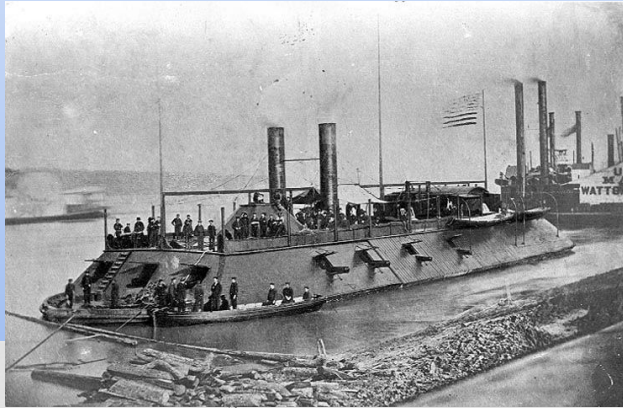


HMS Warrior (1860)

Battle of Hampton Roads (1862)



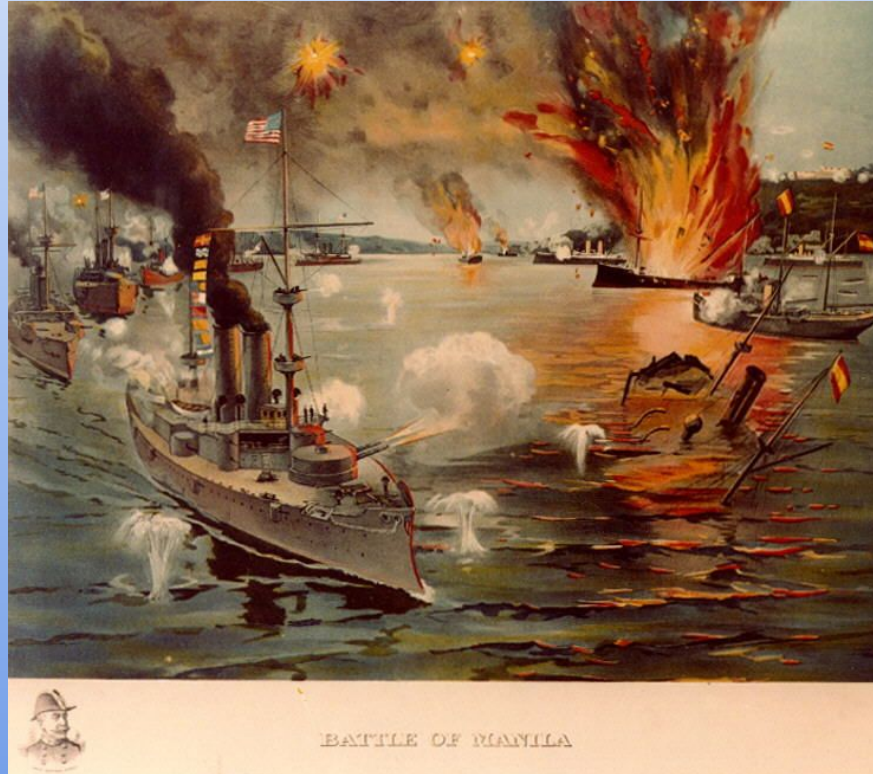
Turrets + Steam + Iron = ???



USS *Olympia* (1892), Philadelphia



Battle of Manila Bay (1898)



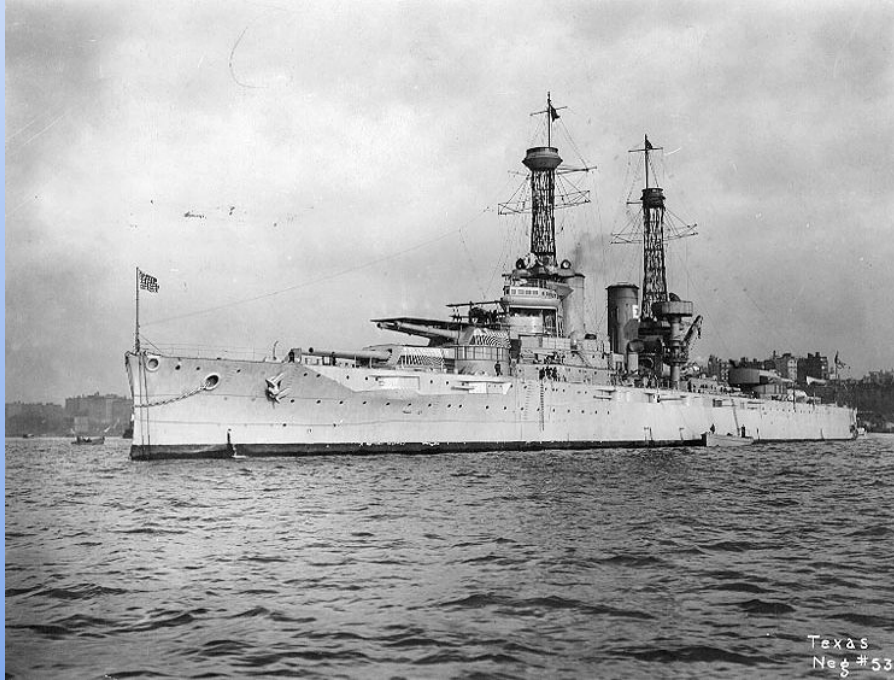
Wright Flyer (1903)



HMS *Dreadnought* (1906)



Battleships and Battlecruisers



USS *Texas* (1912)



HMS *Queen Mary* (1913-1916, abruptly.)

USS *Texas* (1912), Houston



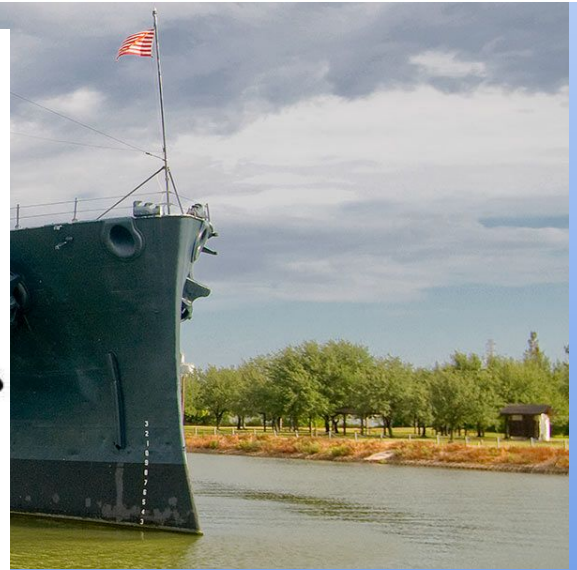
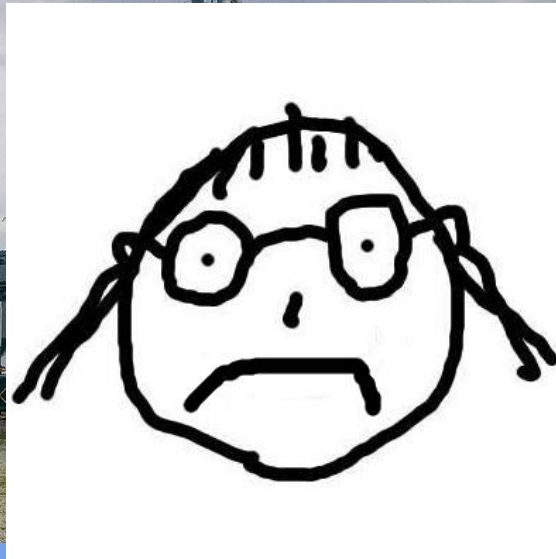
USS *Texas* (1912), Houston

Aug. 31, 2019 - The Battleship *Texas* is closed for a lengthy repair project. No reopening date has been set. Check here for updates.

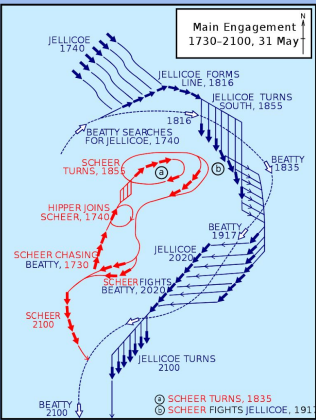
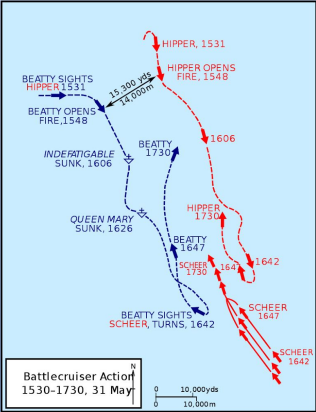


USS *Texas* (1912), Houston

Aug. 31, 2019 - The Battleship Texas is closed for a lengthy repair project. No reopening date has been set. Check here for updates.



Battle of Jutland (1916)



Second World War - the end of the battleship?



Battle of Taranto (1940)



Attack on Pearl Harbour (1941)



Sinking of *Prince of Wales* and *Repulse* (1941)

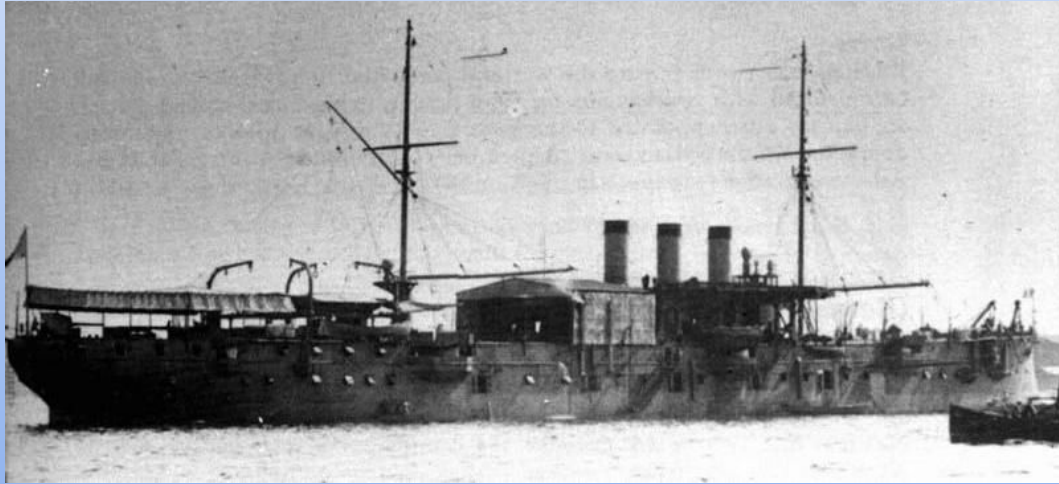
USS *Iowa* (1942), Los Angeles
USS *Missouri* (1944), Honolulu



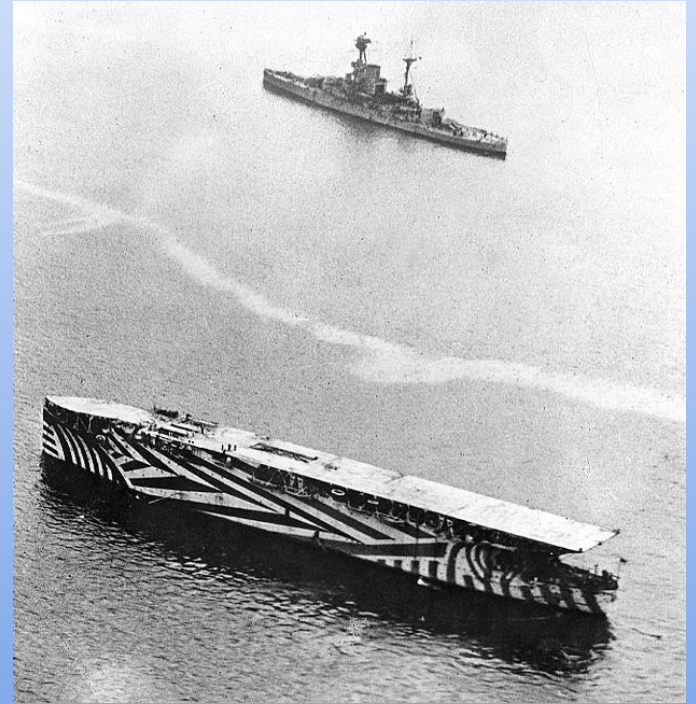
Inside *Missouri*



Aircraft Carriers



Foudre (1912)



HMS Argus (1917)

USS *Midway* (1945), San Diego



Conclusions

- Historic ships are fun, and there are a lot of them to look around.
- I skipped submarines.
- Nobody knows what the next effective warships are like.
- Maybe let's not find out?