

= USS Nebraska ( BB @-@ 14 ) =

USS Nebraska ( BB @-@ 14 ) was a Virginia @-@ class pre @-@ dreadnought battleship of the United States Navy , the second of five members of the class , and the first ship to carry her name . She was built by the Moran Brothers shipyard in Seattle , Washington , with her keel laying in July 1902 and her launching in October 1904 . Slipping into the water eleven minutes ahead of schedule , her quick thinking sponsor , Mary Nain Mickey , the daughter of Nebraska state governor John H. Mickey , still managed to christen her before she slipped out of reach . The completed ship was commissioned into the US Navy in July 1907 . The ship was armed with an offensive battery of four 12 @-@ inch ( 300 mm ) guns and eight 8 @-@ inch ( 200 mm ) guns , and she was capable of a top speed of 19 knots ( 35 km / h ; 22 mph ) .

Nebraska joined the Great White Fleet after it reached the west coast of the United States in 1908 and continued with it during its circumnavigation of the globe . From 1909 to 1914 , the ship conducted normal training and ceremonial duties with the Atlantic Fleet . She was deployed twice to Mexico during the Mexican Revolution , in mid @-@ 1914 and mid @-@ 1916 , before being decommissioned briefly in 1916 . She was reactivated shortly before the United States entered World War I in April 1917 , and was thereafter used as a training ship and later as a convoy escort . After the war , she transported American soldiers back from France , and in 1919 she was transferred to the Pacific Fleet , though she remained in service for less than a year , being decommissioned in July 1920 . The 1922 Washington Naval Treaty mandated her disposal , which was effected in November 1923 , when she was broken up for scrap .

= = Design = =

Nebraska was 441 feet 3 inches ( 134 @.@ 49 m ) long overall and had a beam of 76 ft 3 in ( 23 @.@ 24 m ) and a draft of 23 ft 9 in ( 7 @.@ 24 m ) . She displaced 14 @,@ 948 long tons ( 15 @,@ 188 t ) as designed and up to 16 @,@ 094 long tons ( 16 @,@ 352 t ) at full load . The ship was powered by two @-@ shaft triple @-@ expansion steam engines rated at 19 @,@ 000 indicated horsepower ( 14 @,@ 000 kW ) and twelve coal @-@ fired Babcock & Wilcox boilers , generating a top speed of 19 knots ( 35 km / h ; 22 mph ) . As built , she was fitted with heavy military masts , but these were quickly replaced by cage masts in 1909 . She had a crew of 812 officers and enlisted men .

The ship was armed with a main battery of four 12 inch / 40 Mark 4 guns in two twin gun turrets on the centerline , one forward and aft . The secondary battery consisted of eight 8 @-@ inch ( 203 mm ) / 45 guns and twelve 6 @-@ inch ( 152 mm ) / 45 guns . The 8 @-@ inch guns were mounted in four twin turrets ; two of these were superposed atop the main battery turrets , with the other two turrets abreast the forward funnel . The 6 @-@ inch guns were placed in casemates in the hull . For close @-@ range defense against torpedo boats , she carried twelve 3 @-@ inch / 50 guns , mounted in casemates along the side of the hull , and twelve 3 @-@ pounder guns . As was standard for capital ships of the period , Nebraska carried four 21 in ( 530 mm ) torpedo tubes , submerged in her hull on the broadside .

Nebraska 's main armored belt was 11 in ( 279 mm ) thick over the magazines and the machinery spaces and 6 in ( 152 mm ) elsewhere . The main battery gun turrets ( and the secondary turrets on top of them ) had 12 @-@ inch ( 305 mm ) thick faces , and the supporting barbettes had the 10 in ( 254 mm ) of armor plating . The conning tower had 9 in ( 229 mm ) thick sides .

= = Service history = =

= = = Pre @-@ World War I = = =

The keel for Nebraska was laid down at the Moran Brother 's Shipyard in Seattle , Washington on 4 July 1902 . She was launched on 7 October 1904 and was commissioned into the fleet on 1 July

1907 , the last member of the class to enter service . Her first commander was Captain Reginald F. Nicholson . After entering service , she conducted shakedown cruises and had minor alterations made . In May 1908 , she steamed to San Francisco , arriving on the 6th . There , she joined the Great White Fleet , which had departed Hampton Roads , Virginia , the previous year on the first leg of its global cruise . Nebraska replaced the battleship USS Alabama ( BB @-@ 8 ) , and the fleet departed San Francisco on 7 July .

The Great White Fleet then began its crossing of the Pacific , with a visit to Hawaii on the way . Stops in the South Pacific included Melbourne , Sydney , and Auckland . After leaving Australia , the fleet turned north for the Philippines , stopping in Manila , before continuing on to Japan where a welcoming ceremony was held in Yokohama . Three weeks of exercises followed in Subic Bay in the Philippines in November . The ships passed Singapore on 6 December and entered the Indian Ocean ; they coaled in Colombo before proceeding to the Suez Canal and coaling again at Port Said , Egypt . The fleet called in several Mediterranean ports before stopping in Gibraltar , where an international fleet of British , Russian , French , and Dutch warships greeted the Americans . The ships then crossed the Atlantic to return to Hampton Roads on 22 February 1909 , having traveled 46 @,@ 729 nautical miles ( 86 @,@ 542 km ; 53 @,@ 775 mi ) . There , they conducted a naval review for President Theodore Roosevelt .

After the conclusion of the ceremonies , Nebraska remained in service with the Atlantic Fleet . In late 1909 she took part in the Hudson @-@ Fulton Celebration in New York . The celebration saw an international fleet of warships from Germany , Britain , France , Italy , and other countries join the Atlantic Fleet to commemorate Henry Hudson 's discovery of the Hudson River . In 1912 , Nebraska took part in a ceremony for the centennial anniversary of Louisiana 's entrance into the United States . The ship was deployed to Mexico twice to protect American interests during the Mexican Revolution , the first from 1 May to 21 June 1914 , and the second from 1 June to 13 October 1916 . For these actions , the ship was awarded the Mexican Service Medal . The ship was briefly decommissioned in 1916 , but returned to service on 3 April 1917 .

= = = World War I = = =

Three days after Nebraska was recommissioned , the United States declared war on Germany over the latter 's unrestricted submarine warfare campaign , thereby joining World War I. The ship was assigned to the 3rd Division , Battleship Force of the Atlantic Fleet , and on 13 April , she joined the rest of the fleet for battle training in the Chesapeake Bay . She remained on the eastern coast of the United States and was tasked with training guard crews for transport ships . On 15 April 1918 , she entered the Norfolk Navy Yard for periodic maintenance . On 16 May , Nebraska embarked the remains of the recently deceased Uruguayan ambassador , Carlos DePena , at Hampton Roads . She departed that day with the armored cruiser Pittsburgh ? the flagship of the Pacific Fleet ? and arrived in Montevideo , Uruguay on 10 June . The commander of the Pacific Fleet came aboard Nebraska for the transfer ceremonies. The two ships left Montevideo on 15 June and reached Hampton Roads on 26 July .

Starting in September , Nebraska began to be employed as an escort for convoys to Europe . On the 17th , she departed New York with convoy HX 49 , a group of eighteen ships ; the rest of the escort included the destroyer Dent and the armed merchant cruiser ( AMC ) Rochester , and the British AMC HMS Arlanza . At a rendezvous point in the eastern Atlantic , she handed the convoy off to other escorts that would take the ships to France . Nebraska arrived back in Hampton Roads on 3 October . She escorted another two convoys before the war ended in November 1918 . In December , she was equipped to carry American soldiers back from France . She made four such trips to Brest , France , and carried some 4 @,@ 540 men back to the United States . The first trip began on 30 December ; she reached Brest on 11 January 1919 and after embarking a contingent of soldiers , departed for Newport News , Virginia , where they arrived on 28 January . The fourth trip concluded on 21 June 1919 , also in Newport News .

On 22 June 1919 , Nebraska was transferred from the Cruiser and Transport Force to the Pacific Fleet . She departed the east coast shortly thereafter , bound for the Pacific . On 2 July 1920 , the

ship was decommissioned , and on the 15th she was reclassified as BB @-@ 14 . She remained out of service until 12 July 1922 when she was stricken from the naval register in accordance with the Washington Naval Treaty signed earlier that year . The terms of the treaty mandated significant reductions in naval strength , and on 9 November 1923 , Nebraska was declared to have been rendered unfit for further warlike service in accordance with the treaty . She was then sold to ship breakers .