

= French ironclad Victorieuse =

Victorieuse (Victorious) was the second ship of the La Galissonnière class of wooden @-@ hulled , armored corvettes built for the French Navy during the 1870s . Her construction was delayed for years and the navy took advantage of the extended construction time to upgrade her armament in comparison to the lead ship , La Galissonnière . Unlike her sisters , Victorieuse did not see any combat although she participated in the pacification of the Marquesas Islands in 1880 . She was condemned in 1900 .

= = Design and description = =

The La Galissonnière @-@ class ironclads were designed as faster , more heavily armed versions of the Alma @-@ class ironclads by Henri Dupuy de Lôme . They used the same central battery layout as their predecessors , although the battery was lengthened 4 meters (13 ft 1 in) to provide enough room to work the larger 240 @-@ millimeter (9 @. @ 4 in) guns . Victorieuse and her sister ship Triomphante were modified by Sabattier who reduced the number of screws from two to one to improve their sailing qualities , added an 194 @-@ millimeter (7 @. @ 6 in) bow chaser under the forecastle and increased the caliber and number of the secondary armament .

Victorieuse was 76 @. @ 85 meters (252 ft 2 in) between perpendiculars and had a beam of 14 @. @ 88 meters (48 ft 10 in) . She had a mean draft of 6 @. @ 3 meters (20 ft 8 in) and displaced 4 @, @ 150 metric tons (4 @, @ 080 long tons) . Her crew numbered between 352 and 382 officers and men .

= = = Propulsion = = =

Victorieuse had a single vertical compound steam engine driving a single propeller . Her engine was powered by four oval boilers . During sea trials her engine produced 2 @, @ 214 indicated horsepower (1 @, @ 651 kW) and the ship reached 12 @. @ 75 knots (23 @. @ 61 km / h ; 14 @. @ 67 mph) . She only carried 330 metric tons (320 long tons) of coal which allowed her to steam for 2 @, @ 740 nautical miles (5 @, @ 070 km ; 3 @, @ 150 mi) at a speed of 10 knots (19 km / h ; 12 mph) . Victorieuse was also ship @-@ rigged with three masts and had a sail area of 1 @, @ 730 square meters (18 @, @ 600 sq ft) .

= = = Armament = = =

Victorieuse mounted four of her six 240 @-@ millimeter Modèle 1870 guns in the central battery on the battery deck . The other two 240 @-@ millimeter guns were mounted in barbettes on the upper deck , sponsoned out over the sides of the ship , just forward of the funnel . A 194 @-@ millimeter chase gun was fitted under the forecastle . Victorieuse 's secondary armament of six 138 @-@ millimeter (5 @. @ 4 in) guns was also mounted on the upper deck .

The armor @-@ piercing shell of the 19 @-@ caliber 240 @-@ millimeter gun weighed 317 @. @ 5 pounds (144 @. @ 0 kg) while the gun itself weighed 15 @. @ 41 long tons (15 @. @ 66 t) . It had a muzzle velocity of 1 @, @ 624 ft / s (495 m / s) and was credited with the ability to penetrate a nominal 14 @. @ 4 inches (366 mm) of wrought iron armour at the muzzle . The 20 @-@ caliber 194 @-@ millimeter gun fired an armor @-@ piercing , 165 @. @ 3 @-@ pound (75 @. @ 0 kg) shell while the gun itself weighed 7 @. @ 83 long tons (7 @. @ 96 t) . The gun fired its shell at a muzzle velocity of 1 @, @ 739 ft / s (530 m / s) and was credited with the ability to penetrate a nominal 12 @. @ 5 inches (320 mm) of wrought iron armour at the muzzle . The 138 @-@ millimeter gun was 21 calibers long and weighed 2 @. @ 63 long tons (2 @. @ 67 t) . It fired a 61 @. @ 7 @-@ pound (28 @. @ 0 kg) explosive shell that had a muzzle velocity of 1 @, @ 529 ft / s (466 m / s) . The guns could fire both solid shot and explosive shells .

The ship also mounted four 37 @-@ millimeter (1 @. @ 5 in) Hotchkiss 5 @-@ barrel revolving guns . They fired a shell weighing about 500 g (1 @. @ 1 lb) at a muzzle velocity of about 610 m / s

(2 @, @ 000 ft / s) to a range of about 3 @, @ 200 meters (3 @, @ 500 yd) . They had a rate of fire of about 30 rounds per minute . Victorieuse also received several towed Harvey torpedoes .

= = = Armor = = =

The La Galissonnière @-@ class ships had a complete 150 @-@ millimeter (5 @. @ 9 in) wrought iron waterline belt , approximately 2 @. @ 4 meters (7 @. @ 9 ft) high laid over 650 millimeters (26 in) of wood . The sides of the battery itself were armored with 120 millimeters (4 @. @ 7 in) of wrought iron backed by 520 millimeters (20 in) of wood and the ends of the battery were closed by bulkheads of the same thickness . The barbette armor was 120 millimeters (4 @. @ 7 in) thick . The unarmored portions of their sides were protected by thin iron plates .

= = Service = =

Victorieuse was laid down at Toulon on 5 August 1869 and launched on 18 November 1875 . While the exact reason for such prolonged construction time is not known , the budget for the French Navy was cut after the Franco @-@ Prussian War of 1870 ? 71 and the French dockyards had not been reformed with working practices more suitable for the industrial age . The ship was commissioned for her sea trials on 12 November 1876 and she was placed in reserve in Toulon after they were completed . She was recommissioned as the flagship of the Pacific Squadron on 17 August 1878 under the command of Rear Admiral Bergasse du Petit @-@ Thouars . The ship participated in the pacification of the Marquesas Islands in 1880 , which had been conquered by the admiral 's uncle Abel Aubert Dupetit Thouars forty years before . Victorieuse returned to Toulon on 23 May 1881 .

The ship was recommissioned as the flagship of the China Squadron on 1 December 1881 under the command of Rear Admiral Meyer . She was relieved by her sister La Galissonnière in April 1884 . She became flagship of the Levant Squadron after she arrived in France , but was in bad shape and soon placed in reserve at Cherbourg . Victorieuse became the flagship of Rear Admiral Barrera , second @-@ in @-@ command of the Northern Squadron on 10 February 1892 . The ship was on summer maneuvers off the Iberian coast in July 1893 . Two years later she became the flagship of Rear Admiral Ménard . She was initially condemned in May 1897 , but this was reversed so she could convoy torpedo boats to Bizerte . That plan was later cancelled and Victorieuse was paid off in 1899 , becoming guardship of the outer harbor at Brest until finally condemned the following year .