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This Week in Indiana History

November 21, 1941:
Launching of the USS Indiana Battleship

The Battleship USS Indiana was launched on this day in 1941 from Newport News, Virginia. While the ship was being fitted out, the Japanese struck Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941. The USS Indiana, fully loaded with ammunition and supplies, left Virginia for the Tonga Islands and reported for duty with the Pacific Fleet in 1942. The USS Indiana was nicknamed the “Hoosier Houseboat” by her crew, according to the August 18, 1945 edition of the *Kokomo Tribune*. The USS Indiana earned 9 battle stars for her participation in the Asiatic-Pacific service engagements and operations. The USS Indiana’s prow and guns are now housed at Indiana University’s Memorial Stadium and were dedicated there in 2013.



For more information on the USS Indiana:
United States Battleships, compiled and edited by
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History of USS Indiana (BB58), United States
Naval History Division (ISLO 359 no 3)

Left: Oil on canvas painting by the artist Anthony Saunders entitled *Indiana (BB-58), First Tour of Duty!*

Right: Picture of the USS Indiana docked at Newport News, Virginia prior to her launch.

