

= HMS Hannibal (1896) =

HMS Hannibal was a Majestic class pre dreadnought battleship built for the Royal Navy , and the sixth ship to bear the name HMS Hannibal . The ship was laid down at the Pembroke Dock in May 1894 , she was launched in April 1896 , and commissioned into the fleet in April 1898 . She was armed with a main battery of four 12 inch (305 mm) guns and a secondary battery of twelve 6 inch (150 mm) guns . The ship had a top speed of 16 knots (30 km / h ; 18 mph) .

Hannibal served with the Channel Fleet (later reorganised to the Atlantic Fleet) after commissioning in 1898 . In 1906 she underwent a refit , which included a conversion from a coal burner to using oil . She was placed in reserve from 1907 , only to be mobilised in July 1914 as a precautionary measure prior to the outbreak of World War I. From August 1914 to February 1915 Hannibal was a guard ship at Scapa Flow . Later that year , her main armament was removed and she was converted to a troopship , serving in this capacity during the Dardanelles campaign . From November 1915 to the end of the war , she served as a depot ship based in Alexandria , Egypt . She was disposed of in 1920 and scrapped later that year .

= = Design = =

Hannibal was 421 feet (128 m) long overall and had a beam of 75 ft (23 m) and a draft of 27 ft (8 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 vertical triple expansion steam engines powered by eight coal fired cylindrical boilers . By 1907-08 , 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 (7,350 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 . Hannibal 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 inch (450 mm) torpedo tubes , four of which were submerged in the ship 's hull , with the last in a deck mounted launcher . Hannibal 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 Hannibal 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 armour , and the conning tower had the same thickness of steel on the sides . The ship 's armoured deck was 2.5 to 4.5 in (64 to 114 mm) thick .

= = Service history = =

The keel for HMS Hannibal was laid down at the Pembroke Dock on 1 May 1894 . Her completed hull was launched on 28 April 1896 . She went into the commissioned reserve upon completion in April 1898 . On 10 May 1898 she went into full commission to serve in the Portsmouth division of the Channel Fleet , under the command of Captain Sir Baldwin Wake Walker . She was part of a huge fleet of ships present in the Solent for the passage of the body of Queen Victoria from Cowes to Portsmouth on 2 February 1901 . Captain George Augustus Giffard was appointed in command on 10 May 1902 , and she was present at the Coronation Fleet Review for King Edward VII on 16 August 1902 . On 17 October 1903 she collided with and badly damaged her sister ship HMS Prince George off Ferrol , Spain . When a fleet reorganisation led to the Channel Fleet being redesignated the Atlantic Fleet on 1 January 1905 , Hannibal became an Atlantic Fleet unit . Hannibal transferred to the new Channel Fleet (formerly the Home Fleet) on 28 February 1905 . This service ended on 3

August 1905 , when she paid off into reserve at Devonport .

Hannibal underwent a refit in 1906 in which she was converted to burn oil fuel and received fire control for her main battery . She then recommissioned in reserve in October 1906 . In January 1907 , Hannibal went into full commission as a temporary replacement for battleship HMS Ocean in the Channel Fleet while Ocean was under refit . When Ocean returned to service , Hannibal remained in Channel Fleet service as a temporary replacement for battleship HMS Dominion while Dominion was undergoing refit . When Dominion returned to service in May 1907 , Hannibal went back into the commissioned reserve , becoming a part of the Portsmouth Division of the new Home Fleet in July 1907 . While in commissioned reserve at Portsmouth , Hannibal suffered two significant mishaps . On 19 August 1909 she struck a reef in Babbacombe Bay , damaging her bottom . On 29 October 1909 she collided with torpedo boat HMS TB 105 , suffering no damage herself but badly damaging the torpedo boat . She underwent a refit at Devonport from November 1911 to March 1912 .

The Royal Navy began a precautionary mobilisation in July 1914 when war appeared increasingly likely . As part of this , Hannibal and her sister ships HMS Mars , HMS Magnificent , and HMS Victorious formed the 9th Battle Squadron on 27 July 1914 , stationed at the Humber to defend the British coast . Hannibal was serving as a guard ship on the Humber when World War I began in August 1914 . The 9th Battle Squadron was dissolved on 7 August 1914 , and Hannibal was transferred to Scapa Flow , where she served as a guard ship until relieved by the first @-@ class protected cruiser HMS Royal Arthur on 20 February 1915 . Hannibal then paid off at Dalmuir .

The Majestic @-@ class ships were by then the oldest and least effective battleships in service in the Royal Navy . While inactive at Dalmuir , Hannibal was disarmed between March and April 1915 except for four 6 @-@ inch (152 @-@ mm) guns and some lighter guns . Her 12 @-@ inch (305 @-@ mm) guns were taken for use aboard the new Lord Clive @-@ class monitors HMS Prince Eugene and HMS Sir John Moore . After she was disarmed , she was laid up at Scapa Flow and Loch Goil until September 1915 . Hannibal recommissioned at Greenock on 9 September 1915 to serve as a troopship in the Dardanelles campaign . She arrived at Mudros in this capacity on 7 October 1915 . In November 1915 , Hannibal became a depot ship for auxiliary patrol craft at Alexandria , Egypt , supporting both forces operating from Egypt and those in the Red Sea until June 1919 , leaving Egypt for Malta on 9 September . Hannibal was paid off for disposal at Malta on 25 October 1919 , was sold for scrapping on the 28 January 1920 , and was broken up in Italy .

= = Endnotes = =