

= USS Kickapoo (1864) =

USS Kickapoo was a double @-@ turreted Milwaukee @-@ class river monitor , the lead ship of her class , built for the Union Navy during the American Civil War . The ship supported Union forces during the Mobile Campaign as they attacked Confederate fortifications defending the city of Mobile , Alabama in early 1865 . She was placed in reserve after the end of the war and sold in 1874 .

= = Description = =

Kickapoo was 229 feet (69 @.@ 8 m) long overall and had a beam of 56 feet (17 @.@ 1 m) . The ship had a depth of hold of 8 feet 6 inches (2 @.@ 6 m) and a draft of 6 feet (1 @.@ 8 m) . She had a tonnage of 970 tons burthen and displaced 1 @,@ 300 long tons (1 @,@ 300 t) . Her crew numbered 138 officers and enlisted men .

The ship was powered by two 2 @-@ cylinder horizontal non @-@ condensing steam engines , each driving two propellers , using steam generated by seven tubular boilers . The engines were designed to reach a top speed of 9 knots (17 km / h ; 10 mph) . Kickapoo carried 156 long tons (159 t) of coal .

The ship 's main armament consisted of four smoothbore , muzzle @-@ loading 11 @-@ inch Dahlgren guns mounted in two twin @-@ gun turrets . Her forward turret was designed by James Eads and her rear turret by John Ericsson . Each gun weighed approximately 16 @,@ 000 pounds (7 @,@ 300 kg) and could fire a 136 @-@ pound (61 @.@ 7 kg) shell up to a range of 3 @,@ 650 yards (3 @,@ 340 m) at an elevation of + 15 ° .

The cylindrical turrets were protected by eight layers of wrought iron 1 @-@ inch (25 mm) plates . The sides of the hull consisted of three layers of one @-@ inch plates , backed by 15 inches (380 mm) of pine . The deck was heavily cambered to allow headroom for the crew on such a shallow draft and it consisted of a single iron plate .75 inches (19 mm) thick . The pilothouse , positioned behind and above the fore turret , was protected by 3 inches (76 mm) of armor .

= = Construction and service = =

James Eads was awarded the contracts for all four of the Milwaukee @-@ class ships . He subcontracted Kickapoo to G. B. Allen & Co. of St. Louis , Missouri who laid down the ship in 1862 . She was the first U.S. Navy ship to be named after the Indian tribe , and was launched on 12 March 1864 . Kickapoo was brought to Mound City , Illinois , on the Ohio River , for fitting out and commissioned on 8 July 1864 with Lieutenant David C. Woods in command .

The ship was initially assigned to the Mississippi River Squadron and spent the summer off the mouth of the Red River . She was transferred to the West Gulf Blockading Squadron on 1 October . Although the victory at the Battle of Mobile Bay on 5 August had closed the port of Mobile to blockade runners , the city itself had not been taken . The Confederates fortified the approaches to the city and heavily mined the shallow waters surrounding it . Lieutenant Commander Meriweather P. Jones relieved Woods on 23 December .

On 28 March 1865 , Kickapoo was at anchor in the Blakely River when her sister ship Milwaukee struck a mine in an area already swept some 200 yards (180 m) away . Milwaukee remained afloat forward long enough to allow her crew to escape without loss and they were rescued by Kickapoo . She rescued the crew of the river monitor Osage the following day after that ship also struck a mine and sank . In late June , the ship sailed to New Orleans to be placed in ordinary ; she was decommissioned on 29 July . Kickapoo was renamed to Cyclops on 15 June 1869 and then Kewaydin on 10 August . The ship was sold on 12 September 1874 .