

= HMS Victorious (1895) =

HMS Victorious was one of nine Majestic class pre dreadnought battleships of the British Royal Navy . She was armed with a main battery of four 12 inch (300 mm) guns in two twin turrets , and was capable of a top speed of 16 knots (30 km / h ; 18 mph) . She served primarily on home waters , and participated in the Fleet Review for the Diamond Jubilee for Queen Victoria in 1897 . She served briefly in the Mediterranean in 1898 before being transferred to the China Station later that year ; Victorious remained in East Asian waters until 1900 , when she returned to the Mediterranean .

After returning to the United Kingdom in 1904 , Victorious served as the second flagship of the Channel Fleet . She remained in active service with the fleet in various units until 1908 , when she was modernized and then placed in reserve . At the outbreak of the First World War in August 1914 she was mobilized with three of her sister ships into the 9th Battle Squadron , though by January 1915 she was again withdrawn from front line service . In September her main guns were removed to arm a pair of monitors . Victorious was subsequently used as a repair ship . After the end of the war she was renamed Indus II ; plans to use her as a harbor ship were cancelled and , in April 1923 , she was sold for scrap .

= = Design = =

Victorious was laid down at the Chatham Dockyard on 28 May 1894 , launched on 19 October 1895 ? after which fitting out work commenced . She was commissioned into the Royal Navy about a year later , on 4 November 1896 . The ship was 421 feet (128 m) long overall and had a beam of 75 ft (23 m) and a draft of 27 ft (8 @. 2 m) . She displaced up to 16 @, 060 t (15 @, 810 long tons ; 17 @, 700 short tons) at full combat load . Her propulsion system consisted of two 3 @- cylinder triple expansion engines powered by eight coal @- fired cylindrical boilers . By 1907 ? 1908 she was re @- boilered with oil @- fired models . Her engines provided a top speed of 16 knots (30 km / h ; 18 mph) at 10 @, 000 indicated horsepower (7 @, 500 kW) . The Majestics were considered good seaboats with an easy roll and good steamers , although they suffered from high fuel consumption . She had a crew of 672 officers and enlisted men .

The ship was armed with four BL 12 @- inch Mk VIII guns in twin turrets , one forward and one aft . The turrets were placed on pear @- shaped barbettes ; six of her sisters had the same arrangement , but her sisters Caesar and Illustrious and all future British battleship classes had circular barbettes . Victorious also carried twelve QF 6 @- inch / 40 guns . They were mounted in casemates in two gun decks amidships . She also carried sixteen QF 12 @- pounder guns and twelve QF 2 @- pounder guns . She was also equipped with five 18 in (460 mm) torpedo tubes , four of which were submerged in the ship 's hull , with the last in a deck @- mounted launcher . Victorious and the other ships of her class had 9 inches (229 mm) of Harvey armour , which allowed equal protection with less cost in weight compared to previous types of armour . This allowed Victorious and her sisters to have a deeper and lighter belt than previous battleships without any loss in protection . The barbettes for the main battery were protected with 14 in (360 mm) of armor , while the conning tower had the same thickness of steel on the sides . The ship 's armored deck was 2 @. 5 to 4 @. 5 in (64 to 114 mm) thick .

= = Operational history = =

HMS Victorious was commissioned on 4 November 1896 for service in the Fleet Reserve at Chatham Dockyard . On 8 June 1897 she went into full commission for service in the Mediterranean Fleet . Before leaving the United Kingdom , she was present at the Fleet Review at Spithead for the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria on 26 June 1897 . She moved to the Mediterranean where she relieved the battleship Anson . In February 1898 Victorious was detached from the Mediterranean Fleet for service on the China Station . On 16 February she ran hard aground while entering the harbor at Port Said en route to China . Several tugs attempted to free her but were unable ; pump

dredgers were needed to shift the sediment around the hull to get her free . She was successfully refloated on 18 February . In 1900 , she returned to the Mediterranean and underwent a refit at Malta . Her Mediterranean service over , Victorious was paid off at Chatham on 8 August 1903 and began a refit there that lasted until February 1904 .

Victorious was recommissioned at Devonport on 2 February 1904 to serve as second flagship of the Channel Fleet . On 14 July 1904 the torpedo boat TB 113 rammed her at Hamoaze , slightly damaging her . When under a reorganization on 1 January 1905 , the Channel Fleet became the new Atlantic Fleet , and Victorious became an Atlantic Fleet unit . Captain Robert Falcon Scott , the Antarctic explorer , served as her Captain , acting as Flag Captain to Rear @-@ Admiral George Egerton aboard her , for a period in 1906 . Her Atlantic Fleet service ended when she paid off at Devonport on 31 December 1906 . On 1 January 1907 Victorious was recommissioned to serve at the Nore as part of the Nore Division of the new Home Fleet . She underwent a refit at Chatham in 1908 in which she was converted to burn fuel oil and had main battery fire control and radio installed . She was reduced to a nucleus crew , in commission in reserve , in March 1909 . Victorious was transferred to the Devonport Division , Home Fleet , in January 1911 , and to the 3rd Fleet in May 1912 . She damaged her sternwalk in a collision with her sister ship Majestic in fog on 14 July 1912 and began a short refit at Chatham in December 1913 .

= = = World War I = = =

In July 1914 the Royal Navy began a precautionary mobilization as war began to seem imminent . As part of this , Victorious and her sister ships Hannibal , Mars , and Magnificent , formed the 9th Battle Squadron on 27 July 1914 , stationed at the Humber to defend the British coast ; Victorious remained there as guard ship after the 9th Battle Squadron was dissolved on 7 August 1914 . In December 1914 she transferred to the Tyne to serve as guard ship there . On 4 January 1915 Victorious paid off at Elswick . The Majestic @-@ class ships were by then the oldest and least effective battleships in service in the Royal Navy ; Victorious was laid up on the Tyne February until September 1915 and her 12 @-@ inch (305 @-@ mm) guns were removed for use aboard the new Lord Clive @-@ class monitors Prince Rupert and General Wolfe . Between September 1915 and February 1916 , Palmers converted her into a repair ship at Jarrow .

The converted Victorious was commissioned as a repair ship on 22 February 1916 and arrived at Scapa Flow to replace the converted merchant ship Caribbean , which had been lost in September 1915 , as repair ship for the Grand Fleet . Victorious performed this role there until March 1920 when she was renamed Indus II and transferred to Devonport for a refit to prepare her for service with the Indus Establishment . She arrived at Devonport on 28 March 1920 and paid off into a care and maintenance status while she awaited the beginning of her refit . Plans for the refit , however , were cancelled ; work began to convert her into a harbor depot ship but , in April 1922 , that conversion was cancelled before it could be completed and she was placed on the disposal list that month . Indus II was sold for scrapping on 19 December 1922 , but the sale was cancelled on 1 March 1923 . She was again sold on 9 April 1923 and was towed from Devonport to Dover to be scrapped .