

= French battleship Charles Martel =

The Charles Martel was a pre-dreadnought battleship of the French Navy built in the 1890s . She was laid down in April 1891 , launched in August 1893 , and completed in June 1897 . She was a member of a group of five broadly similar battleships , along with Carnot , Jauréguiberry , Bouvet , and Masséna , which were ordered in response to the British Royal Sovereign class . Like her half-sisters , she was armed with a main battery of two 305 mm (12 in) guns and two 274 mm (10 in) guns in individual turrets . She had a top speed of 18 knots (33 km / h ; 21 mph) .

Charles Martel spent her active career in the Mediterranean Squadron of the French fleet , first in the active squadron , and later in the Reserve Squadron . She regularly participated in fleet maneuvers , and in the 1901 exercises , the submarine Gustave Zédé hit her with a dummy torpedo , which was widely hailed in the press . Charles Martel was out of service by the outbreak of World War I in 1914 , and so she saw no action during the conflict . She was ultimately broken up for scrap in 1922 .

= Design =

Charles Martel was the first member of a group of five battleships built to a broadly similar design , but different enough to be considered unique vessels . Design specifications were identical for each of the ships , but different engineers designed each vessel . The ships were based on the previous battleship Brennus , but instead of mounting the main battery all on the centerline , the ships used the lozenge arrangement of the earlier vessel Magenta , which moved two of the main battery guns to single turrets on the wings . The five ships were built in response to the British Royal Sovereign class battleships .

An earlier vessel , also named Charles Martel , was laid down in 1884 and cancelled under the tenure of Admiral Théophile Aube . The vessel , along with a sister ship named Brennus , was a modified version of the Marceau class ironclad battleships . After Aube 's retirement , the plans for the ships were entirely redesigned , though the later pair of ships are sometimes conflated with the earlier , cancelled designs . This may be due to the fact that both of the ships named Brennus were built in the same shipyard , and material assembled for the first vessel was used in the construction of the second . The two pairs of ships were , nevertheless , distinct vessels .

= General characteristics and machinery =

Charles Martel was 115 m (378 ft 11 in) long between perpendiculars , and had a beam of 21 m (71 ft 0 in) and a draft of 8 m (27 ft 6 in) . She had a displacement of 11,639 tonnes (11,455 long tons) . Her forecastle gave her a high freeboard forward , but her deck was cut down to the main deck level aft . She was equipped with two heavy military masts . She had a crew of 644 officers and enlisted men .

Charles Martel had two vertical triple expansion engines each driving a single screw , with steam supplied by twenty-four Lagrafel d'Allest water-tube boilers . Her propulsion system was rated at 14,900 indicated horsepower (11,000 kW) , which allowed the ship to steam at a speed of 18 knots (33 km / h ; 21 mph) . As built , she could carry 650 t (640 long tons ; 720 short tons) of coal , though additional space allowed for up to 980 t (960 long tons ; 1,080 short tons) in total .

= Armament and armor =

Charles Martel 's main armament consisted of two Canon de 305 mm Modèle 1887 guns in two single-gun turrets , one each fore and aft . She also mounted two Canon de 274 mm Modèle 1887 guns in two single-gun turrets , one amidships on each side , sponsoned out over the tumblehome of the ship 's sides . Her secondary armament consisted of eight Canon de 138 mm Modèle 1887 guns in two single-gun turrets , one each fore and aft .

mm Modèle 1888 guns , which were mounted in single turrets at the corners of the superstructure . She also carried four 9 @-@ pounder quick @-@ firing guns , twelve 3 @-@ pounders , and eight 1 @-@ pounder revolving cannons . Her armament suite was rounded out by two 450 mm (18 in) torpedo tubes , which were submerged in the ship 's hull .

The ship 's armor was constructed with nickel steel . The main belt was 460 mm (18 in) thick amidships , and tapered down to 250 mm (9 @.@ 8 in) at the lower edge . On either end of the central citadel , the belt was reduced to 305 mm (12 @.@ 0 in) at the waterline and 250 mm on the lower edge ; the belt extended for the entire length of the hull . Above the belt was 101 mm (4 @.@ 0 in) thick side armor . The main battery guns were protected with 380 mm (15 in) of armor , and the secondary turrets had 101 mm thick sides . The main armored deck was 69 mm (2 @.@ 7 in) thick . The conning tower had 230 mm (9 @.@ 1 in) thick sides .

= = Career = =

Charles Martel was laid down in January April 1891 and launched in August 1893 . After completing fitting @-@ out work , she was commissioned into the French Navy in June 1897 . She was delayed in completing her sea trials , as her boiler tubes had to be replaced with a safer , weld @-@ less design , following an accident aboard Jauréguiberry with her welded tubes . Following her commissioning for service , she was assigned to the Mediterranean Squadron . In 1900 , she became the flagship of Rear Admiral Roustan , the commander of the Second Division of the Mediterranean Squadron . The Mediterranean Squadron , including Charles Martel , conducted an extensive cruise with the Northern Squadron in June ? July 1900 , which culminated in a Grand Review of the fleet in Cherbourg at the end of July . During the 1901 maneuvers , Charles Martel was hit by a training torpedo fired by the submarine Gustave Zédé , which created an uproar in the press .

During early Summer 1902 , Charles Martel was transferred to the Reserve Squadron , along with three other battleships and three armored cruisers . The ship did not participate in the annual fleet maneuvers in July ? August of the following year . She remained in the Reserve Squadron , which was renamed the Second Squadron in 1906 ; by that time , she was in the Second Division of the Squadron , under the command of Rear Admiral Germinet . The ship was maintained in a state of en disponibilité armée , a state of reduced readiness with a minimal crew . Charles Martel was in full commission for three months of the year , and in reserve with a reduced crew for the remainder . She remained in this status for the duration of 1907 .

By the outbreak of World War I in August 1914 , Charles Martel had been laid up in the port of Brest , along with Carnot . Both ships were retained on the effective list , however , pending the completion of the new Normandie @-@ class battleships . Charles Martel was ultimately stricken from the naval register in 1922 and sold for scrapping that year .