



USS *Constitution* Statistics

USS *Constitution* was launched October 21, 1797 in Boston and first sailed on July 22, 1798 as one of the six frigates that began the new United States Navy. *Constitution* became “America’s Ship of State” in October, 2009 and is the oldest commissioned warship afloat in the world.

Constitution is remembered for her 33-0 engagement record including her three War of 1812 victories against the Royal Navy. Her first War of 1812 battle occurred on August 19th against HMS *Guerriere*. The defeat of *Guerriere* was the first frigate-to-frigate victory of the U.S. Navy over the Royal Navy (then the largest navy in the world). *Constitution* became “Old Ironsides” when an American sailor noticed that some of *Guerriere*’s shot failed to penetrate *Constitution*’s thick oak hull. “Huzza! Her sides are made of iron!”, the sailor purportedly exclaimed, and thus the nickname was born.

Statistics for USS *Constitution*:

Displacement: 1900+ tons

Length: 207’ (billethead to taffrail)

Beam: 43’ 6”

Draft: 22’ 6”

Mainmast Height: 210’ (bottom of keel to lightening rod, modern measurement)

Sail Area: 46-48 Sails = Over 1 acre of canvas

Speed (top): 13+ knots (~15 mph)

Armament (1812): Spar Deck: 24, 32-pound carronades, crew 4-8, range ~400 yards

1, 18-pound bow chaser

Gun Deck: 30, 24-pound long guns, crew 7-14, range ~1200 yards

Crew (1812): 450-500

Crew today: 65-70 active-duty U.S. Navy women and men

For more information, please visit: www.history.navy.mil/ussconstitution