

= ARA Almirante Brown ( 1880 ) =

ARA Almirante Brown was a central battery ironclad of the Argentine Navy built in the 1880s by Samuda Brothers in London . Almirante Brown displaced 4 @, @ 200 long tons ( 4 @, @ 300 t ) and had a top speed of 14 knots ( 26 km / h ; 16 mph ) . The ship was protected by a belt of nine @-@ inch ( 230 mm ) steel @-@ faced armor and she carried a main battery of eight breech @-@ loading guns . She was among the first major warships in the world to use steel armor , and remained the largest vessel in the Argentine fleet for nearly two decades . Almirante Brown had a peaceful career in the fleet during the 1880s and 1890s . By the 1920s , she was reduced to a coastal defense ship , and remained in service until the early 1930s . She was stricken from the naval register in November 1932 and sold for scrapping .

= = Design = =

= = = General characteristics and machinery = = =

Almirante Brown was 240 feet ( 73 m ) long between perpendiculars , and had a beam of 50 ft ( 15 m ) and a draft of 20 ft 6 in ( 6 @. @ 25 m ) . She displaced up to 4 @, @ 200 long tons ( 4 @, @ 300 t ) with a combat load . Her hull was steel @-@ built , with a wood and zinc sheathing . The hull included a double bottom and a ram bow . She was fitted with two pole masts . The ship had a crew of 520 officers and men .

Her propulsion system consisted of two compound steam engines that drove a pair of propellers . Steam for the engines was provided by eight coal @-@ fired , cylindrical water @-@ tube boilers . The boilers were split into four separate , watertight boiler rooms , and both of the steam engines were in individual engine rooms . The engines were rated at 5 @, @ 400 indicated horsepower ( 4 @, @ 000 kW ) and produced a top speed of 14 knots ( 26 km / h ; 16 mph ) . Almirante Brown had the capacity to store up to 650 metric tons ( 640 long tons ; 720 short tons ) of coal for the boilers . In addition to her steam engines , Almirante Brown was fitted with a sailing rig for auxiliary cruising . The sail plan had an area of 10 @, @ 000 square feet ( 930 m<sup>2</sup> ) .

= = = Armament and armor = = =

Almirante Brown was equipped with a main battery of eight 8 @-@ inch ( 200 mm ) BLR Armstrong guns , all mounted individually in casemates . Six were in a central battery , and the other two were in the bow and stern . These breech @-@ loading guns were a new development , which rendered Almirante Brown a significantly more powerful vessel than even those that had been completed a few years earlier . She also carried six 4 @. @ 7 in ( 120 mm ) guns , also in single mounts , all on the upper deck . Four were mounted forward , and two were located aft , on either side of the 8 @-@ inch stern @-@ chaser . Close @-@ range defense against small craft was provided by a pair of 9 @-@ pounder guns and a pair of 7 @-@ pounder guns .

The ship was protected with compound armor with a steel face manufactured by the German firm Siemens ; the use of steel armor was a new development in naval technology , and permitted significant weight savings . The main armored belt was 9 in ( 230 mm ) thick amidships , and reduced to 7 @. @ 5 in ( 190 mm ) at the bow and stern . Below the main belt was a strake of armor that was 6 in ( 150 mm ) thick amidships and 1 @. @ 5 in ( 38 mm ) on either end of the ship . The central battery was protected by 8 in of armor plate in the lower strake , and 6 in of armor in the upper strake . Atop the central battery , the armored deck was .625 in ( 15 @. @ 9 mm ) thick , while the deck fore and aft of the battery was 1 @. @ 5 in ( 38 mm ) thick . The conning tower also had 8 in thick sides .

= = Service history = =

In 1878 , Argentina made inquiries in Britain to buy a new , ocean @-@ going capital ship for its navy , which to that point , had consisted of only coastal and riverine forces , centered on the two small La Plata @-@ class coastal defense ships . Almirante Brown , the first large ironclad of the Argentine Navy , was ordered from the Samuda Brothers shipyard of London . She was launched on 6 October 1880 , and cost the Argentine government £ 270 @,@ 000 . On 14 June 1881 , she conducted speed trials on the Maplin Mile , and achieved her designed speed of 14 knots at full power . Upon her delivery to Argentina , she was the largest vessel in the Argentine fleet , and remained so until the four Garibaldi @-@ class armored cruisers were acquired in the late 1890s . Almirante Brown was present during the ceremonies for the opening of the south basin in the harbor of Buenos Aires on 28 January 1889 .

On 13 July 1892 , the ship was thought to be lost in a storm that claimed the torpedo boat Rosales . The protected cruiser Veinticinco de Mayo was also believed to have sunk in the storm , though both survived . In the following year , Almirante Brown , along with most of the heavy units in the Argentine Navy , took part in putting down the naval defections in the revolution of 1893 . In 1897 , Almirante Brown went into dry dock at the La Seyne shipyard in Toulon for modernization . Her main battery guns were replaced with ten 5 @.@ 9 in ( 150 mm ) 50 @-@ caliber quick @-@ firing Canet guns ; six replaced the guns in the central battery , and the other four were mounted in pairs in place of the bow and stern guns . In addition , the old 4 @.@ 7 @-@ inch guns were replaced with new quick @-@ firing models . Her crew was reduced to 380 officers and men . By the 1920s , Almirante Brown had been reduced to a coastal defense and training ship , having long since been rendered obsolete by the dreadnought battleships Moreno and Rivadavia . On 17 December 1921 , crewmen from Almirante Brown rowed ashore to defeat a group of about 250 brigands based in Mata Tapera . The ship remained in service until the early 1930s . On 17 November 1932 , Almirante Brown was stricken from the naval register and subsequently discarded .