

= Marietta @-@ class monitor =

The Marietta class monitors were a pair of ironclad river monitors laid down in the summer of 1862 for the United States Navy during the American Civil War . Construction was slow , partially for lack of labor , and the ships were not completed until December 1865 , after the war was over . However the navy did not accept them until 1866 and immediately laid them up . They were sold in 1873 without ever having been commissioned .

= = Design and description = =

The Marietta @-@ class monitors were part of a large program of armored ships ordered after the Battle of Hampton Roads caused the navy to favor monitors over the previous casemate ironclads of the City class . They were built to gain control of the Mississippi River and its many tributaries .

The original plans for the Marietta @-@ class ships resembled the river monitor USS Ozark in many ways . The gun turret was at the bow and they had a deckhouse aft . There were also twin smokestacks similar to the Mississippi River steamboat designs . The original plans also called for a forward , pyramidal pilothouse , similar to the one on USS Monitor , however it is believed that the pilothouse was moved to the top of the turret before construction was completed . The Marietta class ships were 177 feet ( 53 @. @ 9 m ) long overall . They had a beam of 50 feet ( 15 @. @ 2 m ) and a draft of 5 feet ( 1 @. @ 5 m ) . They displaced 479 long tons ( 487 t ) . The ships had four steam boilers powering two western steamboat @-@ type engines that drove a single propeller . The Marietta @-@ class ships had a maximum speed of 9 knots ( 17 km / h ; 10 mph ) and they carried a maximum of 150 long tons ( 150 t ) of coal .

The ships ' main armament consisted of two smoothbore , muzzle @-@ loading 11 @-@ inch ( 279 mm ) Dahlgren guns mounted in a single gun turret . Each gun weighed approximately 16 @, @ 000 pounds ( 7 @, @ 300 kg ) . They could fire a 136 @-@ pound ( 61 @. @ 7 kg ) shell up to a range of 3 @, @ 650 yards ( 3 @, @ 340 m ) at an elevation of 15 ° . The turret and the pilothouse were protected by 6 inches ( 152 mm ) of wrought iron armor while the deck and hull had 1 @. @ 25 inches ( 32 mm ) of armor .

= = Construction = =

The contract for the two ships was awarded to Tomlinson and Hartuppee Co. on 16 May 1862 . Construction was at their yard in Pittsburgh , PA . Progress was slow , delayed by labor shortages and changes by the navy . The US government allocated \$ 188 @, @ 000 each for the construction of the Marietta and Sandusky , but the final cost rose to \$ 235 @, @ 039 after charges for extra work .

= = History = =

Marietta was laid down in 1862 , launched on 4 January 1865 and completed 16 December 1865 . " She was accepted by the Navy on 25 April 1866 . She was never commissioned . Soon after her acceptance Marietta was laid up at Mound City , Illinois . Renamed Circe on 15 June 1869 , the gunboat carried that name only until 10 August , when she was again named Marietta . Remaining at Mound City , Marietta was sold 12 April 1873 to David Campbell " for \$ 16 @, @ 000 .

Sandusky was launched in mid @-@ January 1865 ; " she was not completed until 26 December 1865 , and was accepted by the Navy on 25 April 1866 . Never commissioned , she was renamed Minerva on 15 June 1869 ; but resumed the name Sandusky on 10 August 1869 . The monitor was sold at Mound City , Illinois , on 17 April 1873 to David Campbell " for \$ 18 @, @ 000 .