

= HMS Revenge ( 1892 ) =

HMS Revenge was one of seven Royal Sovereign class pre dreadnought battleships built for the Royal Navy during the 1890s . She spent much of her early career as a flagship for the Flying Squadron and in the Mediterranean , Home and Channel Fleets . Revenge was assigned to the International Squadron blockading Crete during the revolt there against the Ottoman Empire . She was placed in reserve upon her return home in 1900 , and was then briefly assigned as a coast guard ship before she joined the Home Fleet in 1902 . The ship became a gunnery training ship in 1906 until she was paid off in 1913 .

Revenge was recommissioned the following year , after the start of World War I , to bombard the coast of Flanders as part of the Dover Patrol , during which she was hit four times , but was not seriously damaged . She had anti torpedo bulges fitted in early 1915 , the first ship to be fitted with them operationally . The ship was renamed Redoubtable later that year and was refitted as an accommodation ship by the end of the year . The last surviving member of her class , the ship was sold for scrap in November 1919 .

= = Design and description = =

The design of the Royal Sovereign class ships was derived from that of the Admiral class ironclad battleships , greatly enlarged to improve seakeeping and to provide space for a secondary armament as in the preceding Trafalgar class ironclad battleships . The ships displaced 14,150 long tons ( 14,380 t ) at normal load and 15,580 long tons ( 15,830 t ) at deep load . They had a length between perpendiculars of 380 feet ( 115.8 m ) and an overall length of 410 feet 6 inches ( 125.1 m ) , a beam of 75 feet ( 22.9 m ) , and a draught of 27 feet 6 inches ( 8.4 m ) . As a flagship , Revenge 's crew consisted of 695 officers and ratings in 1903 .

The Royal Sovereigns were powered by a pair of three cylinder , vertical triple expansion steam engines , each driving one shaft . Their Humphrys & Tennant engines were designed to produce a total of 11,000 indicated horsepower ( 8,200 kW ) and a maximum speed of 17.5 knots ( 32.4 km / h ; 20.1 mph ) using steam provided by eight cylindrical boilers with forced draught . The ships carried a maximum of 1,420 long tons ( 1,443 t ) of coal which gave them a range of 4,720 nautical miles ( 8,740 km ; 5,430 mi ) at a speed of 10 knots ( 19 km / h ; 12 mph ) .

Their main armament consisted of four breech loading ( BL ) 13.5 inch ( 343 mm ) guns mounted in two twin gun barbettes , one each fore and aft of the superstructure . Each gun was provided with 80 rounds . Their secondary armament consisted of ten quick firing ( QF ) 6 inch ( 152 mm ) guns . 200 rounds per gun were carried by the ships . Sixteen QF 6 pounder ( 2.2 in ( 57 mm ) ) and a dozen QF 3 pounder ( 1.9 in ( 47 mm ) ) Hotchkiss guns were fitted for defence against torpedo boats . The two 3 pounders in the upper fighting top were removed in 1903-04 , and all of the remaining light guns from the lower fighting tops and main deck followed in 1905-09 . The Royal Sovereign class ships mounted seven 14 inch ( 356 mm ) torpedo tubes , although Revenge had four of hers removed in 1902 .

The Royal Sovereigns ' armour scheme was similar to that of the Trafalgars , as the waterline belt of compound armour only protected the area between the barbettes . The 14-18 inch ( 356-457 mm ) belt and transverse bulkheads 14-16 inches ( 356-406 mm ) thick closed off the ends of the belt . Above the belt was a strake of 4 inch ( 102 mm ) nickel steel armour closed off by 3 inch ( 76 mm ) transverse bulkheads .

The barbettes were protected by compound armour , ranging in thickness from 11 to 17 inches ( 279 to 432 mm ) and the casemates for the 6 inch guns had a thickness equal to their diameter . The thicknesses of the armour deck ranged from 2.5 to 3 inches ( 64 to 76 mm ) . The walls of the forward conning tower were 12-14 inches ( 305-356 mm ) thick and the aft conning tower was protected by 3 inch plates .

= = Construction and career = =

Revenge was the ninth ship of her name to serve in the Royal Navy and was ordered under the Naval Defence Act Programme of 1889 . The ship was laid down by Palmers Shipbuilding and Iron Company at their shipyard in Jarrow in Tyne and Wear , England , on 12 February 1891 . She was floated out of the drydock on 3 November 1892 , and completed on 22 March 1894 at a cost of £ 954 @, @ 825 . Upon completion , Revenge was placed in reserve at Portsmouth . Almost two years later , she mobilised there on 14 January 1896 as flagship of the Particular Service Squadron , soon renamed the Flying Squadron , which was formed in response to rising tensions in Europe following the Jameson Raid and Germany 's Kaiser Wilhelm II 's telegram of support to the Boer government . The squadron was briefly attached to the Mediterranean Fleet in the middle of the year . When it was disbanded on 5 November , Revenge relieved the battleship Trafalgar as the flagship of the second @-@ in @-@ command of the Mediterranean Fleet .

From February 1897 to December 1898 , Revenge served in the International Squadron blockading Crete during the uprising there that led to the establishment of the Cretan State . During this time , she landed a force of Royal Marines on Crete to seize Fort Tzeddin , and , in September 1898 , she went to Candia to support the British garrison there after it had been attacked by rebels . Sometime in 1899 , she had a cordite explosion in one of her six @-@ inch magazines due to spontaneous combustion , but the damage was not very severe because only three cartridges detonated . In April 1900 , the battleship Victorious replaced her and she returned home , paying off into Fleet Reserve at Chatham Dockyard . During this time the ship had a wireless telegraph installed . On 18 April 1901 , Revenge was recommissioned at Chatham by Captain Frederic Fisher to relieve Alexandra as both the coast guard ship at Portland and the flagship of Rear @-@ Admiral Sir Gerard Noel , Admiral Superintendent of Naval Reserves . In March 1902 , she arrived at Portsmouth for a refit that included the provision of casemates for her upper @-@ deck six @-@ inch guns , and her crew was temporarily transferred to the elderly ironclad Hercules which also took on her duties at Portland . Captain Fisher and his crew were back on board in early June , following gun trials after the repairs . After the refit , she commissioned in October 1902 to serve as flagship of the Home Squadron upon its creation .

In April 1904 , Revenge and her sister ship Royal Oak both struck a submerged wreck off the Scilly Isles while serving with the Home Fleet , damaging their bottoms . In July 1905 , the ship participated in maneuvers with the Reserve Fleet and was then transferred to the Portsmouth Reserve Division on 1 September . In June 1906 , she relieved the battleship Colossus as the gunnery training ship at Portsmouth and was assigned to the gunnery school HMS Excellent . On 13 June 1908 , Revenge was struck by the merchant ship SS Bengore Head when the latter was cut loose by her tugboat during a sudden squall in Portsmouth Harbour . In October 1909 , she conducted gunnery tests on the obsolete battleship Edinburgh to evaluate the effects of shells against varying thicknesses of armour . On 7 January 1912 , the ship was badly damaged when , during a gale at Portsmouth , she broke loose from her moorings and drifted onto the bow of the dreadnought Orion . Later that year , her guns were relined down to 10 inches ( 250 mm ) for testing and the liners were removed in October . Revenge was relieved as a gunnery training ship by the battleship Albemarle and paid off on 15 May 1913 . She was laid up at Motherbank , awaiting disposal .

= = = World War I = = =

Revenge was given a reprieve from the scrapyard by the outbreak of World War I in August 1914 . The Admiralty decided to bring her back into service for use in coastal bombardment duties off the coast of Flanders . In September ? October , she was refitted at Portsmouth for this mission , which included relining her 13 @. @ 5 @-@ inch guns down to 12 inches ( 305 mm ) , improving their range by about one thousand yards ( 910 m ) . Her refit completed , she was ordered on 31 October 1914 to stand by to relieve the battleship Venerable as flagship of the Dover Patrol . Revenge was

declared ready for service on 5 November , and was assigned to the Channel Fleet 's new 6th Battle Squadron with the battleships Albemarle , Cornwallis , Duncan , Exmouth and Russell . Plans for the squadron to participate in an attack on German submarine bases were cancelled due to bad weather on 14 November , and instead Revenge and the battleship Majestic departed Dover , England , for Dunkirk , France .

Revenge participated in her first action of the war when she joined the gunboat Bustard , six British and four French destroyers , and a French torpedo boat in bombarding German troops from off Nieuwpoort , Belgium , on 22 November . On 15 ? 16 December , Revenge bombarded German heavy artillery batteries , during which time she received two 8 @-@ inch ( 203 mm ) shell hits , one of which penetrated her hull below the waterline and caused her to be withdrawn for repairs . In early 1915 , the ship participated in experiments using aircraft to observe and control her gunfire , but these were only partially successful . In April ? May she underwent a refit at Chatham Dockyard in which she had anti @-@ torpedo bulges fitted . Afterwards , Revenge conducted trials using sea @-@ based observers on off @-@ shore platforms to direct the bombardment . On 2 August , she was renamed Redoubtable .

On 7 September , she returned to combat , joining the gunboats Bustard and Excellent in bombarding German barracks and gun positions at Westende , inflicting much damage on the Germans . One of her anti @-@ torpedo bulges was deliberately flooded to give her a list that would increase the range of her guns . The ship was hit by a pair of six @-@ inch shells during the action . Redoubtable underwent another refit from October to December 1915 . Afterwards , she was not recommissioned , instead serving as an accommodation ship at Portsmouth until February 1919 . She was sold to Thomas W. Ward Ltd for £ 42 @,@ 750 on 6 November 1919 , and subsequently broken up at Swansea and Briton Ferry .

= = External sources = =

The Dreadnought Project has a list of commanders