

= USS Milwaukee (CL -5) =

USS Milwaukee (CL -5) was an Omaha - class light cruiser built for the United States Navy during the 1920s . The ship spent most of her early career assigned to the Asiatic and Battle Fleets . In 1941 she was assigned to the Neutrality Patrol until she was refitted in New York in late 1941 . She escorted a troop convoy to the Pacific in early 1942 before returning to the South Atlantic where she patrolled for German commerce raiders and blockade runners . In November , she intercepted one of the latter , but it scuttled itself before it could be captured . In 1944 she was temporarily transferred to the Soviet Navy and commissioned as Murmansk . The ship was returned by the Soviets in 1949 and sold for scrap in December .

= = Description = =

Milwaukee was 550 feet (170 m) long at the waterline and 555 feet 6 inches (169 .3 m) long overall , with a beam of 55 feet 4 inches (16 .9 m) and a mean draft of 13 feet 6 inches (4 .1 m) . Her standard displacement was 7 ,050 long tons (7 ,160 t) and 9 ,150 long tons (9 ,300 t) at full load . Her crew consisted of 29 officers and 429 enlisted men . The ship was fitted with a powerful echo sounder .

The ship was powered by four Westinghouse geared steam turbines , each driving one propeller shaft , using steam generated by 12 Yarrow boilers . The engines were rated at 90 ,000 indicated horsepower (67 ,000 kW) and designed to reach a top speed of 35 knots (65 km / h ; 40 mph) . At deep load she carried 1 ,852 long tons (1 ,882 t) of fuel oil that provided her a range of 6 ,500 nautical miles (12 ,000 km ; 7 ,500 mi) at a speed of 10 knots (19 km / h ; 12 mph) .

Milwaukee mounted a dozen 53 - caliber six - inch guns ; four in two twin gun turrets and eight in tiered casemates fore and aft . Her secondary armament initially consisted of two 50 - caliber three - inch anti - aircraft (AA) guns in single mounts , but this was doubled to four guns during construction . Milwaukee was initially built with the capacity to carry 224 mines , but these were removed early in her career to make more space for crew accommodations . The ship carried above - water two triple and two twin torpedo tube mounts for 21 - inch (533 mm) torpedoes . The triple mounts were fitted on the upper deck , aft of the aircraft catapults , and the twin mounts were one deck lower , covered by hatches in the side of the hull . These lower mounts proved to be very wet and were removed , and the openings plated over , before the start of World War II . Another change made before the war was to increase the 3 - inch (76 mm) guns to four , all mounted in the ship 's waist .

The ship lacked a full - length waterline armor belt . The sides of her boiler and engine rooms and steering gear were protected by 3 inches (76 mm) of armor . The transverse bulkheads at the end of her machinery rooms were 1 .5 inches (38 mm) thick forward and three inches thick aft . The deck over the machinery spaces and steering gear had a thickness of 1 .5 inches . The gun turrets were only protected against muzzle blast and the conning tower had 1 .5 inches of armor . Milwaukee carried two floatplanes aboard that were stored on the two catapults . Initially these were probably Vought VE -9s , but the ship operated Curtiss SOC Seagulls from 1935 and Vought OS2U Kingfishers after 1940 .

= = = Wartime changes = = =

After 1940 the lower aft six - inch guns were removed and the casemates plated over . The ship 's anti - aircraft armament was augmented by two quadruple 1 .1 - inch gun mounts by early 1942 , although these were replaced by twin Bofors 40 mm gun mounts later in the war . At about the same time , Milwaukee received eight Oerlikon 20 mm cannon .

= = Service history = =

= = = Inter @-@ war period = = =

The contract for Milwaukee , the third ship named for the city of Milwaukee , Wisconsin , was signed on 27 August 1917 and the ship was laid down by Todd Dry Dock & Construction Co . , at their Tacoma , Washington shipyard on 13 December 1918 . She was launched on 24 March 1921 and was commissioned on 20 June 1923 . During the ship 's shakedown cruise , she visited Sydney , Australia during the Pan @-@ Pacific Scientific Congress which opened on 23 August . With her new depth ? finding equipment , Milwaukee surveyed the floor of the Pacific en route . " The Milwaukee Seamounts in the Northern Pacific are named after a set of soundings taken by Milwaukee in 1929 . "

During Fleet Problem VI , she collided with her sister ship Detroit in Guantanamo Bay , Cuba , on 1 February 1926 , although neither ship was seriously damaged . Milwaukee and the destroyer Goff assisted victims of a fierce hurricane which had devastated the Isle of Pines in October 1926 . She was assigned to Cruiser Division 2 of the Asiatic Fleet in 1928 . During an engagement with " enemy " cruisers during Fleet Problem IX on 16 April 1930 , the ship was ruled to have been knocked out by the exercise 's umpires . Three years later , during Fleet Problem XIV , Milwaukee was spotted by fighters from the aircraft carrier Saratoga and sunk by some of the opposing cruisers . In 1933 , the ship was assigned to Cruiser Division 3 of the Battle Fleet . After the Panay Incident in December 1937 , Milwaukee made a cruise through the Western Pacific from January to April 1938 .

While steaming north of Hispaniola and Puerto Rico on 14 February 1939 , Milwaukee discovered the deepest place in the Atlantic Ocean . The spot ? which has a depth of 28 @,@ 680 feet (8 @,@ 740 m) ? is now known as the " Milwaukee Deep " . By January 1941 , the ship had returned to Cruiser Division 2 which was now assigned to the Caribbean Patrol , commanded by Rear Admiral Jonas H. Ingram , part of the Neutrality Patrol established after the war began . Cruiser Division 2 was ordered to patrol the Atlantic between Trinidad , the Cape Verde Islands and the eastern bulge of Brazil in April , although Milwaukee was not immediately available . The ship , escorted by the destroyers Somers and Jouett , began her first patrol in May , making a port visit to Recife , Brazil on 1 June , before returning to San Juan , Puerto Rico . These patrols continued in the same manner for most of the rest of the year .

= = = World War II = = =

= = = = South Atlantic = = = =

Milwaukee , commanded by Captain Forrest B. Royal , was being overhauled in the Brooklyn Navy Yard when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor on 7 December . The ship escorted a convoy to the Caribbean from New York on 31 December and then escorted eight troop transports from the Panama Canal to the Society Islands . She rejoined the South Atlantic Patrol Force upon her return and spend the next two years making patrols between Brazil and the African coast . On 19 May she received an SOS from the Brazilian cargo ship SS Commandante Lyra , which had been torpedoed by the Italian submarine Barbarigo off the coast of Brazil . Milwaukee found the freighter abandoned , burning , and listing to port . She rescued 25 survivors from their lifeboats , including the ship 's master . Reinforced by her sister Omaha and the destroyer McDougal , the fires were brought under control , cargo was jettisoned to lighten the ship , and Commandante Lyra was towed to Fortaleza , Brazil .

Rear Admiral O. M. Read assumed command of Cruiser Division 2 in October and hoisted his flag aboard Milwaukee . On 21 November , Milwaukee , her sister Cincinnati and the destroyer Somers intercepted the German blockade runner Anneliese Essberger . When Somers had closed to 4 miles (3 @.@ 5 nmi ; 6 @.@ 4 km) , the German ship scuttled herself to prevent capture . Milwaukee rescued 62 of the ship 's crew . On 2 May 1943 , while the ship was under repair at Recife , her crew

helped to fight a fire on the oil tanker SS Livingston Roe . Milwaukee and Omaha collided on 31 May off the coast of Brazil , although the extent of the damage is not known . The ship sailed for the Brooklyn Navy Yard on 8 February 1944 , preparatory to her temporary transfer to the Soviet Union in lieu of Italian ships allotted after the Italian surrender that could not be delivered . She escorted a convoy to Belfast , Northern Ireland on 8 March before forming part of the escort of Convoy JW 58 during her voyage to Murmansk beginning on 29 March .

= = = Soviet service = = =

On 20 April , the ship was transferred on loan to the Soviet Northern Fleet in Murmansk . She was commissioned in the Soviet Navy as Murmansk and performed convoy and patrol duty in the Arctic Ocean for the remainder of the war . Afterward , she became a training ship and participated in the 1948 fleet maneuvers . On 16 March 1949 , Milwaukee was transferred back to the United States . She was the first of 15 American warships returned by Russia . She entered the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard on 18 March 1949 , and was sold for scrapping on 10 December to the American Shipbreakers , Inc. of Wilmington , Delaware .