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My research project entitled, *Conflict of Memories: A comparison of the Popular and Collective Memories of the Battleship USS Maryland*, was a requirement of the Department of History's "historical research and methodology seminar" taught in the theme of public memory and commemoration in the United States. Our instructor, Allison Finkelstein, encouraged us to choose a topic which had not been extensively reached in the past and also a topic which interested us. For this reason I chose to research the Battleship USS Maryland, because of my interest in nautical history, and the fact that the memory of the USS Maryland is a fairly unexplored field. With this project, I hoped to achieve two goals; first, to answer the question as to why war is remembered differently in the minds of veterans compared to the minds of the general public, and secondly, to bring to life the rich but largely forgotten history of the USS Maryland's crew and their beloved ship. I chose the question: why different groups remember war differently, because this question has persisted through time from the first documentation of armed insurrection to current military conflicts, and in my opinion researching this question was an important and enriching experience. The reason I chose the USS Maryland specifically as the case study for this question was because of its significance to me as a native Marylander, but also because of the relative obscurity that Maryland's memory has fallen in to as the numbers of surviving crewmembers quickly dwindles. For me, standing by and allowing the memory of such an extraordinary ship and her outstanding crew fade away right before my eyes was unthinkable, therefore through extensive research I was able to write a paper in an attempt to bring alive once more, at least in the University of Maryland community, the memory of the USS Maryland.

After I had made a final decision on the topic of my research, I began to delve in to the multitude of resources provided by the University of Maryland libraries. I began by searching

the World Cat library system for books published about the USS Maryland. I did not know what to expect in the results and I was fully prepared to find that no books were available. Fortunately this was not the case, rather there were actually several books of memoirs available through the interlibrary loan system. After putting in my requests for the books, the dedicated interlibrary loan staff went to work finding the books I had requested despite the fact that many archives and libraries were closed due to the extremely inconvenient government shutdown. Nevertheless, the ILL staff worked to find the books acquiring them from libraries as far away as Bavaria and continually requesting for the loan to be renewed on my behalf. In addition to this wonderful resource, I was able to use the vast array of digital databases we have access to through the library. Using the multitude of digitized newspaper databases, I was able to dive through almost a century of history regarding the USS Maryland and discover how the public remembered the ship at different points in her history. Although the sheer number of newspaper results I got back, numbering in the tens of thousands, was daunting, with the inspiration and creative filtering ideas of the library staff I was able to formulate a system to narrow down the results of my searches to a more manageable number. From this point I was able to individually go through the newspapers and see which are relevant to the memory of the USS Maryland and which are not.

Although I authored the final paper, I by no means could have accomplished this research project alone. I was fortunate to have the help and support of my instructor Allison, and the history librarian Eric Lindquist. Both played a large role in my research and in the end helped my final paper meet its full potential. Throughout the process, any time I had a question regarding research or sources, Eric Lindquist was able to help, making my research process much less troublesome than I had envisioned. Allison was also an enormous help in both the research and the writing process, initially steering me towards my final thesis and later on helping to keep my

research and writing focused on my thesis and suggesting potential places where I could find additional resources. While I never had to make any radical adjustments in the focus on my paper or my research, my instructor and the library staff were an enormous help throughout the research process.

After finding a multitude of potential sources from which to choose, I had the incredibly difficult task of sorting through hundreds of newspaper articles, multiple books and other sources all describing the experiences and memories of hundreds of sailors, marines and civilians in order to decide which were relevant. While a great majority of the accounts and articles were in fact relevant to my thesis, I could not possibly include them all in the paper, so I was again tasked with reading through the sources and deciding which were unique and interesting and which were similar and repetitive. After making this distinction between the two, I was able to use the most interesting accounts to piece together the life and experiences of a sailor aboard the USS Maryland and the memories of average Americans regarding the Maryland at different points throughout history.

Although this research paper was time intensive, it was a great experience that taught me valuable lessons that can be applied to the remainder of my academic career and also my professional career in the years that follow. This research project has taught me the value of being persistent in my research and how to persevere through seemingly insurmountable obstacles such as a government shutdown slowing down my research. Lastly this research project has shown me firsthand the practical value of the library and its resources in conducting my research; from its vast array of archived material, to its connections with libraries worldwide, to the ever helpful staff, my research experience was outstanding and there was virtually nothing I could have asked for from the library that is not already in place.