

= USS Wadsworth ( DD -60 ) =

USS Wadsworth ( Destroyer No. 60 / DD -60 ) was a Tucker -class destroyer built for the United States Navy prior to the American entry into World War I. The ship was the first U.S. Navy vessel named for Alexander Scammel Wadsworth .

Wadsworth was laid down by the Bath Iron Works of Bath , Maine , in February 1914 and launched in April 1915 . The ship was a little more than 315 feet ( 96 m ) in length , nearly 30 feet ( 9 @ 1 m ) abeam , and displaced 1 @, @ 060 long tons ( 1 @, @ 080 t ) . She was armed with four 4 @-inch ( 10 cm ) guns and had eight 21 @-inch ( 530 mm ) torpedo tubes . Wadsworth 's geared steam turbine power plant was a successful prototype that greatly influenced U.S. destroyer designs after 1915 .

After her July 1915 commissioning , Wadsworth served on the neutrality patrol off the east coast and in the Caribbean . After the United States entered World War I in April 1917 , Wadsworth was the flagship of the first U.S. destroyer squadron sent overseas . Patrolling the Irish Sea out of Queenstown , Ireland , Wadsworth reported several encounters with U @-boats in the first months overseas . She was transferred to Brest , France , in March 1918 , and spent the remainder of the war there .

Upon returning to the United State at the end of 1918 , Wadsworth underwent a five @-month overhaul . She served as a plane guard for the Navy 's transatlantic flight attempt by four Navy @-Curtiss flying boats in May . After two years in reduced commission in August , Wadsworth was reactivated in May 1921 . She was decommissioned in June 1922 , and spent nearly 14 years in reserve at the Philadelphia Navy Yard . She was struck from the Naval Vessel Register in January 1936 , sold in June , and scrapped in August .

= = Design and construction = =

Wadsworth was authorized in 1913 as a part of the Tucker class which , like the related O 'Brien class , was an improved version of the Cassin -class destroyers authorized in 1911 . Construction of the vessel was awarded to Bath Iron Works of Bath , Maine , which laid down her keel on 23 February 1914 . Fourteen months later , on 29 April 1915 , Wadsworth was launched by sponsor Juanita Doane Wells . The ship was named after Commodore Alexander Scammel Wadsworth ( 1790 ? 1851 ) , a U.S. Navy officer during the War of 1812 and later the Navy 's Inspector of Ordnance . As built , Wadsworth was 315 feet 3 inches ( 96 @. @ 09 m ) in length and 29 feet 9 inches ( 9 @. @ 07 m ) abeam and drew 9 feet 2 inches ( 2 @. @ 79 m ) . The ship had a standard displacement of 1 @, @ 060 long tons ( 1 @, @ 080 t ) and displaced 1 @, @ 205 long tons ( 1 @, @ 224 t ) when fully loaded .

Unlike the rest of the Tucker -class ships ? which had differing arrangements of steam turbines and reciprocating engines for cruising ? Wadsworth was designed with what became the main United States prototype installation of her two Curtis geared steam turbines . According to Conway 's All the World 's Fighting Ships , 1906 ? 1921 , the mechanical design for Wadsworth had a " considerable effect " on post @-1915 U.S. destroyer designs . As installed , the steam turbines could generate 17 @, @ 500 shaft horsepower ( 13 @, @ 000 kW ) and move the ship at speeds up to 29 @. @ 5 knots ( 54 @. @ 6 km / h ) , though Wadsworth reached a top speed of 30 @. @ 67 knots ( 56 @. @ 80 km / h ) during her trials .

Wadsworth 's main battery consisted of four 4 @-inch ( 100 mm ) / 50 Mark 9 guns , with each gun weighing in excess of 6 @, @ 100 pounds ( 2 @, @ 800 kg ) . The guns fired 33 @-pound ( 15 kg ) armor @-piercing projectiles at 2 @, @ 900 feet per second ( 880 m / s ) . At an elevation of 20 ° , the guns had a range of 15 @, @ 920 yards ( 14 @, @ 560 m ) .

Wadsworth was also equipped with eight 21 @-inch ( 533 mm ) torpedo tubes . The General Board of the United States Navy had called for two anti @-aircraft guns for the Tucker -class ships , as well as provisions for laying up to 36 floating mines . From sources , it is unclear if these recommendations were followed for Wadsworth or any of the Tucker ships .

= = Early career = =

USS Wadsworth was commissioned into the United States Navy at the Boston Navy Yard on 23 July 1915 under the command of Lieutenant Commander Joseph K. Taussig . After trials and torpedo firing drills out of Newport , Rhode Island , the destroyer took up duty off the New England coast line in October . Her duty included patrols to insure America 's neutrality vis @-@ a @-@ vis the year @-@ old European war . On 7 January 1916 , she departed Provincetown , Massachusetts , to join in the annual Fleet maneuvers in the Caribbean . After a stop at Norfolk , Virginia , she reached the West Indies at Culebra Island on 15 January and began a three @-@ month round of war games , drills , and exercises . During her stay in the Caribbean , she visited Guantanamo Bay , Guacanayabo Bay , Manzanillo , and Santiago ? all in Cuba . On 10 April , she left Guantanamo Bay to steam north , stopped at New York for a five @-@ week stay , and returned to Newport on 21 May . Wadsworth resumed operations along the New England coast , and the succeeding year passed in much the same way as had its predecessor ? summer operations along the northeastern coast followed by Fleet maneuvers in the Caribbean .

At the completion of her second round of winter Fleet maneuvers in the spring of 1917 , Wadsworth returned north as far as Hampton Roads . As America 's entry into World War I approached , she and her sister destroyers began patrolling the Norfolk ? Yorktown area to protect the naval bases and ships there against potential incursions by German submarines .

= = World War I = =

On 6 April 1917 , while Wadsworth was at anchor with the rest of the Fleet at Yorktown , the United States entered World War I. Wadsworth moved to New York almost immediately to prepare for the voyage to Europe and war service . On 24 April , she departed New York for Europe , as the flagship of Commander Joseph K. Taussig , commanding Division 8 , Destroyer Force , the first six @-@ ship destroyer division dispatched to United Kingdom . She led Porter , Davis , Conyngham , McDougal , and Wainwright into Queenstown , Ireland , on 4 May and began patrolling the southern approaches to the Irish Sea the next day .

Wadsworth 's first summer overseas proved to be the most eventful period of her wartime service . She sighted her first U @-@ boat on 18 May , less than two weeks after she began patrols out of Queenstown . Though the destroyer sped to the attack , the submarine dove and escaped . Three days later , Wadsworth picked up some survivors from HMS Paxton which had been torpedoed and sunk the preceding day . On 7 June , the destroyer caught a glimpse of another enemy submarine just before it submerged and escaped . Between 24 and 27 June , Wadsworth served as part of the escort for the first American troop convoy to reach Europe . Though she scored no definitely provable successes against German submarines , the destroyer made depth charge attacks on four separate occasions in July and a gunfire attack in one other instance . The first two depth @-@ charge attacks , on 10 and 11 July , returned no results whatsoever , and the gun attack on 20 July was similarly unrewarding . However , after sighting a double periscope the following day , Wadsworth made another depth @-@ charge attack . During that attack , one of the explosions seemed much stronger than those from the other charges she dropped . Moreover , a patch of reddish @-@ brown material rose to the surface . Although it seemed certain that the destroyer had damaged a submarine , no conclusive evidence was found to prove this possibility .

Wadsworth made her fourth depth charge attack on a U @-@ boat on 29 July . At about 17 : 25 , she dropped several charges in what appeared to be the wake of a submarine proceeding submerged . The conjecture that a U @-@ boat was damaged was supported by the appearance of a large amount of heavy oil on the surface following the attack . Just before 23 : 00 , the warship attacked another supposed submarine wake . It was too dark to evaluate the results ; but , not long thereafter , Trippe struck a submerged metallic object which caused her to list 10 ° temporarily . Later , Wadsworth 's wireless operator intercepted messages sent by a German submarine over a period of about half an hour which suggested that Wadsworth may have damaged a submarine , although as with the depth @-@ charge attack of 21 June , no definite proof was forthcoming . Early

in August , the destroyer concluded her summer of peak activity by escorting the first United States merchant convoy on the last leg of its voyage to Europe . During the mission , on the 16th , the destroyer dropped a barrage on what was thought to be a submarine .

For the remainder of the war , her encounters with the enemy were infrequent . In fact , her next submarine contact did not occur until 17 December and , like those before , resulted in no definite damage to the enemy . Although the opening months of 1918 brought no new U @-@ boat contacts , Wadsworth worked hard escorting convoys and patrolling British waters .

Early in March 1918 , she received a change in assignment . On the 4th , she arrived in Brest , France , whence she operated for the remainder of the war . During that assignment , she recorded only two scrapes with German submarines : the first on 1 June and the second on 25 October . In each case , she dropped depth charges , but could produce no solid proof of damage to the enemy . The war ended on 11 November 1918 when Germany accepted Allied armistice terms .

= = Later career = =

On 31 December 1918 , Wadsworth stood out of Brest to return to the United States and reached Boston , Massachusetts , on 9 January 1919 . Following an extended overhaul , she put to sea on 1 May to serve as one of the picket ships stationed at intervals across the ocean for the transatlantic flight of four Curtiss NC flying boats , one of which , NC @-@ 4 , successfully completed the feat . The destroyer returned home and operated on the east coast through the summer of 1919 . On 29 August , Wadsworth was placed in reduced commission at Philadelphia where she remained almost two years . On 9 May 1921 , the destroyer returned to active service along the east coast .

Just over a year later , on 3 June 1922 , Wadsworth was decommissioned at the Philadelphia Navy Yard . The ship remained in reserve there until 7 January 1936 when her name was struck from the Naval Vessel Register . She was sold for scrapping on 30 June 1936 and was broken up the following August .