

# Moments in Time

# USS New Mexico BB40: the Drinan Diary

## Estimated Time

One 45 minute class period

## Materials

- Moments in Time video – USS *New Mexico BB40: the Drinan Diary*
- Selected quotes from the video (see reverse)
- Chart paper

## Vocabulary

- Flag Ship
- Kamikaze
- USS
- BB
- Packard
- “Size someone up”

## Standards Met

New Mexico State

Standards grades 9 – 12

- History 1.A.3, 1.B. 5, 1.C.8
- Language arts 1.C, 3.F

## Extensions

- Explore the website <http://ussnewmexico.net> for information. On this site are images submitted by high school students for a crest design contest. Examine the winning design. What were the artist’s explanations for symbols, design, color? Students design their own crest for the USS NM.
- Explore news sources and communication available to soldiers today. What might be the 21<sup>st</sup> century version of “*The Salvo*” or “*the Drinan Diary*?” Are there public web-sites for soldiers and their families? Do students know anyone currently serving in the military who can share news from the front with the class?

## Goal

To examine primary and secondary sources for historical evidence

## Student Learning

Students analyze and compare quotes from two primary sources to create a richer understanding of life aboard the USS NM BB-40.

## Procedure

1. Discuss the USS New Mexico. In service from 1917 – 1946, the USS New Mexico was once of the most technically advanced ships of her time. Over-hauled in 1931, she remained in active duty throughout World War II, escorting carriers, engaging in battle, taking kamikaze hits and maintaining heavy fire until the War’s end.
2. Historians have many resources to draw from in order to describe life aboard the ship: oral histories, footage, photos, primary sources (diaries, correspondence, the ship’s news letters), secondary sources, description of battles, casualties and events. The Moments in Time video quotes extensively from two primary sources - the ships’ own newsletters from 1926 and the diary of Robert Drinan from 1945.
3. Students examine excerpts from these primary sources, answering the following research questions: From what larger document are these quotes excerpted? Who wrote this text and for what purpose? Who was the intended audience? What is the general message? What evidence can you find that supports your conclusions? In one or two sentences, explain the significance of the primary document this quote comes from and what it conveys about life for crew on the USS NM. These questions may be posted on chart paper or passed out in a worksheet format.
4. In small groups, students examine quotes from either “The Salvo of the USS New Mexico” and or the diary of Robert Drinan. Remind students that the quotes they are excerpts from larger documents and also that they were written during different time periods.
5. Students report back to the whole class, sharing their answers and general thoughts about the primary source material they worked with. How can these documents work together to create a picture of the crew’s experience? How does the USS NM news source compare to how soldiers receive news now? How might the Drinan diary be similar or different from a modern day soldier’s blog, email or skype experience?

## Suggested Forms of Assessment

- Whole class discussion
- Small group work
- Answers to posted questions



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## Moments in Time – USS New Mexico BB40

### Quotes from the Drinan Diary used in the video

*The ship's publications brought the crew their "daily dose of news, sports and humor." This newsletter was first published as "The Salvo of the USS New Mexico" and later as "The Queen's Daily News."*

"You don't expect a man with a second hand Ford to polish the windshield. But the man with a new Packard, you expect to strive in every minute detail of cleanliness and upkeep. We believe our ship is a Packard." – *The Salvo*, 1926

"You can stand by and watch your ship steadily decline or you can get in there and strive to make her the ship you'd be proud of. Untidiness and negligence are contagious, but so are cleanliness and pride" – *The Salvo*, 1926

"The loose use of obscenity throughout the service is well known. There are a lot of men in the Navy, at least 90%, who do not care to listen to filth. The next time you hear a man indulging in rotten language, size him up." – *The Salvo*, 1926

"It was often said that good men with poor ships are better than poor men with good ships" – *The Salvo*, 1926