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USS Missouri Gun Barrel Travels to Scenic Vista in CA



The 120-ton, 16 inch gun barrel was originally a part of the World War II battleship USS Missouri.

A large WWII-era gun barrel from the USS Missouri was recently transported up a steep and winding hillside to a historic Battery overlooking the San Francisco Bay, thanks to Bigge Crane and Rigging.

For over-the-road transport, Bigge's team used a 500-ton capacity gantry system to load a 16-foot-wide, dual-lane platform

trailer with the gun barrel. The move originated at the Army Depot in Hawthorne, NV then proceeded to the Marin Headlands in a convoy composed of a four-man crew, two tractors, and the trailer. The crew covered 549 miles over the course of three transport shifts. Once the convoy entered California, officers from California Highway Patrol escort the convoy, as required by law.

The 120-ton, 16-inch gun barrel will now remain on permanent display in Marin, CA USA, where visitors can view it alongside the Battery.

On-site, Bigge trans-loaded the barrel to two four-line, bolstered platform trailers and then used a push and pull tractor to navigate the road. It was mandatory that this equipment be used to navigate the steep slope and hairpin turns that provide the only access to the Battery. Once at the setting location, a 500-ton capacity gantry with a side-shift system was required to offload, side shift and set the barrel in a tightly constrained location on the hillside.

This high-profile job required extensive planning and engineering support, Bigge said. Considering the length and weight of the piece and the grade of the hill, every precaution had to be considered to ensure the safety of all crew members.