

= Reşadiye @-@ class battleship =

The Reşadiye class was a group of two dreadnought battleships ordered by the Ottoman Empire from Britain in the 1910s . The design for the ships was based on the British King George V @-@ class battleships , although it incorporated several significant improvements . They carried the same 13 @. @ 5 @-@ inch (340 mm) main battery guns as the British ships , but their secondary battery consisted of 6 @-@ inch (150 mm) guns , compared to the British vessels ' 4 @-@ inch (100 mm) pieces . The first ship , Reşadiye , was laid down in 1911 and completed in August 1914 , shortly after the outbreak of World War I ; she was seized by the British Royal Navy and commissioned as HMS Erin . The second ship , Fatih Sultan Mehmed , had only been ordered in April 1914 and little work had been done by the start of the war , so she was quickly broken up for scrap .

Erin served with the Grand Fleet for the duration of the war , and saw action at the Battle of Jutland on 31 May ? 1 June 1916 . She holds the dubious distinction of being the only British capital ship engaged in the battle to not fire its main battery . The vessel served briefly as the flagship of The Nore in 1919 , but her career was cut short by the Washington Naval Treaty of 1922 . She was scrapped under the terms of the treaty in 1922 ? 23 .

= = Background = =

The Ottoman Navy had languished since the 1870s , the result of decades of little funding for new ships , poor maintenance of existing vessels , and no serious training regimen . Efforts to modernize the fleet had occurred in fits and starts during the period , including the failed attempt to build the pre @-@ dreadnought Abdül Kadir in the 1890s , and a major reconstruction program launched in the aftermath of the Greco @-@ Turkish War of 1897 , which had highlighted the poor condition of the fleet . Starting in 1909 , the Ottoman government began to seriously look for warships to purchase from foreign shipbuilders to counter the growing strength of the Greek Navy , particularly the armored cruiser Georgios Averof . As a stopgap measure , two German Brandenburg @-@ class battleships , Barbaros Hayreddin and Turgut Reis , were purchased in 1910 .

The Ottoman government then began looking for newer vessels to buy in late 1911 , and first contacted Armstrong Whitworth about the possibility of acquiring the dreadnought Rio de Janeiro , then under construction for the Brazilian Navy , along with Minas Geraes , which had been commissioned into the Brazilian fleet in 1910 . These deals fell through , so the Ottomans contacted Vickers to order two new battleships . Douglas Gamble , who had previously served as a naval adviser to the Ottoman government , prepared two designs , the first of which was ordered as Mehmed Reşad V ; during construction , this ship was renamed Reşadiye . A second ship , to be named Fatih Sultan Mehmed , was ordered in April 1914 .

Ordering the Reşadiye class started a significant naval arms race between the Ottoman Empire and Greece . The Greek Navy ordered the battleship Salamis in 1912 in response , which prompted the Ottomans to resume their bid for Rio de Janeiro . The contract to purchase the ship , to be renamed Sultân Osmân @-@ ? Evvel , was signed in January 1914 . This in turn provoked the Greeks to order a second battleship , Vasilefs Konstantinos , which required a third Ottoman battleship to be ordered ; this was the second Reşadiye @-@ class ship , Fatih Sultan Mehmed .

= = Design = =

The design for the Reşadiye was based on the contemporary British King George V class , with some improvements that had been incorporated into the subsequent Iron Duke class then under construction . Compared to the British ships , the Reşadiyes carried their amidships main battery turret one deck higher , which improved its ability to be fired in heavier seas . They also carried a heavier secondary battery , composed of 6 in (150 mm) guns instead of the 4 in (100 mm) weapons in the King George V class . The hull was shorter and wider than the British ships , which improved her turning radius , but the lower displacement forced compromises in armor protection and coal capacity .

== General characteristics and machinery ==

The Reşadiye design was 525 feet (160 m) long between perpendiculars and 559 ft 6 in (170 @. 54 m) long overall . The ships had a beam of 28 ft 10 in (8 @. 79 m) , with a designed displacement of 23 @, 000 metric tons (23 @, 000 long tons ; 25 @, 000 short tons) . In service , Erin displaced 22 @, 780 t (22 @, 420 long tons ; 25 @, 110 short tons) normally and up to 25 @, 250 t (24 @, 850 long tons ; 27 @, 830 short tons) at full load . Erin was completed with a single tripod mast atop the conning tower , fitted with a spotting top to aid in gun @- laying . She had a crew of 1 @, 070 officers and enlisted men .

The ships were powered by four Parsons steam turbines , with steam provided by fifteen Babcock & Wilcox mixed coal and oil @- fired water @- tube boilers . The boilers were trunked into a pair of closely spaced funnels directly aft of the conning tower . The engines were rated at 26 @, 500 shaft horsepower (19 @, 800 kW) for a top speed of 21 knots (39 km / h ; 24 mph) . Erin carried 2 @, 120 t (2 @, 090 long tons ; 2 @, 340 short tons) of coal and 710 t (700 long tons ; 780 short tons) of fuel oil , and she had a cruising radius of 5 @, 100 nautical miles (9 @, 400 km ; 5 @, 900 mi) at a speed of 10 knots (19 km / h ; 12 mph) .

== Armament and armor ==

As designed , the Reşadiye class was armed with a main battery of ten 13 @. 5 @- inch (340 mm) 45 @- caliber guns and sixteen 6 in (150 mm) 50 @- caliber guns , and four 21 in (530 mm) torpedo tubes . The 13 @. 5 in guns were the Mark VI type manufactured by Armstrong Whitworth , and they were mounted in five twin turrets , all on the centerline . The first two were in a superfiring pair forward , one amidships directly aft of the funnels , and the last two were in another superfiring pair , aft of the rear conning tower . The 6 in guns were mounted individually in casemates along the upper deck , eight to each beam . The torpedo tubes were submerged in the hull , two on each side of the ship . As completed , a number of smaller guns were added to Erin , including six 6 @- pounder 57 mm (2 @. 2 in) guns and two 76 mm (3 @. 0 in) Mk I anti @- aircraft guns .

The ships were protected with an armored belt that was 12 in (300 mm) thick in the central portion , and reduced to 4 in (100 mm) on either end of the ship . The transverse bulkheads that connected the ends of the belt were 8 in (200 mm) thick . Horizontal protection consisted of an armored deck that was 3 in (76 mm) thick over the central part of the ship , where it covered the ammunition magazines and machinery spaces , and reduced to 1 @. 5 in (38 mm) thick elsewhere . The forward conning tower had 12 in thick sides . The main battery gun turrets had 11 in (280 mm) thick faces , while the barbettes that supported them had 10 in (250 mm) thick sides , with the lower section behind the main belt reduced to 3 in .

== Ships ==

The first ship of the class , Reşadiye , was ordered on 8 June 1911 . Work stopped in 1912 following the start of the First Balkan War due to the probability that the Ottoman government would run out of funds . Work resumed in May 1913 following the conclusion of the conflict . The second ship , Fatih Sultan Mehmed , was ordered on 29 April 1914 in response to the Greek order for Vasilefs Konstantinos in early 1914 . The British government ordered work to stop in late July 1914 , as a result of the growing tensions that culminated in the outbreak of World War I on the 28th ; what material that had been assembled was dismantled on the slipway in August .

There is some confusion over the number and name of ships that were part of the Reşadiye class . Some sources report Reşadiye and Mehmed Reşad V as having been different ships ; these were in fact the same vessel , ordered originally under the latter name . Similarly , Fatih Sultan Mehmed is sometimes listed as Fatik or Fatih . Another ship , Reshad @- i Hammiss , is sometimes reported to have been ordered in 1911 and cancelled in 1912 , though according to Bernd Langensiepen and

Ahmet Gülerüz in their authoritative *The Ottoman Steam Navy* , the Ottomans initially only had ordered one vessel .

= = Service history = =

By 21 July 1914 , the British had postponed delivery of *Reşadiye* and *Sultan Osman Paşa* as tensions flared in Europe following the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand on 28 June . This action prompted a protest by Djemal Pasha , the Ottoman naval minister , via France , in the hopes of securing the ships ' delivery . A transport ship carrying crews for the two battleships departed Constantinople on 4 August , only to be recalled on 7 August after the Ottoman government was informed that the dreadnoughts would not be delivered . First Lord of the Admiralty Winston Churchill ordered the Royal Navy to detain the two ships on 29 July and prevent Ottoman naval personnel from boarding them ; two days later , British sailors boarded the ships and formally seized them . Since Britain was not yet at war , these actions were illegal ; the British government nevertheless determined to present the Ottomans with a *fait accompli* . On 3 August , the British ambassador to the Ottoman Empire informed the government that Britain had seized the ships .

Reşadiye and *Sultan Osman Paşa* were then pressed into British service . *Reşadiye* was completed that month and commissioned as HMS *Erin* , with *Sultan Osman Paşa* entering service as HMS *Agincourt* . In September , *Erin* joined the 2nd Battle Squadron of the Grand Fleet , where she served for the duration of the conflict . She took part in the Battle of Jutland on 31 May & 1 June 1916 . There , she was the fourth ship in the British line of battle , along with her three surviving King George V class half sisters . She did not fire her main battery during the battle , the only British capital ship not to do so during the engagement ; her secondary battery fired only six shells .

In 1917 , fire control directors were installed , and she received flying off platforms atop her forward superfiring and amidships turrets . After the end of the war , *Erin* was assigned to the Nore Reserve and served as its flagship . Her postwar career was cut short by the Washington Naval Treaty , signed in February 1922 , which mandated significant draw downs in naval strength for the signatories . The Royal Navy had originally intended to keep *Erin* as a training ship under the terms of the treaty , but a change of plans led to HMS *Thunderer* taking her place as the training ship , which meant that *Erin* had to be scrapped . The ship was sold for scrap in December 1922 , and subsequently broken up by the ship breaking firm Cox and Daniels , which finished scrapping *Reşadiye* in 1923 .