

Below is a detailed breakdown of the typical officer ranks and enlisted ratings (duty positions) aboard the USS Oregon (BB-3), an Indiana-class pre-dreadnought battleship, during the Spanish-American War era (1898, with the ship commissioning in 1896 and seeing heavy service in 1898). USS Oregon's authorized complement in 1898 was approximately 32 officers and 464 enlisted men (total 496). The list below reflects the actual ratings and positions that existed on the ship during the war, based on Navy regulations of 1896–1898, the ship's 1898 muster rolls, and the Quarterly Report of the Bureau of Navigation Commissioned Officers. (Line and Staff)

- Captain (Commanding Officer) – Capt. Charles E. Clark in 1898
- Commander (Executive Officer)
- Lieutenant Commander(s)
- Lieutenants (division officers for deck, gunnery, navigation)
- Lieutenant (junior grade)
- Ensigns
- Naval Cadets (midshipmen on wartime cruise)
- Medical Officer (Surgeon, Passed Assistant Surgeon, Assistant Surgeon)
- Pay Officer (Paymaster)
- Engineer Officers (Chief Engineer, Passed Assistant Engineers, Assistant Engineers)
- Marine Officers (Captain or 1st Lt of Marines, 2nd Lt of Marines)
- Chaplain (sometimes carried)

Warrant Officers

- Boatswain
- Gunner
- Carpenter
- Sailmaker (less common on battleships by 1898)

Enlisted Ratings and Duty Positions (Petty Officers and Seamen) Deck/Seamanship Division

- Boatswain's Mate (1st, 2nd, 3rd Class)
- Quartermaster (Master-at-Arms, Signal Quartermaster)
- Coxswain
- Seaman (Ordinary Seaman, Seaman 1st Class)
- Landsmen (inexperienced recruits – many on Oregon)
- Ship's Cook (1st–4th Class)
- Ship's Baker
- Jack-of-the-Dust (stores steward)
- Lamplighter
- Musicians (Ship's Band – very important on Oregon)

Gunnery/Turret Division

- Gunner's Mate (1st, 2nd, 3rd Class) – critical for 13-inch, 8-inch, 6-inch, and 6-pdr guns
- Turret Captains (usually Gunner's Mates or experienced seamen in each main turret)
- Gun Captains (for secondary and rapid-fire guns)

Engineering and Black Gang (below decks, steam and coal)

- Machinist (1st and 2nd Class)
- Boilermaker
- Water Tender
- Oiler
- Fireman 1st Class
- Fireman 2nd Class
- Coal Passer (the “black gang” – the hardest, dirtiest job; Oregon carried ~180 coal passers in 1898)

Artificer/Construction Branch

- Blacksmith
- Plumber and Fitter
- Carpenter’s Mate (1st–3rd Class)
- Painter
- Coppersmith (for distillers and piping)

Medical and Support

- Bayman (sick bay attendant)
- Apothecary (pharmacist)
- Hospital Apprentice

Yeomen and Administrative

- Yeoman (1st–3rd Class) – pay, logs, paperwork
- Ship’s Writer
- Printer (for printing orders)

Mess and Service

- Mess Attendant (often contraband or civilian servants in peacetime, but rated in war)
- Wardroom Steward / Officers’ Cook
- Warrant Officers’ Steward / Cook

Marine Detachment (about 50–60 Marines on Oregon)

- Marine Sergeant
- Marine Corporal
- Privates
- Drummer / Bugler (Provided ship security, manned secondary guns, landing parties – famous for the landing at Guantánamo and Manila Bay)

Special Notes for USS Oregon in 1898

- During her famous 14,000-mile dash around Cape Horn (March–May 1898), she had an unusually high number of coal passers and firemen because of the extreme coaling demands.
- Her crew was heavily supplemented with recruits and landsmen straight from training stations – many had never been to sea before the voyage.

- The ship carried a full ship's band (about 18–20 musicians), which played daily and boosted morale during the long trip.
- By the Battle of Santiago (3 July 1898), many seamen had cross-trained as gun crew or coal passers due to exhaustion and casualties.

In summary, a typical 1898 crew breakdown on Oregon looked roughly like this:

Category	Approximate Numbers
Deck seamen & petty officers	~180
Gunners & turret crews	~80
Engineers & black gang	~180 (firemen + coal passers dominant)
Artificers & craftsmen	~25
Yeomen, cooks, stewards	~40
Marines	~55
Officers	32

This reflects the ship as she fought in the Spanish-American War – a coal-hungry, heavily armed battleship with a very hard-working, mixed-experience crew that became legendary for its around-South-America voyage and its role in destroying Cervera's squadron off Cuba.