

= HMS Lord Nelson (1906) =

HMS Lord Nelson was a Lord Nelson class pre dreadnought battleship launched in 1906 and completed in 1908 . She was the Royal Navy 's last pre dreadnought . The ship was flagship of the Channel Fleet when World War I began in 1914 . Lord Nelson was transferred to the Mediterranean Sea in early 1915 to participate in the Dardanelles Campaign . She remained there , becoming flagship of the Eastern Mediterranean Squadron , which was later redesignated the Aegean Squadron . After the Ottoman surrender in 1918 the ship moved to the Black Sea where she remained as flagship before returning to the United Kingdom in May 1919 . Lord Nelson was placed into reserve upon her arrival and sold for scrap in June 1920 .

= = Construction and description = =

HMS Lord Nelson was laid down by Palmers Shipbuilding and Iron Company at Jarrow on 18 May 1905 and launched on 4 September 1906 . Her completion was greatly delayed by the diversion of her 12 inch (305 mm) guns and turrets to expedite completion of Dreadnought , and she was not fully completed until October 1908 . Although she was not the last pre dreadnought laid down for the Royal Navy , she was the last one commissioned .

Lord Nelson displaced 17,820 long tons (18,106 t) at deep load as built , with a length of 443 feet 6 inches (135.2 m) , a beam of 79 feet 6 inches (24.2 m) , and a draft of 26 feet (7.9 m) . She was powered by two four cylinder inverted vertical triple expansion steam engines , which developed a total of 16,750 indicated horsepower (12,490 kW) and gave a maximum speed of 18 knots (33 km / h ; 21 mph) .

She was armed with four 12 inch guns arranged in two twin gun turrets , one turret each fore and aft . Her secondary armament consisted of ten 9.2 inch (234 mm) guns , eight in twin gun turrets on each corner of the superstructure , and a single gun turret between them . For defence against torpedo boats , Lord Nelson carried twenty four QF 12 pounder 18 cwt guns and two 3 pounder guns . She also mounted five submerged 18 inch (457 mm) torpedo tubes for which 23 torpedoes were stowed aboard .

= = Service = =

= = = Pre World War I = = =

HMS Lord Nelson was first commissioned in reserve on 1 December 1908 at Chatham Dockyard , being attached to the Nore Division of the Home Fleet with a nucleus crew . She first went into full commission on 5 January 1909 to relieve the battleship HMS Magnificent as flagship of the Nore Division , Home Fleet , and in April became part of the First Division , Home Fleet . She was transferred in January 1911 to the Second Division of the Home Fleet , and in May 1912 to the 2nd Battle Squadron . She was temporarily attached in September 1913 to the 4th Battle Squadron . In April 1914 , she relieved the battleship HMS Queen as Flagship , Vice Admiral , Channel Fleet .

= = = World War I = = =

At the outbreak of World War I in August , Lord Nelson became flagship of the Channel Fleet and was based at Portland . With other ships , she covered the safe transport of the British Expeditionary Force , under the command of Sir John French , to France . On 14 November , she transferred to Sheerness to guard the English coast against the possibility of a German invasion . The ship returned to Portland Harbour on 30 December and patrolled the English Channel until February 1915 .

= = = Dardanelles campaign , 1915 - 1916 = = =

In February 1915 , Lord Nelson was ordered to the Dardanelles to participate in the Dardanelles Campaign . She departed Portland on 18 February and joined the British Dardanelles Squadron at Mudros eight days later . She took part in the bombardment of the inner forts and supported the initial landings in early March . The Ottoman Turkish forts engaged her heavily on 7 March and hit her several times , including by a stone cannonball which landed on the deck and was kept as a souvenir by the Flag Officer , Arthur Baker , at Longcross Church ; she suffered damage to her superstructure and rigging and was holed by one hit below the waterline which flooded two coal bunkers . After repairs at Malta , the ship returned to take part in the main attack on the Narrows forts on 18 March . Later she bombarded Ottoman field batteries on 6 May prior to the Second Battle of Krithia .

Lord Nelson relieved the battleship Queen Elizabeth as flagship of the British Dardanelles Squadron on 12 May , flying the flag of Vice @-@ Admiral Rosslyn Erskine @-@ Wemyss . On 20 June , she bombarded docks and shipping at Gallipoli , aided by the spotting of a kite balloon , and inflicted significant damage . Lord Kitchener made his headquarters aboard her in November and , on 22 December , Lord Nelson hoisted the flag of Vice Admiral John de Roebeck when he succeeded Wemyss .

= = = Mediterranean operations , 1916 @-@ 18 = = =

With the end of the Dardanelles Campaign in January 1916 , during which Lord Nelson had suffered no casualties , British naval forces in the area were reorganized and Lord Nelson became flagship of the Eastern Mediterranean Squadron , which was redesignated the Aegean Squadron in August 1917 ; under either name , the squadron was dispersed throughout the area to protect Allied @-@ held islands , support the British Army at Salonika , and guard against any attempted breakout from the Dardanelles by the German battlecruiser Goeben and light cruiser Breslau . Lord Nelson spent the remainder of the war based at Salonika and Mudros , alternating between the two bases with her sister ship Agamemnon ; the ship was based mostly at Salonika , with Agamemnon mostly at Mudros .

According to naval historian Ian Buxton , the most important role of the Royal Navy was to blockade the Dardanelles and thus guard the Eastern Mediterranean against a breakout by Goeben . On 12 January 1918 , Rear @-@ Admiral Arthur Hayes @-@ Sadler hoisted his flag aboard Lord Nelson at Mudros as the new commander of the Aegean Squadron . Needing transportation to Salonika for a conference with the British Army commander there , and finding his personal yacht unavailable , Hayes @-@ Sadler opted to have Lord Nelson take him there , and thus she was not present when Goeben and Breslau finally made their breakout attempt on 20 January . The ship could not get back to the Dardanelles in time to participate in the resulting Battle of Imbros or intercept Goeben before she gained shelter in the Dardanelles . Lord Nelson was given a short refit at Malta in October .

= = = Post @-@ World War I = = =

Lord Nelson was part of the British squadron that went to Constantinople in November following the armistice with the Ottoman Empire , after which she served as flagship in the Black Sea . In April 1919 , she conveyed Grand Duke Nicholas and Grand Duke Peter of Russia from the Black Sea to Genoa .

Lord Nelson returned to the United Kingdom in May 1919 and was placed in reserve until August , when she was placed on the sale list . On 4 June 1920 , she was sold to Stanlee Shipbreaking Company of Dover . She was resold to Slough Trading Company on 8 November 1920 , then again to German scrappers . She was towed to Germany for scrapping in January 1922 .