

= List of battleships of Greece =

In the early 20th century , the Greek Navy embarked on an expansion program to counter a strengthening of Greece 's traditional rival , the Ottoman Empire . The Ottomans ordered a new dreadnought battleship , Reşadiye ; in response , Greece ordered the dreadnought Salamis from a German shipyard . The Ottomans acquired the ex @-@ Brazilian Rio de Janeiro and renamed her Sultân Osmân @-@ ? Evvel . Greece responded with a second battleship ordered in France , Vasilefs Konstantinos , built to the same design as the French Bretagne class . As the Ottomans had a significant head start in battleship construction , the Greek Navy purchased two obsolete American pre @-@ dreadnoughts ? USS Mississippi and Idaho ? as a stop @-@ gap measure in June 1914 . The ships were renamed Kilkis and Lemnos , respectively .

Greek naval plans were interrupted by the outbreak of World War I in August 1914 , however . Work halted on Vasilefs Konstantinos in August and on Salamis in December 1914 . As a result , Kilkis and Lemnos were the only battleships delivered to Greece . Greece remained neutral for the first three years of World War I , though in October 1916 , France seized the Greek Navy and disarmed both of the battleships . They remained inactive for the rest of the war . Both ships saw service in 1919 ? 1922 during the Greco ? Turkish War . They continued to serve with the fleet until the early 1930s , when they were reduced to secondary roles . Lemnos became a barracks ship while Kilkis became a training ship . During the German invasion of Greece in April 1940 , both ships were attacked and sunk in Salamis by Ju 87 Stuka dive @-@ bombers . The two old battleships were scrapped after the end of the war .

= = Key = =

= = Salamis = =

Starting in 1911 , the Ottoman Empire ? Greece 's traditional naval rival ? set about modernizing its fleet . That year , the Ottomans ordered the dreadnought Reşadiye . The expansion of Ottoman naval power threatened Greek control of the Aegean ; to counter the Ottoman dreadnought , Greece decided to order a dreadnought of its own , Salamis , from a German shipyard . The keel was laid down on 23 July 1913 ; the hull was complete and ready for launching by 11 November 1914 . However , the outbreak of World War I in August 1914 interrupted her completion ; work stopped on 31 December 1914 . The guns that had been ordered for the ship in the United States were instead sold by the manufacturer , Bethlehem Steel , to the Royal Navy to arm the British Abercrombie @-@ class monitors . After the end of the war , the Greek Navy refused to accept the incomplete hull . She was eventually scrapped in 1932 following a lengthy arbitration between the Greek Navy and the German shipyard .

= = Vasilefs Konstantinos = =

Following the Ottoman purchase of a second dreadnought in December 1913 , Sultân Osmân @-@ ? Evvel , a previously Brazilian ship still under construction , the Greek Navy responded with an order for a second dreadnought of its own . The new battleship was to be named Vasilefs Konstantinos and was to be built to the same design as the French Bretagne class from AC de St Nazaire Penhoet . Work began in June 1914 but ceased on the outbreak of war in August and never resumed . The Greek Navy refused the incomplete ship after the end of the war , leading to a contract dispute , which was settled in 1925 . The unfinished ship was subsequently broken up for scrap .

= = Kilkis class = =

Kilkis and Lemnos were built by the US Navy between 1904 and 1908 , originally named Mississippi

and Idaho . They served with the US fleet until June 1914 , when they were purchased by the Greek Navy as a stop @-@ gap measure . They were needed to counter Ottoman naval expansion while the Greeks waited on their newly ordered dreadnoughts to be completed abroad . The two ships reached Greece in July 1914 , just before the outbreak of World War I at the end of the month . As Greece remained neutral during the first three years of the war , the two ships saw little service . In October 1916 , the French seized the Greek fleet and disarmed Kilkis and Lemnos ; they were put back into service at the end of the war . Both ships saw service during the Greco ? Turkish War in 1919 ? 1922 , with Lemnos also participating in the Allied intervention in the Russian Civil War .

Both ships continued to see service in the Greek fleet until the early 1930s , with Kilkis serving as the flagship of the fleet . In 1932 , Lemnos was disarmed and used as a barracks ship , and Kilkis was reduced to a training ship . Lemnos was used as a barracks ship after 1937 , and Kilkis became a floating battery at Salamis Naval Base in 1940 . During the German invasion of Greece in April 1941 , both ships were attacked and sunk in Salamis . German Ju @-@ 87 Stuka dive @-@ bombers bombed both ships in the harbor ; Kilkis was sunk outright while Lemnos was beached to avoid sinking . Both ships were broken up after the end of the war .