

= French cruiser Amiral Charner =

Amiral Charner was an armored cruiser built for the French Navy in the 1890s , the name ship of her class . She spent most of her career in the Mediterranean , although she was sent to China during the Boxer Rebellion of 1900 ? 01 . The ship was assigned to the International Squadron off the island of Crete during the Greco @-@ Turkish War of 1897 to protect French interests and citizens . Amiral Charner spent most of the first decade of the 20th century as a training ship or in reserve . The ship was recommissioned when World War I began in 1914 and escorted convoys for several months before she was assigned to the Eastern Mediterranean to blockade the Ottoman @-@ controlled coast . During this time , she helped to rescue several thousand Armenians from Syria during the Armenian Genocide of 1915 . Amiral Charner was sunk in early 1916 by a German submarine , with only a single survivor rescued .

= = Design and description = =

The Amiral Charner @-@ class ships were designed to be smaller and cheaper than the preceding armored cruiser design , the Dupuy de Lôme . Like the older ship , they were intended to fill the commerce @-@ raiding strategy of the Jeune École .

The ship measured 106 @.@ 12 meters (348 ft 2 in) between perpendiculars , with a beam of 14 @.@ 04 meters (46 ft 1 in) . Amiral Charner had a forward draft of 5 @.@ 55 meters (18 ft 3 in) and drew 6 @.@ 06 meters (19 ft 11 in) aft . She displaced 4 @,@ 748 metric tons (4 @,@ 673 long tons) at normal load and 4 @,@ 990 metric tons (4 @,@ 910 long tons) at deep load .

The Amiral Charner class had two triple @-@ expansion steam engines , each driving a single propeller shaft . Steam for the engines was provided by 16 Belleville boilers and they were rated at a total of 8 @,@ 300 metric horsepower (6 @,@ 100 kW) using forced draught . Amiral Charner had a designed speed of 19 knots (35 km / h ; 22 mph) , but during sea trials on 18 July 1895 the engines produced 8 @,@ 956 metric horsepower (6 @,@ 587 kW) , but only gave a maximum speed of 18 @.@ 4 knots (34 @.@ 1 km / h ; 21 @.@ 2 mph) . The ship carried up to 535 metric tons (527 long tons ; 590 short tons) of coal and could steam for 4 @,@ 000 nautical miles (7 @,@ 400 km ; 4 @,@ 600 mi) at a speed of 10 knots (19 km / h ; 12 mph) .

The ships of the Amiral Charner class had a main armament that consisted of two Canon de 194 mm Modèle 1887 guns that were mounted in single gun turrets , one each fore and aft of the superstructure . Their secondary armament comprised six Canon de 138 @.@ 6 mm Modèle 1887 guns , each in single gun turrets on each broadside . For anti @-@ torpedo boat defense , they carried four 65 @-@ millimeter (2 @.@ 6 in) guns , four 47 @-@ millimeter (1 @.@ 9 in) and eight 37 @-@ millimeter (1 @.@ 5 in) five @-@ barreled revolving Hotchkiss guns . They were also armed with four 450 @-@ millimeter (17 @.@ 7 in) pivoting torpedo tubes ; two mounted on each broadside above water .

The side of the Amiral Charner class was generally protected by 92 millimeters (3 @.@ 6 in) of steel armor , from 1 @.@ 3 meters (4 ft 3 in) below the waterline to 2 @.@ 5 meters (8 ft 2 in) above it . The bottom 20 centimeters (7 @.@ 9 in) tapered in thickness and the armor at the ends of the ships thinned to 60 millimeters (2 @.@ 4 in) . The curved protective deck of mild steel had a thickness of 40 millimeters (1 @.@ 6 in) along its centerline that increased to 50 millimeters (2 @.@ 0 in) at its outer edges . Protecting the boiler rooms , engine rooms , and magazines below it was a thin splinter deck . A watertight internal cofferdam , filled with cellulose , ran the length of the ship from the protective deck to a height of 1 @.@ 2 meters (4 ft) above the waterline . Below the protective deck the ship was divided by 13 watertight transverse bulkheads with five more above it . The ship 's conning tower and turrets were protected by 92 millimeters of armor .

= = Construction and career = =

Amiral Charner , named after Admiral Léonard Charner , was laid down at the Arsenal de Rochefort with the name of Charner on 15 June 1889 . She was launched on 18 March 1893 and renamed

Amiral Charner on 25 March 1895 before she was commissioned on 26 August . The ship was initially assigned to the 2nd Light Division of the Mediterranean Squadron before she was briefly detached for service in the Eastern Mediterranean .

On 6 January 1896 , Amiral Charner became the flagship of the Higher Naval War College (École supérieure de guerre de la marine) , commanding her sister ship Latouche @-@ Tréville and the protected cruiser Suchet . The mission of the school was to prepare officers for command at sea and for service on staffs . Ten months later , she was reassigned back to the active fleet on 20 October . The ship was sent to Crete on 10 February 1897 as part of the French contingent of the International Squadron deployed there during the Greco @-@ Turkish War to protect Western interests and citizens and remained with the squadron until November 1898 . Amiral Charner was reassigned to the college on 1 January 1899 together with the protected cruisers Friant and Davout . She was detached to the Northern Squadron (Escadre du Nord) , based at Brest , for the first half of the year before returning to Toulon in late June . Three months later , the ship returned to Brest and was temporarily placed in reserve .

In January 1900 she was ordered to Rochefort for repairs to her steam @-@ piping in preparation for her upcoming deployment to the Far East . Amiral Charner departed Brest on 26 June and arrived in Saigon , French Indochina , on 1 August . She supported Allied forces during the later stages of the Boxer Rebellion in mid @-@ 1901 before returning to Toulon on 8 November . After a brief refit , the ship was assigned to the 3rd Armored Division on 24 January 1902 . During the annual naval maneuvers in July ? August 1902 , Amiral Charner simulated defending against a force breaking into the Mediterranean from the Atlantic , attacked the fortifications at Bizerte , French North Africa , and blockaded hostile ports . She was placed in reserve in Toulon on 15 January 1903 and later assigned to the gunnery school there until the middle of 1910 . Amiral Charner became the guardship at Souda Bay , Crete on 13 May until relieved by her sister Bruix in July 1912 and was then refitted before being placed in reserve at Bizerta , Tunisia .

When World War I began in August 1914 , she was recommissioned and assigned to escort convoys between Morocco and France together with Latouche @-@ Tréville and Bruix . In November she was assigned to the 3rd Division of the 3rd Squadron based at Port Said , Egypt where she bombarded Ottoman positions on the Syrian coast several times . Amiral Charner ran aground under enemy fire off Dedeagatch , Bulgaria on 3 March 1915 and had to be pulled off by the small Italian cargo liner SS Bosnia . Together with the predreadnought battleship Jauréguiberry and the protected cruiser Destrées , she was assigned to blockade the coast between Tripoli , Lebanon and El Arish , Egypt in late August . On 11 ? 12 September , the ship participated in the rescue of 3 @, @ 000 Armenians north of the Orontes River Delta from pursuing Ottoman troops . The ship supported the occupation of the island of Kastelorizo on 28 December , along with the armored cruiser Jeanne d 'Arc .

Sailing from Ruad Island , Syria to Port Said , Egypt , Amiral Charner was torpedoed by the German submarine U @-@ 21 on the morning of 8 February 1916 . She sank in only two minutes with the loss of nearly the entire crew . Some 427 men were lost , with only a single survivor rescued five days later .