

= USS Kearsarge (BB @-@ 5) =

USS Kearsarge (BB @-@ 5) , the lead ship of her class of pre @-@ dreadnought battleships , was a United States Navy ship , named after the sloop @-@ of @-@ war Kearsarge . Her keel was laid down by the Newport News Shipbuilding Company of Virginia , on 30 June 1896 . She was launched on 24 March 1898 , sponsored by the wife of Rear Admiral Herbert Winslow , and commissioned on 20 February 1900 .

Between 1903 and 1907 Kearsarge served in the North Atlantic Fleet , and from 1907 to 1909 she sailed as part of the Great White Fleet . In 1909 she was decommissioned for modernization , which was finished in 1911 . In 1915 she served in the Atlantic , and between 1916 and 1919 she served as a training ship . She was converted into a crane ship in 1920 , renamed Crane Ship No. 1 in 1941 , and sold for scrap in 1955 .

= = Design = =

The Kearsarge @-@ class battleships were designed to be used for coastal defense . They had a displacement of 11 @, @ 540 short tons (10 @, @ 470 t) , an overall length of 375 feet 4 inches (114 @. @ 40 m) , a beam of 72 feet 3 inches (22 @. @ 02 m) and a draft of 23 feet 6 inches (7 @. @ 16 m) . The two 3 @-@ cylinder vertical triple @-@ expansion steam engines and five Scotch boilers , connected to two propeller shafts , produced a total of 11 @, @ 674 indicated horsepower (8 @, @ 705 kW) , and gave a maximum speed of 16 @. @ 816 knots (19 @. @ 352 mph ; 31 @. @ 143 km / h) . Kearsarge was manned by 40 officers and 514 enlisted men , a total of 554 crew .

Kearsarge had two double turrets , with two 13 in (330 mm) / 35 caliber guns and two 8 in (203 mm) / 40 caliber guns each , stacked in two levels . The guns and turret armor were designed by the Bureau of Ordnance , while the turret itself was designed by the Bureau of Construction and Repair . This caused the guns to be mounted far back in the turret , making the ports very large . Admiral William Sims claimed that as a result , a shell fired into the port could reach the magazines below , disabling the guns . In addition to these guns , Kearsarge carried fourteen 5 in (127 mm) / 40 caliber guns , twenty 6 @-@ pounder (57 mm or 2 @. @ 2 in) guns , eight 1 @-@ pounder (37 mm or 1 @. @ 5 in) guns , four .30 in (7 @. @ 6 mm) machine guns , and four 18 @-@ inch (460 mm) torpedo tubes . Kearsarge had a very low freeboard , which resulted in her guns becoming unusable in bad weather .

The ship 's waterline armor belt was 5 ? 16 @. @ 5 inches (130 ? 420 mm) thick and the main gun turrets were protected by 15 ? 17 inches (380 ? 430 mm) of armor , while the secondary turrets had 6 ? 11 inches (150 ? 280 mm) of armor . The barbettes were 12 @. @ 5 ? 15 inches (320 ? 380 mm) thick , while the conning tower had 10 inches (250 mm) of armor . The armor was made of harveyized steel .

Kearsarge carried 16 smaller boats . A 40 @-@ foot (12 m) steam cutter , with a capacity of 60 men , together with a 33 @-@ foot (10 m) steam cutter , were used for general carrying from and to port , and could tow the other boats if needed . Two 33 @-@ foot launches , each capable of carrying 64 men , were the " working boats " . There were ten 30 @-@ foot (9 @. @ 1 m) boats : four cutters , each with a capacity of 45 men , the Admiral 's barge , two whaleboats (which served as lifeboats) , and the Captain 's gig . Four smaller boats completed Kearsarge 's small fleet : two 20 @-@ foot (6 @. @ 1 m) dinghies and two 18 @-@ foot (5 @. @ 5 m) catamarans .

= = Construction = =

Kearsarge was authorized on 2 March 1895 , the contract for her construction was awarded on 2 January 1896 , and the keel of the vessel was laid down on 30 June 1896 by Newport News Shipbuilding & Dry Dock Company in Virginia . The total cost was US \$ 5 @, @ 043 @, @ 591 @. @ 68 . She was named soon after the American Civil War sloop @-@ of @-@ war Kearsarge sank , and was the first ship of the United States Navy to be named , by act of Congress , in its honor . She was the only US battleship not named after a state . She was christened on 24 March 1898 (the

same day as her sister ship , Kentucky) by the wife of Captain Herbert Winslow , daughter @-@ in @-@ law of Captain John Ancrum Winslow , the commander of the original Kearsarge . She was commissioned on 20 February 1900 , under the command of Captain William M. Folger .

= = Service history = =

= = = Early career = = =

As flagship of the North Atlantic Squadron , Kearsarge sailed along the Atlantic seaboard and the Caribbean Sea . In May 1901 Captain Bowman H. McCalla assumed command of Kearsarge , although by May 1902 the ship was being commanded by Captain Joseph Newton Hemphill . Reassigned as flagship of the European Squadron , she sailed from Sandy Hook on 3 June 1903 , on her way to Kiel , Germany . She was visited by Emperor Wilhelm II of Germany on 25 June , and by the Prince of Wales ? who would later become King George V of the United Kingdom ? on 13 July .

Kearsarge returned to Bar Harbor , Maine on 26 July , and resumed her position as flagship . On 1 December the ship sailed from New York for Guantánamo Bay , Cuba , where she was present as the United States took formal possession of the Guantanamo Naval Reservation on 10 December . On 26 March 1904 Captain Raymond P. Rodgers assumed command of the ship . Following maneuvers in the Caribbean Sea , Kearsarge left with the North Atlantic Squadron for Lisbon , Portugal , where she met King Carlos I of Portugal on 11 June 1904 . Independence Day was celebrated in Phaleron Bay , Greece , with King George I of Greece and his son and daughter @-@ in @-@ law , Prince Andrew of Greece and Denmark and Princess Alice of Battenberg . The squadron visited Corfu , Trieste , and Fiume before returning to Newport , Rhode Island , on 29 August 1904 .

On 31 March 1905 , Maine replaced Kearsarge as flagship of the North Atlantic Fleet , although she remained with the fleet . Captain Herbert Winslow took command of the ship during December . On 13 April 1906 , while participating in an exercise off Cape Cruz , Cuba , the gunpowder in a 13 @-@ inch gun ignited accidentally , killing two officers and eight men .

= = = Great White Fleet = = =

Attached to the Fourth Division of the Second Squadron , and under command of Captain Hamilton Hutchins , she sailed on 16 December 1907 with the Great White Fleet . The fleet left from Hampton Roads , passed by Trinidad and Rio de Janeiro , and then passed through the Straits of Magellan . From there she passed by the west coast of South America , visiting Punta Arenas and Valparaíso , Chile , Callao , Peru , and Magdalena Bay , Mexico . The fleet reached San Diego on 14 April 1908 and moved on to San Francisco on 6 May . Two months later the warships sailed for Honolulu , Hawaii , and from there to Auckland , New Zealand , arriving 9 August . The fleet made Sydney , Australia , on 20 August , and after a week sailed for Melbourne .

Kearsarge departed Albany , Western Australia , on 18 September for ports in the Philippine Islands , Japan , China , and Ceylon before transiting the Suez Canal . The fleet split at Port Said , with Kearsarge leaving on 10 January 1909 for Malta , and arriving in Algiers on 24 January , before reforming with the fleet at Gibraltar on 1 February . She returned to Hampton Roads on 22 February , and was inspected by U.S. President Theodore Roosevelt .

= = = World War I = = =

As with most of the Great White Fleet ships , Kearsarge was modernized on her return . She was decommissioned at the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard on 4 September 1909 , and the modernization was completed in 1911 , at a cost of US \$ 675 @,@ 000 . The ship received cage masts , new water @-@ tube boilers , and another four 5 @-@ inch guns . The 1 @-@ pounder guns were

removed , as were sixteen of the 6 @-@ pounders . She was recommissioned on 23 June 1915 , and operated along the Atlantic coast . On 17 September she left Philadelphia to land a detachment of US Marines at Veracruz , Mexico , remaining there from 28 September 1915 to 5 January 1916 . She then carried the Marines to New Orleans , Louisiana , before joining the Atlantic Reserve Fleet at Philadelphia on 4 February . Until the United States joined World War I , she trained naval militia from Massachusetts and Maine . During the war she was used to train Armed Guard crews and naval engineers during cruises along the Atlantic seaboard . On 18 August 1918 Kearsarge rescued 26 survivors of the Norwegian barque Nordhav which had been sunk by U @-@ 117 , bringing them to Boston .

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

Between 29 May and 29 August 1919 , Kearsarge trained United States Naval Academy midshipmen in the Caribbean . Kearsarge sailed from Annapolis , Maryland to the Philadelphia Navy Yard , where she decommissioned on either 10 May or 18 May 1920 .

Kearsarge was converted into a crane ship , and was given hull classification symbol IX @-@ 16 on 17 July 1920 , but it was changed to AB @-@ 1 on 5 August . Her turrets , superstructure , and armor were removed , and were replaced by a large revolving crane with a lifting capacity of 250 tons (230 tonnes) , as well as 10 @-@ foot (3 @.@ 0 m) blisters , which improved her stability . The crane ship was utilized often over the next 20 years , including the raising of USS Squalus in 1939 .

= = = World War II = = =

On 6 November 1941 , Kearsarge was renamed Crane Ship No. 1 , allowing her name to be given to Hornet (CV @-@ 12) , and later to Kearsarge (CV @-@ 33) . She continued her service , however , handling guns , turrets , armor , and other heavy lifts for vessels such as Indiana , Alabama , Savannah , Chicago , and Pennsylvania .

She was transferred to the San Francisco Naval Shipyard in 1945 , where she participated in the construction of Hornet and Boxer and the re @-@ construction of Saratoga . In 1948 she left the West Coast for the Boston Naval Shipyard . On 22 June 1955 her name was struck from the Naval Vessel Register , and she was sold for scrap on 9 August .

= = Awards = =

World War I Victory Medal
American Defense Service Medal
American Campaign Medal
World War II Victory Medal
National Defense Service Medal