

= Spanish battleship Jaime I =

Jaime I was the third and final member of the España class of dreadnought battleships of the Spanish Navy . She had two sister ships , España and Alfonso XIII . Jaime I was built by the SECN shipyard ; she was laid down in February 1912 , launched in September 1914 , and completed in December 1921 . She was armed with a main battery of eight 12 @-@ inch ( 305 mm ) guns and could steam at a speed of 19 @.@ 5 knots ( 36 @.@ 1 km / h ; 22 @.@ 4 mph ) .

Jaime I served in the Spanish fleet from 1921 to 1937 . She and her sisters participated in the Rif War , where they provided gunfire support to Spanish Army forces . During the conflict , she was damaged by a rebel coastal battery . The ship served with the Republicans during the Spanish Civil War . Nationalist bombers attacked the ship twice and on 17 June 1937 , she was destroyed by an accidental explosion . The wreck was later raised and scrapped .

= = Technical characteristics = =

Jaime I 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 ) . Jaime I 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 .

Jaime I 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 = =

Jaime I was laid down at the Sociedad Española de Construcción Naval shipyard in Ferrol on 5 February 1912 . She was launched on 21 September 1914 , less than two months after the start of World War I. Spain remained neutral during the conflict , but because Britain supplied much of the armament and other building materials , work on Jaime I was considerably delayed . The ship was ready to go to sea by 1917 , but she was not completed until well after the end of the war ; work was finally finished on 20 December 1921 . Upon her completion , she joined her two sister ships in the 1st Squadron of the Spanish fleet . Jaime I saw action against insurgents in Morocco in the Rif War during the early 1920s along with her two sisters . Rif insurgents operating a coastal battery damaged the ship in 1924 .

She fought with the Spanish Republican Navy in the Spanish Civil War . At the outbreak of the Nationalist revolt , wireless operators in the navy headquarters Madrid intercepted radio messages from General Francisco Franco to rebels in Morocco . They alerted the crews aboard Jaime I and other ships , who mutinied against their rebellious officers and ensured the ships would remain under Republican control . The vessels were nevertheless crippled by poor discipline for some time , as they had murdered many of their officers , and distrusted those that were not killed . On the first months of the war , Jaime I shelled a number of rebel strongholds , among them Ceuta , Melilla and Algeciras . In Algeciras she hit with her secondary armament the Nationalist gunboat Eduardo Dato , which was burned down to the waterline , although she was later repaired and returned to service .

During the Civil War , Jaime I was damaged by a Nationalist air attack at Málaga on 13 August 1936 ; a single , small bomb struck the ship in the bow and caused minimal damage . On 21 May 1937 , she was attacked again while in drydock at Cartagena for repairs after a recent grounding . Three bombs hit the ship , that again caused only minor damage . On 17 June , while at Cartagena , she was wrecked by an accidental internal explosion and fire , although sabotage is suspected . She was refloated , but determined to be beyond repair . She was officially discarded on 3 July 1939 , and broken up in 1941 .

In 1940 , the all the guns were recovered , the front and rear twin turrets were used in the Gibraltar strait coastal defense batteries D9 and D10 , El vigia and Casquebel respectively , near Tarifa . Abandoned in 1985 , the twin turrets and canons are still in place. but under degradation . All the other guns were placed en single mounts in several locations