

= HMS Nile (1888) =

HMS Nile was one of two Trafalgar class ironclad battleships built for the Royal Navy during the 1880s . Late deliveries of her main guns delayed her commissioning until 1891 and she spent most of the decade with the Mediterranean Fleet . Nile returned home in 1898 and became the coast guard ship at Devonport for five years before she was placed in reserve in 1903 . The ship was sold for scrap in 1912 and broken up at Swansea , Wales .

= = Design and description = =

The design of the Trafalgar class ships was derived from the layout of the earlier ironclad battleship Dreadnought and the Admiral class , coupled with the heavy armour of the preceding Victoria class . The Trafalgars displaced 12 590 long tons (12 790 t) ; the addition of more armour and ammunition during construction added an additional 650 long tons (660 t) of weight and increased their draught by a foot (0.3 m) below their designed waterline . They had a length between perpendiculars of 345 feet (105.2 m) , a beam of 73 feet (22.3 m) , and a draught of 28 feet 6 inches (8.7 m) . Nile 's crew consisted of 537 officers and ratings in 1903 and 527 two years later . The low freeboard of the Trafalgars made them very wet and they could not maintain full speed except in a calm .

The ships were powered by a pair of three cylinder , vertical inverted , triple expansion steam engines , each driving one shaft , which were designed to produce a total of 12 000 indicated horsepower (8 900 kW) and a maximum speed of 16.5 knots (30.6 km / h ; 19.0 mph) using steam provided by six cylindrical boilers with forced draught . During her sea trials , Nile slightly exceeded this with a speed of 16.88 knots (31.26 km / h ; 19.43 mph) from 12 102 ihp (9 024 kW) . The Trafalgar class carried a maximum of 1 100 long tons (1 118 t) of coal which gave them a range of 6 300 nautical miles (11 700 km ; 7 200 mi) at a speed of 10 knots (19 km / h ; 12 mph) .

= = = Armament and armour = = =

The Trafalgar class ships ' main armament consisted of four breech loading (BL) 13.5 inch (343 mm) guns mounted in two twin gun turrets , one each fore and aft of the superstructure . Each gun was provided with 80 rounds . The muzzles of these guns were only 3 feet 6 inches (1 m) above the deck , and were very hard to fight in a seaway due to the spray breaking over the forward turret .

Their secondary armament was originally planned to consist of eight BL 5.5 inch (127 mm) guns , but these were replaced during construction by six quick firing (QF) 4.7 inch (120 mm) guns . 200 rounds per gun were carried by the ships . Eight QF 6 pounder (2 @ 2 in (57 mm)) and nine QF 3 pounder (1 @ 9 in (47 mm)) Hotchkiss guns were fitted for defence against torpedo boats . The ships carried four 14 inch (356 mm) torpedo tubes and another pair were added in August 1890 .

The Trafalgars ' armour scheme was similar to that of Dreadnought , although the waterline belt of compound armour did not cover the complete length of the ship and a 3 inch (76 mm) deck extended fore and aft of the armoured citadel to the bow and stern . The belt was 230 feet (70.1 m) long and was 20 ? 14 inches (508 ? 356 mm) thick ; it was closed off by traverse 16 ? 14 inch (406 ? 356 mm) bulkheads . Above it was a strake of 18 ? 16 inch (457 ? 406 mm) armour that covered the bases of the gun turrets . Another strake above that protected the secondary armament and was 5 ? 4 inches (127 ? 102 mm) thick . The sides of the gun turrets were 18 inches thick and the conning tower was protected by 14 inch plates .

= = Construction and career = =

Nile , named after the Battle of the Nile , was the third ship of her name to serve in the Royal Navy .

She was laid down on 8 April 1886 by Pembroke Dockyard . The ship was launched on 27 March 1886 by Mrs. Maud Hamilton , wife of Lord George Hamilton , First Lord of the Admiralty . She was completed in July 1890 , although her main guns were not delivered until the following year , at a cost of £ 885 @, @ 718 .

After delivery , she was commissioned at Portsmouth on 30 June 1891 for manoeuvres , following which she was assigned to the Mediterranean Fleet . When the battleships Victoria and Camperdown collided on 22 June 1893 , Nile was next astern and it was only through the skillful manoeuvring of Captain Gerard Noel that his ship was not also involved in the collision . Nile had her 4 @. @ 7 @- @ inch guns replaced by QF 6 @- @ inch (152 mm) guns in 1896 . She came home in January 1898 to become the port guardship at Devonport , and Captain Robert Rolleston was in command in June 1902 . In February 1903 , the ship was relegated to the reserve at Devonport , where she remained until she was sold on 9 July 1912 for £ 34 @, @ 000 to be broken up at Swansea by T. Ward .