

= USS Montana (ACR @-@ 13) =

USS Montana (ACR @-@ 13 / CA @-@ 13) , also referred to as " Armored Cruiser No. 13 " , later renamed Missoula and reclassified CA @-@ 13 , was a Tennessee @-@ class armored cruiser of the United States Navy . She was built by the Newport News Drydock & Shipbuilding Co . ; her keel was laid down in April 1905 , she was launched in December 1906 , and she was commissioned in July 1908 . The final class of armored cruisers to be built for the US Navy , Montana and her sisters were armed with a main battery of four 10 @-@ inch (254 mm) guns , and were capable of a top speed of 22 knots (41 km / h ; 25 mph) .

Montana spent her active duty career in the Atlantic Fleet . She made two cruises to the Mediterranean Sea to protect American citizens in the Ottoman Empire , the first in 1909 in the aftermath of the Young Turk Revolution and the second during the Balkan Wars in 1913 . Montana was also involved in political unrest in Central American countries , sending landing parties ashore in Haiti and in Mexico during the Occupation of Veracruz , both in 1914 .

After the United States entered World War I in April 1917 , Montana was tasked with convoy escort and training ship duties . With the end of the war in November 1918 came a new task , transporting American soldiers back from the battlefields of Europe . She made six round trips to France and carried back a total of 8 @,@ 800 men . Montana was then transferred to the Puget Sound Naval Yard in Washington State , where she was decommissioned and renamed Missoula . She remained in the reserve fleet until 1930 , when she was stricken under the terms of the London Naval Treaty . The ship was eventually sold for scrap in 1935 and broken up .

= = Design = =

Montana was 504 ft 6 in (153 @.@ 77 m) long overall and had beam of 72 feet 10 inches (22 @.@ 20 m) and a draft of 25 ft (7 @.@ 6 m) . She displaced 14 @,@ 500 long tons (14 @,@ 700 t) normally and up to 15 @,@ 981 long tons (16 @,@ 237 t) at full load . The ship was propelled by two 4 @-@ cylinder , vertical triple @-@ expansion engines , with steam provided by sixteen coal @-@ fired Babcock & Wilcox water @-@ tube boilers trunked into four funnels . The engines were rated at 23 @,@ 000 indicated horsepower (17 @,@ 000 kW) , which produced a top speed of 22 knots (25 mph ; 41 km / h) . She had a storage capacity for up to 2 @,@ 000 long tons (2 @,@ 000 t) of coal , which allowed her to steam for 6 @,@ 500 nautical miles (12 @,@ 000 km ; 7 @,@ 500 mi) at a speed of 10 knots (19 km / h ; 12 mph) . She had a crew of 914 officers and men . Originally fitted with a pair of military masts , Montana had her foremast replaced with a cage mast in 1911 .

Montana was armed with a main battery of four 10 @-@ inch (254 mm) 40 @-@ caliber Mark 3 guns in two twin gun turrets , one forward and one aft . These were supported by a secondary battery of sixteen 6 @-@ inch (152 mm) 40 @-@ caliber Mark 8 guns mounted in casemates , eight on each broadside . For defense against torpedo boats , she carried twenty @-@ two 3 @-@ inch (76 mm) 50 @-@ caliber guns in single pedestal mounts either in casemates or sponsons in the hull . She also carried a variety of smaller guns , including twelve 3 @-@ pounder automatic guns and four 1 @-@ pounders . Like other contemporary armored cruisers , she was also armed with four 21 inches (533 mm) torpedo tubes located below the waterline in her hull . Montana was protected by a combination of Krupp cemented steel and older Harvey steel . The ship 's armored belt was 5 in (127 mm) thick and the maximum thickness of the armor deck was 3 in thick . The main battery turret faces were 9 in (229 mm) thick , as were the sides of the conning tower .

= = Service history = =

The keel for Montana was laid down at the Newport News Drydock & Shipbuilding Co. in Newport News on 29 April 1905 . Her completed hull was launched on 15 December 1906 , and after fitting @-@ out work was completed , the new cruiser was commissioned into the United States Navy on 21 July 1908 . She was assigned to the Atlantic Fleet and was transferred to Norfolk , Virginia .

Montana steamed out of Norfolk on 5 August for a cruise off the eastern coast of the United States that lasted until 25 January 1909 .

After a stop in Charleston , South Carolina , she continued south through the Caribbean Sea , arriving at Colón , Panama on 29 January . There , she joined the Special Service Squadron . This duty was interrupted twice ; the first came in February , when she returned to Hampton Roads , Virginia , where she and the rest of the Atlantic Fleet greeted the Great White Fleet at the conclusion of its circumnavigation of the globe . The second came in April , owing to instability in the Ottoman Empire following the Young Turk Revolution that threatened American interests . Montana departed Guantanamo Bay , Cuba , on 2 April , when she was sent to the Mediterranean to protect Americans in the region . She remained there until 23 July , when she left Gibraltar , arriving in Boston on 3 August . She thereafter returned to her normal operations patrolling the eastern coast of the United States .

Montana departed Hampton Roads on 8 April 1910 , bound for South America for the Argentina Centennial . She steamed in company with her sister ship North Carolina , eventually reaching Maldonado , Uruguay , where the two cruisers met their sister Tennessee and the armored cruiser South Dakota , which had steamed down independently . The four ships then continued on to Bahía Blanca , Argentina , for the centennial celebrations . The ship left Argentina on 30 June and arrived back in Hampton Roads on 22 July . After resuming her normal peacetime routine for the following three months , Montana was tasked with escorting President William Howard Taft aboard Tennessee for a trip to Panama . The two ships departed Charleston on 10 November for the visit , which lasted a week . On 26 July 1911 , Montana was transferred to the Atlantic Reserve Fleet and she began an overhaul at the Portsmouth Navy Yard that lasted until 11 November 1912 . During the overhaul , a cage mast was installed in place of her original fore military mast .

After returning to service in late 1912 , Montana made another trip to the eastern Mediterranean , departing in December . Montana again joined Tennessee for the patrol , which was ordered in response to the Balkan Wars between the Ottoman Empire and the Balkan League , which again threatened American interests in the region . The ships operated under the command of Rear Admiral Austin M. Knight . During the trip , which lasted until June 1913 , she made stops in Beirut , Iskenderun , and Mersin . After returning to the United States , the ship resumed her peacetime routine of training cruises off the American east coast , as well as cruises to Mexico , Cuba , and Haiti , over the following year . During this period , on 23 January 1914 , Montana was in Haiti when Michel Oreste abdicated from the presidency . Montana and the German protected cruiser SMS Vineta landed marines in Port-au-Prince to prevent rioting in the capital . Later that year , Montana took part in the United States occupation of Veracruz , where the ship's commander , Louis McCoy Nulton , led a landing party in the city during the occupation . Montana also carried the remains of the seventeen sailors and marines who had been killed in the fighting back to New York City , arriving on 10 May . There , the Navy held a ceremony attended by President Woodrow Wilson and Secretary of the Navy Josephus Daniels .

== = World War I = = =

After the United States entered World War I on 6 April 1917 , Montana initially was tasked with transporting men and materiel in the York River area , along with conducting training exercises . On 17 July , she was assigned to the Cruiser and Transport Force ; she spent the majority of 1917 and 1918 escorting convoys from Hampton Roads , New York City , and Halifax , Nova Scotia to France . These operations included a troopship convoy of four transports ? Finland , Henderson , Antilles , and San Jacinto ? carrying part of the American Expeditionary Forces on 6 August 1917 . In early 1918 , she was briefly used as a training ship for naval cadets from the United States Naval Academy in the Chesapeake Bay . A troopship convoy followed in June 1918 in company with the cruisers South Dakota and Huntington and the destroyers Gregory and Fairfax , protecting the Italian steamers Re d'Italia , Caserta , and Duca d'Aosta , the French Patria , and American transports Pocahontas and Susquehanna .

In September 1918 , Montana took part in another troopship convoy to France with the battleship

Georgia , the armored cruiser North Carolina , and the destroyer Rathburne . The convoy consisted of the transports Princess Matoika , President Grant , Mongolia , Rijndam , Wilhelmina , British steamer Ascanius . The following month she joined the battleship Nebraska to escort twelve British merchant ships bound for Liverpool . Following the Allied victory in November 1918 , Montana was sent to France to begin the process of transporting American soldiers back from Europe . By July 1919 , she had made six round trips between France and the United States , carrying a total of some 8 @, @ 800 American soldiers .

After the conclusion of the repatriation effort , Montana was transferred to the west coast of the United States . She arrived in the Puget Sound Navy Yard in Seattle on 16 August , where she remained until 2 February 1921 , when she was decommissioned . During this period of inactivity , she was renamed Missoula on 7 June 1920 so her original name could be used for one of the planned South Dakota @-@ class battleships , and she reclassified with the hull number CA @-@ 13 . Though decommissioned in 1921 , the ship remained in the Navy 's inventory until 15 July 1930 , when she was formally stricken from the naval register , according to the terms of the London Naval Treaty , which placed aggregate tonnage limits on the cruiser fleets of the signatory countries . She was sold to John Irwin Jr. on 29 September and was eventually broken up in 1935 .