

= USS New Hampshire ( BB @-@ 25 ) =

New Hampshire ( BB @-@ 25 ) was the sixth and final Connecticut @-@ class pre @-@ dreadnought battleship , the last vessel of that type built for the United States Navy . Like most contemporary battleships , she was armed with an offensive armament that consisted of four large @-@ caliber 12 @-@ inch ( 300 mm ) guns and several medium @-@ caliber 7 and 8 @-@ inch ( 178 and 203 mm ) guns . The ship was laid down in May 1905 , launched in June 1906 , and commissioned in March 1908 , a little over a year after the revolutionary all @-@ big @-@ gun HMS Dreadnought rendered ships like New Hampshire obsolescent .

Despite being rapidly surpassed by new American dreadnoughts , New Hampshire had an active career . She made two trips to Europe in 1910 and 1911 , and she sank the old battleship USS Texas , which had been converted into a target ship . New Hampshire was particularly active in the Caribbean during this period , as several countries , including Haiti , the Dominican Republic , and Mexico devolved into internal political conflicts . These actions included the United States occupation of Veracruz , during which the ship 's commander was awarded the Medal of Honor .

After the United States entered World War I in April 1917 , the ship was used primarily to train gunners and engine room personnel , as the US Navy had expanded significantly to combat the German U @-@ boat campaign . She escorted convoys in late 1918 , and after the war ended she took part in the effort to bring American soldiers back from France . New Hampshire remained in service for only a few years after the war , as the 1922 Washington Naval Treaty significantly reduced the navies of the signatories ; as a result , the ship was sold for scrap in November 1923 .

= = Design = =

New Hampshire was 456 ft 4 in ( 139 m ) long overall and had a beam of 76 ft 10 in ( 23 m ) and a draft of 24 ft 6 in ( 7 m ) . She displaced 16 @,@ 000 long tons ( 16 @,@ 000 t ) as designed and up to 17 @,@ 666 long tons ( 17 @,@ 949 t ) at full load . The ship was powered by two @-@ shaft triple @-@ expansion steam engines rated at 16 @,@ 500 indicated horsepower ( 12 @,@ 300 kW ) and twelve coal @-@ fired Babcock & Wilcox boilers , generating a top speed of 18 knots ( 33 km / h ; 21 mph ) . As built , she was fitted with heavy military masts , but these were quickly replaced by lattice masts in 1909 . She had a crew of 827 officers and men , though this increased to 881 and later to 896 .

The ship was armed with a main battery of four 12 inch / 45 Mark 5 guns in two twin gun turrets on the centerline , one forward and aft . The secondary battery consisted of eight 8 @-@ inch ( 203 mm ) / 45 guns and twelve 7 @-@ inch ( 178 mm ) / 45 guns . The 8 @-@ inch guns were mounted in four twin turrets amidships and the 7 @-@ inch guns were placed in casemates in the hull . For close @-@ range defense against torpedo boats , she carried twenty 3 @-@ inch ( 76 mm ) / 50 guns mounted in casemates along the side of the hull and twelve 3 @-@ pounder guns . She also carried four 37 mm ( 1 @.@ 5 in ) 1 @-@ pounder guns . As was standard for capital ships of the period , New Hampshire carried four 21 in ( 530 mm ) torpedo tubes , submerged in her hull on the broadside .

New Hampshire 's main armored belt was 11 in ( 279 mm ) thick over the magazines and the machinery spaces and 6 in ( 152 mm ) elsewhere . The main battery gun turrets had 12 @-@ inch ( 305 mm ) thick faces , and the supporting barbettes had the 10 in ( 254 mm ) of armor plating . The secondary turrets had 7 in of frontal armor . The conning tower had 9 in ( 229 mm ) thick sides .

= = Service history = =

New Hampshire was laid down on 1 May 1905 at the New York Shipbuilding Corporation in Camden , New Jersey . She was launched on 30 June 1906 and was christened by Hazel McLane , the daughter of John McLane , then the Governor of New Hampshire . The ship was commissioned into the US Navy on 19 March 1908 ; her first commander was Captain Cameron Winslow . After completing final fitting @-@ out work , New Hampshire transported a Marine Expeditionary

Regiment to Colón , Panama on 20 June , arriving six days later . She then made a series of visits to ports on the eastern coast of North America , including Portsmouth , New York , and Bridgeport , along with a stop in the Canadian province of Quebec . The ship was then overhauled in New York , followed by training exercises in the Caribbean Sea . On 22 February 1909 , she participated in a Naval Review for President Theodore Roosevelt to greet the return of the Great White Fleet in Hampton Roads , Virginia . During this period , Ernest King , later the Chief of Naval Operations during World War II , served aboard the ship in the engine room .

New Hampshire conducted training exercises in the Atlantic and Caribbean through late 1910 . On 1 November that year , she steamed out of Hampton Roads with the Second Battleship Division for a visit to Europe . There , the ships stopped in Cherbourg , France and Weymouth , the United Kingdom . The Division departed Weymouth on 30 December and returned to the Caribbean for training , before proceeding to Norfolk on 10 March 1911 . On 21 ? 22 March , New Hampshire conducted gunnery training with the target ship San Marcos ? the old battleship Texas ? in Tangier Sound in Chesapeake Bay . Over the course of the two days of firing , New Hampshire inflicted severe damage to the old ship , sinking her in shallow water . A cursory inspection of the wreck noted that the interior of the ship above the waterline was destroyed and that she had been holed multiple times below the waterline .

She then prepared for another trip to Europe . This time the ships cruised into the Baltic Sea , stopping in several ports in Germany , Russia , and Scandinavia , before returning to New England on 13 July . New Hampshire spent the next three years training midshipmen on summer cruises and patrolling the Caribbean . In December 1912 , she steamed off the island of Hispaniola during unrest in both Haiti and the Dominican Republic . From 14 June to 29 December 1913 , she patrolled the Caribbean coast of Mexico during the Mexican Revolution . The following year , she took part in the occupation of Veracruz in Mexico , starting on 15 April . During the operations , the ship 's commander , Edwin Anderson , Jr . , led a landing party that came under fire from the Heroica Escuela Naval Militar academy ( Heroic Naval Military School ) , though gunfire from cruisers in the harbor silenced the Mexican snipers . Anderson and several others were awarded the Medal of Honor for the action . New Hampshire departed the area on 21 April for an overhaul in Norfolk . Exercises off the east coast of the United States followed before the ship returned to Veracruz in August 1915 .

= = = World War I = = =

The ship was back in Norfolk on 30 September and remained in American waters late 1916 . On 2 December , she steamed to Santo Domingo , the capital of the Dominican Republic , where the United States had instituted a military government under Rear Admiral Harry Knapp in an attempt to put an end to the political instability there . New Hampshire 's captain was involved in the government while the ship was in the country . In February 1917 , she returned to Norfolk for an overhaul ; this work was still ongoing when the United States declared war on Germany on 6 April . Over the course of the next eighteen months , the ship was occupied with training gunners and engine room personnel for the rapidly expanding wartime fleet . During training on 1 June 1918 , the crews for three of the 7 @-@ inch guns aboard New Hampshire accidentally began firing at one of the submarine chasers present ; they fired several salvos before they received the order to cease fire . One of the shells struck the nearby battleship USS Louisiana , killing one man and wounding several more . While the ships stopped to regain control of the situation , a lookout reported a periscope from a U @-@ boat ; New Hampshire and the battleship USS Ohio opened fire with their 6 @-@ inch guns to no effect . The submarine chasers could not find a U @-@ boat in the area .

In September 1918 , she was assigned to convoy escort duty , with the first such mission on 6 September . The ship departed with the battleship USS Kansas and the dreadnought USS South Carolina to protect a fast HX troopship convoy . On 16 September , the three battleships left the convoy in the Atlantic and steamed back to the United States , while other escorts brought the convoy into port . On the 17th , South Carolina 's starboard propeller fell off , which forced her to reduce speed to 11 knots ( 20 km / h ; 13 mph ) using only the port shaft . New Hampshire and

Kansas remained with South Carolina to escort her back to port . This duty did not last long , as the Germans signed the Armistice that ended the war on 11 November . On 24 December , New Hampshire began the first of four trips to bring soldiers back from the battlefields of Europe . On the first trip , she steamed with Louisiana , the two ships arriving in Brest , France on 5 January 1919 . Between the two of them , they returned 2 @, @ 169 men , including eight civilians .

= = = Postwar career = = =

By 1919 , the ship had had all of her 7 @-@ inch guns and eight of the 3 @-@ inch guns removed , and a pair of 3 @-@ inch anti @-@ aircraft guns had been installed . On 22 June 1919 , the ship went into drydock in Philadelphia for an overhaul . A year later , on 5 June 1920 , she began a training cruise for midshipmen to the Pacific Ocean via the Panama Canal . The cruise took the ship to Hawaii and several cities on the western coast of the United States . She was back in Philadelphia by 11 September . From 18 October to 12 January 1921 , New Hampshire served as the flagship for a mission to Haiti . On 25 January she crossed the Atlantic to Europe for the final time to carry the remains of Wilhelm August Ferdinand Ekengren , the Swedish ambassador to the United States . She arrived in Stockholm on 14 February ; on the return voyage , she also stopped in Kiel , Germany , and Gravesend , United Kingdom . The ship reached Philadelphia on 24 March , where she was decommissioned on 21 May . According to the terms of the Washington Naval Treaty , New Hampshire was sold on 1 November 1923 and subsequently broken up for scrap .