

= USS Georgia (BB @-@ 15) =

USS Georgia (BB @-@ 15) was a United States Navy Virginia @-@ class battleship , the third of five ships of the class . She was built by the Bath Iron Works in Maine , with her keel laid in August 1901 and her launching in October 1904 . The completed battleship was commissioned into the fleet in September 1906 . 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) .

Georgia spent the majority of her career in the Atlantic Fleet . In 1907 , she took part in the Jamestown Exposition and suffered an explosion in her aft 8 @-@ inch gun turret that killed or wounded 21 men . At the end of the year , she joined the Great White Fleet on its circumnavigation of the globe , which ended in early 1909 . Peacetime training followed for the next five years , and in 1914 she cruised in Mexican waters to protect American interests during the Mexican Revolution . In early 1916 , the ship was temporarily decommissioned .

When the United States entered World War I in April 1917 , the ship was tasked with training naval recruits for the expanding wartime fleet . Starting in September 1918 , she was used as a convoy escort . Her only casualties during the war were due to disease , the result of poor conditions and severe overcrowding aboard the ship . Georgia was used to transport American soldiers back from France in 1918 ? 19 , and the following year she was transferred to the Pacific Fleet , where she served as the flagship of the 2nd Division , 1st Squadron . The Washington Naval Treaty , signed in 1922 , cut short the ship 's career , as it mandated severe draw @-@ downs in naval strength . Georgia was accordingly sold for scrap in November 1923 .

= = Design = =

Georgia 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 twenty @-@ four coal @-@ fired Niclausse 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 , Georgia carried four 21 in (530 mm) torpedo tubes , submerged in her hull on the broadside .

Georgia '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 (300 mm) thick faces , and the supporting barbettes had the 10 in (250 mm) of armor plating . The conning tower had 9 in (230 mm) thick sides .

= = Service history = =

Georgia was laid down on 31 August 1901 at the Bath Iron Works in Maine . Her completed hull was launched on 11 October 1904 , after which fitting @-@ out work commenced . The ship was commissioned into the fleet on 24 September 1906 . Georgia conducted a shakedown cruise after fitting @-@ out work was completed , before joining the 2nd Division , 1 Squadron of the Atlantic

Fleet . She steamed out of Hampton Roads on 26 March 1907 to join the rest of the fleet in Guantanamo Bay , Cuba ; there , the ships conducted gunnery training . Georgia then steamed to the Boston Navy Yard for repairs before attending the Jamestown Exposition , which commemorated the 300th anniversary of the founding of the Jamestown colony . An international fleet that included British , French , German , Japanese , and Austro - Hungarian warships joined the US Navy at the event . On 10 June , the ship took part in a naval review for President Theodore Roosevelt . Two days later , she departed for target practice in Cape Cod Bay , arriving on 15 June . A propellant charge exploded in her aft 8 - inch turret on 15 July , killing ten officers and men and wounding another eleven . Later that year , the ship took part in fleet maneuvers in the Atlantic , and on 24 September she went into dry dock at the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard for an overhaul .

Georgia joined the Great White Fleet on 16 December 1907 , when they departed Hampton Roads to begin their circumnavigation of the globe . The purpose of the cruise was a show of naval strength . The fleet cruised south to the Caribbean and then to South America , making stops in Port of Spain , Rio de Janeiro , Punta Arenas , and Valparaíso , among other cities . After arriving in Mexico in March 1908 , the fleet spent three weeks conducting gunnery practice . The fleet then resumed its voyage up the Pacific coast of the Americas , stopping in San Francisco and Seattle before crossing the Pacific to Australia , stopping in 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 .

Over the course of the following year and a half , Georgia conducted a peacetime routine of training maneuvers and gunnery drills . On 2 November 1910 , she took part in a naval review for President William Howard Taft in preparation for a cruise to western Europe with the Atlantic Fleet . The ships stopped in France and Britain , and conducted extensive maneuvers while on the cruise . Georgia and the rest of the fleet arrived back in Guantanamo Bay on 13 March 1911 . She returned to her peacetime training routine for the next two years . On 5 June 1913 , she conducted a training cruise for midshipmen from the United States Naval Academy , followed by an overhaul in the Boston Navy Yard . In early January , she was deployed to Mexican waters to protect American interests in the country during the Mexican Revolution . She remained there from 14 January 1914 to March , when she returned to Norfolk briefly . The ship was back cruising off Mexico during the summer , and from August to October she operated in Haitian waters to protect Americans in the country , which was also experiencing internal unrest .

The ship then went into drydock for an overhaul , before returning to Cuban waters for maneuvers with the fleet . She arrived there on 25 February 1915 . The rest of the year was spent with training exercises with the Atlantic Fleet . Another overhaul , at the Boston Navy Yard , from 20 January to January 1916 . On 27 January , Georgia was decommissioned temporarily . The same day as the United States ' declaration of war against Germany on 6 April 1917 , the ship was reactivated for service during World War I. She was assigned to the 3rd Division , Battleship Force , based in the York River , Virginia . She spent most of the war training gunners for the rapidly expanding wartime Navy and conducting tactical training exercises . During this period , the ship frequently had more than a thousand men aboard the ship , despite the fact that she had sleeping accommodations for only 750 . The ship 's commander at the time , Captain Sumner Kittelle , raised concerns about the over - crowded conditions aboard the ship .

From September 1918 to the end of the conflict , Georgia was assigned to the Cruiser Force Atlantic as a convoy escort . The ship 's first operation was with troop ship convoy 67 , which

departed New York on 23 September ; the rest of the escort consisted of the armored cruisers North Carolina and Montana and the destroyer Rathburne . Georgia had to take on 525 long tons (533 t) of coal in addition to her normal stocks , which significantly degraded her seakeeping characteristics . The ship accordingly had to be battened down to reduce flooding from heavy seas , which had the effect of hastening the spread of disease . During the cruise , the crew suffered from 120 cases of influenza and 14 cases of pneumonia ; 7 men died from disease . Even with the additional coal , the ship did not have sufficient fuel to reach the hand off point and she had to break off from the convoy to return to port . Germany signed an Armistice with the Allied powers , ending the war on 11 November . On 10 December , the ship was equipped to serve as a transport to carry American soldiers back from France . This duty saw the ship transferred to the Cruiser and Transport Force . She made five trips between December 1918 and June 1919 , carrying almost 6 @, @ 000 soldiers in total . The first trip , made in company with the battleship Kansas , arrived in Brest , France on 22 December 1918 .

Georgia was transferred to the Pacific Fleet shortly thereafter , departing from Boston on 16 July 1919 . She transited the Panama Canal and arrived in San Diego , where she became the flagship of the 2nd Division , 1st Squadron . The ship went to the Mare Island Navy Yard for periodic maintenance on 20 September . The ship remained there until 15 July 1920 when she was decommissioned . Under the terms of the 1922 Washington Naval Treaty , the ship was sold for scrapping on 1 November 1923 and subsequently was broken up . The ship was formally stricken from the naval register on 10 November .