

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

received **JUL 29 1983**  
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

**1. Name**

historic U. S. S. Kidd  
and/or common Same

**2. Location**

street & number Adjacent to Mississippi River levee near Old State Capitol & at the turning corner of Government St. and River Road N/A not for publication  
city, town Baton Rouge N/A vicinity of  
state LA code 22 parish East Baton Rouge code 033

**3. Classification**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> object	<u>N/A</u> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<u>N/A</u> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name State of Louisiana, Louisiana Naval War Memorial Commission  
Commander Vernon W. Condon, Executive Director  
street & number P. O. Box 44242  
city, town Baton Rouge N/A vicinity of state LA 70804

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. N/A  
street & number  
city, town state

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title LA Historic Sites Survey has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no  
date 1983  federal  state  county  local  
depository for survey records LA State Historic Preservation Office  
city, town Baton Rouge state LA

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date <input type="checkbox"/> N/A

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The U. S. S. Kidd (1943) was one of 175 Fletcher class destroyers built for the United States Navy during World War II. The ship is now permanently berthed near the east bank of the Mississippi River in Baton Rouge.\* Aside from minor repairs, the Kidd has undergone virtually no alterations since V. J. Day.

The Kidd has an overall length of 376' 5-1/2", a normal draft of 12' 5-3/8", and a beam of 38.8 feet. Both of its diesel power plants are original. The superstructure includes a forward island containing the bridge, the ward room, the officer's galley and mess, communications rooms, and the fire director. Forward of the island are two turrets with five inch guns. Two exhaust funnels are in line with the forward island as well as a radio-radar mast. To the rear of the funnels is a rotating mount which contains the torpedo tubes. Further to the rear is a rear island which contains two more five inch gun turrets. Behind the rear island is another five inch gun turret and the depth charge mounts. The crew's quarters, the enlisted men's mess, the magazine and all other functions are located within the hull of the ship.

Although the Kidd was hit amidships by a kamikaze, it was repaired shortly thereafter and virtually all of its armor plating and other fabric is original to V. J. Day. The only missing pieces of armament are a pair of anti-aircraft guns and the original depth charges. (The depth charges have been replaced with plastic facsimiles for display purposes.) The ship is also in need of repainting and repair work on the interior, but aside from this and the above losses, the Kidd is in perfect World War II condition.

### Assessment of Integrity:

The need for minor repairs and the loss of two of the original anti-aircraft guns and the depth charges should not be regarded as detrimental to the Kidd's significance as an example of its type. It is still the most intact Fletcher class destroyer in existence.

\*The way in which the Kidd is exhibited is unique. Because of the fluctuation of the Mississippi River (range of up to 45 feet in a year), a special mooring system had to be designed. Part of the year, when the river is at its lowest point, the ship will be completely out of water and visitors will be able to walk under the hull. When the river rises, the Kidd will float. The Kidd is the only ship in the world exhibited in this manner. The cradling feature of the Kidd is considered a unique engineering feat.

Note: The Fletcher class was a distinctive group of destroyers which were built to the design of the U. S. S. Fletcher. Although all destroyers are similar, many variations are possible in terms of armament, funnel placement, bridge design, hull shape, etc. Whenever the Navy develops a new design for a ship of the line, it names the design and hence the class for the first ship built in that new design. As noted in Item 8, Fletchers were the largest class of destroyers built during World War II. This is because their design happened to be current at the time the Navy was building up the fleet for the war effort.

# 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** 1943 **Builder/Architect** Builder: U. S. Navy

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)** Criterion C

The U. S. S. Kidd is exceptionally significant on the national level in the area of military history because it is an extremely rare and important surviving example of an American World War II destroyer.

Destroyers were the largest class of ships of the line built by the United States Navy during World War II. They were used mainly for screening task forces, shore bombardment, radar picket duty, and battling enemy airplanes. The two major classes of destroyers used by the U. S. Navy during the war were the Allen M. Sumner class, of which 70 were built, and the Fletcher class, of which 175 were built. (Most of the 105 Gearing class destroyers were built too late to see action.)

Of the original 245 Fletcher and Sumner class destroyers, only four remain. Three of these have undergone FRAM (Fleet Repair and Modernization). Typically this work included the replacement of the old mast with a tripod structure, the installation of a helicopter platform to replace the rear island, the addition of side launching torpedo tubes, and the installation of hedgehog depth charge launchers to replace the original torpedo tube mount amidships. Other changes included the replacement of certain pieces of armament.

The U. S. S. Kidd is the only destroyer of either class which was not modernized in this fashion. It is therefore the only one which retains its World War II appearance. Hence, of the vast fleets of destroyers which the U. S. Navy used in fighting the Second World War, the Kidd is probably the best surviving example.

Justification for Exceptional Significance:

The category of exceptional significance is important in recognizing objects associated with maritime history. Although ships have played an important role in American history, they seldom survive long enough to meet the fifty year criterion. (The average life of a ship is usually about twenty to thirty years.) So, in our opinion, the fifty year criterion should be more sparingly applied in dealing with highly perishable resources, such as ships, than it is in dealing with buildings.

In any case, the Kidd is unique among the four surviving Fletcher and Sumner class destroyers because it is the only one which is virtually in World War II condition. Hence, in our opinion, it merits listing on the Register under the category of exceptional significance.

CONTINUED

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property @ 1 acre

Quadrangle name Baton Rouge West, LA

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UTM References

A 

1	5	6	7	3	6	4	0	3	3	6	9	2	0	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

### Verbal boundary description and justification

Please refer to attached sketch map.

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state code county code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title National Resister Staff

ASSISTED BY: Marc Pinsel, Naval Oceanographic Office, NSTL Station, Bay St. Louis, MS 39522 (601) 688-4016

organization Division of Historic Preservation State of Louisiana

date July 1983

street & number P. O. Box 44247

telephone (504) 342-6682

city or town Baton Rouge

state LA 70804

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

*Robert B. DeBlieux*  
Robert B. DeBlieux

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date July 28, 1983

### For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

*Patricia Anders*  
601 Keeper of the National Register

date 8/9/83

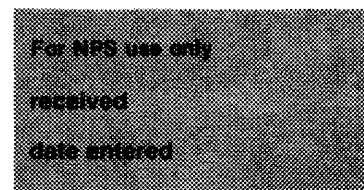
Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet U. S. S. Kidd

Item number 8

Page 2

Significance (cont'd)

Historical Sketch:

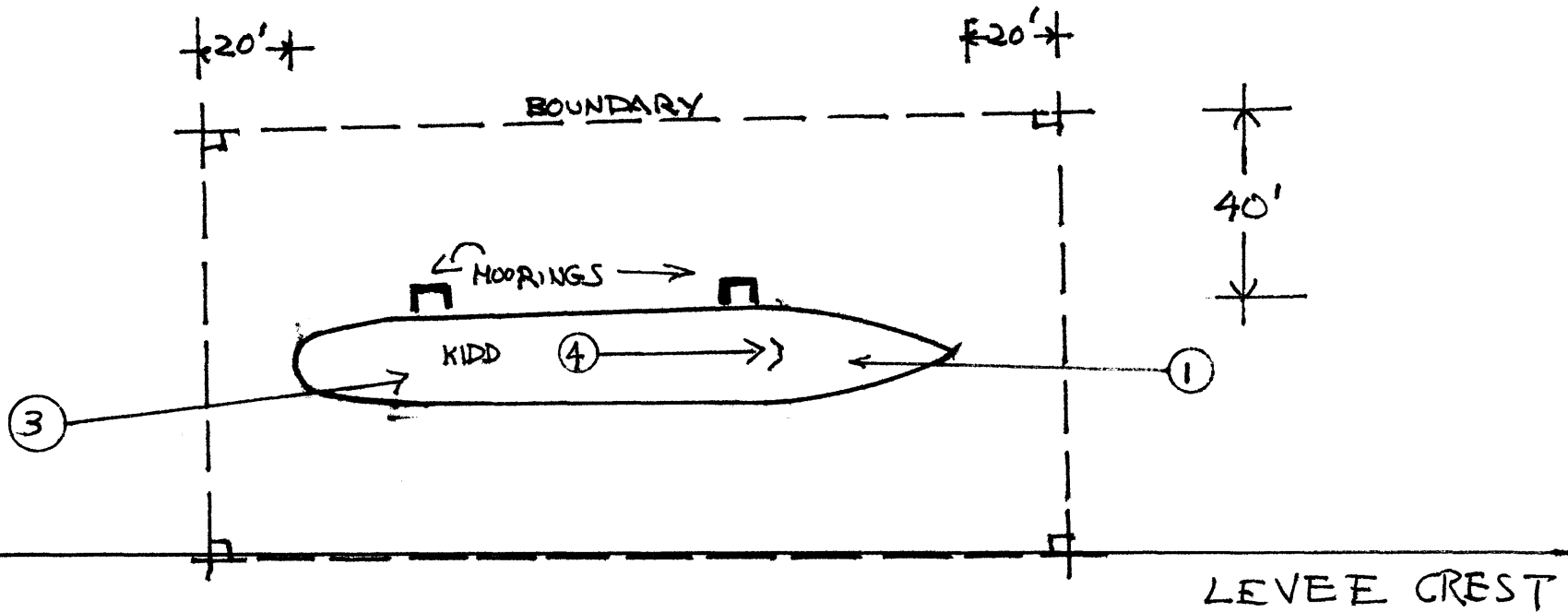
The U. S. S. Kidd was named for Rear Admiral Isaac C. Kidd, who was killed at Pearl Harbor while serving aboard the U. S. S. Arizona. The Kidd was launched on February 28, 1943 at the Federal Shipbuilding and Drydock Company, Kearny, New Jersey. She was commissioned April 23, 1943.

The Kidd's record during World War II is as follows:

- (1) June - August, 1943: served convoy escort duty in the Atlantic
- (2) August, 1943: sailed for duty in the Pacific
- (3) September, 1943: escorted aircraft carriers to Wake Island for air attacks
- (4) October, 1943: participated in attack of Rabaul and supported amphibious landings at Bougainville
- (5) November 11, 1943: South of Rabaul Kidd was detached from strike force and sent to rescue downed flyers from U. S. S. Essex. The Kidd was alone during the rescue and was attacked by a large group of Japanese planes. She fought off the planes, downing three, and saved the downed crew. Commander Roby was awarded the Silver Star for gallantry.
- (6) November 19 - December 9, 1943: screened carriers during air attacks on Tarawa and Gilbert Island invasion
- (7) January 11, 1944 - February 26, 1944: participated in the invasion of the Marshall Islands (screened heavy ships, bombarded Roi and Wokje)
- (8) March 20, 1944 - April 14, 1944: guarded airstrip under construction (to insure completion)
- (9) April 16, 1944 - May 7, 1944: supported the occupation of Aitape and Hollandia, New Guinea
- (10) June 10, 1944: fought in Marianas campaign
- (11) July 8 - August 10, 1944: bombarded and helped soften Guam for invasion
- (12) August 25, 1944: Pearl Harbor for repairs
- (13) October, 1944: part of Philippines invasion fleet
- (14) December 9, 1944: Mare Island Naval Shipyard for overhaul

CONTINUED

# MISSISSIPPI RIVER



APPROX. 1 ACRE

Note: The ship is permanently berthed and attached to cradling moorings. It is fixed to the moorings; hence the above boundaries are fixed.



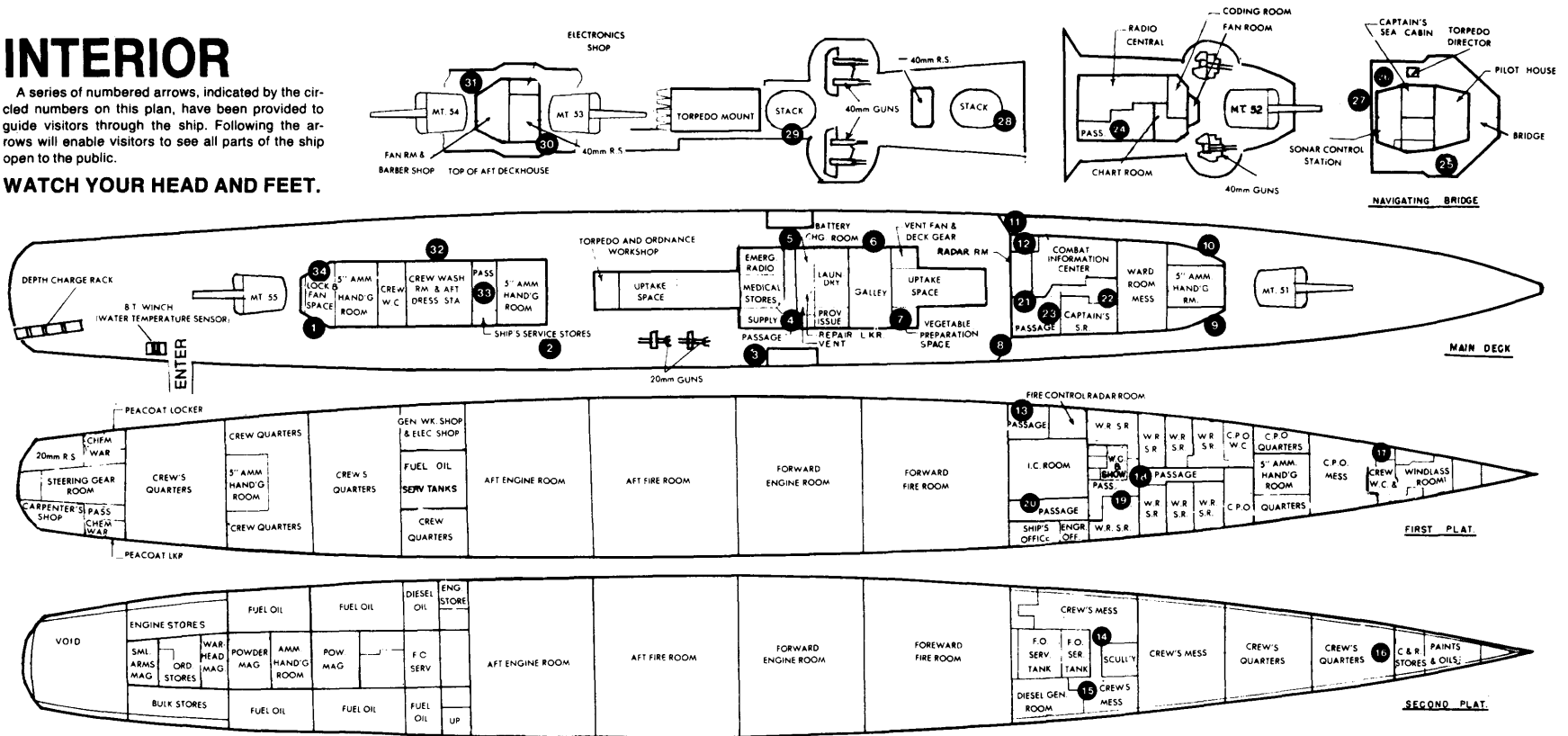
N

U.S.S. KIDD  
EAST BATON ROUGE  
PARISH

# INTERIOR

A series of numbered arrows, indicated by the circled numbers on this plan, have been provided to guide visitors through the ship. Following the arrows will enable visitors to see all parts of the ship open to the public.

**WATCH YOUR HEAD AND FEET.**



**AFT** — Shipboard direction or location. The rear section of the ship, relative to forward.  
**BATTERY CHARGING ROOM** — Space containing equipment for charging batteries for the motor winchabats and emergency systems.  
**BERTHING** — A shipboard bunkroom or sleeping space.  
**BRIDGE** — The deck from which the captain and officer of the deck controlled the ship. Uncluttered for better visibility during an attack.  
**C & R STORES** — Construction and Repair (Deck) Department Supplies.  
**CAPT. S.C.** — Captain's in-port cabin, utilized when the ship was not underway.  
**CHARTROOM** — The navigation station, where a geographic plot of the ship's position was maintained.  
**CHEMICAL WARFARE** — Storage for chemical warfare defense equipment.  
**CODING ROOM** — The space where radio messages are encrypted and deciphered.  
**COMBAT INFORMATION CENTER** — The radar tracking room, where locations of surrounding ships and aircraft are plotted.  
**C.P.O.** — Chief petty officers, or senior enlisted men.  
**CREW'S QUARTERS** — Enlisted sleeping compartments.  
**DECK GEAR** — Storage for deck equipment.  
**DIESEL GENERATOR** — The emergency diesel generator, used to make electricity should the steam generators fail.

**DRESSING STA.** — Emergency first aid treatment room.  
**EMERGENCY RADIO ROOM** — An auxiliary radio room.  
**ENGINE ROOM** — Propulsion machinery space containing a steam turbine, reduction gear and auxiliary equipment.  
**FAN ROOM** — A space containing ventilation fans to circulate fresh air inside the ship.  
**FIRE ROOM** — A space containing two boilers that generate 600 PSI steam, used to drive the main propulsion and auxiliary machinery.  
**40 MM and 20 R.S.** — Ready Service Ammunition for the 40 and 20 millimeter anti-aircraft guns.  
**FUEL OIL** — Fuel oil storage tanks. Navy ships burned an oil similar to number six bunker oil.  
**GALLEY** — The ship's kitchen where food was prepared for the crew.  
**HANDLING ROOM** — Space for supply ammunition to the guns, projectile and powder hoist.  
**I.C. ROOM** — Interior communications and plotting room, containing the computer that tracked targets for gunfire control.  
**MEDICAL STORES** — The ship's infirmary or "backbay" where the ship's doctor performed minor treatments.  
**MESS** — An eating area.

**MT 51, MT 52, MT 53, MT 54, MT 55** — 5.8 Caliber gun mounts that had a range of 12 miles, fired 15 rounds a minute and were manned by 10 men.  
**PASS** — Passageway or the way.  
**PILOT HOUSE** — The enclosed space containing the ship's wheel, ship controls and communication equipment.  
**PROJECTILE** — The traveling part of a 5" shell containing the fuse and bursting charge.  
**POW MAG** — Powder magazine, storage for the propelling charge that fires the projectile.  
**RADIO CENTRAL** — The main radio room, where radio operators transmitted and received messages.  
**REPAIR LKR** — Storage space for equipment used to repair battle damage or Damage Control gear.  
**SCULLY** — The scullery or dishroom where the mess gear was washed.  
**SEA CABIN** — The cabin immediately behind the pilot house, occupied by the captain when the ship was at sea.  
**SERVICE TANK** — Fuel oil tank used to supply fuel directly to the boilers.  
**SONAR CONTROL ROOM** — The Sound Navigation and Ranging equipment room, where men listened for submarines.  
**SR** — Officer's stateroom.

**STEER'G GEAR RM.** — Steering engine room containing hydraulic equipment that moved the ship's rudder.  
**STORES** — Storeroom for supplies.  
**SWBD** — Electrical Distribution Switchboard, containing switch gear to power the ship's electric systems.  
**TORR MT** — The quintuple 21" diameter torpedo tube mount that fired steam torpedoes with a range of 4,000 to 12,000 yards.  
**TORP & ORG WORKSHOP** — Workshop for repair and overhaul of ship's weapons.  
**UPTAKE SPACE** — Unmanned space containing ductwork for boiler, air supply and exhaust gases. Connected four boilers to stacks.  
**W.C.** — Water Closet, or in marine lingo, the "Head".  
**W.R.** — Wardroom, the officer's eating space, lounge, and conference room.  
**W.R.S.R.** — Wardroom stateroom, the term used to describe officers' sleeping compartments.  
**VEG. PREP. SPACE** — Vegetable preparation room, adjoining the galley.  
**WAR HEAD MAG** — Storage for torpedo warheads.  
**WINDLASS RM.** — The space containing the motor that drives the ship's anchor windlass and the boson's locker, or deck gear storage.

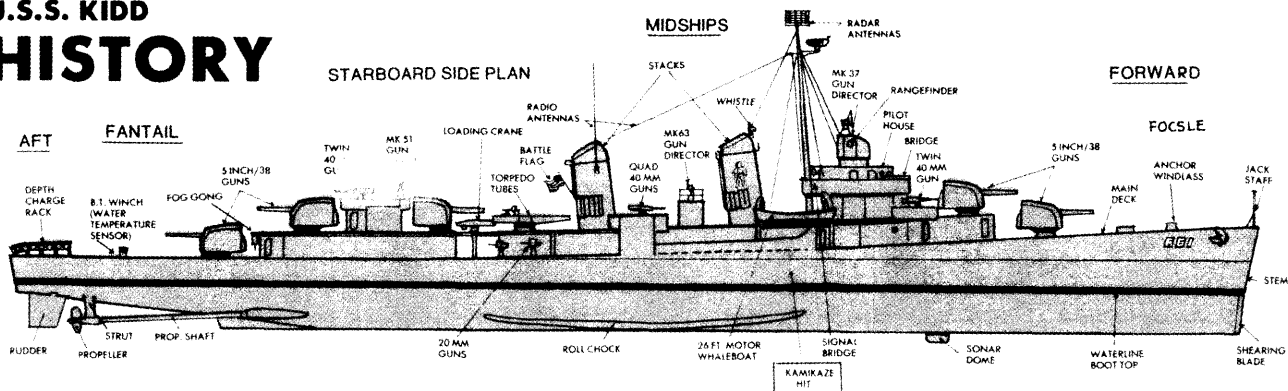
P.O. Box 44242

Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804

(504) 383-9096-Administrative Office

(504) 389-9584-Tour and Party Reservations

# U.S.S. KIDD HISTORY



WELCOME ABOARD THE USS KIDD. Walk the deck of one of America's most famous fighting ships.

The 2,050-ton Fletcher class destroyer was the backbone of the U.S. destroyer force in World War II. Respected by all navies for her versatility, she was equipped to attack surface vessels of all sizes, as well as submarines and aircraft. She provided vital firepower for shore invasions and all of her equipment is there for your inspection.

Authentically restored, the USS Kidd is the only ship now on exhibit in her wartime camouflage paint, "Measure 22," used for the invasion of Japan. The combat colors caused the ship to blend with the sky above the horizon and the sea below.

The Kidd was launched 28 February 1943. Her missions in World War II brought her to Wake Island, Rabaul, the Gilbert and Marshall Islands and landings on Bougainville, Aitape, Hollandia and Guam. She also participated in the invasion of the Philippines.

The Kidd was part of an air defense screen on Okinawa on April 11, 1945, attempting to cope with furious Kamikaze attacks. A lone enemy plane penetrated the outer air defenses and, despite being hit, crashed into the Kidd, killing 38 crewmen and wounding 50.

She earned 4 battle stars across the Pacific and at Okinawa survived the most intense, anti-

air warfare environment in history, one in which numerous other ships were sunk and some 5,000 sailors perished.

The Kidd continued to serve for nearly 20 years. She earned four more battle stars in the Korean conflict and joined task forces dispatched to respond to the Berlin Crisis.

She was sent to the mothball fleet in Philadelphia in 1964.

The USS Kidd was named after rear Admiral Isaac C. Kidd Sr. who was killed aboard his flagship, the Arizona, during the surprise attack at Pearl Harbor. He was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for bravery. The Battleship Arizona was subsequently made into a memorial where she lay at Pearl Harbor.

In addition to exploring the compartments on the interior of the Kidd, you may also tour the exterior of this famous ship. The unique dock of the Kidd is the only one of its kind in the world. It allows the ship to be exhibited completely out of the water when the Mississippi River is in its low stages.

From August through November, you can closely examine the Kidd's propellers, rudder, stabilizer fins, sonardome and her bow shearing blade used in anti-submarine attacks. Then seasonal thaws in the north cause the ship to lift off her unique cradle and float, rising to heights up to 40 feet.

The destroyer had its origin in the late 19th century with the development of the first self propelled torpedo. Navies quickly developed small fast torpedo boats, designed to attack and sink larger battleships and cruisers. As a counter against torpedo boats, navies built a slightly larger ship, armed with torpedoes and heavier guns. These 900 ton ships were known as torpedo boat destroyers. World War I showed these ships well suited to protecting larger ships against surface, submarine and air attack. Also, they proved more effective offensively than torpedo boats, and assumed the attack role. By the end of World War I, they were simply known "destroyer."

The U.S.S. Kidd represents destroyer development in World War II. She is one of the last surviving of the 175 Fletcher Class Destroyers built between 1942 and 1944, the largest number built to a single design. They were considered one of the best destroyers of the period.

K-1 (3-84)

# WELCOME ABOARD USS KIDD





## **BATON ROUGE home of the Sleek WW II DESTROYER KIDD**

**WELCOME ABOARD THE USS KIDD.** Walk the deck of one of America's most famous fighting ships.

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Authentically restored, the USS KIDD is the only ship now on exhibit in her wartime camouflage paint, "Measure 22," used for the invasion of Japan. The combat colors caused the ship to blend with the sky above the horizon and the sea below.

The Kidd was an acknowledged champion in the sea rescue of downed carrier pilots. Her missions in World War II brought her to Wake Island, Rabaul, Bouganville Landing, the Gilbert and Marshall Islands and landings on Aitape, Hollandia and Guam. She also participated in the invasion of the Philippines.

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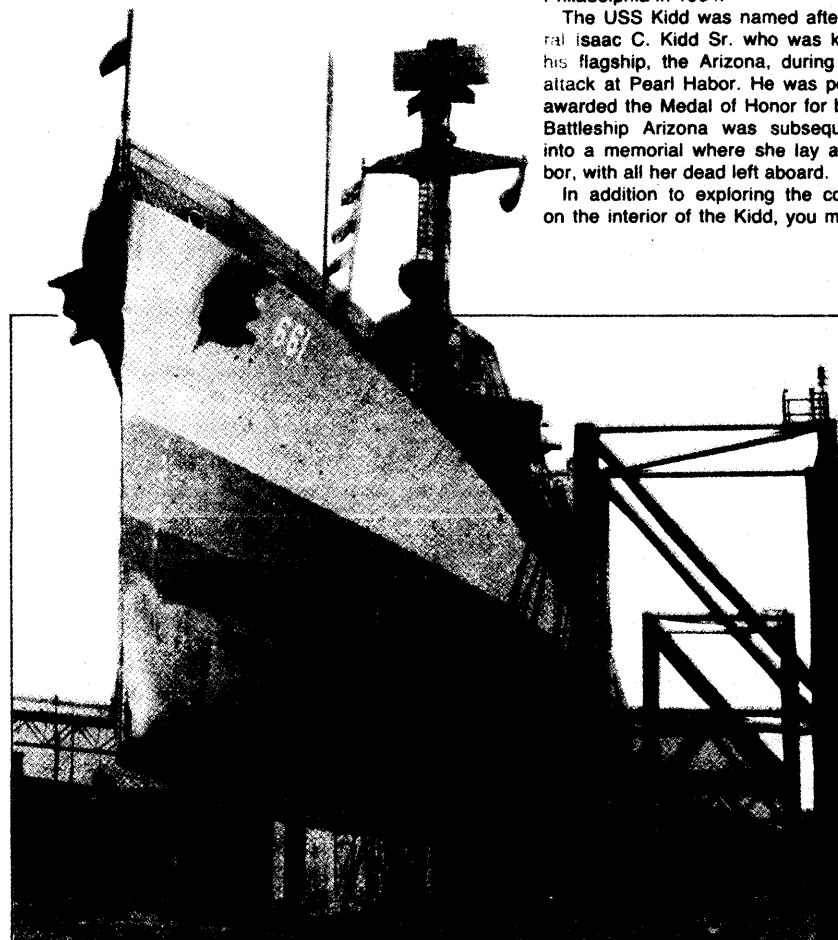
K-2 (Rev. 4-84)

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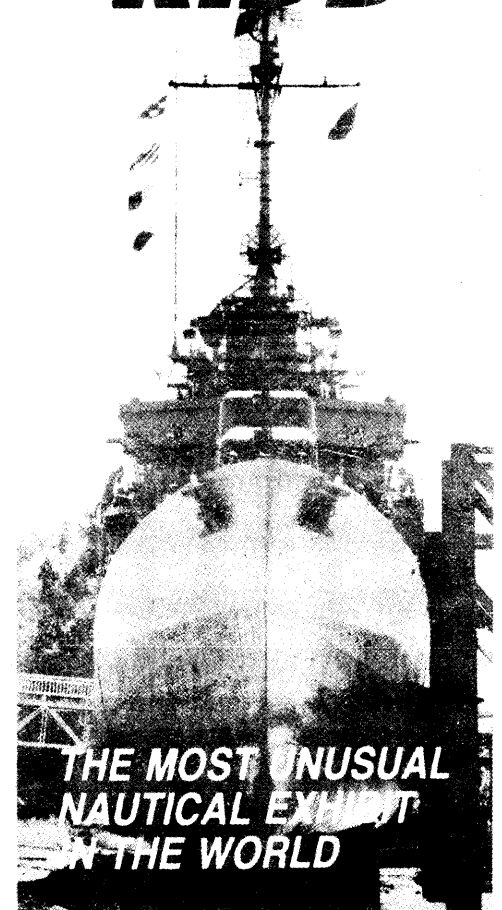
**Location:** The USS Kidd is on the Mississippi River in downtown Baton Rouge across from the Riverside Centroplex.

The ship has a temporary gift shop on location and a nautical museum now under construction. For more information and booking for parties and group tours, call or write the USS Kidd ticket office.

**Administrative Office**  
(504) 383-9096  
**Tour & Party Reservations**  
(504) 389-9584

U.S.S. KIDD  
P. O. Box 44242  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804

# USS KIDD



**THE MOST UNUSUAL  
NAUTICAL EXHIBIT  
IN THE WORLD**

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

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date entered

Continuation sheet U. S. S. Kidd

Item number 8

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Significance (cont'd)

- (15) February 19, 1945: invasion of Okinawa. During the first days of the campaign, the Kidd screened battleships, participated in shore bombardment, rescued downed flyers, served radar picket duty, and guarded the damaged U. S. S. Franklin. On April 11, 1945, while on radar picket duty, the Kidd was struck by a kamikaze. She lost thirty-eight dead and fifty-five wounded. She continued to fight and rejoined the task group.

The Kidd was decommissioned on December 10, 1946. She received four battle stars for her World War II service. She later was recommissioned and served during the Korean Conflict (for which she received four more battle stars). From 1953 to 1959, the Kidd was part of the Pacific fleet. In 1961 she served with fleet operation forces during the Berlin crisis and patrolled off the Dominican Republic. On June 19, 1964, she was decommissioned and placed in the Atlantic Reserve. She was donated in April, 1982 to the Louisiana Naval War Memorial Commission and arrived in Baton Rouge shortly thereafter.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
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Continuation sheet U. S. S. Kidd

Item number 9

Page 1

Bibliography

U. S. S. Laffey National Register Nomination Form. Courtesy of South Carolina Department of Archives and History.

Reynolds, Dr. Clark to Patrick Andrus. December 17, 1982. Dr. Clark is curator of South Carolina's Patriots Point Naval and Maritime Museum. This letter to Patrick Andrus, the federal reviewer for National Register nominations from the Southeast, provides comparative and statistical information on the various classes of destroyers built during World War II. It was written in reference to the Laffey nomination.

Pinzel, Marc. Research Report on U. S. S. Kidd. Mr. Pinzel is with the Naval Oceanographic Office in Bay St. Louis, Mississippi. His report is solidly grounded in numerous secondary and primary sources. For specific references, see copy of research report in Kidd National Register file, LA State Historic Preservation Office.

U. S. S. Kidd Office, Baton Rouge. The Kidd office has diagrams and blueprints of the ship as well as numerous other sources and records.