

= USS North Dakota (BB @-@ 29) =

USS North Dakota (BB @-@ 29) was a dreadnought battleship of the United States Navy , the second member of the Delaware class , her only sister ship being Delaware . North Dakota was laid down at the Fore River Shipyard in December 1907 , was launched in November 1908 , and commissioned into the US Navy in April 1910 . She was armed with a main battery of ten 12 @-@ inch (305 mm) guns and was capable of a top speed of 21 kn (24 mph ; 39 km / h) . North Dakota was the first vessel of the US Navy to be named after the 39th state .

North Dakota had a peaceful career ; she was present during the United States occupation of Veracruz in 1914 , but did not see action . After the United States entered World War I in April 1917 , North Dakota remained in the US , training crewmen for the rapidly expanding wartime Navy , and therefore did not see combat . She remained on active duty through the early 1920s , until she was decommissioned under the terms of the Washington Naval Treaty in November 1923 , and subsequently converted into a radio @-@ controlled target ship . She served in that capacity until 1930 , when she was replaced in that role by Utah . In 1931 , she was sold for scrapping and thereafter dismantled .

= = Design = =

North Dakota was 518 ft 9 in (158 m) long overall and had a beam of 85 ft 3 in (26 m) and a draft of 27 ft 3 in (8 m) . She displaced 20 @,@ 380 long tons (20 @,@ 707 t) as designed and up to 22 @,@ 400 long tons (22 @,@ 759 t) at full combat load . The ship was powered by two @-@ shaft Curtis steam turbines and fourteen coal @-@ fired Babcock & Wilcox boilers , generating a top speed of 21 knots . The ship had a cruising range of 6 @,@ 500 nautical miles (12 @,@ 000 km ; 7 @,@ 500 mi) at a speed of 12 kn (14 mph ; 22 km / h) . She had a crew of 933 officers and men . Her bow had an early example of bulbous forefoot .

The ship was armed with a main battery of ten 12 @-@ inch (305 mm) / 45 Mark 5 guns in five twin Mark 7 gun turrets on the centerline , two of which were placed in a superfiring pair forward . The other three turrets were placed aft of the superstructure . The secondary battery consisted of twenty @-@ one 5 @-@ inch (127 mm) / 50 Mark 6 guns mounted on Mark 9 and Mark 12 pedestal mounts in casemates along the side of the hull . As was standard for capital ships of the period , she carried a pair of 21 @-@ inch (533 mm) torpedo tubes , submerged in her hull on the broadside . The main armored belt was 11 in (279 mm) thick , while the armored deck was 2 in (51 mm) thick . The gun turrets had 12 in (305 mm) thick faces and the conning tower had 11 @.@ 5 in (292 mm) thick sides .

= = Service history = =

North Dakota was laid down at the Fore River Shipyard in Quincy , Massachusetts on 16 December 1907 . She was launched on 10 November 1908 , and completed on 11 April 1910 . On 8 September 1910 , the ship suffered an oil @-@ tank explosion and fire while at sea . Six men ? Chief Watertenders August Holtz and Patrick Reid , Chief Machinist 's Mates Thomas Stanton and Karl Westa , Machinist 's Mate First Class Charles C. Roberts , and Watertender Harry Lipscomb ? each received the Medal of Honor " for extraordinary heroism in the line of his profession " during the fire .

After her commissioning , North Dakota was assigned to the Atlantic Fleet ; she participated in the normal peacetime routine of training cruises , fleet maneuvers , and gunnery drills in the Atlantic and in the Caribbean Sea . On 2 November 1910 , she crossed the Atlantic for the first time , on a good @-@ will visit to Britain and France . Fleet maneuvers followed in the Caribbean the next spring . Midshipmen training cruises for cadets from the Naval Academy occupied North Dakota 's time in the summers of 1912 and 1913 . On 1 January 1913 , she joined the honor escort for the British armored cruiser HMS Natal , which was carrying the remains of Whitelaw Reid , the United States Ambassador to Great Britain .

The United States remained neutral when war in Europe broke out in August 1914 ; in the Americas , political disturbances in Mexico during that country 's revolution kept the US Navy occupied that year . North Dakota steamed off Veracruz , where she arrived on 26 April 1914 , five days after American sailors had occupied the city . She cruised the coast of Mexico to protect Americans in the country until October , when she returned to Norfolk , Virginia , arriving on 16 October . As war loomed , the Atlantic Fleet began intensive training to prepare for a possible American entrance into the conflict . North Dakota was conducting gunnery training in Chesapeake Bay when the United States declared war on Germany on 6 April 1917 . Unlike her sister Delaware , North Dakota remained in American waters for the duration of the war , and did not see action . She was based out of York River , Virginia and New York City , and was tasked with training gunners and engine room personnel for the rapidly expanding wartime fleet . Admiral Hugh Rodman requested that North Dakota remain behind because he did not trust the reliability of her engines . In 1917 , her engines were replaced with new geared turbines , and new fire control equipment was installed .

On 13 November 1919 , North Dakota left Norfolk , carrying the remains of the Italian Ambassador to the United States , Vincenzo Macchi di Cellere , who had died 20 October in Washington , DC . The ship stopped in Athens , Constantinople , Valencia , and Gibraltar while cruising the Mediterranean Sea . She thereafter returned to the United States , and participated in fleet maneuvers in the Caribbean in the spring of 1920 . In July 1921 , she was present during the joint Army @-@ Navy bombing tests , where the ex @-@ German battleship SMS Ostfriesland and cruiser SMS Frankfurt were sunk in an air @-@ power demonstration . North Dakota returned to the normal peacetime routine of training exercises , including two midshipmen cruises in the summers of 1922 and 1923 ; the latter cruise went to European waters , where she visited Spain , Scotland , and Scandinavia .

In the years immediately following the end of the war , the United States , Britain , and Japan all launched huge naval construction programs . All three countries decided that a new naval arms race would be ill @-@ advised , and so convened the Washington Naval Conference to discuss arms limitations , which produced the Washington Naval Treaty , signed in February 1922 . Under the terms of Article II of the treaty , North Dakota and her sister Delaware were to be scrapped as soon as the new battleships Colorado and West Virginia , then under construction , were ready to join the fleet . North Dakota was decommissioned on 22 November 1923 in Norfolk in accordance with the terms of the treaty . She was disarmed and reclassified as an " unclassified " ship on 29 May 1924 , and thereafter converted into a radio @-@ controlled gunnery target ship . Her turbines were removed for later use aboard the battleship Nevada when she was modernized in the 1930s . She served in that capacity until 1930 , when she was replaced by the battleship Utah . She was stricken from the Naval Vessel Register on 7 January 1931 and subsequently sold to the Union Shipbuilding Co of Baltimore on 16 March 1931 for dismantling .