

= USS Wisconsin ( BB 9 ) =

USS Wisconsin ( BB 9 ) , an Illinois class pre dreadnought battleship , was the first ship of the United States Navy to be named for the 30th state . She was the third and final member of her class to be built . Her keel was laid down in February 1897 at the Union Iron Works in San Francisco , and she was launched in November 1898 . The completed ship was commissioned into the fleet in February 1901 . The ship was armed with a main battery of four 13 inch ( 330 mm ) guns and she had a top speed of 16 knots ( 30 km / h ; 18 mph ) .

Wisconsin served as the flagship of the Pacific Fleet from her commissioning to 1903 ; during this period , she made one long distance cruise to American Samoa in late 1901 . In 1903 , she was transferred to the Asiatic Fleet , where she served as the Northern Squadron flagship . She returned to the United States in late 1906 , where she was overhauled extensively . In July 1908 , she joined the Great White Fleet for the second leg of its cruise around the world , which lasted until February 1909 . The ship remained in service with the Atlantic Fleet until early 1910 , when she was reduced to reserve status .

The vessel was employed as a training ship starting in 1912 , primarily for cadets from the US Naval Academy . After the United States entered World War I in April 1917 , Wisconsin 's training duties expanded to engine room personnel . She was also assigned to the Coast Battleship Patrol Squadron . She took part in a naval review in December 1918 after the war ended . She served briefly with the fleet in 1919 , though by May 1920 , she was decommissioned . The old battleship , thoroughly obsolete by this time , was sold for scrap in January 1922 and broken up .

= = Description = =

Wisconsin was 373 feet 10 inches ( 113 . 94 m ) long overall and had a beam of 72 ft 3 in ( 22 . 02 m ) and a draft of 23 ft 8 in ( 7 . 21 m ) . She displaced 11 , 653 long tons ( 11 , 840 t ) as designed and up to 12 , 250 long tons ( 12 , 450 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 eight coal fired fire tube boilers , generating a top speed of 16 knots ( 30 km / h ; 18 mph ) . As built , she was fitted with heavy military masts , but these were replaced by cage masts in 1909 . She had a crew of 531 officers and enlisted men , which increased to 690 ? 713 .

The ship was armed with a main battery of four 13 in ( 330 mm ) / 35 caliber guns in two twin gun turrets on the centerline , one forward and aft . The secondary battery consisted of fourteen 6 in ( 152 mm ) / 40 caliber Mark IV guns , which were placed in casemates in the hull . For close range defense against torpedo boats , she carried sixteen 6 pounder guns mounted in casemates along the side of the hull and six 1 pounder guns . As was standard for capital ships of the period , Wisconsin carried four 21 in ( 530 mm ) torpedo tubes in deck mounted torpedo launchers .

Wisconsin 's main armored belt was 16 . 5 in ( 419 mm ) thick over the magazines and the machinery spaces and 4 in ( 102 mm ) elsewhere . The main battery gun turrets had 14 inch ( 360 mm ) thick faces , and the supporting barbettes had 15 in ( 380 mm ) of armor plating on their exposed sides . Armor that was 6 in thick protected the secondary battery . The conning tower had 10 in ( 250 mm ) thick sides .

= = Service history = =

= = = Pacific and Asiatic Fleets = = =

The keel for Wisconsin was laid down on 9 February 1897 at the Union Iron Works in San Francisco . She was launched on 26 November 1898 and was commissioned into the fleet on 4 February 1901 . The ship steamed out of San Francisco on 12 March for initial training in Magdalena

Bay , Mexico from 17 March to 11 April . She was back in San Francisco on 15 April for repairs , which lasted until 28 May . She then left for Port Orchard , Washington , arriving on 1 June . Wisconsin stayed there for nine days before returning to San Francisco . Later that month , she joined the battleships Oregon and Iowa , the cruiser Philadelphia , and the torpedo boat Farragut for a tour of the west coast of the United States . They arrived in Port Angeles , Washington on 29 June and proceeded to Port Whatcom , Washington on 2 July , where they took part in Independence Day celebrations . The following day , they returned to Port Angeles and took part in training exercises , which lasted to mid @-@ July .

Wisconsin entered the drydock at the Puget Sound Navy Yard in Bremerton , Washington on 23 July for repairs that lasted until 14 October . She then sailed to Honolulu , Hawaii , arriving on 23 October . There , she took on coal and continued on to American Samoa , conducting gunnery training while en route . She arrived in Tutuila on 5 November , and stayed with the collier Abarenda and the hospital ship Solace for about two weeks before steaming to Apia in German Samoa . Wisconsin left the island on 21 November for Hawaii , from which she continued on to Central America . She arrived in Acapulco , Mexico on 25 December and remained there for three days to coal . She made visits to Callao , Peru and Valparaiso , Chile before returning to Acapulco on 26 February 1902 . The ship then conducted a wide variety training exercises in Magdalena Bay and Pichilingue Bay from 5 to 22 March , before steaming up the west coast of the United States , stopping in Coronado , San Francisco , and Port Angeles . She arrived in the Puget Sound Navy Yard on 4 June for repairs that lasted until 11 August .

The ship took part in gunnery training off Tacoma and Seattle before additional maintenance at Puget Sound on 29 August . Wisconsin departed Washington on 12 September bound for Panama ? then still part of Colombia ? to protect American interests in the country . She was by this time serving as the flagship of the Pacific Squadron , under Rear Admiral Silas Casey . The Thousand Days ' War was being waged in Panama , and so Casey brought representatives from the two sides aboard Wisconsin for negotiations that ultimately ended the conflict . The ship left Panama on 22 November and steamed back to San Francisco , arriving on 5 December . On the 9th , Casey transferred his flag to the armored cruiser New York . Wisconsin then conducted gunnery training until 17 December , followed by another period in drydock at Puget Sound from 20 December to 13 May 1903 . She was then assigned to the Asiatic Fleet ; she coaled in Honolulu before arriving in Yokohama , Japan on 12 June . Rear Admiral P. H. Cooper , the commander of the Northern Squadron , Asiatic Fleet hoisted his flag aboard Wisconsin on 15 June .

Wisconsin spent the next three years in the Asiatic Fleet ; during this time , her routine consisted of operations off north China and Japan in the summer and in the Philippines in the winter . She visited numerous East Asian ports , including Kobe , Yokohama , Nagasaki in Japan and Amoy , Shanghai , Chefoo , Nanking , and Taku in China . The ship left the Asiatic Fleet on 20 September 1906 when she departed Yokohama , bound for Honolulu . After coaling there from 3 to 8 October , she proceeded to San Francisco , arriving on 18 October . Wisconsin spent a week there before steaming north to Puget Sound , where she was decommissioned on 16 November for a lengthy overhaul that lasted until the end of April 1908 . She then steamed south to San Francisco , where she arrived on 6 May to take part in a naval review there . She was back in Puget Sound on 21 May to have new fire control equipment installed ; the work lasted until 22 June .

= = = Great White Fleet and the Atlantic Fleet = = =

The ship then steamed back down to San Francisco in early July . There , she joined the Great White Fleet , which had departed Hampton Roads , Virginia , the previous year on the first leg of its global cruise . The Great White Fleet then began its crossing of the Pacific , with a visit to 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 . There , they conducted a naval review for President Theodore Roosevelt .

Wisconsin steamed out of Hampton Roads on 6 March for Portsmouth , New Hampshire , arriving on the 9th . There , she entered the drydock for repairs and modifications , including a new gray paint scheme . After returning to service in June , she was assigned to the Atlantic Fleet , and she joined her unit in Hampton Roads at the end of the month . She immediately steamed back north for Portland , Maine , where she participated in Independence Day celebrations on 4 July . Wisconsin rejoined the fleet in Hampton Roads on 6 August for gunnery training off the Virginia Capes . Routine maintenance was performed at Hampton Roads during this period . In late September , she steamed to New York for the Hudson @-@ Fulton Celebration . The celebration saw an international fleet of warships from Germany , Britain , France , Italy , and other countries join the Atlantic Fleet to commemorate Henry Hudson 's discovery of the Hudson River . Wisconsin left the ceremonies on 5 October for repairs at Portsmouth , which lasted from 7 October to 28 November . She then returned to Hampton Roads , by way of Newport , Rhode Island , where she embarked sailors assigned to the Atlantic Fleet .

The ship conducted exercises with the rest of the fleet off the Virginia Capes until the middle of December , when she departed for New York , where she would spend Christmas and New Year 's Day . In early January 1910 , she steamed south to Cuban waters for exercises . During this period , which lasted from 12 January to 19 March , she was based in Guantanamo Bay , Cuba . After the conclusion of the exercises , Wisconsin made visits to Tompkinsville , New York , and New Orleans , Louisiana . On 22 April , she arrived back in New York , where she unloaded her stocks of ammunition , before proceeding to the Portsmouth Navy Yard . There , she was placed in the Atlantic Reserve Fleet . She was transferred to Philadelphia in April 1912 and later that year she participated in a naval review , which was held off Yonkers , New York . The ship then returned to the Atlantic Reserve Fleet ; she was placed in ordinary on 31 October 1913 . In early 1915 , Wisconsin was assigned to the United States Naval Academy Practice Squadron , along with the battleships Missouri and Ohio . The three ships made a cruise to the Pacific coast via the recently @-@ completed Panama Canal ; Wisconsin was the third battleship to transit the canal since its opening .

= = = World War I = = =

Wisconsin continued in her service as a training ship into 1917 ; she was in the Philadelphia Navy Yard on 6 April when the United States declared war on Germany , entering World War I. On the 8th , the ship began to receive men from the Naval Militia to flesh out her crew . She was placed in full commission on 23 April and was assigned to the Coast Battleship Patrol Squadron , along with Missouri and Ohio , commanded by Commander David F. Sellers . On 6 May , Wisconsin steamed to the Virginia Capes , arriving in Yorktown , Virginia the next day . From then to early August , the ship was employed as a training ship for engine room personnel in the Chesapeake Bay area . She then took part in squadron exercises from 13 to 19 August ; these included the battleships Kearsarge , Alabama , Illinois , Kentucky , Ohio , Missouri , and Maine . Wisconsin then proceeded to Port Jefferson , New York for additional exercises .

The ship then steamed to the York River in the western Chesapeake in early October , followed by a short period in drydock at the Philadelphia Navy Yard from 30 October to 18 December . She returned to the Chesapeake , where she remained into early 1918 . More repairs at Philadelphia followed from 13 May to 3 June , after which she steamed to Annapolis . While en route , she received orders to cruise close to shore , as the German submarine U @-@ 151 had been operating in the area since 23 May , and had sunk several ships . Wisconsin reached Annapolis on 7 June , having stopped in the Delaware River to wait for U @-@ 151 to depart . A contingent of 175 midshipmen came aboard Wisconsin on 8 June for a training cruise to the Chesapeake . On 29 August she returned to Annapolis and disembarked the midshipmen before returning to Yorktown

the next day . There , she took on 217 men for another round of training . On 11 November , Germany signed the Armistice that ended the fighting in Europe . Wisconsin continued in her training ship duties until 20 December , when she was sent to New York for a naval review for Secretary of the Navy Josephus Daniels and Assistant Secretary of the Navy Franklin D. Roosevelt on 26 December .

Following the German surrender in November 1918 , most of the battleships of the Atlantic Fleet were used as transports to ferry American soldiers back from France . Wisconsin and her sisters were not so employed , however , owing to their short range and small size , which would not permit sufficient additional accommodations . Wisconsin instead steamed to Cuba for training with the Atlantic Fleet into 1919 . She went on a midshipmen training cruise to the Caribbean in mid @-@ 1919 . On 15 May 1920 , Wisconsin was decommissioned ; she was reclassified as BB @-@ 9 on 17 July . She was eventually sold on 26 January 1922 and broken up for scrap .