

= Ottoman ironclad Mesudiye =

Mesudiye ( Ottoman Turkish : Happiness ) was a central @-@ battery ironclad of the Ottoman Navy , one of the largest ships of that type ever built . She was built at the Thames Iron Works in Britain between 1871 and 1875 . Mesudiye had one sister ship , though she was purchased by the Royal Navy and commissioned as HMS Superb . Her primary armament consisted of twelve 10 @-@ inch ( 250 mm ) guns in a central armored battery .

Mesudiye was poorly maintained for most of her career , including a twenty @-@ year long period between the Russo @-@ Turkish War in 1877 ? 78 and the Greco @-@ Turkish War of 1897 . As a result , she was in very poor condition by the late 1890s , which prompted a major reconstruction of her into a pre @-@ dreadnought design type vessel in Genoa . The ship 's armament was overhauled , though the gun turrets that were to have mounted 230 mm ( 9 in ) guns never received the weapons . A new propulsion system was also installed , which significantly improved performance .

The ship saw extensive action during the First Balkan War in 1912 ? 13 , including the battles of Elli and Lemnos in December 1912 and January 1913 , respectively . During the latter engagement , she was badly damaged by a Greek shell and forced to withdraw . Following the outbreak of World War I in 1914 , Mesudiye was moored at Nara to protect the minefields that blocked the entrance to the Dardanelles . On the morning of 13 December , the British submarine HMS B11 passed through the minefields and torpedoed Mesudiye , which quickly sank . Most of the crew survived , however , and many of her guns were salvaged and used to strengthen the defenses of the Dardanelles . A battery of these guns , named Mesudiye in honor of the ship , helped to sink the French battleship Bouvet in March 1915 .

= = Design = =

In the aftermath of the Crimean War , where an entire Ottoman squadron was destroyed by a Russian fleet at Sinop , the Ottoman Empire began a naval construction program , limited primarily by the chronically weak Ottoman economy . Several ironclad warships were ordered in the 1860s and 1870s , primarily from British and French shipyards . Despite the shortage of funds , by the late 1870s , the Ottomans had acquired a fleet of thirteen large ironclads and nine smaller armored warships . Mesudiye was designed by Edward Reed , who based the design on the recently build British ironclad HMS Hercules .

= = General characteristics and machinery = =

Mesudiye was 101 @. @ 02 meters ( 331 ft 5 in ) long , and she had a beam of 17 @. @ 98 m ( 59 ft 0 in ) and a draft of 7 @. @ 9 m ( 25 ft 11 in ) . She displaced 8 @, @ 938 metric tons ( 8 @, @ 797 long tons ; 9 @, @ 852 short tons ) as originally built . Her hull was constructed with iron , and was fitted with a ram bow . She had a crew of 700 officers and enlisted men .

The ship was powered by a single horizontal , two @-@ cylinder compound engine , with steam provided by eight coal @-@ fired box boilers . The boilers were trunked into a pair of funnels located amidships . The engines were rated at 7 @, @ 431 indicated horsepower ( 5 @, @ 541 kW ) and produced a top speed of 13 @. @ 7 knots ( 25 @. @ 4 km / h ; 15 @. @ 8 mph ) . By 1884 , decades of poor maintenance had reduced her top speed to 10 knots ( 19 km / h ; 12 mph ) . She carried 600 t ( 590 long tons ; 660 short tons ) of coal . Although intended to operate primarily via her steam engine , Mesudiye was also fitted with three masts and a barque rig .

= = Armament and armor = =

Mesudiye was armed with a main battery of twelve RML 10 inch 18 ton guns , all mounted in a central battery . Six were on each side , with four on the broadside , one angled forward and the other angled rearward . She was also equipped with three RML 7 inch guns , all on the upper deck ,

with two forward and one aft . In 1891 , six 76 mm ( 3 @. @ 0 in ) quick @-@ firing guns ( QF ) and six 25 @. @ 4 mm ( 1 @. @ 00 in ) QF guns were installed .

Armor protection consisted of iron plate ; the armored belt had a maximum thickness of 305 mm ( 12 @. @ 0 in ) in the central portion of the ship , where it protected machinery and ammunition magazines , and was reduced on either end , first to 127 mm ( 5 @. @ 0 in ) and then to 76 mm . The thickest part of the belt extended 5 ft ( 1 @. @ 5 m ) below the waterline and 4 ft ( 1 @. @ 2 m ) above the line , and was composed of three strakes . The middle strake was the thickest , the upper strake was reduced slightly to 254 mm ( 10 @. @ 0 in ) , and the lower one was 9 in ( 230 mm ) and tapered to 150 mm ( 5 @. @ 9 in ) . The gun battery was protected by another two strakes of armor , the lower being 254 mm thick and the upper reduced to 178 mm ( 7 @. @ 0 in ) .

= = Service history = =

Mesudiye was ordered in 1871 and was laid down at the Thames Iron Works shipyard in London the following year . She was launched on 28 October 1874 and was commissioned in December 1875 for sea trials . She had one sister ship , Mahmûdiye , which was renamed Hamidiye while under construction . She was purchased by the Royal Navy before completion and commissioned as HMS Superb . Mesudiye and Superb were the largest casemate ironclads ever built . In September 1876 , Mesudiye became the flagship of the Ottoman Black Sea Squadron , though she did not see action in the Russo @-@ Turkish War that broke out in April 1877 .

After the Ottoman defeat , the fleet was laid up at the Golden Horn and left largely unattended for the following twenty years . During this period of inactivity , Mesudiye received a minor modernization at the Tersâne @-@ i Âmire shipyard on the Golden Horn . At the start of the Greco @-@ Turkish War in February 1897 , Mesudiye was found to be unfit for combat , as were most of the other major warships of the fleet . On 15 May Mesudiye and several other warships attempted to hold a training exercise , which only highlighted the poor state of training of the ships ' crews .

= = = Reconstruction = = =

Following the end of the war , the government decided to begin a naval reconstruction program . The first stage was to rebuild the older armored warships , including Mesudiye . Requests for proposals were sent to foreign shipyards , and in October 1898 the Gio . Ansaldo & C. shipyard in Genoa requested permission to survey the ship and the ironclad Âsâr @-@ ? Tevfik . Both vessels were accordingly sent to Genoa in January 1899 , arriving on the 28th , though Ansaldo only received the contract for Mesudiye . Mesudiye was rebuilt into a pre @-@ dreadnought type vessel .

The modernization involved radical reconstruction of the hull ; the bow and stern were cut down to make room for a pair of gun turrets , each mounting a single 230 mm ( 9 in ) 40 @-@ caliber gun manufactured by Vickers . The turrets had 230 mm thick armored faces , though they never received their guns ; wooden dummy guns were installed in their place . A battery of twelve 150 mm ( 5 @. @ 9 in ) 45 @-@ caliber QF guns was installed in place of the old rifled muzzle @-@ loaders , and sixteen 76 mm QF guns were added in an upper battery . Mesudiye also received ten 57 mm ( 2 @. @ 2 in ) guns and a pair of 47 mm ( 1 @. @ 9 in ) guns .

A large superstructure was built amidships , with a new conning tower , which was given 200 mm ( 7 @. @ 9 in ) of armor plating . Displacement rose to 9 @, @ 120 t ( 8 @, @ 980 long tons ; 10 @, @ 050 short tons ) normally and 9 @, @ 710 t ( 9 @, @ 560 long tons ; 10 @, @ 700 short tons ) at full load . The ship 's propulsion system was also completely replaced . Two triple @-@ expansion engines were installed , along with sixteen coal @-@ fired Niclausse boilers . The two screw propellers overlapped , so the port side screw was placed slightly ahead of the starboard one . Performance improved to 11 @, @ 000 ihp ( 8 @, @ 200 kW ) and 17 kn ( 31 km / h ; 20 mph ) . Her crew increased to 800 as a result of the modifications . On 15 March 1904 , Mesudiye completed sea trials and thereafter returned to Constantinople .

== Italo @-@ Turkish and Balkan Wars ==

In 1909 , she participated in the first fleet maneuver conducted by the Ottoman Navy in twenty years , part of a reform program initiated by a British naval mission to the Ottoman Empire . Starting in July 1911 , Mesudiye joined the two pre @-@ dreadnoughts Barbaros Hayreddin and Turgut Reis , four destroyers , and a torpedo boat for a series of exercises that culminated in the routine summer cruise to Beirut . The fleet was returning to Constantinople when the Italy declared war , starting the Italo @-@ Turkish War on 29 September 1911 . Mesudiye and the rest of the fleet moored at Nara on 2 October and returned to Constantinople the following day . Mesudiye was thereafter assigned to the Reserve Division , which also included the rebuilt ironclad Âsâr @-@ ? Tevfik and the torpedo cruiser Berk @-@ i Satvet . She did not see action during the conflict , since the Ottoman fleet spent the war in port . This was in part due to the rising tensions in the Balkans that presaged the Balkan Wars ; the Ottomans kept their fleet in port so it could be prepared for the inevitable conflict .

In October 1912 , the Balkan League declared war on the Ottomans , a month before the Italo @-@ Turkish War ended . At the time , Mesudiye was moored off Büyükdere , a neighborhood in Constantinople , with the torpedo boats Hamidâbad and Kütahya , stationed as a guard ship . In December , the Ottoman fleet was reorganized , with Mesudiye joining the newly formed Battleship Division , under the command of Ramiz Naman Bey . The division also included Barbaros Hayreddin , Turgut Reis , and Âsâr @-@ ? Tevfik . The ship was moved to Büyükçekmece on 15 November , where she joined the rest of the fleet . Two days later , Mesudiye and Barbaros Hayreddin conducted shore bombardments in support of the Ottoman troops holding the Çatalca Line ; the bombardments did not cause particularly significant material damage to the attacking Bulgarians , but it did boost Ottoman morale .

=== Battle of Elli ===

The ships took part in the Battle of Elli , the first Ottoman surface action involving major warships since the Russo @-@ Turkish War , on 16 December 1912 . The Ottoman fleet sortied from the Dardanelles at 9 : 30 ; the smaller craft remained at the mouth of the straits while the battleships sailed north , hugging the coast . The Greek flotilla , which included the armored cruiser Georgios Averof and three Hydra @-@ class ironclads , sailing from the island of Lemnos , altered course to the northeast to block the advance of the Ottoman battleships . The Ottoman ships opened fire on the Greeks at 9 : 40 , from a range of about 15 @,@ 000 yd ( 14 @,@ 000 m ) . Five minutes later , Georgios Averof crossed over to the other side of the Ottoman fleet , placing the Ottomans in the unfavorable position of being under fire from both sides .

At 9 : 50 and under heavy pressure from the Greek fleet , the Ottoman ships completed a 16 @-@ point turn , which reversed their course , and headed for the safety of the straits . The turn was poorly conducted , and the ships fell out of formation , blocking each other 's fields of fire . Barbaros Hayreddin , Turgut Reis , and Mesudiye took several hits during the battle , though only Barbaros Hayreddin was significantly damaged . By 10 : 17 , both sides had ceased firing and the Ottoman fleet withdrew into the Dardanelles . When they approached the straits , Mesudiye and Âsâr @-@ ? Tevfik took up positions to cover the withdrawal of the damaged pre @-@ dreadnoughts . The ships reached port by 13 : 00 and transferred their casualties to the hospital ship Resit Pa'a .

=== Battle of Lemnos ===

In late December , the Ottomans began a campaign of raids and patrols in the Aegean Sea against the islands that had been recently conquered by the Greeks . The Ottoman Army began planning to make a landing on Tenedos in late December , which had been captured by Greece earlier in the war . Mesudiye and the rest of the Battleship Division sortied from the Dardanelles on the morning of 4 January 1913 , but the operation was called off after the Greek fleet appeared . On 10 January , the fleet embarked on another offensive operation , this time to raid the island of Imbros . After a brief , inconclusive clash with Greek destroyers , the fleet again withdrew to the safety of the

Dardanelles . Eight days later , another fleet operation began , which produced the Battle of Lemnos , the second major naval engagement of the war . Ottoman plan to lure the faster Georgios Averof away from the Dardanelles . The protected cruiser Hamidiye evaded the Greek blockade and broke out into the Aegean Sea in an attempt to draw the Greek cruiser into pursuit . Despite the threat posed by the cruiser , the Greek commander refused to detach Georgios Averof .

The Ottoman fleet departed the Dardanelles at 8 : 20 on the morning of 18 January , and sailed toward the island of Lemnos at a speed of 11 knots ( 20 km / h ; 13 mph ) . Barbaros Hayreddin led the line of battleships , with a flotilla of torpedo boats on either side of the formation . A long range artillery duel that lasted for two hours began at around 11 : 55 , when the Ottoman fleet opened fire at a range of 8 @ , @ 000 m ( 26 @ , @ 000 ft ) . They concentrated their fire on the Greek Georgios Averof , which returned fire at 12 : 00 . At 12 : 50 , the Greeks attempted to cross the T of the Ottoman fleet , but Barbaros Hayreddin turned north to block the Greek maneuver . At around that time , Mesudiye took a serious hit that disabled three of her 150 mm guns ; this damage , coupled with boiler trouble , led the Ottoman commander to detach the ship and send her back to port .

On 5 February , Mesudiye supported operations off ?arköy in the Sea of Marmara , bombarding Bulgarian troops that had occupied the town . This was the last wartime operation conducted by the ship ; she did not participate in the amphibious assault on ?arköy three days later . The Ottoman fleet then spent the remaining months of the war in port , until the armistice ended the conflict in April .

= = = World War I = = =

In late July 1914 , World War I broke out in Europe , though the Ottomans initially remained neutral . On 6 September 1914 , Mesudiye was sent to Nara to protect the minefields guarding the entrance to the Dardanelles . She was supported by the minelayer Nusret and the tug Intibah . Tensions between the Ottomans and a British fleet patrolling the entrance to the Dardanelles increased until 5 November , when Britain and France declared war on the Ottoman Empire .

On the morning of 13 December , the British submarine B11 , commanded by Lieutenant Norman Holbrook , entered the Dardanelles . At around 11 : 30 , she spotted Mesudiye at anchor and fired a single torpedo from a distance of 750 m ( 2 @ , @ 460 ft ) . The torpedo hit the ship 's stern and caused serious damage ; Mesudiye 's guns briefly fired at B11 's periscope before the ship capsized and sank in shallow water . Casualties were light , with only 10 officers and 27 enlisted men killed in the attack . A salvage effort removed the 150 mm and 76 mm guns , which were used to strengthen the defenses of the Dardanelles . In the meantime , B11 successfully passed back through the Dardanelles and returned to port ; Holbrook was awarded the Victoria Cross for sinking Mesudiye .

Mesudiye 's salvaged 150 mm guns were installed as " Battery Mesudiye " in the Dardanelles . These guns played a role in the sinking of the French battleship Bouvet on 18 March 1915 , having hit the ship eight times ? one of which disabled her forward turret ? before she struck a mine and sank with very heavy loss of life .