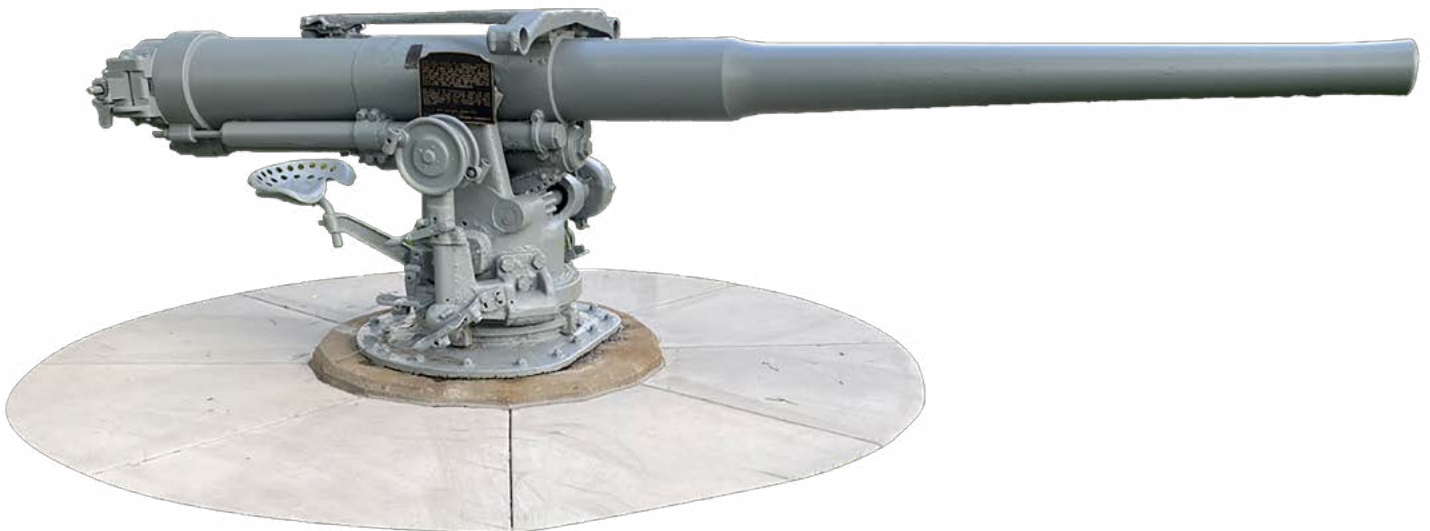


SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIAL



APPLICATION FOR REMOVAL OF AN EXISTING ARTWORK

TO: Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board
FROM: Minnesota Military & Veterans Museum
RE: USS Ward Gun #3



April 2024

PART 2

A. USS Ward Gun & Sailor Names

Photos of the USS Ward gun and plaque with sailor names: 4/9/24



PART 2

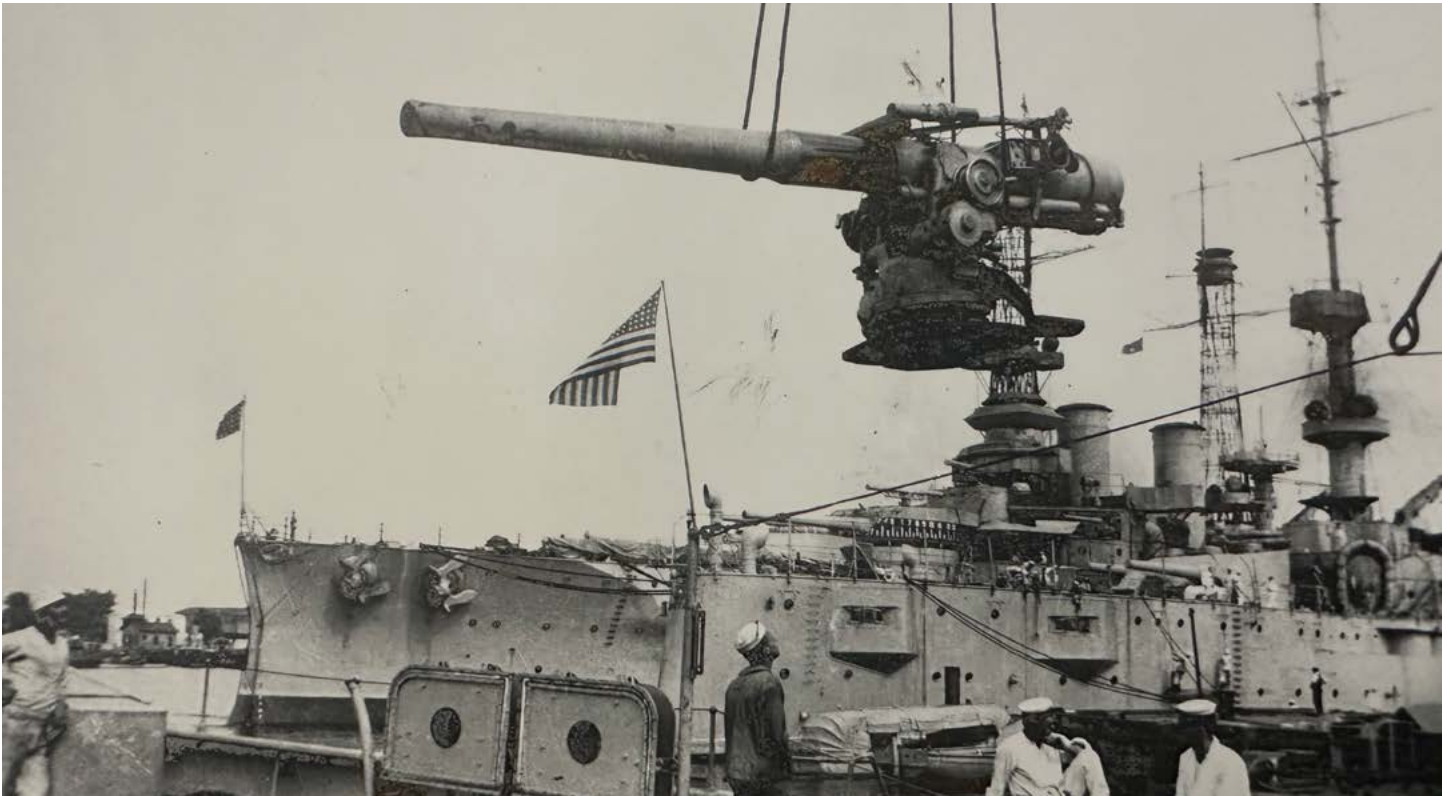
A. USS Ward Gun



PART 2

B. USS Ward in 1918

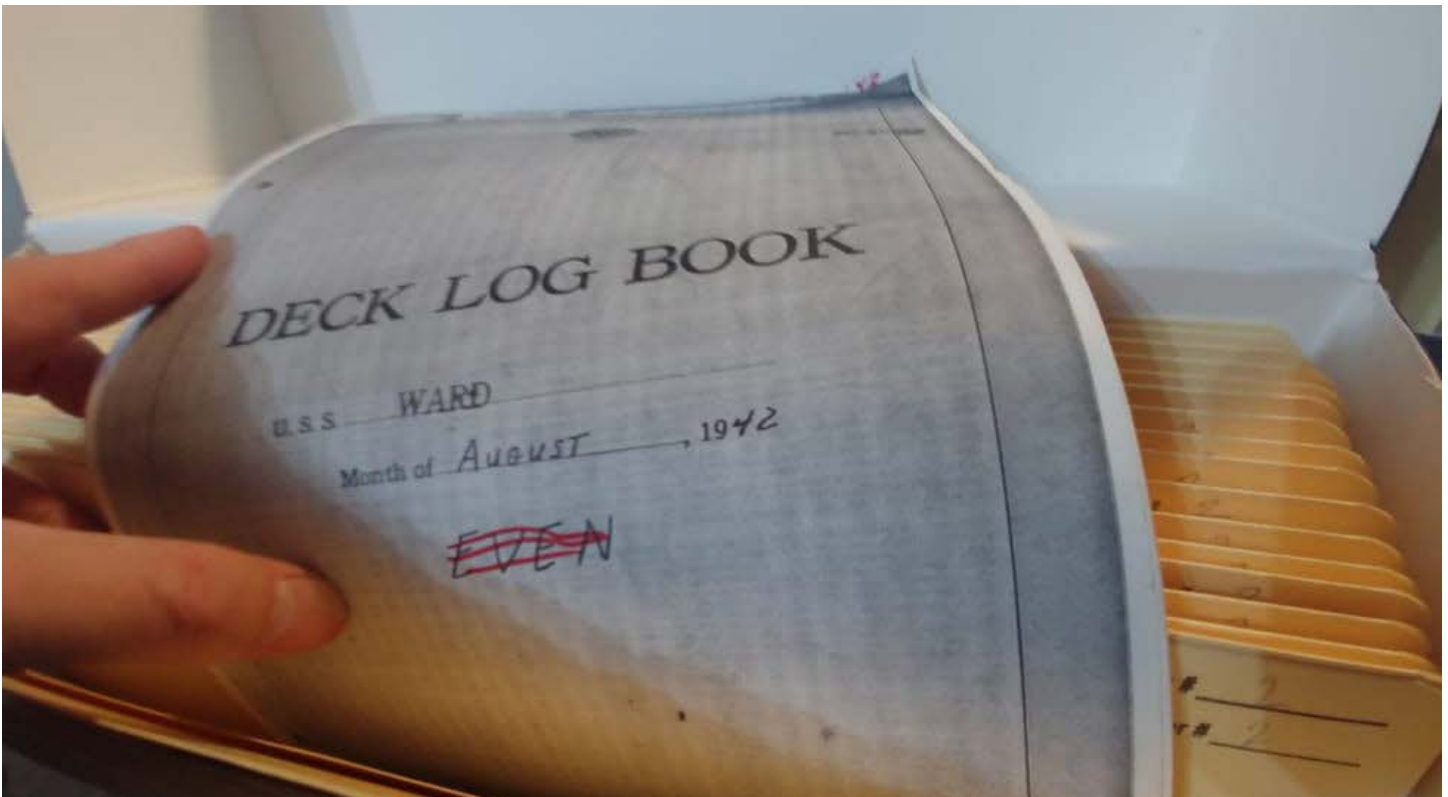
Construction of the USS Ward at Mare Island Naval Yard (CA): 1918



PART 2

C. USS Ward archives

Archives and artifacts at the MN Military & Veterans Museum



PART 2

D. Submarine

Sail and rudder of the USS Mpls-St Paul submarine (SSN-708)



PART 3

A. MDVA Letter to the U.S. Naval History and Heritage Command



MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS Office of the Commissioner

20 W 12th St, St Paul, MN 55155
Phone: 651-296-2562 • Fax: 651-296-3954
MinnesotaVeterans.org • 1-888-LinkVet

January 2, 2024

Admiral Samuel Cox
Naval History and Heritage Command
805 Kidder Breese Street SE
Washington Navy Yard, DC 20374-5060

RE: USS *Ward* Gun #3

Dear Admiral Cox,

I have been briefed on your December 1, 2023 meeting with our state delegation (Joe Fraser, Brooks Berg and Randal Dietrich) and was pleased to hear of your support for the relocation of the gun to a new Minnesota Military & Veterans Museum at Camp Ripley.

For decades the gun has sat outside of our offices at the State Veteran Services Building. We are eager to see a new chapter to be written in the history of this storied WWII artifact. It is story of great importance to the nearly 300,000 Minnesota Veterans, their families and our entire state.

We believe this new facility, adjacent to a Minnesota State Veterans Cemetery-Little Falls, to be the ideal location and fully endorse their plan to remove, restore and relocate the gun inside this new facility which will open to the public in 2026. The prominent placement it will enjoy at the heart of the WWII Exhibition Gallery is befitting of the service of the Minnesota Naval Reservists who made history the morning of December 7, 1941.

We would ask that our loan agreement, and the attendant requirements, pass from the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs to the Minnesota Military & Veterans Museum at Camp Ripley.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and thank you for your service.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bradley S. Lindsay".

Bradley S. Lindsay
Commissioner

brad.lindsay@state.mn.us

PART 3

B. Museum letter to the U.S. Naval History and Heritage Command



Minnesota Military & Veterans Museum

15000 Highway 115 • Little Falls, MN 56345 • Camp Ripley
Phone: 320-616-6050 • mnvetmuseum.org

January 12, 2024

Admiral Samuel Cox
Naval History and Heritage Command
805 Kidder Breese Street SE
Washington Navy Yard, DC 20374-5060

RE: USS *Ward* Gun #3

Dear Admiral Cox,

As Board President of the Minnesota Military and Veterans Museum, I would like to formally request the opportunity to remove USS *Ward* Gun #3 from our State Capitol grounds, restore it according to Navy standards and relocate it indoors at our new museum to open at Camp Ripley. This vibrant training facility, consisting of more than 53,000 acres, is state owned property. Remarkably, the Mississippi River runs through this expansive camp. Our new museum will be at the crossroads of two major highways to provide tremendous exposure and easy access to visitors.

The Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs endorses this plan and MVDA Commissioner Lindsay has signed a letter of support.

In addition, state legislators have committed to introducing a bill in the 2025 legislative session to fund this effort.

As was noted in your December 1st meeting with our team, the museum is already in possession of an abundance of stories and artifacts from the Minnesota Naval Reservists who proudly served aboard the USS *Ward*.

Our team has traveled the country studying the best practices of military museums. We are confident of our abilities to effectively display the gun as the centerpiece of our WWII exhibit gallery. We will be sure to note your role and that of your team.

I would like to invite you to speak at our grand opening in 2026.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and thank you for your service.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mark Ritchie".

Mark Ritchie
Board President, Minnesota Military & Veterans Museum
Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army
donaldmarkritchie@gmail.com

PART 3

C. MN Navy League letter to CAAPB



Minnesota Council

Navy League of the United States

June 9, 2022
Capital Area Architectural Review Board
204 Administration Building
50 Sherburne Ave, Suite 204
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Capital Area Architectural Review Board,

The Minnesota Navy League Council is writing to support movement of the USS Ward (DD-139) 4"/50 caliber gun that sits on the Minnesota Capital ground in St. Paul to a new indoor facility at the Minnesota Military Museum at Camp Ripley.

The USS Ward gun has a special place in Minnesota history as this gun was manned by Minnesota Naval Reservists and used on December 7, 1941 to sink a two-man Japanese midget submarine, just prior to the massive attack on Pearl Harbor by the Japanese fleet. The gun was placed on the Capital grounds in 1958 as part of the Minnesota centennial celebration. The last surviving member of the Minnesota gun crew was Alan Sanford who died in January 2015.

At its current site, the gun is exposed to the elements and will continue to degrade. Moving it to an indoor facility at Camp Ripley will preserve this important part of Minnesota's Naval history.

Sincerely,

William L. James III

William L. James III, President, Minnesota Navy League Council

PART 3

D. Conservation Report by Paul Storch (15 pages)

Paul S. Storch, M.A., PM-AIC
Museum Science Consultants
890 Palace Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55102
H: (651) 690-3276/C: (651) 263-0953
blitzpost@hotmail.com



Mr. Randal Dietrich
Executive Director
Minnesota Military & Veterans Museum

February 14, 2024

CONDITION REPORT: USS WARD #3 GUN

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The purpose of this project is to document the current condition of the USS Ward #3 gun that is currently installed as a memorial on the Minnesota State Capitol Mall prior to the move of the gun to a permanent indoor location. This report will also compile and summarize the history of preservation and conservation efforts to date in order to inform the proposed restoration of the gun.

The goal of this project is to produce useful baseline data that can be used to prepare an RFP for the actual conservation/restoration project.

This report will include the object description, current condition, conservation summary, photographic documentation, recommendations for restoration, and references.

OBJECT DESCRIPTION¹:

The object is Gun #3 and is a 4"/50mm naval gun manned by St. Paul reservists on the U.S.S. Ward, which fired the second shots by Americans at Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, at a Japanese mini-submarine. Based on a submarine wreck found off Hawaii in 2002, the Ward struck the conning tower of the submarine, creating two large holes on either side of the tower, which caused the submarine to

PART 3

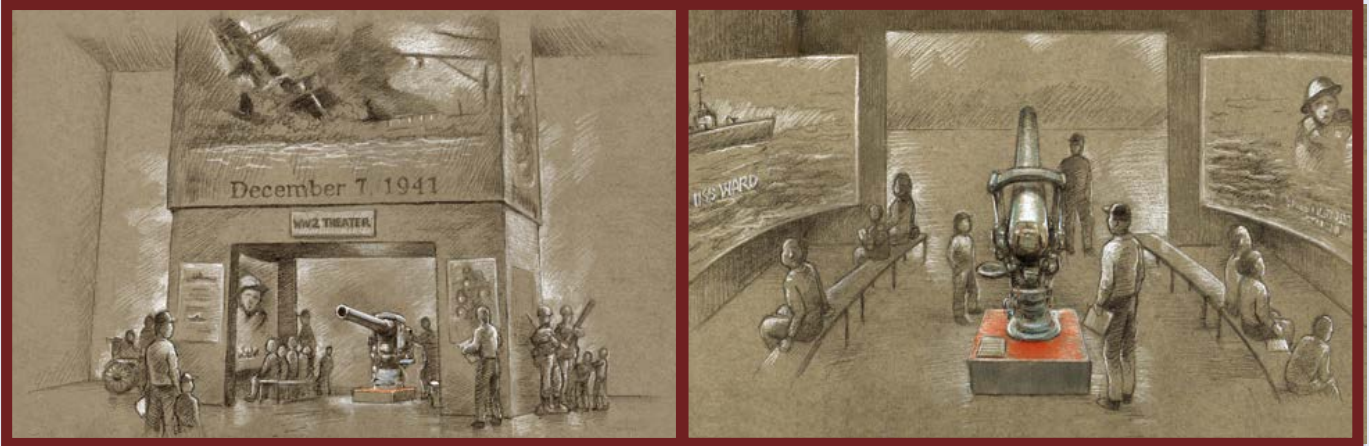
E. New Facility Renderings: Exteriors (2026)



PART 3

E. New Facility Renderings: Interior floor plan (2026)

Prominent placement of the USS Ward gun in the WWII exhibit gallery



PART 3

F. State Capitol ground restoration plan

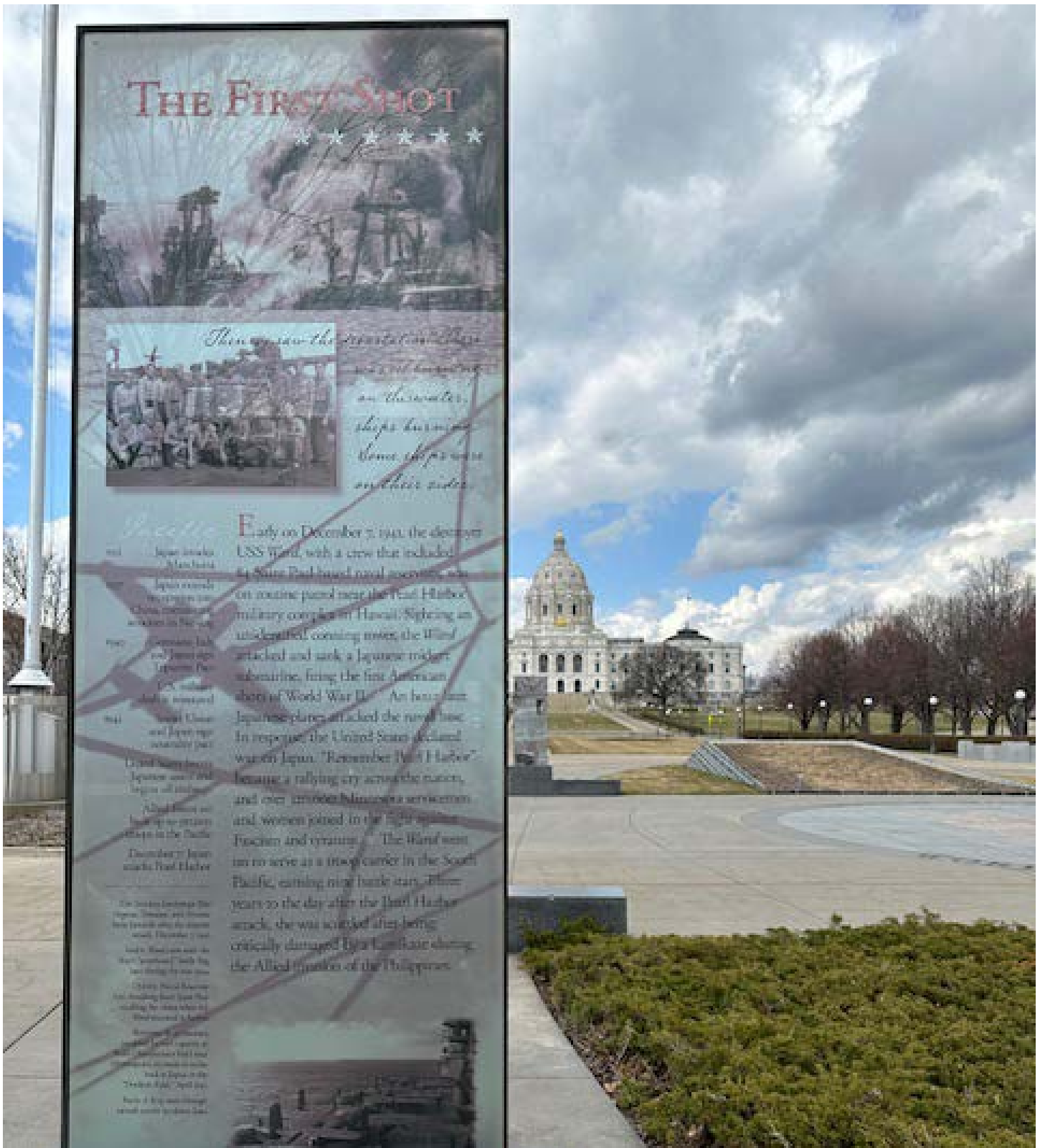
Planned restoration work at the site of removal on the Capitol grounds



PART 4

A. WWII Memorial Panel

Current inclusion of the USS Ward on the first panel of the WWII Memorial



THE FIRST SHOT



Then we saw the first shot in the air... and a few minutes on the water, ships began to blow up on both sides.

1941 Japan attacks Pearl Harbor. Japan sends the aircraft carrier fleet to Hawaii. The USS Ward is on routine patrol near the Pearl Harbor military complex in Hawaii. Sighting an unidentified coming vessel, the Ward attacked and sank a Japanese midget submarine, firing the first American shot of World War II. An hour later Japanese planes attacked the naval base. In response, the United States declared war on Japan. "Remember Pearl Harbor" became a rallying cry across the nation, and over 400,000 Americans, men and women joined in the fight against fascism and tyranny. The Ward went on to serve as a troop carrier in the South Pacific, earning nine battle stars. Three years to the day after the Pearl Harbor attack, she was scuttled after being critically damaged by a kamikaze during the Allied invasion of the Philippines.

1942 The USS Ward is on routine patrol near the Pearl Harbor military complex in Hawaii. Sighting an unidentified coming vessel, the Ward attacked and sank a Japanese midget submarine, firing the first American shot of World War II. An hour later Japanese planes attacked the naval base. In response, the United States declared war on Japan. "Remember Pearl Harbor" became a rallying cry across the nation, and over 400,000 Americans, men and women joined in the fight against fascism and tyranny. The Ward went on to serve as a troop carrier in the South Pacific, earning nine battle stars. Three years to the day after the Pearl Harbor attack, she was scuttled after being critically damaged by a kamikaze during the Allied invasion of the Philippines.

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