

= USS Michigan ( BB @-@ 27 ) =

USS Michigan ( BB @-@ 27 ) , a South Carolina @-@ class battleship , was the second ship of the United States Navy to be named in honor of the 26th state . She was the second member of her class , the first dreadnought battleships built for the US Navy . She was laid down in December 1906 , launched in May 1908 ; sponsored by Mrs. F. W. Brooks , daughter of Secretary of the Navy Truman Newberry ; and commissioned into the fleet 4 January 1910 . Michigan and South Carolina were armed with a main battery of eight 12 @-@ inch ( 305 mm ) guns in superfiring twin gun turrets ; they were the first dreadnoughts to feature this arrangement .

Michigan spent her career in the Atlantic Fleet . She frequently cruised the east coast of the United States and the Caribbean Sea , and in April 1914 took part in the United States occupation of Veracruz during the Mexican Civil War . After the United States entered World War I in April 1917 , Michigan was employed as a convoy escort and training ship for the rapidly expanding wartime navy . In January 1918 , her forward cage mast collapsed in heavy seas , killing six men . In 1919 , she ferried soldiers back from Europe . The ship conducted training cruises in 1920 and 1921 , but her career was cut short by the Washington Naval Treaty signed in February 1922 , which mandated the disposal of Michigan and South Carolina . Michigan was decommissioned in February 1923 and broken up for scrap the following year .

= = Design = =

Michigan was 452 ft 9 in ( 138 m ) long overall and had a beam of 80 ft 3 in ( 24 m ) and a draft of 24 ft 6 in ( 7 m ) . She displaced 16 @, @ 000 long tons ( 16 @, @ 257 t ) as designed and up to 17 @, @ 617 long tons ( 17 @, @ 900 t ) at full combat load . The ship was powered by two @-@ shaft vertical triple @-@ expansion engines rated at 16 @, @ 500 ihp ( 12 @, @ 304 kW ) and twelve coal @-@ fired Babcock & Wilcox boilers , generating a top speed of 18 @. @ 5 kn ( 34 km / h ; 21 mph ) . The ship had a cruising range of 5 @, @ 000 nmi ( 9 @, @ 260 km ; 5 @, @ 754 mi ) at a speed of 10 kn ( 19 km / h ; 12 mph ) . She had a crew of 869 officers and men .

The ship was armed with a main battery of eight 12 @-@ inch ( 305 mm ) / 45 caliber Mark 5 guns in four twin gun turrets on the centerline , which were placed in two superfiring pairs forward and aft . The secondary battery consisted of twenty @-@ two 3 @-@ inch ( 76 mm ) / 50 guns mounted 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 12 in ( 305 mm ) thick over the magazines , 10 in ( 254 mm ) over the machinery spaces , and 8 in ( 203 mm ) elsewhere . The armored deck was 1 @. @ 5 to 2 @. @ 5 in ( 38 to 64 mm ) thick . The gun turrets had 12 inch thick faces , while the supporting barbettes had 10 inch thick armor plating . Ten inch thick armor also protected the casemate guns . The conning tower had 12 inch thick sides .

= = Service history = =

Michigan was laid down on 17 December 1906 at the New York Shipbuilding Corporation . Her completed hull was launched on 26 May 1908 ; she was christened after the 26th state by Mrs. F. W. Brooks , daughter of Secretary of the Navy Truman Newberry . Fitting out work was completed by 4 January 1910 , when she was commissioned into the US Navy . After entering service , she was assigned to the Atlantic Fleet . She then began a shakedown cruise down to the Caribbean Sea that lasted until 7 June . Michigan joined training maneuvers off New England beginning on 29 July . A training cruise to Europe followed ; she departed Boston , Massachusetts on 2 November and stops included Portland in the United Kingdom and Cherbourg , France . She arrived in the latter port on 8 December and remained there until the 30th , when she left for the Caribbean . The ship reached Guantanamo Bay , Cuba on 10 January 1911 and continued on to Norfolk , arriving four days later . During this period , future naval aviation pioneer John Henry Towers served aboard the ship as a spotter for the main guns . The long range of the guns , which could shoot further than the

horizon , convinced Towers of the need for spotter aircraft .

The ship then cruised the east coast for most of the next two years . On 15 November 1912 , she departed for a longer cruise to the Gulf of Mexico , with stops in Pensacola , Florida , New Orleans , Louisiana , and Galveston , Texas on the way . She then continued further south to Veracruz , Mexico , where she arrived on 12 December . Michigan remained there for two days before beginning the voyage home ; she reached Hampton Roads on 20 December . Patrols off the east coast resumed for the first half of 1913 . On 6 July , she steamed out of Quincy , Massachusetts for another voyage to Mexican waters ; this trip was prompted by the Mexican Civil War , which threatened American interests in the country . She arrived off Tampico on 15 July and thereafter cruised the Mexican coast until 13 January 1914 , when she departed for New York City , arriving seven days later . She then transferred back to Norfolk .

On 14 February , she left the port for a short voyage to Guacanayabo Bay , Cuba , and was back in Hampton Roads by 19 March . Michigan began a third cruise to Mexico on 16 April to support the United States occupation of Veracruz . She reached the city on 22 April and landed a battalion of Marines as part of the occupation force . The ship then patrolled the coast before departing for the United States on 20 June . She reached the Delaware Capes six days later . The normal peacetime routine of cruises off the east coast continued for the next three years . In December 1914 , the ship 's crew experimented with fire control directors to aid in gunlaying ; the experimental directors produced significantly improved results in gunnery tests conducted in early 1915 . In 1916 , one of her forward 12 @-@ inch guns exploded during gunnery training .

= = = World War I = = =

On 6 April 1917 , the United States declared war on Germany over its unrestricted submarine warfare campaign . Due to her slow speed , Michigan was assigned to Battleship Force 2 that day , and was tasked with training naval recruits and escorting convoys . As part of the training mission , she participated in fleet maneuvers and gunnery exercises . On 15 January 1918 , Michigan was cruising off Cape Hatteras on a training exercise on 15 January 1918 when a heavy gale and rough seas knocked over the forward cage mast . The ship had rolled to port in the heavy seas before rolling sharply back to starboard . The rapid change in direction caused the mast to snap at its narrowest point , which had been damaged in the 1916 barrel explosion and patched over . The accident killed six men and injured another thirteen . Michigan steamed to Norfolk and transferred the injured men to the hospital ship Solace . She then went to the Philadelphia Navy Yard for repairs , arriving on 22 January .

By early April , Michigan was back in service ; for the next several months , she primarily trained gunners in the Chesapeake Bay . While on a convoy escort that had left the United States on 30 September , the ship 's port screw fell off . She was forced to leave the convoy on 8 October and return to port for repairs . She was out of service for the rest of the war . In November 1918 , Germany signed the Armistice that ended the fighting in Europe . Michigan was assigned to the Cruiser and Transport Force in late December 1918 to ferry American soldiers back from Europe . She made two round trips in 1919 during the operation , the first from 18 January to 3 March , and the second from 18 March to 16 April . She brought back 1 @,@ 062 men between the two voyages .

= = = Post @-@ war period = = =

In May , Michigan was sent to Philadelphia for an overhaul that lasted through June . She thereafter returned to her peacetime training routine . On 6 August , she was reduced to limited commission and stationed at the Philadelphia Navy Yard . On 19 May 1920 , she steamed to Annapolis to pick up a contingent of midshipmen for a major training cruise . After departing Annapolis , the ship steamed south and transited the Panama Canal before proceeding to Honolulu , Hawaii , where she arrived on 3 July . Michigan visited several naval bases on the west coast of the United States through the summer , before returning to Annapolis on 2 September . Three days later , she was

back in Philadelphia , where she was temporarily decommissioned .

Michigan was reactivated in 1921 for another cruise to the Caribbean , departing on 4 April . She returned to Philadelphia on 23 April ; shortly thereafter , the ship became embroiled in a minor scandal . The ship 's commanding officer at the time , Clark Daniel Stearns , instituted a series of sailors ' committees on 3 May to ease tensions between officers and the crew . The commanders of the Atlantic Fleet and Michigan 's squadron decided that the committees were a threat to discipline and evidence of Marxist influences . They contacted the Edwin Denby , then the Secretary of the Navy , who relieved Stearns of command . On 28 May , she picked up another group of midshipmen for another training cruise . This voyage took the ship to Europe , with stops in a number of ports , including Christiana , Norway , Lisbon , Portugal , and Gibraltar . She returned to Hampton Roads via Guantanamo Bay on 22 August .

In the years immediately following the end of the Great 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 , Michigan and her sister South Carolina were to be scrapped . Michigan put to sea for the last time on 31 August , bound for the breaker 's yard in Philadelphia . She arrived there on 1 September and was decommissioned on 11 February 1923 . She was stricken from the Naval Vessel Register on 10 November and broken up for scrap the following year .