

= USS New Jersey ( BB @-@ 16 ) =

USS New Jersey ( BB @-@ 16 ) was the fourth of five Virginia @-@ class battleships of the United States Navy , and the first ship to carry her name . She was laid down at the Fore River Shipbuilding Company in Quincy , Massachusetts in May 1902 , launched in November 1904 , and commissioned into the fleet in May 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 ) .

New Jersey spent her entire career in the Atlantic Fleet . In late 1906 , she took part in the Second Occupation of Cuba , and she participated in the Jamestown Exposition in April ? May 1907 . At the end of the year , she joined the Great White Fleet for its circumnavigation of the globe , which lasted into 1909 . The ship spent the following five years conducting peacetime training . In April 1914 , New Jersey took part in the occupied Veracruz during the Mexican Revolution . During World War I , she was used as a training ship , and after the war , she was tasked with transporting American soldiers back from Europe . New Jersey was decommissioned in 1920 and slated for destruction in bombing tests in 1923 . Martin NBS @-@ 1 bombers sank the ship on 5 September 1923 in a series of bomb attacks .

= = Design = =

New Jersey 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 . She also carried two 1 @-@ pounder guns . As was standard for capital ships of the period , New Jersey carried four 21 in ( 530 mm ) torpedo tubes , submerged in her hull on the broadside .

New Jersey '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 = =

The keel for New Jersey was laid down at the Fore River Shipyard on 3 May 1902 . She was launched on 10 November 1904 ; the daughter of Franklin Murphy , then the Governor of New Jersey , christened the ship . She was commissioned into the US fleet on 12 May 1906 , Captain William Kimball in command . New Jersey began her initial training in the Atlantic and Caribbean , which was interrupted by a naval review for President Theodore Roosevelt in Oyster Bay in September . On 21 September , the ship was deployed to Cuba to take part in the Second Occupation of Cuba ; she remained there until 13 October . New Jersey participated in the Jamestown Exposition from 15 April to 14 May 1907 , 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 .

New Jersey 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 , which was especially directed at Japan . Tensions between the two countries were high at the time , and the cruise served to defuse the situation . 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 .

New Jersey spent the next several years in the peacetime routine of the Atlantic Fleet , with various training maneuvers and gunnery practice in the Atlantic and Caribbean . During this period , she spent a year out of commission at Boston from 2 May 1910 to 15 July 1911 , and in the summers of 1912 and 1913 , she conducted training cruises for midshipmen from the United States Naval Academy . The ship was deployed to the Caribbean to protect American interests as the Mexican Revolution worsened in late 1913 . On 21 April 1914 , the United States occupied Veracruz in the aftermath of the Tampico Affair . On 13 August , New Jersey departed Mexican waters and steamed to Santo Domingo , where unrest gripped both the Dominican Republic and Haiti . After observing conditions in the two countries , the ship continued on , arriving in Hampton Roads on 9 October . She spent the next three years conducting her normal training routine .

On 6 April 1917 , the United States declared war on Germany owing to the unrestricted submarine warfare campaign Germany initiated earlier that year . New Jersey was employed as a training ship for naval draftees , based in Chesapeake Bay . In November 1918 , Germany signed the Armistice that ended the war ; New Jersey was thereafter used to transport American soldiers back from Europe . In the course of four voyages between late 1918 and 9 June 1919 , she carried some 5 @, 000 soldiers . New Jersey was decommissioned on 6 August 1920 at the Boston Naval Shipyard , and was to be disposed of under the terms of the Washington Naval Treaty signed in 1922 . New Jersey , along with her sister Virginia and the battleship Alabama were allocated for weapons tests conducted with the US Army Air Service , under the supervision of General Billy Mitchell .

The bombing tests against New Jersey were conducted on 5 September 1923 in the Atlantic Ocean off Diamond Shoals , North Carolina , by Martin NBS @- 1 bombers of the 2nd Bombardment Group . Observers were aboard the Army transport ship St. Mihiel . Four of the NBS @- 1s attacked New Jersey with 600 @- pound ( 270 kg ) bombs at an altitude of 10 @, 000 feet ( 3 @, 000 m ) , scoring four hits and several near @- misses , which caused significant flooding . Another attack was made , this time with 2 @, 000 @- pound ( 910 kg ) bombs at 6 @, 000 feet ( 1 @, 800 m ) , seven of which landed close to the ship . By this time , flooding had increased to the point that the casemate gun ports were submerged . Two more NBS @- 1s then attacked with two 1 @, 100 @- pound ( 500 kg ) bombs apiece ; the first two missed but the third was a direct hit . It caused a large explosion and New Jersey capsized and sank 24 minutes later .