

= French battleship Lorraine =

Lorraine was a battleship of the French Navy built in the 1910s , named in honor of the region of Lorraine in France . She was a member of the Bretagne class , alongside her two sister ships , Bretagne and Provence . Lorraine was laid down in August 1912 at the Chantiers de Penhoët shipyard , launched in September 1913 , and commissioned into the fleet in March 1916 , after the outbreak of World War I. She was armed with a main battery of ten 340 mm (13 in) guns and had a top speed of 20 knots (37 km / h ; 23 mph) .

Lorraine spent the bulk of her career in the French Mediterranean Squadron . During World War I , she was stationed at Corfu to prevent the Austro -@- Hungarian fleet from leaving the Adriatic Sea , but she saw no action . She was modernized significantly in the 1920s and 1930s , and in 1935 her amidships 340 mm gun turret was removed and aircraft facilities were installed in its place . After the outbreak of World War II , Lorraine carried a shipment of gold from the French treasury to Bermuda before returning to operate in the Mediterranean . At the French surrender in July 1940 , Lorraine was moored in Alexandria , where she was disarmed by the Royal Navy . After joining the Free French Naval Forces in December 1942 , Lorraine was refitted for active service . She provided gunfire support for the landings in Operation Dragoon in August ? September 1944 and bombarded German positions around La Rochelle in April 1945 . After the end of the war , Lorraine was used as a gunnery training ship and then a barracks ship until late 1953 , when she was stricken and sold to shipbreakers .

= = Design = =

Lorraine was 166 meters (544 ft 7 in) long overall and had a beam of 26 @. @ 9 m (88 ft 3 in) and a full @-@ load draft of 9 @. @ 8 m (32 ft 2 in) . She displaced 23 @, @ 230 metric tons (22 @, @ 860 long tons) as designed and around 25 @, @ 000 metric tons (25 @, @ 000 long tons ; 28 @, @ 000 short tons) at full load and had a crew of between 1124 and 1133 officers and enlisted men . She was powered by four Parsons steam turbines with twenty @-@ four Guyot du Temple water @-@ tube boilers . They were rated at 29 @, @ 000 shaft horsepower (22 @, @ 000 kW) and provided a top speed of 20 knots (37 km / h ; 23 mph) . Coal storage amounted to 2 @, @ 680 t (2 @, @ 640 long tons ; 2 @, @ 950 short tons) , which provided a range of 4 @, @ 700 nmi (8 @, @ 700 km ; 5 @, @ 400 mi) at 10 knots (19 km / h ; 12 mph) .

Lorraine 's main battery consisted of ten 340mm / 45 Modèle 1912 guns mounted in five twin gun turrets , numbered from front to rear . They were placed all on the centerline ; two were in a superfiring pair forward , one amidships , and the last two in a superfiring arrangement aft . As completed , however , the amidships turret did not have its guns installed until January 1917 . The secondary battery consisted of twenty @-@ two Canon de 138 mm Modèle 1910 guns in casemates along the length of the hull . She also carried seven 47 mm (1 @. @ 9 in) Hotchkiss guns , two on the conning tower and one on the roof of each turret . The ship was also armed with four submerged 450 mm (17 @. @ 7 in) torpedo tubes .

The ship 's main belt was 270 mm (10 @. @ 6 in) thick and the main armored deck was 40 mm (1 @. @ 6 in) thick . The main battery was protected by up to 300 mm (11 @. @ 8 in) of armor on the turrets and the casemates for the secondary guns were 170 mm (6 @. @ 7 in) thick . The conning tower had 314 mm (12 @. @ 4 in) thick sides .

= = Service = =

Lorraine was ordered on 15 July 1912 , as a replacement for the battleship Liberté , which had been destroyed by a magazine explosion the previous year . She was laid down at the Chantiers de Penhoët shipyard in Saint @-@ Nazaire on 1 August 1912 and launched on 30 September 1913 . She was commissioned into the French Navy on 10 March 1916 . After entering service in 1916 , Lorraine and her sisters were assigned to the 1st Division of the 1st Battle Squadron . The three ships remained in the unit for the remainder of the war . They spent the majority of their time at

Corfu to prevent the Austro-Hungarian fleet from attempting to break out of the Adriatic . The fleet 's presence was also intended to intimidate Greece , which had become increasingly hostile to the Triple Entente . Later in the war , men were drawn from their crews for anti-submarine warfare vessels . As the Austro-Hungarians largely remained in port for the duration of the war , Lorraine saw no action during the conflict . In 1917 , she returned to Toulon for a periodic refit , but apart from that voyage , she saw no time at sea for the rest of the year .

In January 1919 , she went to Cattaro , where she guarded the former Austro-Hungarian Navy . She assisted in repatriating Austrian naval personnel , and escorted former Austro-Hungarian warships to France and Italy ; this duty lasted until March . The French Navy intended to send Lorraine and her sister Provence to the Black Sea to join operations against the Bolsheviks , but a major mutiny prevented the operation . The two ships went to Constantinople in October 1919 , where they formed the core of the Eastern Mediterranean Squadron , which operated until July 1921 . Lorraine underwent her first refit starting on 10 November 1921 , which lasted until 4 December 1922 . After emerging from refit , Lorraine was placed in reserve , due to fiscal limitations in the post-war French Navy . She returned to service the following year ? 1923 ? with the 1st Battleship Division of the Mediterranean Fleet .

Lorraine was modernized a second time between 15 November 1924 and 4 August 1926 . A third refit followed on 17 September 1929 and lasted until 6 June 1931 . During these periods in dock , the range of the main battery was increased , the anti-aircraft battery was strengthened , and her boilers were replaced with newer , oil-fired models . Between 18 September 1934 and 20 September 1935 , a fourth and final pre-war refit was carried out in Brest ; Lorraine 's amidships turret was removed , and an aircraft catapult along with a hangar for three aircraft were installed . The aircraft were initially Gourdou-Leseurre GL819 and Potez 452 seaplanes , though they were later replaced with Loire 130 flying boats . In 1936 , Lorraine was transferred to the Atlantic Squadron , where she remained until the outbreak of World War II in September 1939 .

== = World War II == =

After the start of World War II , Lorraine served primarily in the western Mediterranean . On 4 December , Lorraine operated out of Casablanca against German surface forces , along with the cruisers Algérie , La Galissonnière , and Marseillaise , and several destroyers and submarines . During this period , she carried a shipment of gold bullion from the French treasury to Bermuda . On 1 January 1940 , she was transferred to the 2nd Battleship Division of the 1st Squadron , and went into drydock for refit , which lasted until April .

On 27 April , Lorraine and her two sisters were transferred to Alexandria . On 10 June , Italy declared war on France ; by that time , both Bretagne and Provence had moved back to the western Mediterranean . Lorraine was the only French capital ship in the eastern Mediterranean , though she was joined by four British battleships and an aircraft carrier . On the night of 20 ? 21 June , Lorraine formed the center of an Anglo-French task force , with the cruisers HMS Neptune , Orion , and Achilles , for a bombardment of Italian positions at Bardia . The operation , which caused only minimal damage , was the last combined British and French naval operation before the French surrender .

Following the French surrender , the French commander , Vice Admiral Godfroy , concluded an agreement with Admiral Andrew Cunningham to demilitarize and intern the French ships in Alexandria ; this included Lorraine , four cruisers , and three destroyers . In December 1942 , the ship 's crew decided to join the Allies in the Free French Naval Forces , and so Lorraine was placed back into service . On 3 July 1943 , the ship left the Suez and sailed around Africa to Dakar , stopping in Cape Town on the way . After arriving on 12 October , she was used briefly as a training ship ; on 2 December , Lorraine was sent to Oran for refitting . The work included removing the aircraft facilities and installing a large number of anti-aircraft guns , including eight 75 mm (3 in) guns , fourteen 40 mm (1.6 in) guns , and twenty-five 20 mm (0.79 in) guns . Radar equipment was also installed on the ship .

The overhaul readied Lorraine to participate in Operation Dragoon , the Allied invasion of southern

France in August 1944 . On 15 August , Lorraine joined the bombardment force , Task Force 86 , that supported landings . She and the American battleship USS Nevada hammered German defenses in and around Toulon , including 340 mm coastal guns that had been removed from Provence . The bombardment lasted until 21 August . Over the course of 1 ? 13 September , Lorraine , four cruisers , and two destroyers shelled German defenses throughout the French Riviera . Among the targets Lorraine attacked were fortresses at Sospel and Castillon , along with Axis positions around Carqueiranne and Saint @-@ Tropez . Lorraine left the bombardment area on 17 September , but remained in the western Mediterranean until she was sent to Portsmouth for a brief refit toward the end of the year . She was then sent to Cherbourg in December .

In late March 1945 , Lorraine left Cherbourg to participate in her final wartime operations , codenamed Vénérable and Vermeille . In the operations , which took place in April , the French Navy focused on eliminating a pocket of German resistance in Gironde . On 14 ? 20 April , Lorraine and several cruisers and destroyers bombarded the German " Girond @-@ Nord " fortress in Royan in support of an attack by the French 10th Division and American 66th Division ; the German defenders surrendered on the 20th . After completing the operation , Lorraine returned to Brest before being sent to Toulon . Starting in February 1947 , she was used as a stationary gunnery training ship . Later , she was used as a barracks ship , until she was stricken from the naval register on 17 February 1953 . She was sold on 18 December , to a French shipbreaking company , and towed to Brégaillon outside Toulon in January 1954 and broken up for scrap .