

= USS Ohio ( BB @-@ 12 ) =

USS Ohio ( BB @-@ 12 ) , a Maine @-@ class battleship pre @-@ dreadnought battleship , was the third ship both of her class and of the United States Navy to be named for the 17th state . She was laid down at the Union Iron Works shipyard in San Francisco in April 1899 , was launched in May 1901 , and was commissioned into the fleet in October 1904 . 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 ) .

Ohio initially served in the Asiatic Fleet , from 1905 to 1907 , when she returned to the United States . In December that year , she joined the Great White Fleet for its world cruise , which lasted until early 1909 . She served with the Atlantic Fleet for the next four years conducting a peacetime training routine . In 1914 , she was sent to Mexico to protect American interests in the country during the Mexican Revolution . She served as a training ship during America 's involvement in World War I from 1917 to 1918 . Thoroughly obsolete by that time , Ohio was decommissioned in July 1919 , and was ultimately sold for scrap in March 1923 under the terms of the Washington Naval Treaty .

= = Description = =

Ohio 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 @,@ 723 long tons ( 12 @,@ 927 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 twelve coal @-@ fired Thornycroft 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 , Ohio carried two 18 in ( 460 mm ) torpedo tubes , submerged in her hull on the broadside .

Ohio 's main armored belt was 11 in ( 279 mm ) thick over the magazines and the machinery spaces and 8 in ( 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 in ( 250 mm ) thick sides .

= = Service history = =

Ohio , the final member of the Maine class of pre @-@ dreadnought battleships , was the second ship of the three to be laid down . She was built at the Union Iron Works in San Francisco , with her keel being laid down on 22 April 1899 . She was launched on 18 May 1901 and was commissioned on 4 October 1904 . After she entered service , Ohio was assigned as the flagship of the Asiatic Fleet . She left San Francisco on 1 April , bound for Manila in the Philippines . After the new battleship arrived , the party of then @-@ Secretary of War William Howard Taft came aboard for a tour of East Asia , including stops in Japan and China . Ohio returned to the United States in 1907 and was transferred to the Atlantic Fleet . She and the rest of the Atlantic Fleet battleships held a naval review for President Theodore Roosevelt in Hampton Roads , Virginia to mark the start of the cruise of the Great White Fleet on 16 December 1907 . The following day , 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 and Seattle before crossing the Pacific to Australia , stopping in 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 , having traveled 46 @, @ 729 nautical miles ( 86 @, @ 542 km ; 53 @, @ 775 mi ) . There , they conducted a naval review for Roosevelt .

Following the conclusion of the ceremonies , Ohio proceeded to New York , where she was based for the following four years . This time was spent conducting normal peacetime training with the fleet and assisting in the training of the New York Naval Militia . By 1914 , the worsening conditions during the Mexican Civil War prompted the United States to begin intervening in the conflict . Ohio was sent to Mexican waters early that year to protect American interests in the country . In mid @-@ 1914 , she returned to the east coast of the United States to conduct a training cruise for midshipmen from the US Naval Academy . After completing the cruise , Ohio was transferred to the Reserve Fleet based at Philadelphia . She returned to service only to conduct additional midshipmen cruises in the summers of 1915 and 1916 .

The United States had initially remained neutral during World War I , but by early 1917 , tensions between it and Germany rose as the latter 's unrestricted submarine warfare campaign began to sink American merchants ships . On 6 April 1917 , the United States declared war on Germany , and on the 24th , Ohio was recommissioned . She was based in Norfolk and tasked with training crews for the rapidly expanding wartime fleet . This service included gunnery training ; on 1 June 1918 , she was involved in a significant accident during gunnery practice with two other battleships , New Hampshire and Louisiana . Gunners aboard New Hampshire accidentally began firing at a pair of submarine chasers . Ohio issued a " cease fire " warning , though it was not immediately received aboard New Hampshire before one shell struck Louisiana . While the ships stopped to assess the damage , lookouts aboard Ohio reported an enemy submarine , prompting several salvos from the secondary batteries of Ohio and New Hampshire , though the submarine chasers found no evidence of a submarine upon investigating the scene .

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 . Ohio and her sisters were not so employed , however , owing to their short range and small size , which would not permit sufficient additional accommodations . Instead , she was sent to Philadelphia on 28 November and remained inactive there until 7 January 1919 , when she was placed back in reserve . On 17 July , the ship was reclassified as BB @-@ 12 . Following the 1922 Washington Naval Treaty , which mandated significant reductions in naval armaments , Ohio was stricken from the naval register on 31 May 1922 and sold for scrap on 24 March 1923 .