

= USS Louisiana ( BB @-@ 19 ) =

USS Louisiana ( BB @-@ 19 ) was a Connecticut @-@ class battleship of the United States Navy . She was the second member of the class of six pre @-@ dreadnought battleships , and the third ship to carry her name . Louisiana was laid down in February 1903 , launched in August 1904 , and commissioned in June 1906 . She was a 16 @,@ 000 @-@ long @-@ ton ( 16 @,@ 000 t ) battleship capable of 19 knots ( 35 km / h ; 22 mph ) . Her main armament consisted of four 12 @-@ inch ( 305 mm ) guns supported by a mixed secondary battery of 7 in ( 178 mm ) and 8 in ( 203 mm ) guns .

Louisiana primarily operated along the east coast of the United States and in the Caribbean during her career . In 1908 ? 09 , she took part in the world cruise of the Great White Fleet . A pair of trips to European waters took place in 1910 and 1911 . From 1913 , she began to become involved in the Mexican Revolution , as the US Navy began to send ships to protect American interests in the country . This activity culminated in the US occupation of Veracruz in April 1914 . During World War I , Louisiana was employed as a training ship before serving as a convoy escort in late 1918 . After the war ended that year , she was used to ferry American soldiers back from France . With this work completed , she was decommissioned in October 1920 and broken up for scrap at the Philadelphia Navy Yard in 1923 .

= = Design = =

Louisiana was 456 @.@ 3 ft ( 139 @.@ 1 m ) long overall and had a beam of 76 @.@ 9 ft ( 23 @.@ 4 m ) and a draft of 24 @.@ 5 ft ( 7 @.@ 5 m ) . She displaced 16 @,@ 000 long tons ( 16 @,@ 000 t ) as designed and up to 17 @,@ 666 long tons ( 17 @,@ 949 t ) at full load . The ship was powered by two @-@ shaft triple @-@ expansion steam engines rated at 16 @,@ 500 indicated horsepower ( 12 @,@ 300 kW ) and twelve coal @-@ fired Babcock & Wilcox 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 lattice masts in 1909 . She had a crew of 827 officers and enlisted men , though this increased to 881 and later to 896 .

The ship was armed with a main battery of four 12 inch / 45 Mark 5 guns in two twin gun turrets on the centerline , one forward and aft . The secondary battery consisted of eight 8 @-@ inch ( 203 mm ) / 45 guns and twelve 7 @-@ inch ( 178 mm ) / 45 guns . The 8 @-@ inch guns were mounted in four twin turrets amidships and the 7 @-@ inch guns were placed in casemates in the hull . For close @-@ range defense against torpedo boats , she carried twenty 3 @-@ inch ( 76 mm ) / 50 guns mounted in casemates along the side of the hull and twelve 3 @-@ pounder guns . She also carried four 37 mm ( 1 @.@ 5 in ) 1 @-@ pounder guns . As was standard for capital ships of the period , Louisiana carried four 21 in ( 530 mm ) torpedo tubes , submerged in her hull on the broadside .

Louisiana 's main armored belt was 11 in ( 279 mm ) thick over the magazines and the machinery spaces and 6 in ( 152 mm ) elsewhere . The main battery gun turrets had 12 @-@ inch ( 300 mm ) thick faces , and the supporting barbettes had the 10 in ( 250 mm ) of armor plating . The secondary turrets had 7 in ( 180 mm ) of frontal armor . The conning tower had 9 in ( 230 mm ) thick sides .

= = Service history = =

The keel for Louisiana was laid down at the Newport News Shipbuilding & Dry Dock Company in Newport News , Virginia on 7 February 1903 . Her completed hull was launched on 27 August 1904 , and she was commissioned into the fleet on 2 June 1906 . The ship then conducted a shakedown cruise off the coast of New England before being ordered to Cuba . She left the United States on 15 September with Secretary of War William Howard Taft and Assistant Secretary of State Robert Bacon aboard ; they were requested as a peace commission by Cuban President Tomás Estrada Palma to suppress an insurrection in the country . Taft and Bacon helped to create a provisional government , during which time Louisiana remained in Cuba . After their work was completed , Taft

and Bacon returned to the ship , which took them back to Fortress Monroe , Virginia .

On 8 November , Louisiana carried President Theodore Roosevelt from Piney Point , Maryland to Panama , where the Panama Canal was being built . After inspecting the progress of construction , Roosevelt boarded Louisiana and made a visit to Puerto Rico to examine the new government building there before continuing on to Piney Point , arriving on 26 November . Over the course of the following year , the ship made a series of cruises to American ports , including New Orleans and Norfolk , and visits to Havana and Guantanamo Bay in Cuba . During this period , she also took part in training exercises off New England .

Louisiana joined the Great White Fleet on 16 December 1907 , when they departed Hampton Roads to begin their circumnavigation of the globe . The fleet 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 President Theodore Roosevelt .

Louisiana underwent an extensive overhaul after returning from the voyage , after which she conducted training maneuvers in the Atlantic . Captain Washington Irving Chambers took command of the ship on 1 June . On 1 November 1910 , she was assigned to the 2nd Division of the Atlantic Fleet , which crossed the Atlantic to visit British and French cities . A second trip to Europe followed in 1911 , this time to the Baltic Sea . There , the ships stopped in Copenhagen , Denmark , Trärlhavet , Sweden , Kronstadt , Russia , and Kiel , Germany . They were inspected by the monarchs of each country . The worsening unrest of the Mexican Revolution led the United States to begin intervening in the conflict to protect American interests ; in support of these interventions , Louisiana made three trips to Mexico between July 1913 and September 1915 . The first lasted from 6 July to 29 December 1913 . The second , from 14 April to 8 August 1914 , supported the United States occupation of Veracruz . The third deployment lasted from 17 August to 24 September 1915 .

After returning from the last operation , Louisiana was reduced to reserve status at Norfolk and employed as a training ship for midshipmen and naval militia units . Following the United States ' declaration of war on Germany on 6 April 1917 , Louisiana was used to train gunners and engine room personnel . During this period , she was involved in a gunnery accident . During training on 1 June 1918 , the crews for three of the 7 @-@ inch guns aboard the battleship New Hampshire accidentally began firing at one of the submarine chasers present ; they fired several salvos before they received the order to cease fire . One of the shells struck Louisiana , killing one man and wounding several more . The ship was thereafter used to examine one of Arthur Pollen 's Argo Clocks , a fire control system that incorporated the first mechanical analog computer . The system was installed starting on 19 June , with work being completed by 1 July .

In September 1918 , she was reassigned as a convoy escort ; her first operation covered a convoy to Halifax on the 25th of the month . This duty did not last long , as the Germans signed the Armistice that ended the war on 11 November . Louisiana was then used to transport American soldiers back from France , starting on 24 December . The first trip was made in company with New Hampshire , and arrived in Brest , France on 5 January 1919 . Between the two of them , they carried 2 @, @ 169 men back to the United States . She made three additional trips to Brest in this role . After this task ended , she was transferred to the Philadelphia Navy Yard , where she was

decommissioned on 20 October 1920 . The ship was eventually sold for scrap on 1 November 1923

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