

= Spanish battleship España =

España was a Spanish dreadnought battleship , the lead ship of her class . She had two sister ships , Alfonso XIII and Jaime I. España was built by the SECN shipyard ; she was laid down in December 1909 , launched in February 1912 , and completed in October 1913 . She was armed with a main battery of eight 305 mm (12 @. @ 0 in) guns and had a top speed of 19 @. @ 5 knots (36 @. @ 1 km / h ; 22 @. @ 4 mph)

España served in the 1st Squadron after her commissioning , along with her two sisters . Spain remained neutral during World War I , so the Spanish fleet did not see action during the conflict . España provided gunfire support during the Rif War in the early 1920s . During these operations , she ran aground off Cape Tres Forcas , Morocco in August 1923 . The Navy was unable to raise the ship , and severe storms destroyed the wreck in 1924 , which led the Navy to abandon her .

= = Technical characteristics = =

España was 132 @. @ 6 m (435 ft) long at the waterline and 140 m (460 ft) long overall . She had a beam of 24 m (79 ft) and a draft of 7 @. @ 8 m (26 ft) ; her freeboard was 15 ft (4 @. @ 6 m) amidships . Her propulsion system consisted of four @-@ shaft Parsons steam turbines and twelve Yarrow boilers . The engines were rated at 15 @, @ 500 shaft horsepower (11 @, @ 600 kW) and produced a top speed of 19 @. @ 5 knots (36 @. @ 1 km / h ; 22 @. @ 4 mph) . España had a cruising radius of 5 @, @ 000 nautical miles (9 @, @ 300 km ; 5 @, @ 800 mi) at a speed of 10 knots (19 km / h ; 12 mph) . Her crew consisted of 854 officers and enlisted men .

España was armed with a main battery of eight 305 mm (12 @. @ 0 in) / 50 guns , mounted in four twin gun turrets . One turret was placed forward , two were positioned en echelon amidships , and the fourth was aft of the superstructure . This mounting scheme was chosen in preference to superimposed turrets , as was done in the South Carolinas , to save weight and cost . Her secondary battery consisted of twenty 102 mm (4 @. @ 0 in) guns mounted in casemates along the length of the hull . They were too close to the waterline , however , which made them unusable in heavy seas . She was also armed with four 3 @-@ pounder guns and two machine guns . Her armored belt was 203 mm (8 @. @ 0 in) thick amidships ; the main battery turrets were protected with the same amount of armor plate . The conning tower had 254 mm (10 @. @ 0 in) thick sides . Her armored deck was 38 mm (1 @. @ 5 in) thick .

= = Service history = =

The Navy Law of 7 January 1908 authorized construction of España . She was laid down at the Sociedad Española de Construcción Naval shipyard in Ferrol on 6 December 1909 . She was launched on 5 February 1912 , and completed on 23 October 1913 . After their completion , España and her sisters , Alfonso XIII and Jaime I , the three battleships formed the 1st Squadron of the Spanish fleet . Spain remained neutral after the outbreak of World War I in August 1914 , so España and her sisters were the only European dreadnoughts to avoid the war . In mid @-@ 1915 , España crossed the Atlantic to represent Spain at the opening ceremonies for the Panama Canal . Since the major European navies were occupied with World War I , only Spain and Portugal sent ships to the ceremonies .

In 1920 España carried the Spanish representative to the quatercentenary of the discovery of the Straits of Magellan in Chile , in the process becoming the Spanish Navy 's first ship to pass through the Panama Canal . On 29 January 1921 she ran aground in Chilean waters off Puerto Montt on her return to Spain , though she was refloated with some difficulty . Her hull was dented badly for a length of 150 ft (46 m) , and the rocks tore a large hole that was approximately 8 by 8 ft (2 @. @ 4 by 2 @. @ 4 m) between frames 22 and 36 , and several smaller holes between frames 48 to 56 on the port side and 58 to 76 on the starboard side . Divers effected temporary repairs with concrete in Chile , followed by permanent repairs that were made in Balboa , Panama before she made her return voyage across the Atlantic . During this period , she was assigned to the Training Squadron ,

along with her two sister ships . Throughout the early 1920s , she provided fire support to the Spanish Army in its campaigns in Morocco during the Rif War . While conducting a bombardment off Cape Tres Forcas near Melilla on 26 August 1923 , she ran hard aground .

The Spanish Navy hired two salvage companies to refloat the battleship , but both declined after they surveyed the wreck . Unable to raise her , the Spanish decided to remove as much weight as possible from España in an attempt to lighten her to permit refloating . Her guns were removed and dropped overboard to be picked up later by the salvage vessel Kanguro . The battleship 's armor , machinery , and ammunition stores were also removed to lighten her . Her hull was then sealed and partially drained in preparation for raising , but while waiting for the necessary equipment from Italy , several violent storms hit the ship and caused further damage . The battered hull could now no longer be raised , and in November 1924 , she broke in half and was abandoned by the Spanish Navy . The 305 mm and 102 mm guns recovered from España were installed in coastal batteries , some of which remained in service until 1999 before they were retired from service . After the overthrow of King Alfonso XIII , his namesake ship Alfonso XIII , was renamed España in April 1931 .