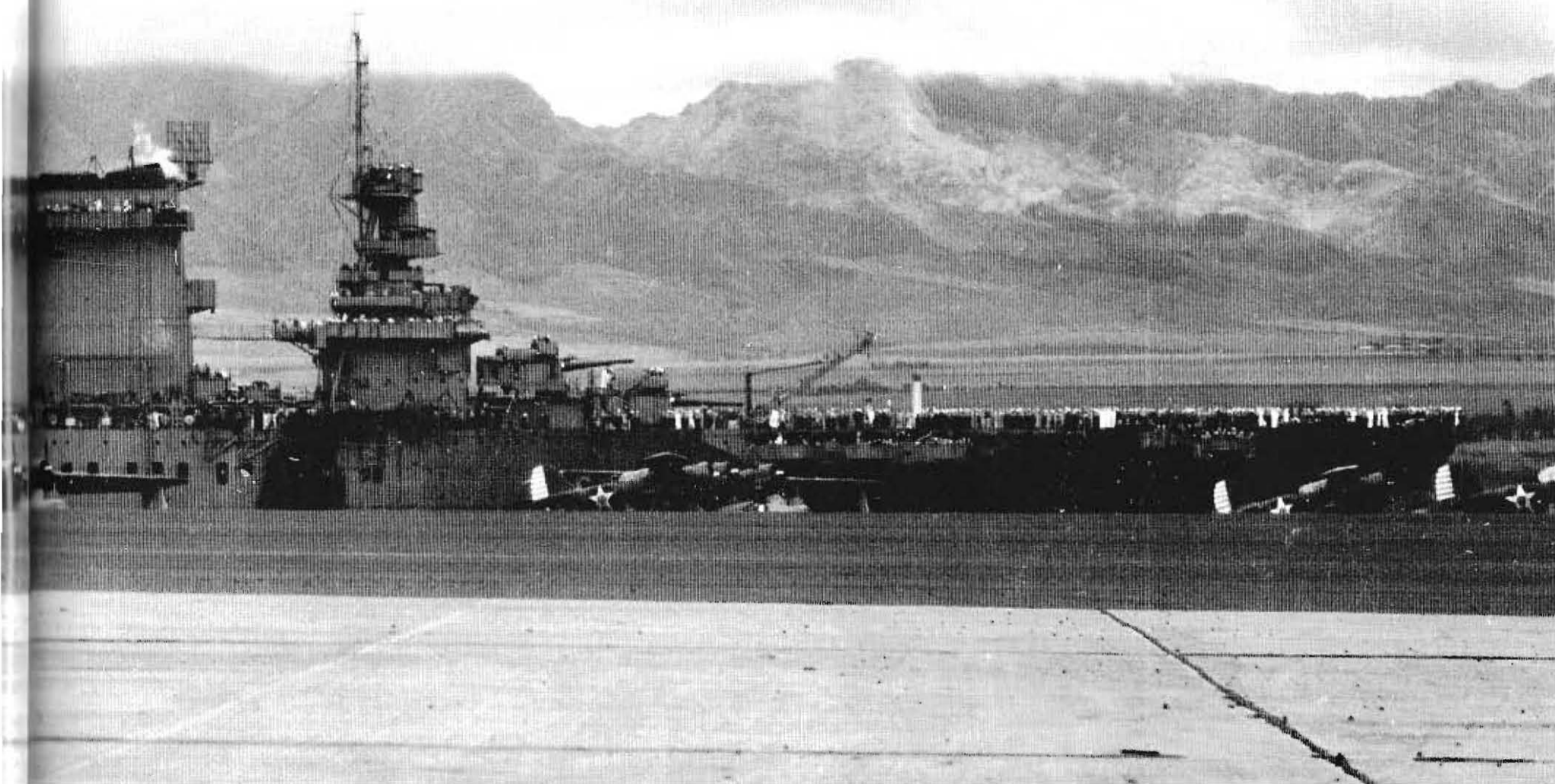


USS LEXINGTON CV-2 moored on, or possibly passing by the southwest side of Ford Island, Pearl Harbor Navy Yard, during late March 1942, for what was to be her last refit. Note the boat stowage was previously removed from the base of the funnel, which featured a small funnel cap on the leading uptake vent.





CONFIDENTIAL  
DECLASSIFIED  
KT:11  
April 14, 1942

From: The Commandant, Navy Yard, Pearl Harbor, T. H.  
To: The Chief of the Bureau of Ships.  
Subject: USS LEXINGTON (CV2) - Removal of 8" Battery.  
Reference: (a) Opnav Conf. Despatch 201930 of February.  
Enclosure: (A) P. H. Photographs - USS LEXINGTON - Removal of 8" Battery. No's 419-42, 422-42, 424-42, 426-42, 427-42, 429-42, 431-42, 432-42, 434-42, 441-42, 446-42, 448-42.

1. The removal of the 8" battery from the USS LEXINGTON authorized by reference (a) was accomplished during the early part of her current availability. In order to complete the removal in the shortest possible time so as to permit work to be started on the installation of 1.1 foundations, the following procedure was used:

(a) Prior to the arrival of the ship two 500 ton barges were shored internally and cribbed to permit each to carry one 8" gun mount, complete. Cribbing was prepared on the dock under the 250 ton hammer-head crane to permit two mounts being landed there. Fabrication work on the lifting pede was started.

(b) Immediately upon the arrival of the LEXINGTON, ordnance machinists commenced casting the four mounts adrift at the level of the roller path starting with No. 4 mount and working forward. Forty-eight hours after the arrival of the ship the No. 4 mount was ready to be lifted. Rigging arrangements proceeded and by the fourth day the first lift was ready. On this day 2 mounts complete with foundation stools were removed. Three lifts were required for each mount. The heaviest, the rotating structure above the roller path, weighed approximately 330,000 pounds. These two mounts were placed on the previously prepared barges which had been placed as camels between the ship and the dock.

(c) On the following day No. 1 and No. 2 mounts were lifted in a similar manner and placed on the prepared cribbing on the dock. In order to plumb these mounts with the heavy hook of the hammer-head crane, it was necessary to back the LEXINGTON out so that about 340 ft. of the ship projected beyond the end of the dock. She was held in that position for about four hours. In all, six days were required to remove the entire battery.

2. Enclosure (A), pictures taken during the progress of the work, are forwarded for the Bureau's information.

CC: Buord (with 1 print encl (A)) C. S. GILLETTE

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By direction

CONFIDENTIAL

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000 DIB 52023

C-S74-1/CV/N Y10  
Ser.Y-0850

U. S. NAVY YARD  
PEARL HARBOR, T. H.

KT:1A  
May 1, 1942

From: The Commandant, Navy Yard, Pearl Harbor, T. H.  
To: The Chief of the Bureau of Ships.

Subject: U.S.S. LEXINGTON (CV2) - Installation of 20 MM and 1.1 A.A. Guns.

Reference: (a) Buships Conf. Despatch 022212 of April, 1942.  
(b) Comdt. P.H. Conf. ltr C-374/CV/NY10, Serial Y-0710 of 17 April, 1942.

Enclosure: (A) P. H. Photo. #646-42 USS LEXINGTON - 5 - 20 MM guns on hinged plat. at'bd side. frs 142-152.  
(B) P. H. Photo. #647-42 USS LEXINGTON - 3 - 1.1 quad mounts abaft stack frs. 124 $\frac{1}{2}$ -133 $\frac{1}{2}$ .  
(C) P. H. Photo. #648-42 USS LEXINGTON - 2 - 20 MM guns on after end of stack.  
(D) P. H. Photo. #649-42 USS LEXINGTON - 20MM gun at port after corner of flight deck.  
(E) P. H. Photo. #650-42 USS LEXINGTON - 20MM guns at at'bd after corner of flight deck.  
(F) P. H. Photo. #651-42 USS LEXINGTON - 6 - 20MM guns outboard of stack frs. 98 $\frac{1}{2}$ -109 $\frac{1}{2}$ . Note clip. rm. in foreground.  
(G) P. H. Photo. #652-42 USS LEXINGTON - 4 - 1.1 quad mounts forward of stack frs. 55-66.  
(H) P. H. Photo. #653-42 USS LEXINGTON - 4 - 1.1 quad mounts forward of stack frs. 55-66.  
(J) P. H. Photo. #654-42 USS LEXINGTON - 4 - 20MM guns on hinged plat. port side forward frs. 86 $\frac{1}{2}$  - 94 $\frac{1}{2}$ .  
(K) P. H. Photo. #655-42 USS LEXINGTON - 3 - 20MM guns on hinged plat. port side forward frs. 127-132.  
(L) P. H. Plan CV2-78/3-1 20 MM stowage in small arms mag. compartment. A-500-M.  
(M) P. H. Plan CV2-78/3-2 20 MM clip. rms., arrgt. and details.

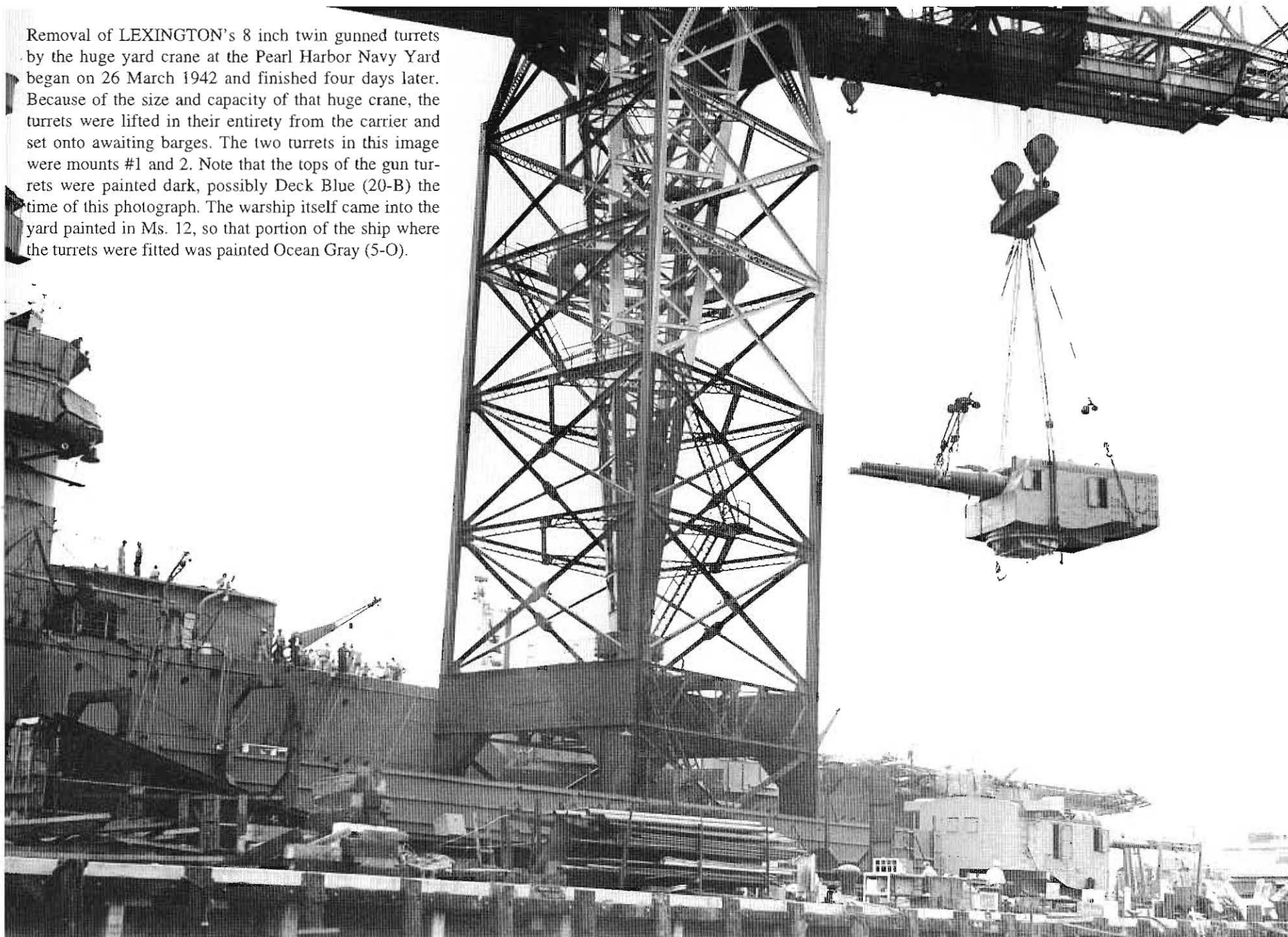
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Above are two copies of original USN documents pertaining to CV-2. They provide a partial description of the last refit accomplished on LEXINGTON. In them, a description is given of the work done to remove the 8 in. gun turrets and replace them with the 1.1 in. medium anti-aircraft mounts, as well as the additional 20mm light anti-aircraft

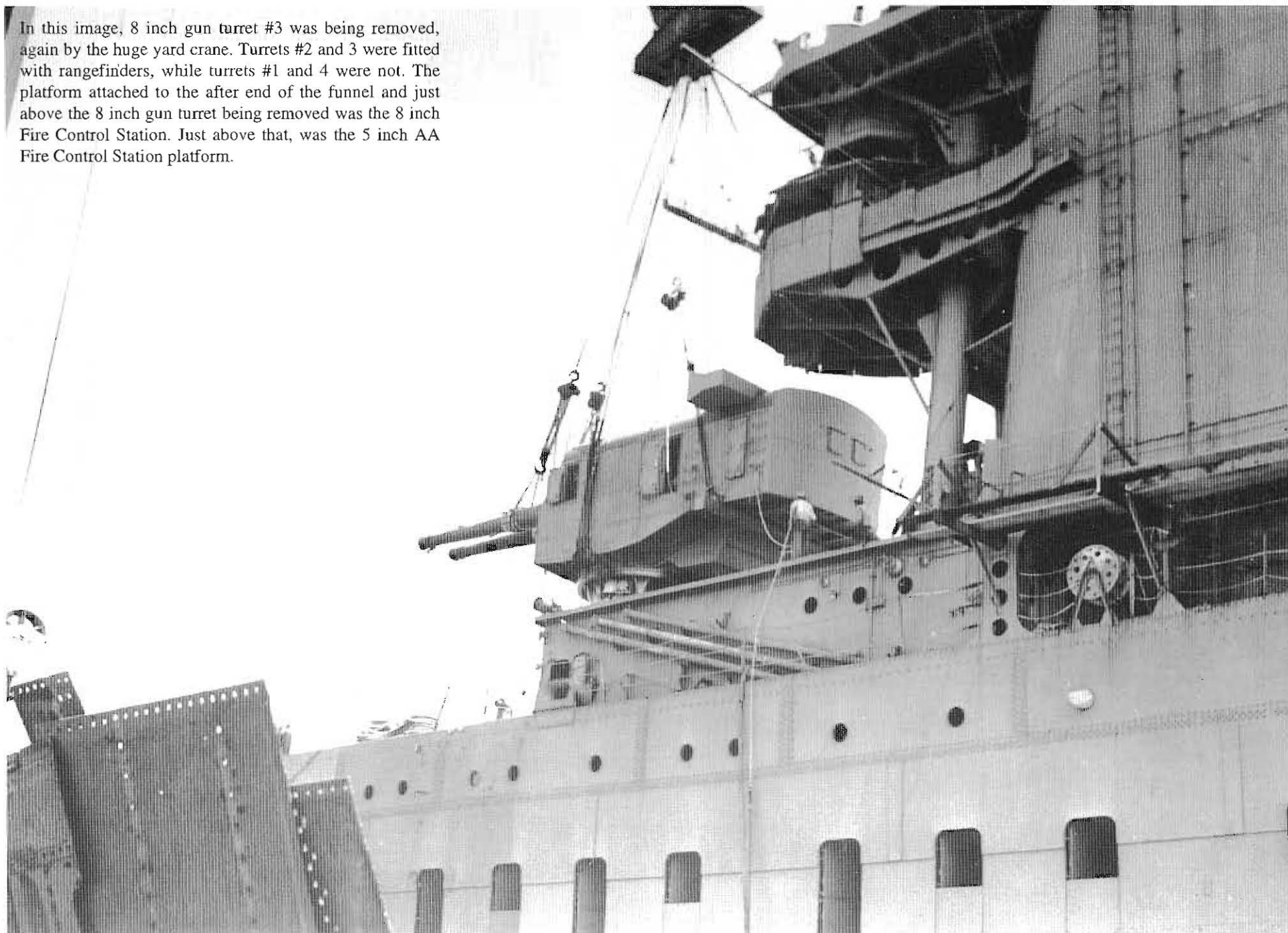
mounts that were fitted. In both documents, one can read that photographs of the work accomplished were enclosed. Unfortunately, only the images of the removal of the 8 in. turrets have been located at this time. The photographs of the final fitting of LEXINGTON have yet to be located, if they will ever be found.



Removal of LEXINGTON's 8 inch twin gunned turrets by the huge yard crane at the Pearl Harbor Navy Yard began on 26 March 1942 and finished four days later. Because of the size and capacity of that huge crane, the turrets were lifted in their entirety from the carrier and set onto awaiting barges. The two turrets in this image were mounts #1 and 2. Note that the tops of the gun turrets were painted dark, possibly Deck Blue (20-B) the time of this photograph. The warship itself came into the yard painted in Ms. 12, so that portion of the ship where the turrets were fitted was painted Ocean Gray (5-O).



In this image, 8 inch gun turret #3 was being removed, again by the huge yard crane. Turrets #2 and 3 were fitted with rangefinders, while turrets #1 and 4 were not. The platform attached to the after end of the funnel and just above the 8 inch gun turret being removed was the 8 inch Fire Control Station. Just above that, was the 5 inch AA Fire Control Station platform.

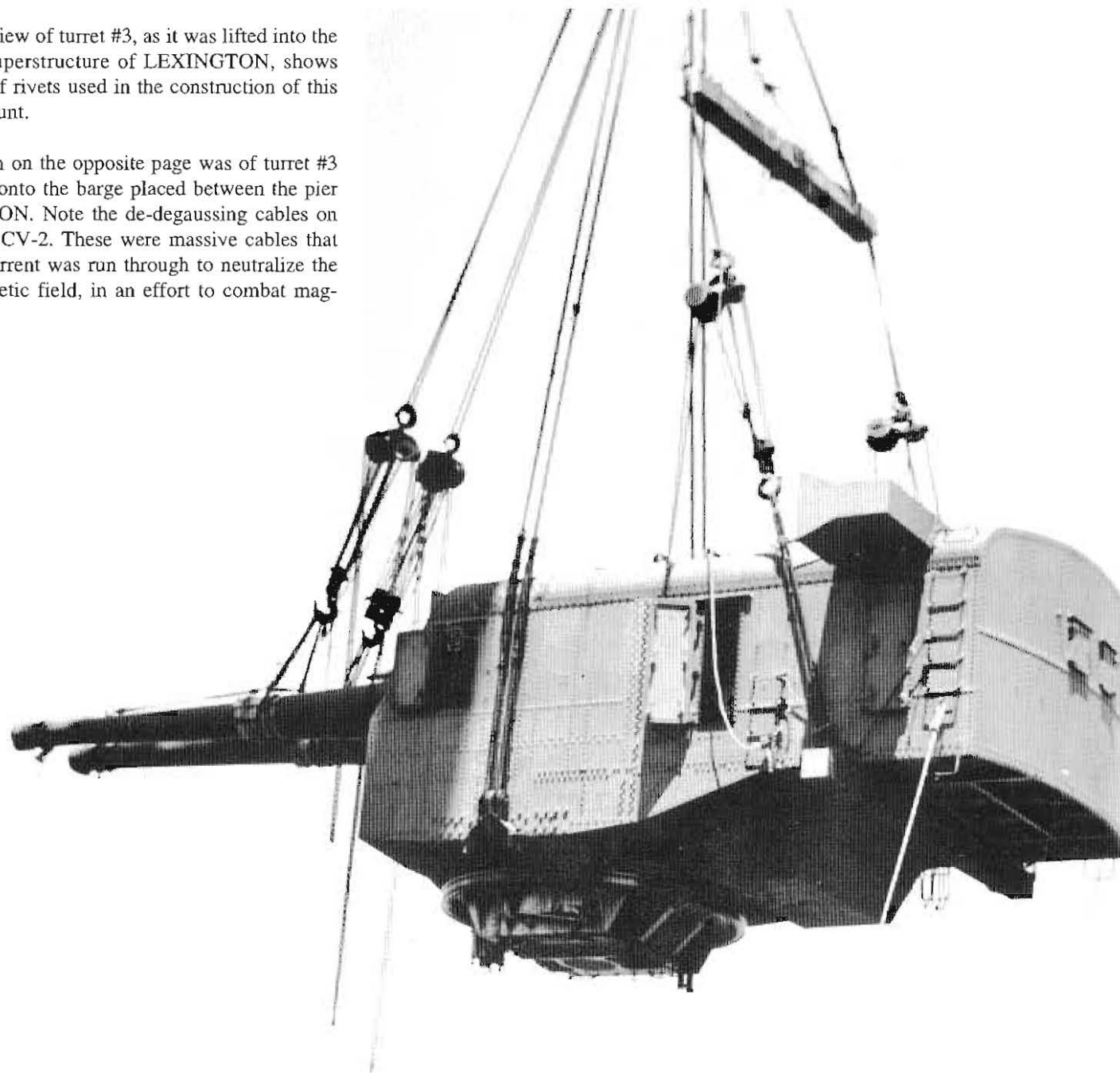


In this, a second photograph of the removal of gun turret #3, is a better view of both the 8 and the 5 inch Fire Control Stations. The use of Splinter Protective Matting was still widespread, as much of this was attached to platform railing and to the sides of smaller enclosed platforms. The platform high up on the funnel was the .50 cal. AA machine gun gallery, both port and starboard. At the time of the taking of this photograph, repainting of LEXINGTON's camouflage was started, as the dark patch of paint shows on the hull side.

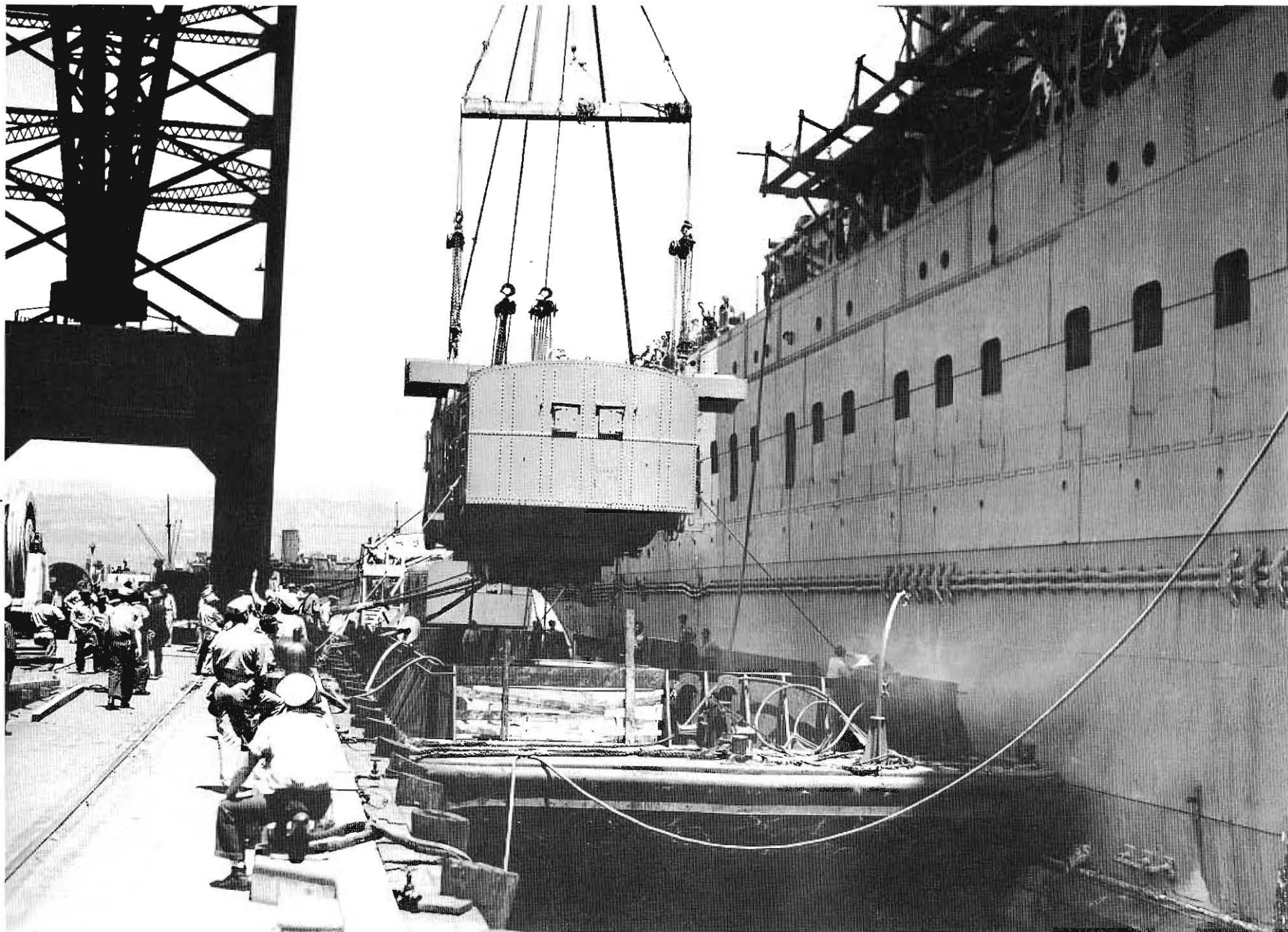


This close-up view of turret #3, as it was lifted into the air from the superstructure of LEXINGTON, shows the multitude of rivets used in the construction of this type of gun mount.

The photograph on the opposite page was of turret #3 being lowered onto the barge placed between the pier and LEXINGTON. Note the de-degaussing cables on the hullside of CV-2. These were massive cables that an electrical current was run through to neutralize the warships magnetic field, in an effort to combat magnetic mines.









Gun turret #3 being lowered onto a barge.

The following page is a close-up image of the face of gun turret #1 being detached from the lifting cradle after it was placed upon the barge.

