

= French battleship Patrie =

Patrie was a pre-dreadnought battleship of the French Navy built in the early 1900s . She had one sister ship , République . Patrie was laid down at the La Seyne shipyard in April 1902 , launched in December 1903 , and completed three years later in December 1906 , the same time as the revolutionary British battleship HMS Dreadnought . Armed with a main battery of four 305 mm (12 in) guns , she was outclassed by Dreadnought , which mounted ten guns of the same caliber , by the time she entered service .

Patrie served in the Mediterranean Fleet for the duration of her career . She accidentally torpedoed République during fleet maneuvers in 1910 . After the outbreak of World War I in August 1914 , she covered troop convoys from Algeria to France , and participated in the sinking of the Austro-Hungarian cruiser SMS Zenta later that month . She spent the majority of the war in Corfu at the mouth of the Adriatic Sea , to keep the Austro-Hungarian fleet bottled up in the Adriatic . In May 1916 , she shot down a German zeppelin off Salonica . The ship was eventually stricken in 1921 and broken up for scrap thereafter .

= = Design = =

Patrie was laid down at the La Seyne shipyard on 1 April 1902 , launched on 17 December 1903 , and completed in December 1906 , at the same time as the revolutionary British battleship HMS Dreadnought , which rendered the pre-dreadnoughts like Patrie outdated . The ship was 133 m (439 ft) long between perpendiculars and had a beam of 24 m (79 ft) and a full load draft of 8 m (27 ft) . She displaced 14,900 metric tons (14,700 long tons ; 16,400 short tons) at full load , slightly more than her sister République . She had a crew of between 766 and 825 officers and enlisted men . She was powered by three vertical triple expansion engines with twenty-four Niclausse boilers . They were rated at 18,000 indicated horsepower (13,000 kW) and provided a top speed of 19 knots (35 km / h ; 22 mph) . Coal storage amounted to 1,800 t (1,800 long tons ; 2,000 short tons) .

Patrie 's main battery consisted of four Canon de 305 mm Modèle 1893 / 96 guns mounted in two twin gun turrets , one forward and one aft . The secondary battery consisted of eighteen Canon de 164 mm Modèle 1893 guns ; twelve were mounted in twin turrets , and six in casemates in the hull . She also carried twenty-five 3-pounder guns . The ship was also armed with two 450 mm (17 in) torpedo tubes submerged in the hull . The ship 's main belt was 280 mm (11 in) thick and the main battery was protected by up to 350 mm (13 in) of armor . The conning tower had 305 mm (12 in) thick sides .

= = Service history = =

While Patrie was still conducting sea trials on 29 May 1907 , a condenser pipe in one of her boilers burst . Several stokers were scalded , and the ship had to return to Toulon to have the condenser pipe replaced . After entering service , she was assigned to the 1st Division of the Mediterranean Fleet , along with her sister République and Suffren , the divisional flagship . She was present for the annual summer maneuvers in June - July of that year , where she acted with several other battleships as a hostile force . While in a drydock on 3 July 1907 , the battleship Léna suffered a catastrophic magazine explosion that destroyed the ship ; Patrie was moored nearby . Her commanding officer attempted to flood the dock to put out the inferno by firing one of Patrie 's secondary guns at the dock gate , but the shell bounced off and did not penetrate it . The dock was finally flooded when Ensign de Vaisseau Roux (who was killed shortly afterward by fragments from the ship) managed to open the sluice gates .

During the 1910 gunnery training exercises , Patrie suffered mechanical problems with her sighting equipment that disabled one of her main battery turrets . In 1910 the battleship again was in an accident ; while on maneuvers in the Gulf of Jouan , Patrie launched a torpedo that inadvertently

struck her sister République . Her hull was damaged , and she was forced to put into Toulon for repairs .

At the outbreak of World War I in August 1914 , Patrie was assigned to the 1st Division of the 2nd Squadron in the Mediterranean , along with République and the flagship , Vérité ; this was the main battle fleet of the French Navy . The French fleet was initially used to cover the movement of French troops ? the XIX Corps ? from Algeria to metropolitan France . As a result , the fleet was far out of position to catch the German battlecruiser SMS Goeben . For the majority of the war , the French used their main fleet to keep the Austro @-@ Hungarian fleet bottled up in the Adriatic Sea . In 1914 she participated in the Battle of Antivari , where the battle line caught the Austro @-@ Hungarian cruiser SMS Zenta by surprise and sank her . The French battleships then bombarded Austrian fortifications at Cattaro in an attempt to draw out the Austro @-@ Hungarian fleet , which refused to take the bait .

The French operations in the area were hampered by a lack of a suitable base close to the mouth of the Adriatic ; the British had given the French free access to Malta , but it was hundreds of miles away . The Austrians also possessed several submarines , one of which torpedoed the dreadnought Jean Bart in December 1914 . The threat from underwater weapons greatly limited French naval activities in the Adriatic . As the war progressed , the French eventually settled on Corfu as their primary naval base in the area . In 1916 the ships supported Allied operations in Salonica and also detached landing parties to support the Allied attempt to force Greek acquiescence for those operations in Athens on 1 December . They spent the rest of the war at Salonica and Athens . Patrie became flagship of the French squadron at Salonica in 1918 . During the war , four of Patrie 's 3 @-@ pounder guns were converted into anti @-@ aircraft guns with new high @-@ angle mounts . The six casemate @-@ mounted 164 mm guns were removed and landed at Salonica for use ashore . While off Salonica on 5 May 1916 , Patrie 's anti @-@ aircraft gunners shot down a German zeppelin . Patrie was retained in the French Navy 's inventory and served as a training ship in Toulon for mechanics and torpedomen until 1927 . The following year , she stricken from the naval register and sold for scrap .