

= Japanese battleship Katori =

Katori ( 1904 ) was the lead ship of the two Katori class pre dreadnought battleships built in the first decade of the 20th century , the last to be built by British shipyards for the Imperial Japanese Navy ( IJN ) . Ordered just before the start of the Russo Japanese War of 1904 - 05 , the ship was completed a year after its end . She saw no combat during World War I , although the ship was present when Japan joined the Siberian Intervention in 1918 . Katori was disarmed and scrapped in 1923 in accordance with the terms of the Washington Naval Treaty of 1922 .

= = Design and description = =

The Katori class ships were ordered just before the start of the Russo Japanese War in 1904 as improved versions of the Royal Navy 's King Edward VII class battleships . Katori was 456 feet 3 inches ( 139 m ) long overall and had a beam of 78 feet ( 23 m ) . She had a full load draught of 27 feet ( 8 m ) and normally displaced 15,950 long tons ( 16,210 t ) and had a crew of 864 officers and enlisted men . The ship was powered by two vertical triple expansion steam engines using steam generated by 20 Niclausse boilers . The engines were rated at 16,000 indicated horsepower ( 12,000 kW ) , using forced draught , and were designed to reach a top speed of 18.5 knots ( 34.3 km / h ; 21.3 mph ) . Katori , however , reached a top speed of 19.5 knots ( 36.1 km / h ; 22.4 mph ) from 18,500 indicated horsepower ( 13,800 kW ) on her sea trials . She carried a maximum of 2,150 long tons ( 2,180 t ) of coal and 377 long tons ( 383 t ) of fuel oil which was sprayed on the coal to increase their power . This allowed her to steam for 12,000 nautical miles ( 22,000 km ; 14,000 mi ) at a speed of 11 knots ( 20 km / h ; 13 mph ) .

The ship 's main battery consisted of four 12 inch guns mounted in two twin gun turrets , one forward and one aft . The secondary armament consisted of four 10 inch guns mounted in four single gun turrets positioned on each side of the superstructure . Katori also carried 12 quick firing ( QF ) QF 6 inch guns , mounted in casemates on the sides of the hull and in the superstructure . A number of smaller guns were carried for defence against torpedo boats . These included a dozen QF 12 pounder guns and three 47 millimetre ( 1.9 in ) 3 pounder Hotchkiss guns . She was also armed with five submerged 18 inch torpedo tubes , two on each broadside and one in the stern .

Katori 's waterline armour belt consisted of Krupp cemented armour and was 3.5 - 9 inches ( 89 - 229 mm ) thick . The armour of her main gun turrets had a maximum thickness of 9 in ( 229 mm ) and her deck ranged from 2 to 3 inches ( 51 to 76 mm ) in thickness .

= = Construction and career = =

Katori , named for a Shinto shrine in Katori City , was ordered in January 1904 from Vickers . The ship was laid down at their Barrow in Furness shipyard on 27 April 1904 . She was launched on 4 July 1905 , Prince and Princess Arisugawa were on hand for the official launching ceremony. and completed on 20 May 1906 . Katori departed Britain on 7 June on her maiden voyage and shakedown cruise and arrived at Yokosuka on 15 August .

In a naval review off Yokosuka on 10 November 1913 , she served as the flagship for the Taisho Emperor . Katori occupied the German colony of Saipan , shortly after the start of World War I , on 14 October 1914 . Afterward the ship began a refit in 1914 that lasted until late 1916 and was assigned to the 2nd Battleship Squadron upon its completion . During this refit , two 12 pounder anti aircraft guns were replaced two of the low angle 12 pounders . She became the flagship of the 5th Battleship Squadron in 1917 - 18 and served as the flagship for the Japanese commander in chief at Nikolayevsk on Amur in late 1918 as Japan decided to intervene in the Russian Civil War .

On 3 March 1921 , Katori , escorted by Kashima , departed Yokohama bound for Great Britain carrying Crown Prince Hirohito , the first Japanese crown prince to travel abroad . The ships arrived

at Portsmouth on 9 May and Hirohito left the ship to tour Europe ; he boarded the battleship again in Naples several months later for the voyage home . The ship was disarmed in April 1922 , stricken from the Navy List on 20 September 1923 and scrapped at Maizuru Naval Arsenal by 29 January 1925 to comply with the terms of the Washington Naval Treaty .