

HISTORY OF SHIPS NAMED ST. LOUIS

USS ST. LOUIS (AKA-116), an attack cargo ship, is named for the County of St. Louis, Missouri, and the adjacent City of St. Louis. She is the sixth ship of the Fleet to bear the name.

The first ST. LOUIS was a sloop-of-war built by the Washington Navy Yard. Her construction commenced 12 February 1827 and she launched 18 August 1828. She had a length, between perpendiculars, of 127 feet; beam of 33 feet, 9 inches; tonnage, 700; draft, 16 feet; speed of 11 knots; and a complement of 125 officers and men. She was armed with twenty 24-pounder smooth bore guns. The sloop-of-war commissioned in the Washington Navy Yard 20 December 1828, Master Commandant John D. Sloat, USN, commanding.

ST. LOUIS departed the Washington Navy Yard 20 December 1828 for Norfolk. She sailed from there 14 February 1829 for Havana, Cuba, thence to Rio de Janeiro and around Cape Horn to arrive at Callao, Peru, 20 June 1829. A unit of the Pacific Squadron under Commodore Jacob Jones, she cruised the western seaboard of the Americas to help protect commercial trade and national interest until 8 September 1831 when she departed Callao for home. She returned off Sandy Hook, New Jersey, 9 December 1831 and was laid up in ordinary at New York 25 December 1831.

ST. LOUIS recommissioned 19 September 1832, Master Commandant John T. Newton, commanding. She got underway from New York 12 October 1832 to base at Pensacola, Florida, as a unit of the West Indies Squadron. The following six years were largely spent as flagship of the West Indies Squadron as she cruised throughout the Caribbean. She sailed from Havana 28 May 1838, arrived at New York 6 June, and was laid up in ordinary 1 July 1838.

ST. LOUIS recommissioned at New York 5 April 1839, Commander F. Forrest, commanding. On 30 June 1839 she sailed to join the Pacific Squadron. She called at Rio de Janeiro 27 August-9 September, then rounded Cape Horn to base at Valparaiso before proceeding north for Monterey, California. She arrived at Monterey 14 June 1840. While there, Commander Forrest interceded to free foreign residents who had been imprisoned by the California government. ST. LOUIS had the distinction of being the first United States man-of-war to carry the American flag into San Francisco. After seaboard operations south to Callao, Peru, she departed that port 1 June 1842 and returned to Norfolk, Virginia 15 September. She was laid up in ordinary the following day.

