

= USS Minnesota (BB @-@ 22) =

USS Minnesota (BB @-@ 22) , the fifth of six Connecticut @-@ class pre @-@ dreadnought battleships , was the second ship of the United States Navy in honor of the 32nd state . She was laid down at the Newport News Shipbuilding Company of Newport News , Virginia in October 1903 , launched in April 1905 , and commissioned into the US fleet in March 1907 , just four months after the revolutionary British battleship HMS Dreadnought entered service . Minnesota was armed with a main battery of four 12 @-@ inch (300 mm) guns and a secondary battery of twenty 7 and 8 in (178 and 203 mm) guns , unlike Dreadnought , which carried an all @-@ big @-@ gun armament that rendered ships like Minnesota obsolescent .

Shortly after she entered service , Minnesota joined the Great White Fleet for its circumnavigation of the globe in 1908 ? 09 . The years from 1909 to 1912 were uneventful , but thereafter the ship began to become involved in conflicts in the Caribbean . She supported efforts to put down an insurrection in Cuba in 1912 and patrolled the coast of Mexico in 1913 ? 14 during the Mexican Revolution . In 1916 , the ship was placed in reserve , though she quickly returned to service when the United States entered World War I in April 1917 . During the war , she trained naval personnel ; while cruising off the eastern coast of the United States in September 1918 , she struck a naval mine laid by a German U @-@ boat . The extensive damage required lengthy repairs that kept her out of service for the rest of the war . She helped to return American soldiers from Europe in 1919 before resuming her training ship duties in 1920 ? 21 , before being decommissioned in December 1921 and broken up for scrap at the Philadelphia Navy Yard in 1924 .

= = Design = =

Minnesota was 456 @. @ 3 ft (139 @. @ 1 m) long overall and had a beam of 76 @. @ 9 ft (23 @. @ 4 m) and a draft of 24 @. @ 5 ft (7 @. @ 5 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 , Minnesota carried four 21 in (530 mm) torpedo tubes , submerged in her hull on the broadside .

Minnesota '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 (300 mm) thick faces , and the supporting barbettes had the 10 in (250 mm) of armor plating . The secondary turrets had 7 in (180 mm) of frontal armor . The conning tower had 9 in (230 mm) thick sides .

= = Service history = =

The keel for Minnesota was laid down at the Newport News Shipbuilding Company of Newport News , Virginia on 27 October 1903 . The completed hull was launched on 8 April 1905 ; at the launching ceremony she was christened by Rose Marie Schaller , the daughter of a member of the Minnesota Senate . The ship was commissioned into the US Navy on 9 March 1907 , with Captain John Hubbard as her first commanding officer . The ship then conducted a shakedown cruise off the

coast of New England before attending the Jamestown Exposition , the commemoration of the 300th anniversary of the Jamestown colony , the first permanent English settlement in the Americas . She was present at the ceremony from 22 April to 3 September .

On 16 December , Minnesota steamed out of Hampton Roads with the Great White Fleet for a circumnavigation of the globe . The cruise was intended as a show of force to Japan , the United States ' rival in the Pacific , to assert the United States ' status as a global naval power , and to convince Congress of the need to support increased naval expenditures . The fleet cruised south to the Caribbean and then to South America , making stops in Port of Spain , Rio de Janeiro , Punta Arenas , and Valparaíso , among other cities . After arriving in Mexico in March 1908 , the fleet spent three weeks conducting gunnery practice . The fleet then resumed its voyage up the Pacific coast of the Americas , stopping in San Francisco and Seattle before crossing the Pacific to Australia , stopping in Hawaii on the way . Stops in the South Pacific included Melbourne , Sydney , and Auckland .

The fleet then turned north for the Philippines , stopping in Manila , before continuing on to Japan where a welcoming ceremony was held in Yokohama . Three weeks of exercises followed in Subic Bay in the Philippines in November . The ships passed Singapore on 6 December and entered the Indian Ocean ; they coaled in Colombo before proceeding to the Suez Canal and coaling again at Port Said , Egypt . The fleet called in several Mediterranean ports before stopping in Gibraltar , where an international fleet of British , Russian , French , and Dutch warships greeted the Americans . The ships then crossed the Atlantic to return to Hampton Roads on 22 February 1909 , having traveled 46 @, @ 729 nautical miles (86 @, @ 542 km ; 53 @, @ 775 mi) . There , they conducted a naval review for President Theodore Roosevelt .

Upon her return , Minnesota was assigned to the Atlantic Fleet . She spent the following three years on the eastern coast of the United States conducting a peacetime routine of training cruises , apart from one voyage to the English Channel . Starting in 1912 , the ship began to operate in the Caribbean , particularly after unrest began to break out in several countries in the region . For the first six months of 1912 , she patrolled Cuban waters ; she went to the US base at Guantanamo Bay to support the suppression of an insurrection on the island from 7 to 22 June . In mid 1913 , she patrolled the eastern coast of Mexico during the Mexican Revolution . She returned in 1914 , with stints there from 26 January to 7 August and 11 October to 19 December . During the first period , the United States occupied Veracruz to protect US interests . In 1915 , Minnesota returned to the United States and resumed her previous routine of training exercises with occasional cruises to the Caribbean . In November 1916 , she was placed in reserve as the flagship of the Reserve Force , Atlantic Fleet .

Minnesota returned to active service after the United States declared war on Germany on 6 April 1917 , entering World War I. She was assigned to Division 4 of the Battleship Force , based at Tangier Sound in Chesapeake Bay . She spent the war as a training ship for gunners and engine room personnel . During this time , Vice Admiral Albert W. Grant , the commander of Battleship Force 1 , instituted a program to reinforce the bulkheads of the ships under his command . This improved their ability to absorb underwater damage and remain afloat . On 29 September 1918 , while cruising off Fenwick Island with the destroyer USS Israel , she struck a naval mine that had been laid by the U @-@ boat U @-@ 117 , which inflicted serious damage but caused no casualties . The explosion tore a gaping hole in the hull from frame 5 to frame 16 , and from the keel to the bottom edge of the armor belt . The bow flooded , but the repaired bulkheads prevented the flooding from spreading . Reduced to a speed of 10 knots (19 km / h ; 12 mph) , Minnesota made it back to the Philadelphia Navy Yard where repairs were effected . The work lasted for five months , by which time Germany had signed the Armistice that ended the war .

On 11 March 1919 , Minnesota returned to service with the Cruiser and Transport Force , making three trips to Brest , France to bring American soldiers back from the battlefields of Europe . In the course of the voyages , she brought back over 3 @, @ 000 men ; this duty ended on 23 July . The ship spent the next two years as a training ship for midshipmen from the US Naval Academy . She conducted two summer cruises in 1920 and 1921 before being decommissioned on 1 December 1921 . She was stricken from the Naval Vessel Register the same day and was sold for scrap on 23

January 1924 . Minnesota was thereafter broken up for scrap at the Philadelphia Navy Yard .