

= USS Delaware (BB @-@ 28) =

USS Delaware (BB @-@ 28) was a dreadnought battleship of the United States Navy , the lead ship of her class . She was laid down at Newport News Shipbuilding in November 1907 , launched in January 1909 , and completed in April 1910 . The sixth ship to be named for the First State , Delaware was armed with a main battery of ten 12 @-@ inch (305 mm) guns all on the centerline , making her the most powerful battleship in the world at the time of her construction . She was also the first battleship of the US Navy to be capable of steaming at full speed for 24 continuous hours without suffering a breakdown .

Delaware served in the Atlantic Fleet throughout her career . During World War I , she sailed to Great Britain to reinforce the British Grand Fleet , in the 6th Battle Squadron . She saw no action during the war , however , as both the British and Germans had abandoned direct confrontation with each other . After the end of the war , she returned to her peacetime duties of fleet maneuvers , midshipmen cruises , and good @-@ will visits to foreign ports . Under the terms of the Washington Naval Treaty , Delaware was retained until the new battleship USS Colorado was completed in 1924 , at which point she was broken up for scrap in accordance with the treaty .

= = Design = =

Delaware 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 . Her bow had an early example of bulbous forefoot .

The ship was powered by two @-@ shaft vertical triple @-@ expansion engines rated at 25 @,@ 000 shp (18 @,@ 642 kW) and fourteen coal @-@ fired Babcock & Wilcox boilers , generating a top speed of 21 kn (24 mph ; 39 km / h) . The ship had a cruising range of 6 @,@ 000 nmi (11 @,@ 000 km ; 6 @,@ 900 mi) at a speed of 10 kn (12 mph ; 19 km / h) . Also , because Delaware 's engine bearings were equipped with forced lubrication instead of a gravity @-@ fed system , she was the first American battleship capable of steaming at full speed for 24 hours without any need for engine repair . She had a crew of 933 officers and men .

The ship was armed with a main battery of ten 12 @-@ inch / 45 caliber 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 caliber 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 . At the time of her construction , Delaware was the largest and most powerful battleship then building in the world .

= = Service history = =

Delaware was built by Newport News Shipbuilding ; she was laid down on 11 November 1907 , and launched on 6 January 1909 . After completion of the fitting @-@ out work , the ship was commissioned into the US Navy on 4 April 1910 . On 3 October , she steamed to Wilmington , Delaware , where she received a set of silver service from her namesake state . The battleship then returned to Hampton Roads on the 9th , and remained there until she left to join the First Division , Atlantic Fleet , on 1 November . She and the rest of the division visited England and France , and then conducted maneuvers off Cuba in January 1911 . On 17 January , a boiler explosion aboard Delaware killed eight men and badly scalded another . On 31 January , the ship carried the remains of Anibal Cruz , the Chilean ambassador to the United States , back to Chile . She steamed by way of Rio de Janeiro , Brazil , around the tip of South America , to Punta Arenas , Chile . She returned

to New York City on 5 May , and then left for Portsmouth on 4 June to participate in the coronation fleet review for King George V.

Throughout the next five years , Delaware participated in the normal peacetime routine of fleet and squadron maneuvers , gunnery drills , and torpedo practice in the Atlantic Fleet . During the summer months , she conducted training cruises for midshipmen from the Naval Academy . She was present in the Naval Review of 14 October 1912 , attended by President William Howard Taft and the Secretary of the Navy George von Lengerke Meyer . In 1913 , she conducted a good @-@ will visit to Villefranche , France , along with the battleships Wyoming and Utah . She participated in the intervention in Mexico at Veracruz during the Mexican Revolution , to protect American citizens in the area .

= = = World War I = = =

Following the American entrance into World War I on 6 April 1917 , Delaware had recently returned to Hampton Roads from fleet maneuvers in the Caribbean Sea . There , she trained new armed guard crews and engine room personnel as the Atlantic Fleet prepared to go to war . On 25 November 1917 , she sailed with the rest of Battleship Division 9 , bound for Britain to reinforce the Grand Fleet in the North Sea . Once in Scapa Flow , the division joined the Grand Fleet as the 6th Battle Squadron . The 6th Battle Squadron was tasked with serving as the " fast wing " of the Grand Fleet . On 14 December , Delaware participated in joint Anglo @-@ American maneuvers to practice coordination of the Allied fleet .

Starting in late 1917 , the Germans had begun to use surface raiders to attack the British convoys to Scandinavia ; this forced the British to send squadrons from the Grand Fleet to escort the convoys . On 6 February 1918 , the 6th Battle Squadron and eight British destroyers escorted a convoy of merchant ships to Norway . While steaming off Stavanger on the 8th , Delaware was attacked twice by a German U @-@ boat , though evasive maneuvers allowed Delaware to escape undamaged . The squadron was back in Scapa Flow on 10 February ; Delaware escorted two more such convoys in March and April . On 22 ? 24 April , the German High Seas Fleet sortied to intercept one of the convoys in the hope of cutting off and destroying the escorting battleship squadron . Delaware and the rest of the Grand Fleet left Scapa Flow on 24 April in an attempt to intercept the Germans , but the High Seas Fleet had already broken off the operation and returned to port .

Starting on 30 June , the 6th Battle Squadron and a division of British destroyers covered a group of American minelayers as they laid the North Sea mine barrage ; the work lasted until 2 July . King George V inspected the Grand Fleet , including Delaware , at Rosyth . Thereafter , Delaware was relieved by the battleship Arkansas ; Delaware then sailed across the Atlantic , arriving in Hampton Roads on 12 August .

= = = Post @-@ war = = =

Delaware remained at York River until 12 November 1918 , the day after the Armistice with Germany was signed , effectively ending World War I. She then sailed to Boston Navy Yard for an overhaul . Delaware rejoined the fleet on 11 March 1919 for training maneuvers off Cuba . She returned to New York with her division on 14 April , where additional divisional , squadron , and fleet exercises were conducted . She was present for another Naval Review on 28 April 1921 in Hampton Roads . From 5 June to 31 August 1922 , Delaware conducted a training cruise for midshipmen to various ports in the Caribbean along with to Halifax , Nova Scotia . She went on another cruise to Europe from 9 July to 29 August 1923 , and visited Copenhagen , Greenock , Cádiz , and Gibraltar .

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 , Delaware and her sister North Dakota were to be scrapped as soon as the new battleships Colorado and West Virginia , then under construction , were ready to join the fleet . On 30 August 1923 , Delaware accordingly entered dry dock in the Norfolk Navy Yard ; her crew was transferred to the recently commissioned Colorado , and the process of disposal began . Delaware was transferred to the Boston Navy Yard , decommissioned on 10 November , and disarmed . She was then sold on 5 February 1924 and subsequently broken up for scrap .