

## CHRONOLOGY FOR THE USS ARIZONA

### 1914

**March 16, 1914:** The keel, a long band of steel that extends from one end of the ship's floor to the other, for the USS Arizona is laid in the New York Navy Yard. Franklin Delano Roosevelt is in attendance as Assistant Secretary of the Navy.

**July 28, 1914:** World War I begins in Europe.

### 1915

June 19 1915: The USS Arizona is launched by the New York Navy Yard. Arizona native Esther Ross, chosen for the honor of naming the ship at the time of the launching, was accompanied at the launching by Arizona Governor George W. P. Hunt and other Arizona delegates. Miss Ross was the daughter of a prominent Arizona businessman. She used a bottle of champagne and a bottle of water to christen the ship. This was controversial because the use of water to christen a new ship was considered a bad omen by many sailors, but it was done to appease those who sided with Prohibition. The event drew an estimated 50,000-75,000 spectators.

### 1916

October 17, 1916: Moored at the New York Navy Yard; Rear Admiral Nathaniel R. Usher, USN, put the Arizona into commission. Captain John D. McDonald named the ship's first commander in chief.

November 10, 1916: The USS Arizona makes its maiden voyage en route to Hampton Roads, Virginia, a Navy port on the East Coast. Arizona joined the Atlantic Fleet following her shakedown cruise.

November 24-29, 1916: The ship is en route to Cuba and is anchored at Guantanamo Bay through December 12 whereupon it returns to the East Coast.

December 18-23, 1916: The ship is anchored at Chesapeake Bay. She fires her 5-inch guns for the first time on 12/19/16 and her 14 inch guns for the first time on 12/23/16.

### 1917

April 6, 1917: Congress declares war on Germany.

December 7, 1917: Congress declares war on the Austro-Hungarian Empire.

## 1918

WWI: The USS Arizona is anchored throughout the year at various locations along the East Coast, including Yorktown and Hampton Roads. It participates in a variety of training exercises in preparation for possible direct involvement in the war. Oil fueled the USS Arizona, but this type of fuel was not as readily available in Europe as coal was, for example, in England. For this reason, it stayed on the US coast, while its sister ships, those fueled by coal, sailed to Europe.

February 18, 1918: The USS Arizona is anchored at Hampton Roads. Josiah S. McKean USN, relieves Rear Admiral John D. McDonald, USN, as commanding officer. McDonald had served in this capacity since the day the ship was commissioned in 1916.

August 28, 1918: Captain Josiah S. McKean, USN, the commanding officer, assumes the rank of rear admiral.

September 11, 1918: Captain John H. Dayton, USN, is appointed commanding officer.

November 11, 1918: World War I ends.

November 18, 1918: The USS Arizona sails from Hampton Roads, VA., to join the Naval Forces in British waters.

December 12, 1918: The USS Arizona departs Portsmouth, England, to assist in escorting the USS George Washington, carrying President Woodrow Wilson, to Brest, France for the Paris Peace Conference.

December 14-25, 1918: The USS Arizona returns to the US, where it is moored in the North River, in New York City.

## 1919

January to early February: The ship is docked in various ports, including the New York Navy Yard, Hampton Roads, and the Norfolk Navy Yard

February 4-8, 1919: The USS Arizona sails to Cuba. It alternates its location between Guantanamo Bay and Port of Spain, Trinidad. It participates in drills, exercises and tactical maneuvers with the USS Mississippi and other battleships.

April 9-12, 1919: The ship leaves Cuba; en route to Hampton Roads; it immediately sails the Atlantic for Brest, France, to participate in escorting President Wilson home from Europe.

April-June, 1919: The USS Arizona makes the voyage to Brest, France. It stays anchored there for two weeks; rather than participating in escorting the President back to the US as originally planned, a decision is made to send the ship to the Mediterranean Sea to monitor the conflict occurring between Greece and Turkey. It sails back to Gibraltar where it stays docked until June 20.

June 30, 1919: The ship returns to New York and stays there until mid-January of the following year.

## **1920**

January 8: The ship departs the Southern Drill Grounds for Guantanamo Bay, Cuba and arrives on January 13. It spends the following 3 months in Cuba, with visits to Barbados and Panama.

May 1: The USS Arizona returns to New York and spends the remainder of the year engaged in drills and exercises at various eastern ports, including Annapolis, Hampton Roads, and New York.

## **1921**

January: The ship is moored at the New York Navy Yard through January 4.

January 4: The USS Arizona sails with the Atlantic fleet, consisting of seven battleships, eighteen destroyers, and a number of auxiliary vessels for fleet support, to Cuba to participate in tactical exercises in the Caribbean.

Jan 17: The ship is en route from Guantanamo to Panama as part of a fleet formation; it transits the Panama Canal for the first time two days later.

January 22: The ship is en route to Peru.

Jan 24, 1921: The USS Arizona crosses the Equator for the first time. In recognition of this occasion and in accordance with long standing naval tradition, "initiation rites" known as the Neptunus Rex ceremonies take place on the ship.

New recruits are given the “royal” treatment by their more experienced colleagues by engaging in a number of fun, practical jokes and games.

Jan 31<sup>st</sup>: The ship is anchored at Callao, Peru for a week.

February 5-14, 1921: The USS Arizona is en route to Panama. During this voyage, ships of both the Atlantic and Pacific fleets join for tactical maneuvers.

Feb 14-Feb 23, 1921: The ship is anchored at Balboa, Panama.

February 23: The ship transits Panama Canal on its way back to Cuba. It participates in a variety of exercises, including torpedo practice and tactical maneuvers.

April 24. The ship is en route to Lynnhaven Roads with the Atlantic Fleet.

April 28, 1921: The ship is en route to Hampton Roads. It is formally reviewed by President Harding, who is on board the USS Mayflower.

Summer, 1921: The USS Arizona is involved in drills off the East Coast and in the Caribbean.

July 16, 1921: The USS Arizona transits Panama Canal on its way to Peru.

August 8, 1921: A change in senior leadership on the ship takes place. Vice Admiral John D. McDonald departs as Rear Admiral Josiah S. McKean, takes command Battleship Division Seven. This marks a turning point, as the ship soon joins the Pacific fleet and is anchored at various ports along the California coast, with San Pedro as its home base.

## **1922**

The year is spent engaged in battle practice along the Pacific coast. San Pedro serves as the ship’s home base. Trips north to San Francisco and northwest Washington also took place.

## **1923**

The USS Arizona spends the beginning of the year anchored at San Pedro, a port adjacent to Long Beach in Southern California. It sails to Costa Rica and Panama and returns to San Pedro in April. It engages in gunnery exercises, alternating locales between San Pedro, San Francisco and Seattle.

July, 1923: President Warren G. Harding reviews the ship while it's anchored in Seattle. Upon his death the following month, the USS Arizona half-masts her colors and joins other ships in firing a salute to the President Harding.

Spends the Fall and early Winter anchored at San Pedro.

## **1924**

In early January, the ship leaves San Pedro for Panama. Spends time anchored at Colon and Culebra Island Puerto Rico before it heads for New York in company with other battle ships. It returns to Culebra Island and travels through the Panama Canal on its way to San Pedro in late April, which remains the ship's home base. It travels up the Pacific coast with visits to San Francisco and Seattle the remainder the year, spending its time engaged in various military exercises.

## **1925**

Begins the year anchored at San Pedro. Engages in gunnery practice with other ships along the southern California coast through April. En route to Hawaii with the Battle Fleet. Arrives at Honolulu on April 28. Sails back to the US in June, spending time in San Francisco and Washington state. Returns to southern California in September, anchored at San Pedro through the end of the year.

## **1926**

Spends first two months in San Pedro and San Francisco, then sails to Panama in company with the battle fleet. After a visit to Costa Rica in March it returns to San Pedro by the beginning of April. Spends the remainder of the year sailing between San Pedro, San Francisco and the Puget Sound, engaged in military exercises and maneuvers.

## **1927**

Spends first two months of the year in Southern California. Arrives in the Panama Canal zone in early March; it transits the Panama Canal on its way to Cuba and Haiti. From there it sails to New York in late April and remains on the East Coast through early June. It sails to the Panama Canal zone, transiting the Panama Canal on June 12. It arrives San Pedro in late June, and travels up the Pacific coast to San Francisco and Seattle. It returns to San Pedro in September and remains anchored there through the end of the year.

## **1928**

The USS Arizona begins the year anchored at San Pedro. It sails to Puget Sound and back, then to San Diego and back up to San Francisco. It departs for Honolulu in mid-April and stays in Hawaii through mid-June, whereupon it sails back to the mainland where it spends the remainder of the year sailing up and down the Pacific coast from San Diego to Puget Sound.

## **1929-1930**

The ship starts the year out anchored at San Pedro. By mid-January it is en route to Panama and transits the Panama Canal on March 5. It spends time at Guantanamo. From there the ship sails to the East Coast, and is dry docked at the Norfolk Navy Yard for renovation and modernization. Work on the ship is completed in December, 1930.

## **1931**

Modernization of the ship is completed and the ship is re-commissioned. Starts the year out moored at the Norfolk Navy Yard. Sails along the eastern coast from Norfolk to Lynnhaven Roads, to Virginia Beach and back. In March, the ship carries President Herbert Hoover on a cruise to the West Indies. It then sails back up the eastern coast of the US up to Maine and back to Norfolk. In August, it departs for Cuba, later transiting the Panama Canal on its way back to California. By mid-August the ship is back in San Pedro and spends the remainder of the year engaged in military exercises and visiting ports in Santa Barbara and San Francisco.

## **1932**

The ship begins the year anchored at San Pedro. In early February it sails to Hawaii with other battleships for tactical exercises. By mid-March the ship is back at San Pedro. Sails to Seattle and the Puget Sound region, remaining there through mid-September. Returns to San Pedro and remains in the vicinity through the end of the year.

## **1933**

March 10, 1933: An earthquake strikes Long Beach. The sailors of the USS Arizona participate in relief efforts for the survivors.

## **1934**

March, 1934: Filming of the movie, *Here Comes the Navy*, starring James Cagney, takes place.

August, 1934: The ship travels to Panama and transits the Panama Canal, spending a month sailing along the East Coast before returning to the West Coast in early November.

## **1935**

The ship spends the first few months of the year sailing between San Francisco and San Pedro. In May it sails to Hawaii. By mid-June it is back in California. It sails up the coast to the Puget Sound region, and back. The year ends with the ship anchored at the Puget Sound Navy Yard.

## **1936**

The ship begins the year moored at the Puget Sound Navy Yard. It sails to San Francisco and San Pedro, participating with the US Fleet in various exercises throughout the Spring. In late April it sails to Panama. It crosses the Equator and holds initiation ceremonies for new recruits before returning to San Pedro in early June. It then sails to San Francisco, then to Hawaii through mid-August. It returns to San Pedro where it remains through the end of the year.

## **1937-1939**

The ship spends the bulk of its time sailing up and down the Pacific Coast, with one brief trip to Hawaii in mid-1938.

## **1940**

The ship is anchored at San Pedro at the start of the year. In April it leaves for Hawaii with other elements of the US Fleet. It stays in the vicinity through July, whereupon it sails to the south Pacific and crosses the Equator, visiting Christmas Island and Jarvis Island. In early August, it returns to Pearl Harbor and participates in various exercises through the end of September. It returns to Long Beach on the last day of September, remains there for three weeks and then travels to the Puget Sound region, where it is moored through mid-January of the following year.

## **1941**

The ship begins the year docked at Puget Sound. On January 19 it sails to San Pedro, remaining there until early April, when it heads to Pearl Harbor, joining up with a fleet exercise in the Hawaiian operating area. It accidentally collides with the destroyer USS Davis while the Davis is refueling. The ship remains in the area until June, when it travels back to San Pedro for a two week stay. It then returns to Pearl Harbor and engages in towing exercises and other drills.

December 7, 1941: Japanese aircraft attack the US fleet at Pearl Harbor and the USS takes a direct hit and is sunk. 1104 personnel lost their lives. The ship is submerged at Pearl Harbor.

December 29, 1941: The ship is de-commissioned:

## **1942**

December 1, 1942: The ship is struck from the Naval Vessel Register.

## **1950**

Admiral Arthur W. Radford, commander in chief of the Pacific Fleet at that time, institutes the raising of colors over the remains of the USS Arizona.

## **1962**

The USS Arizona Memorial is dedicated as a national shrine.

## **1966**

The national memorial for the USS Arizona is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

## **1989**

The ship is designated as a National Historic Landmark.