

= Greek battleship Lemnos =

Lemnos , sometimes spelled Limnos ( Greek : ? / ? ????? ) , was a 13 @, @ 000 ton Mississippi @-@ class battleship originally built by the United States Navy in 1904 ? 1908 . As Idaho , she was purchased by the Greek Navy in 1914 and renamed Lemnos , along with her sister Mississippi , renamed Kilkis . Lemnos was named for the Battle of Lemnos , a crucial engagement of the First Balkan War . Armed with a main battery of four 12 in ( 305 mm ) guns , Lemnos and her sister were the most powerful vessels in the Greek fleet .

The ship saw limited action during World War I. Greece 's pro @-@ German monarch , Constantine I opted to remain neutral until October 1916 , when pressure from the Triple Entente forced him to abdicate in favor of a pro @-@ Entente government . For the remainder of the war , Lemnos operated solely as a harbor defense ship . In the aftermath of World War I , she saw service during the Allied intervention in the Russian Civil War and the Greco @-@ Turkish War of 1919 ? 1922 . During the war with Turkey , Lemnos supported Greek landings in Turkey and participated in the final Greek sea @-@ borne withdrawal in 1922 . She remained in service until 1932 , when she was used as a barracks ship and subsequently disarmed . During the German invasion of Greece in 1941 , she and her sister were sunk in Salamis by German Junkers Ju 87 dive bombers . The two ships were ultimately raised and broken up for scrap after the end of the war .

= = Design = =

Lemnos was 382 feet ( 116 m ) long overall and had a beam of 77 ft ( 23 m ) and a draft of 24 ft 8 in ( 7 @. @ 52 m ) . She displaced 13 @, @ 000 metric tons ( 13 @, @ 000 long tons ; 14 @, @ 000 short tons ) as designed and up to 14 @, @ 465 t ( 14 @, @ 237 long tons ; 15 @, @ 945 short tons ) at full combat load . The ship was powered by two @-@ shaft vertical triple expansion engines and eight coal @-@ fired Babcock & Wilcox boilers rated at 10 @, @ 000 indicated horsepower ( 7 @, @ 500 kW ) and a top speed of 17 knots ( 20 mph ; 31 km / h ) . Lattice masts were installed in 1909 . She had a crew of 744 officers and enlisted men .

The ship was armed with a main battery of four 12 in ( 305 mm ) L / 45 guns in two twin turrets , one on either end of the superstructure . Eight 8 in ( 203 mm ) L / 45 guns were mounted in four twin turrets , two on other side of the vessel amidships . The secondary battery was rounded out with eight 7 in ( 178 mm ) L / 45 guns mounted individually in casemates along the length of the hull . Close @-@ range defense against torpedo boats was protected by a battery of twelve 3 in ( 76 mm ) L / 50 guns , six 3 @-@ pounder guns and two 1 @-@ pounder guns . The ship 's armament system was completed by two 21 in ( 533 mm ) torpedo tubes submerged in her hull . Lemnos and Kilkis were the most powerful vessels in the Greek Navy .

= = Service history = =

Laid down on 12 May 1904 , the ship was launched on 9 December 1905 and commissioned into the United States Navy on 1 April 1908 as USS Idaho . Greece became engaged in a naval arms race with the Ottoman Empire at the time ; the Ottomans had purchased a pair of German pre @-@ dreadnoughts ? Kurfürst Friedrich Wilhelm and Weissenburg in 1910 ? and ordered dreadnought battleships from Britain in 1911 and 1914 . The Greek Navy ordered the dreadnought Salamis from Germany in 1913 and the dreadnought Basileus Konstantinos from France . As a stop @-@ gap measure , the Greeks purchased Mississippi and Idaho from the US Navy , for the sum of \$ 12 @, @ 535 @, @ 276 @. @ 58 , on 30 June 1914 . The two ships were transferred to the Greek Navy in Newport News , Virginia the following month , Idaho and Mississippi becoming Lemnos and Kilkis , respectively . Lemnos and Kilkis quickly left the United States after their transfer in July 1914 , due to the rising tensions in Europe following the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria the previous month .

At the outbreak of World War I in at the end of the month , Greece 's pro @-@ German monarch , Constantine I , decided to remain neutral . The Entente powers landed troops in Salonika in 1915 ,

which was a source of tension between France and Greece . Ultimately , the French seized the Greek Navy on 19 October 1916 ( see Noemvriana and National Schism ) . Lemnos was reduced to a skeleton crew and had the breech blocks for her guns removed to render them inoperable . All ammunition and torpedoes were also removed . Ultimately , a pro @-@ Entente government under Prime Minister Eleftherios Venizelos replaced Constantine and declared war on the Central Powers . Lemnos , however , did not see active service with Greece 's new allies , and instead was used solely for harbor defense until the end of the war .

After the end of World War I , Lemnos joined the Allied intervention in the Russian Civil War and served with the Crimean Expedition . There , she aided the White Russians against the Communists . She then saw service during the Greco @-@ Turkish War , where she supported landings to seize Ottoman territory . The Ottoman Navy had been interned by the Allies after the end of World War I , and so provided no opposition to the Greek Navy 's activities . During this period , she also operated in the Black Sea to support the Allied intervention in the Russian Civil War . In April 1919 , Lemnos was present in Kaffa Bay , where she provided gunfire support to the Volunteer Army . On 22 April , aerial reconnaissance reported that the Red Army was massing in the town of Vladislovovka ; Lemnos and the British light cruiser HMS Caradoc bombarded the town , forcing the Soviet forces to withdraw .

In February 1921 , Lemnos was stationed in Smyrna to support the occupation of the city . Operations came to a close in September 1922 when the Greek Army was forced to evacuate Smyrna by sea , along with a sizable number of civilians from Asia Minor . The fleet transported a total of 250 @,@ 000 soldiers and civilians during the evacuation . Lemnos departed Smyrna on the evening of 8 September with her sister Kilkis . While en route from Smyrna to mainland Greece , Captain Dimitrios Fokas , the commander of Lemnos , formed a Revolutionary Committee with Nikolaos Plastiras and Stylianos Gonatas , two colonels who supported Venizelos , who had been ousted in 1920 . The men launched the 11 September 1922 Revolution , and other vessels in the fleet mutinied in support of the coup . King Constantine I of Greece was forced to abdicate in favor of his son , George II .

In 1932 , Lemnos was placed in inactive reserve ; sections of her armor plate was removed to build fortifications on the island of Aegina . She was disarmed in 1937 and thereafter used as a barracks ship . On 28 October 1940 , Italy invaded Greece , initiating the Greco @-@ Italian War as part of the Italian dictator Benito Mussolini 's expansionist program . The Greek army quickly defeated the Italians and pushed them back to Albania . Less than two weeks later , the Italian fleet was badly damaged in the British Raid on Taranto , which significantly reduced the threat the Italian Regia Marina posed to the Greek fleet . Lemnos remained out of service , but spare guns from she and Kilkis were employed as coastal batteries throughout Greece . On 6 April 1941 , the German Wehrmacht invaded Greece to support its Italian ally in the stalemated conflict . The hulk of Lemnos was bombed in Salamis Naval Base by Junkers Ju 87 dive bombers on 23 April . The ship was beached to prevent her from sinking ; her wreck was broken up after the end of the war .