

= USS Maine (BB @-@ 10) =

USS Maine (BB @-@ 10) , the lead ship of her class of pre @-@ dreadnought battleships , was the second ship of the United States Navy to be named in honor of the 23rd state . Maine was laid down in February 1899 at the William Cramp & Sons shipyard in Philadelphia . She was launched in July 1901 and commissioned into the fleet in December 1902 . She was armed with a main battery of four 12 @-@ inch (300 mm) guns and could steam at a top speed of 18 knots (33 km / h ; 21 mph) .

Maine served in the Atlantic for the entirety of her career with the North Atlantic Fleet , which later became the Atlantic Fleet ; during the early years of her service , she was the fleet flagship , until she was replaced in 1907 . Later that year , she joined the cruise of the Great White Fleet , though her heavy coal consumption prevented her from continuing with the fleet past San Francisco . After returning to the U.S. , she served as the 3rd Squadron flagship . During America 's participation in World War I from April 1917 to November 1918 , Maine was used as a training ship . She remained in active service until May 1920 , when she was decommissioned . The ship was ultimately sold for scrap in January 1922 and broken up for scrap under the terms of the Washington Naval Treaty signed that year .

= = Description = =

Maine was 393 feet 11 inches (120 @.@ 07 m) long overall and had a beam of 72 ft 3 in (22 @.@ 02 m) and a draft of 24 ft 4 in (7 @.@ 42 m) . She displaced 12 @,@ 846 long tons (13 @,@ 052 t) as designed and up to 13 @,@ 700 long tons (13 @,@ 900 t) at full load . The ship was powered by two @-@ shaft triple @-@ expansion steam engines rated at 16 @,@ 000 indicated horsepower (12 @,@ 000 kW) and twenty @-@ four coal @-@ fired Niclausse boilers , generating a top speed of 18 knots (33 km / h ; 21 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 561 officers and enlisted men , which increased to 779 ? 813 .

The ship was armed with a main battery of four 12 @-@ inch (305 mm) / 40 caliber guns in two twin gun turrets on the centerline , one forward and aft . The secondary battery consisted of sixteen 6 @-@ inch (152 mm) / 45 Mark 6 guns , which were placed in casemates in the hull . For close @-@ range defense against torpedo boats , she carried six 3 @-@ inch / 50 guns mounted in casemates along the side of the hull , eight 3 @-@ pounder guns , and six 1 @-@ pounder guns . As was standard for capital ships of the period , Maine carried two 18 @-@ inch (460 mm) torpedo tubes , submerged in her hull on the broadside .

Maine 's main armored belt was 11 inches (279 mm) thick over the magazines and the machinery spaces and 8 inches (203 mm) elsewhere . The main battery gun turrets had 12 @-@ inch (300 mm) thick faces , and the supporting barbettes had the same thickness of armor plating on their exposed sides . Armor that was 6 in thick protected the secondary battery . The conning tower had 10 @-@ inch (250 mm) thick sides .

= = Service history = =

Maine was built by the William Cramp & Sons shipyard in Philadelphia ; her keel was laid down on 15 February 1899 . The ship was launched on 27 July 1901 and commissioned into the fleet on 29 December 1902 . Maine operated with the North Atlantic Fleet starting in 1903 ; over the next four years , she took part in various peacetime training exercises in the Atlantic and Caribbean . During this period she also steamed to the Mediterranean . She served as the flagship of Rear Admiral Robley D. Evans . On 16 April 1907 , Evans transferred his flag to the newly commissioned battleship Connecticut .

Maine 's next significant action was the cruise of the Great White Fleet around the world , which started with a naval review for President Theodore Roosevelt in Hampton Roads . On 17 December , the fleet steamed out of Hampton Roads and 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 , where Maine was detached from the rest of the fleet . The ship 's boilers had proved to be badly inefficient , requiring excessive amounts of coal to keep up with the fleet . The battleship Alabama also left the fleet , owing to a cracked cylinder head .

Maine and Alabama crossed the Pacific independently , via Guam and the Philippines . After steaming through the Indian Ocean , they transited the Suez Canal and cruised the Mediterranean . They crossed the Atlantic and arrived back on the east coast of the United States in October 1908 , well ahead of the rest of the Great White Fleet . Following their arrival , Maine was assigned as the flagship of the 3rd Squadron , Atlantic Fleet , and operated off the east coast for the next several months . On 14 February , Maine , the new battleships New Hampshire , Mississippi , and Idaho , two armored cruisers and two scout cruisers were organized to meet the returning Great White Fleet . Maine and the rest of the squadron , under the command of Rear Admiral Conway Hillyer Arnold , steamed out into the Atlantic and rendezvoused with the Great White Fleet on 17 February . The combined fleet arrived in Hampton Roads on the 22nd , where a large naval review was held for President Theodore Roosevelt to celebrate the journey . On 31 August 1909 , the ship was temporarily decommissioned at Portsmouth , New Hampshire . She returned to service on 15 June 1911 for duty with the Atlantic Fleet .

On 6 April 1917 , the United States declared war on Germany , entering World War I. During the war , Maine was employed as a training ship for engine room personnel , armed guards for merchant ships , and midshipmen from the US Naval Academy . On 11 November 1918 , Germany signed the Armistice that ended the conflict . Maine participated in a naval review held in New York on 26 December to celebrate the Allied victory . At the time , most of the battleships of the Atlantic Fleet were used as transports to ferry American soldiers back from France . Maine and her sisters were not so employed , however , owing to their short range and small size , which would not permit sufficient additional accommodations . Maine instead remained on the east coast with the Atlantic Fleet . On 15 May 1920 , she was decommissioned at the Philadelphia Navy Yard and was reclassified as BB @-@ 10 on 17 July . She was kept laid up for a year and a half before being sold on 23 January 1922 to J.G. Hitner and W.F. Cutler of Philadelphia , to be broken up for scrap . By 17 December 1923 , she had been disarmed in accordance with the Washington Naval Treaty , which mandated significant reductions in naval strength . Maine was then scrapped .