

= French battleship Justice =

Justice was a pre-dreadnought battleship of the Liberté class built by the French Navy . She had three sister ships : Liberté , Vérité , and Démocratie . Justice was laid down in April 1903 , launched in October 1904 , and completed in February 1908 , over a year after the revolutionary British battleship HMS Dreadnought made ships like Justice obsolete . She was armed with a main battery of four 305 mm ( 12 in ) guns , compared to the ten guns of the same caliber mounted on Dreadnought .

After her commissioning , Justice was assigned to the Mediterranean Fleet . In September 1909 , she traveled to the United States for the Hudson-Fulton Celebration . At the outbreak of World War I in August 1914 , she was assigned to the 2nd Division of the 2nd Squadron of the Mediterranean Fleet . She covered troop convoys from North Africa to France in the first days of the war , and spent the rest based at Corfu and Mudros without seeing any action . After the war ended , she participated in the Allied intervention in the Russian Civil War , though a mutiny in the French fleet in April 1919 led to the fleet 's withdrawal . Justice was sold for scrapping in 1922 .

= Design =

Justice was laid down at the La Seyne shipyard in Toulon in April 1903 , launched on 27 October 1904 , and completed in February 1908 , over a year after the revolutionary British battleship HMS Dreadnought , which rendered the pre-dreadnoughts like Justice outdated before they were completed . The ship was 133 meters ( 439 ft ) long between perpendiculars and had a beam of 24 meters ( 79 ft 7 in ) and a full-load draft of 8 meters ( 27 ft 7 in ) . She displaced up to 14,860 metric tons ( 14,630 long tons ; 16,380 short tons ) at full load . Justice had a crew of between 739 and 769 officers and enlisted men . The ship was powered by three vertical triple expansion engines with twenty-four Niclausse boilers . They were rated at 18,500 indicated horsepower ( 13,800 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 ) .

Justice '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 ten Canon de 194 mm Modèle 1902 guns ; six were mounted in single turrets , and four in casemates in the hull . She also carried thirteen 9-inch pounder guns and ten 3-inch pounders . 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 =

In September 1909 , Justice , Liberté , and Vérité visited the United States for the Hudson-Fulton Celebration . The three battleships , commanded by Admiral Jules le Pord , were the first foreign contingent to arrive . The ships departed from Brest and arrived New York seven days later , having run at an average of 16 knots ( 30 km / h ; 18 mph ) ; the performance of the ships ' propulsion systems was regarded as satisfactory by contemporary naval experts , including the United States Naval Institute . In early 1911 , the French Navy conducted experiments with wireless telegraphy , and used Vérité and Justice for the tests . The wireless transmitters could pick up messages as far as 72 miles ( 116 km ) away . On 11 October 1911 , an accidental fire aboard Justice threatened to destroy the ship in a way similar to the explosion that destroyed her sister ship Liberté the month before . The fire was believed to have been started by a short circuit in the electrical system near the forward magazines . The fire nearly reached the ammunition in the magazines when the ship 's commander ordered the magazines to be flooded , averting a catastrophic explosion . This occurred just days after the battleship Suffren had to flood her magazines to put out another accidental fire . Later that year , the ship was featured in the film A

Day on the French battleship " Justice " .

At the outbreak of World War I in August 1914 , Justice was assigned to the 1st Division of the 2nd Squadron in the Mediterranean , along with Démocratie . 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 the Greek island of Corfu as their primary naval base in the area . Later in the war , Justice was sent to Mudros along with her sister ships .

In 1919 , after the end of the war , Justice participated in the French naval intervention in the Russian Civil War in the Black Sea , and was based in Sevastopol . On 19 April , a mutiny gripped the French fleet , starting on the battleship France , the squadron flagship . At one point during the mutiny , the crew of Justice briefly flew the red flag , though they remained relatively calm . The situation worsened after a group of Greek soldiers fired into a crowd of demonstrators ashore ; one French sailor was killed and another five were injured . Justice 's crew was enraged , and began discussing opening fire on the Greek battleship Kilkis , moored nearby . Justice 's captain ordered his ship 's guns disabled by removing their breech blocks to prevent an attack . The situation was eventually defused by returning the French squadron back to France , one of the mutineers ' primary demands . Ultimately , Justice was stricken from the naval register in 1922 and sold for scrap .