

= USS Utah (BB @-@ 31) =

USS Utah (BB @-@ 31 / AG @-@ 16) was the second and final member of the Florida @-@ class of dreadnought battleships . The first ship of the United States Navy named after the state of Utah , she had one sister ship , Florida . Utah was built by the New York Shipbuilding Corporation , laid down in March 1909 and launched in December of that year . She was completed in August 1911 , and boasted a main battery of ten 12 @-@ inch (305 mm) guns in five twin gun turrets .

Utah and Florida were the first ships to arrive during the United States occupation of Veracruz in 1914 during the Mexican Revolution . The two battleships sent ashore a landing party that began the occupation of the city . After the American entrance into World War I , Utah was stationed in Bantry Bay , Ireland , where she protected convoys from potential German surface raiders . Throughout the 1920s , the ship conducted numerous training cruises and fleet maneuvers , and carried dignitaries on tours of South America twice , in 1924 and 1928 .

In 1931 , Utah was demilitarized and converted into a target ship and re @-@ designated as AG @-@ 16 , in accordance with the terms of the London Naval Treaty signed the previous year . She was also equipped with numerous anti @-@ aircraft guns of different types to train gunners for the fleet . She served in these two roles for the rest of the decade , and late 1941 found the ship in Pearl Harbor . She was in port on the morning of 7 December , and in the first minutes of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor , was hit by two torpedoes , which caused serious flooding . Utah quickly rolled over and sank ; the vast majority of her crew were able to escape , but 64 men were killed in the attack . The wreck remains in the harbor , and in 1972 , a memorial was erected near the ship .

= = Design = =

Utah was 521 ft 6 in (158 @.@ 95 m) long overall and had a beam of 88 ft 3 in (26 @.@ 90 m) and a draft of 28 ft 6 in (8 @.@ 69 m) . She displaced 21 @,@ 825 long tons (22 @,@ 175 t) as designed and up to 23 @,@ 033 long tons (23 @,@ 403 t) at full combat load . The ship was powered by four @-@ shaft Parsons steam turbines rated at 28 @,@ 000 shp (20 @,@ 880 kW) and twelve coal @-@ fired Babcock & Wilcox boilers , generating a top speed of 20 @.@ 75 kn (38 @.@ 43 km / h ; 23 @.@ 88 mph) . The ship had a cruising range of 5 @,@ 776 nmi (6 @,@ 650 mi ; 10 @,@ 700 km) at a speed of 10 kn (19 km / h ; 12 mph) . She had a crew of 1 @,@ 001 officers and men .

The ship was armed with a main battery of ten 12 @-@ inch / 45 Mark 5 guns in five twin gun turrets on the centerline , two of which were placed in a superfiring pair forward . The other three turrets were placed aft of the superstructure . The secondary battery consisted of sixteen 5 @-@ inch (127 mm) / 51 guns mounted in casemates along the side of the hull . As was standard for capital ships of the period , she carried a pair of 21 @-@ inch (533 mm) torpedo tubes , submerged in her hull on the broadside . The main armored belt was 11 in (279 mm) thick , while the armored deck was 1 @.@ 5 in (38 mm) thick . The gun turrets had 12 in (305 mm) thick faces and the conning tower had 11 @.@ 5 in (292 mm) thick sides .

= = Service history = =

Utah was laid down at the New York Shipbuilding Corporation on 15 March 1909 . She was launched on 23 December 1909 ; sponsored by Miss Mary Alice Spry , daughter of Governor William Spry of Utah ; and commissioned into the US Navy on 31 August 1911 . She then conducted a shakedown cruise that stopped in Hampton Roads , Santa Rosa Island , Pensacola , Galveston , Kingston , Jamaica , and Guantanamo Bay , Cuba . She was then assigned to the Atlantic Fleet in March 1912 , after which time she participated in gunnery drills . She underwent an overhaul at the New York Navy Yard starting on 16 April . Utah left New York on 1 June and proceeded to Annapolis by way of Hampton Roads , arriving on 6 June . From there , she took a crew of naval cadets from the Naval Academy on a midshipman training cruise off the coast of New England , which lasted until 25 August .

For the next two years , Utah followed a similar routine of training exercises and midshipman cruises in the Atlantic . During the period 8 ? 30 November 1913 , Utah made a goodwill cruise to European waters , which included a stop in Villefranche , France . In early 1914 during the Mexican Revolution , the United States decided to intervene in the fighting . While en route to Mexico on 16 April , Utah was ordered to intercept the German @-@ flagged steamer SS Ypiranga , which was carrying arms to the Mexican dictator Victoriano Huerta . Ypiranga 's arrival in Veracruz prompted the US to occupy the city ; Utah and her sister ship Florida were the first American vessels on the scene . The two ships landed a combined contingent of a thousand Marines and Bluejackets to begin the occupation of the city on 21 April . Over the next three days , the Marines battled rebels in the city and suffered 94 casualties , while killing hundreds of Mexicans in return .

Utah remained off Veracruz for two months , before she returned to the New York Navy Yard for an overhaul in late June . She spent the next three years conducting the normal routine of training with the Atlantic Fleet . On 6 April 1917 , the United States entered World War I , declaring war on Germany over its unrestricted submarine warfare campaign against Britain . Utah was stationed in Chesapeake Bay to train engine room personnel and gunners for the rapidly expanding fleet until 30 August 1918 , when she departed for Bantry Bay , Ireland with Vice Admiral Henry T. Mayo , Commander @-@ in @-@ Chief of the Atlantic Fleet aboard . After arriving in Ireland , Utah was assigned as the flagship of Battleship Division 6 (BatDiv 6) , commanded by Rear Admiral Thomas S. Rodgers . BatDiv 6 was tasked with covering convoys in the Western Approaches against possible attacks from German surface raiders . Utah served in the division along with Nevada and Oklahoma .

Following the end of the war in November 1918 , Utah visited the Isle of Portland in Britain , and escorted the liner George Washington in December , which carried President Woodrow Wilson to Brest , France , for the post @-@ war peace negotiations at Versailles . Utah left Brest on 14 December , and arrived in New York on the 25th of the month . She remained there until 30 January 1919 , after which time she returned to the normal peacetime routine of fleet exercises and training cruises . On 9 July 1921 , Utah departed for Europe , stopping in Lisbon , Portugal , and Cherbourg , France . After arriving , she became the flagship of American warships in Europe . She carried on in this role until she was relieved by the armored cruiser USS Pittsburgh in October 1922 .

Utah returned to the US on 21 October , where she returned to her old post as the flagship of BatDiv 6 . In early 1924 , Utah took part in the Fleet Problem III maneuvers , where she and her sister Florida acted as stand @-@ ins for the new Colorado @-@ class battleships . Later that year , Utah was chosen to carry the US diplomatic mission to the centennial celebration of the Battle of Ayacucho , which took place on 9 December 1924 . She left New York on 22 November with General of the Armies John J. Pershing aboard for a goodwill tour of South America ; Utah arrived at Callao , Peru , on 9 December . At the conclusion of Pershing 's tour , Utah met him at Montevideo , Uruguay , and then carried him to other ports , including Rio de Janeiro , Brazil , La Guaira , Venezuela , and Havana , Cuba . The tour ultimately ended when Utah returned Pershing to New York on 13 March 1925 . Utah conducted midshipman training cruises over the summer of 1925 . She was decommissioned at the Boston Navy Yard on 31 October 1925 , and placed in drydock for modernization . The modernization replaced her coal @-@ fired boilers with new oil @-@ fired models , and her aft cage mast was replaced with a pole mast . She was reboilered with four White @-@ Forster oil @-@ fired models that had been removed from the battleships and battlecruisers scrapped as a result of the Washington Naval Treaty . Utah also had a catapult mounted on her Number 3 turret along with cranes for handling the floatplanes .

Utah returned to active duty on 1 December , after which she served with the Scouting Fleet . She left Hampton Roads on 21 November 1928 for another South American cruise . This time , she picked up President @-@ elect Herbert C. Hoover and his entourage in Montevideo , and transported them to Rio de Janeiro in December , and then carried them home to the United States , arriving in Hampton Roads on 6 January 1929 . According to the terms of the London Naval Treaty of 1930 , Utah was converted into a radio @-@ controlled target ship , to replace the older North Dakota . On 1 July 1931 , Utah was accordingly redesignated " AG @-@ 16 " . All of her primary and secondary weapons were removed , though her turrets were still mounted . The plane handling

equipment was removed along with the torpedo blisters that were added in 1925 . Work was completed by 1 April 1932 , when she was recommissioned .

On 7 April , Utah left Norfolk for sea trials to train her engine room crew and to test the radio @-@ control equipment . The ship could be controlled at varying rates of speed and changes of course : maneuvers that a ship would conduct in battle . Her electric motors , operated by signals from the controlling ship , opened and closed throttle valves , moved her steering gear , and regulated the supply of oil to her boilers . In addition , a Sperry gyro pilot kept the ship on course . She passed her radio control trials on 6 May , and on 1 June , the ship was operated for 3 hours under radio control . On 9 June , she again left Norfolk , bound for San Pedro , California , where she joined Training Squadron 1 , Base Force , United States Fleet . Starting in late July , the ship began her first round of target duty , first for the cruisers of the Pacific Fleet , and then for the battleship Nevada . She continued in this role for the next nine years ; she participated in Fleet Problem XVI in May 1935 , during which she served as a transport for a contingent of Marines . In June , the ship was modified to train anti @-@ aircraft gunners in addition to her target ship duties . To perform this task , she was equipped with a new 1 @.@ 1 @-@ inch (28 mm) / 75 caliber anti @-@ aircraft gun in a quadruple mount for experimental testing and development of the new type of weapon .

Utah returned to the Atlantic to participate in Fleet Problem XX in January 1939 , and at the end of the year , she trained with Submarine Squadron 6 . She then returned to the Pacific , arriving in Pearl Harbor on 1 August 1940 . There , she conducted anti @-@ aircraft gunnery training until 14 December , when she departed for Long Beach , California , arriving on 21 December . There , she served as a bombing target for aircraft from the carriers Lexington , Saratoga , and Enterprise . She returned to Pearl Harbor on 1 April 1941 , where she resumed anti @-@ aircraft gunnery training . She cruised to Los Angeles on 20 May to carry a contingent of Marines from the Fleet Marine Force to Bremerton , Washington , after which she entered the Puget Sound Navy Yard on 31 May , where she was overhauled . She was equipped with new 5 @-@ inch (127 mm) / 38 cal dual purpose guns in single mounts to improve her ability to train anti @-@ aircraft gunners . She left Puget Sound on 14 September , bound for Pearl Harbor , where she resumed her normal duties through the rest of the year .

= = = Attack on Pearl Harbor = = =

In early December 1941 , Utah was moored off Ford Island in berth F @-@ 11 , after having completed another round of anti @-@ aircraft gunnery training . Shortly before 08 : 00 on the morning of 7 December , some crewmen aboard Utah observed the first Japanese planes approaching to attack Pearl Harbor , but they assumed they were American aircraft . The Japanese began their attack shortly thereafter , concentrating on the battleships moored around Ford Island . At 08 : 01 , the first of two torpedoes struck Utah , which caused serious flooding . The ship began to list to port and settle by the stern . As the crew began to abandon ship , one man ? Chief Watertender Peter Tomich ? remained below decks to ensure as many men as possible could escape , and to keep vital machinery running as long as possible ; he received the Medal of Honor posthumously for his actions .

At 08 : 12 , Utah rolled over onto her side , while those crew members who had managed to escape swam to shore . Almost immediately after reaching shore , the ship 's captain , Commander Solomon Isquith , heard knocking from men trapped in the capsized ship . He called for volunteers to secure a cutting torch from the badly damaged cruiser Raleigh and attempt to free trapped men ; they succeeded in rescuing four men . In total , 64 officers and men were killed , though 461 survived .

= = = Salvage = = =

The Navy declared Utah to be " in ordinary " on 29 December , and she was placed under the authority of the Pearl Harbor Base Force . Following the successful righting (rotation to upright) of the capsized Oklahoma , an attempt was made to right the Utah by the same parbuckling method

using 17 winches . As Utah was rotated , she did not grip the harbor bottom , and slid towards Ford Island . The Utah recovery effort was abandoned , with Utah rotated 38 degrees from horizontal .

As abandoned , Utah cleared her berth . There was no further attempt to refloat her ; unlike the battleships sunk at Battleship Row , she had no military value . She was formally placed out of commission on 5 September 1944 , and then stricken from the Naval Vessel Register on 13 November . Utah received one battle star for her brief service during World War II . Her rusting hulk remains in Pearl Harbor , partially above water ; the men killed when Utah sank were never removed from the wreck , and as such , she is considered a war grave .

= = Memorial = =

In around 1950 , two memorials were placed at the wreck dedicated to the men in the ship 's crew who were killed in the attack on Pearl Harbor . The first is a plaque located on the wharf to the north of the ship , and the second is a plaque that was placed on the ship itself . In 1972 , a larger memorial was erected just off Ford Island , near the sunken wreck . The memorial consists of a 70 @-@ foot (21 m) walkway made of white concrete , which extends from Ford Island out to a 40 by 15 ft (12 @.@ 2 by 4 @.@ 6 m) platform in front of the ship , where a brass plaque and a flagpole are located . A color guard stands watch over the wreck . On 9 July 1988 , Utah and Arizona , the other remaining wreck in the harbor , were nominated to be added to the National Historic Landmark registry . Both wrecks were added to the list on 5 May 1989 . As of 2008 , seven former crewmen who were aboard Utah at the time of her sinking have been cremated and had their ashes interred in the wreck .

Relics from the ship are also preserved in the Utah state capitol building ; among the items on display are pieces from the ship 's silver service and the captain 's clock . The ship 's bell is on permanent display at the University of Utah near the entrance of the Naval Science Building .

= = Awards = =

Mexican Service Medal

World War I Victory Medal with " Atlantic Fleet " and " Grand Fleet " clasps

American Defense Service Medal

Asiatic @-@ Pacific Campaign Medal with one campaign star

World War II Victory Medal