

= Edgar Quinet @-@ class cruiser =

The Edgar Quinet class was the last type of armored cruiser built for the French Navy . The two ships of this class ? Edgar Quinet and Waldeck @-@ Rousseau ? were built between 1905 and 1911 . They were based on the previous cruiser , Ernest Renan , the primary improvement being a more powerful uniform main battery of 194 mm (7 @.@ 6 in) guns . The Edgar Quinet class was the most powerful type of armored cruiser built in France , but they entered service more than two years after the British battlecruiser HMS Invincible , which , with its all @-@ big @-@ gun armament , had rendered armored cruisers obsolescent .

Both ships operated together in the Mediterranean Fleet after entering service , and they remained in the fleet throughout World War I. They participated in the blockade of the Adriatic to keep the Austro @-@ Hungarian Navy contained early in the war . During this period , Edgar Quinet took part in the Battle of Antivari in August 1914 , and Waldeck @-@ Rousseau was unsuccessfully attacked twice by Austro @-@ Hungarian U @-@ boats . Waldeck @-@ Rousseau participated in the Allied intervention in the Russian Civil War in the Black Sea in 1919 ? 22 , while Edgar Quinet remained in the Mediterranean during the contemporaneous Greco @-@ Turkish War .

Edgar Quinet was converted into a training ship in the mid @-@ 1920s before running aground off the Algerian coast in January 1930 . She could not be pulled free and sank five days later . Waldeck @-@ Rousseau served as the flagship of the Far East fleet from 1929 to 1932 and was decommissioned after returning to France . She was hulked in 1936 and scrapped in 1941 ? 44 .

= = Development = =

In the 1890s , naval theorists of the Jeune École (Young School) in France , particularly Admiral Ernest François Fournier , advocated building a fleet of armored cruisers based on the first French ship of that type , Dupuy de Lôme . The ships were to be capable of long @-@ range commerce raiding , action in the line of battle against older battleships , and reconnaissance for the main fleet . The French Navy subsequently built a series of twenty @-@ four armored cruisers after Dupuy de Lôme , culminating in the two Edgar @-@ Quinet @-@ class ships . The design for these last two ships was based heavily on their predecessor , Ernest Renan . And like Ernest Renan , the design was repeatedly reworked during construction , which produced very lengthy construction times . The Edgar Quinets were the most powerful armored cruisers built by France , but they entered service two years after the British battlecruiser HMS Invincible ? the British ship 's all @-@ big @-@ gun armament and turbine propulsion rendered all armored cruisers obsolescent .

= = Description = =

= = = General characteristics and machinery = = =

The ships of the Edgar Quinet class were 158 @.@ 9 meters (521 ft) long overall , with a beam of 21 @.@ 51 m (70 @.@ 6 ft) and a draft of 8 @.@ 41 m (27 @.@ 6 ft) . They displaced 13 @,@ 847 metric tons (13 @,@ 628 long tons ; 15 @,@ 264 short tons) . The hulls were constructed with mild steel and were fitted with bilge keels to improve stability . The ships had a military foremast with a fighting top and a pole mainmast . The forecastle deck extended for most of the ship , as far back as the main mast . They had a crew of between 859 and 892 officers and enlisted men .

Their power plant consisted of three 4 @-@ cylinder triple @-@ expansion engines powered by forty coal @-@ fired Belleville boilers in Edgar Quinet and forty @-@ two Niclausse boilers in Waldeck @-@ Rousseau . The boilers were trunked into six funnels in two groups of three . The engines were rated at 36 @,@ 000 indicated horsepower (27 @,@ 000 kW) and produced a top speed of 23 knots (43 km / h ; 26 mph) . The engines were divided into individual watertight compartments , while the boilers were grouped in pairs in watertight compartments . Maximum coal capacity amounted to 2 @,@ 300 t (2 @,@ 300 long tons ; 2 @,@ 500 short tons) , which

permitted a cruising range of 5 @, @ 100 nautical miles (9 @, @ 400 km ; 5 @, @ 900 mi) at a speed of 10 knots (19 km / h ; 12 mph) . Electrical power was supplied by six electric generators .

= = = Armament and armor = = =

The Edgar Quinet @-@ class ships were armed with a main battery of fourteen 194 mm (7 @. @ 6 in) 50 @-@ caliber M1902 guns ; four were in twin gun turrets forward and aft , with three single gun turrets on either broadside . The turret mountings allowed for loading at any angle of elevation , and were electrically operated . The forward turrets had a range of train of about 280 degrees . The last four guns were mounted in casemates abreast the main and aft conning towers , on the upper and main decks , respectively . The 194 mm gun had a rate of fire of up to four rounds per minute . The ships ' ammunition magazines were equipped with refrigeration , which was standardized in French warships following the accidental destruction of the battleship *Léna* by an overheated propellant magazine in 1907 . Close @-@ range defense against torpedo boats was provided by a battery of twenty 65 mm (2 @. @ 6 in) 9 @-@ pounder guns in casemates in the ship 's hull . In 1918 , twelve of the ships ' 65 mm guns were removed and a pair of 65 mm anti @-@ aircraft guns (AA) and a pair of 75 mm (3 @. @ 0 in) AA guns were installed . Edgar Quinet and Waldeck @-@ Rousseau were also equipped with two 450 mm (17 @. @ 7 in) torpedo tubes submerged in the hull .

The ships were protected with an armored belt that was 150 mm (5 @. @ 9 in) thick amidships and reduced to 70 mm (2 @. @ 8 in) forward and 40 mm (1 @. @ 6 in) aft . They had two armored decks ; the lower , main deck was 65 mm (2 @. @ 6 in) thick and the upper deck was 30 mm (1 @. @ 2 in) . The gun turrets had 200 mm (7 @. @ 9 in) thick plating , with 200 mm thick barbettes , while the casemates had marginally thinner protection , at 194 mm . The two pairs of casemates were linked by transverse armored bulkheads ; the outer bulkhead was 194 mm thick while the inner bulkhead was 120 mm (4 @. @ 7 in) thick . The main conning tower had 200 mm thick sides . Underwater protection consisted of a cofferdam built into the lower hull with a longitudinal watertight bulkhead behind it .

= = Ships = =

= = Service history = =

After entering service in early and mid @-@ 1911 , respectively , Edgar Quinet and Waldeck @-@ Rousseau were assigned to the Mediterranean Fleet . In 1913 , Edgar Quinet participated in an international naval demonstration that also included British , German , and Austro @-@ Hungarian vessels off Albania . The demonstration was a protest of the Siege of Scutari during the First Balkan War ; it succeeded in forcing the Serbian army to withdraw and allowing an international force to occupy the city .

Both Edgar Quinet and Waldeck @-@ Rousseau saw service in the Mediterranean during World War I. Edgar Quinet joined the hunt for the German battlecruiser SMS *Goeben* in August 1914 , and both ships participated in the blockade of the Austro @-@ Hungarian Navy in the Adriatic . Later in August , Edgar Quinet was present at the Battle of Antivari , which saw the sinking of the Austro @-@ Hungarian cruiser SMS *Zenta* . While on patrol at the mouth of the Adriatic , Waldeck @-@ Rousseau was attacked twice by Austro @-@ Hungarian U @-@ boats , though neither submarine was able to hit the cruiser . During the first action in October , several Austro @-@ Hungarian destroyers briefly skirmished with Waldeck @-@ Rousseau after the U @-@ boat attacked her . Both cruisers were involved in the seizure of Corfu in January 1916 .

After the end of the war , both ships continued service in the eastern Mediterranean and Black seas . Waldeck @-@ Rousseau joined the Allied intervention in the Russian Civil War and operated in support of the White Russians against the Red Bolsheviks ; shortly after arriving , her crew mutinied over poor conditions but quickly resumed their duties . Edgar Quinet meanwhile remained in the

Mediterranean during the Greco - Turkish War , and during the Great Fire of Smyrna , at the climax of the conflict , she rescued 1 , 200 people from the city .

Edgar Quinet was converted into a training ship in the mid 1920s , a role she filled for the remainder of the decade . On 4 January 1930 , she ran aground off the Algerian coast and could not be freed . She sank five days later . Waldeck Rousseau had meanwhile been assigned as the flagship of the Far East fleet in 1929 , where she remained until 1932 , when she returned to France . She was decommissioned upon arrival , hulked in 1936 , and broken up for scrap in 1941 ? 44 .