

= Ammiraglio di Saint Bon @-@ class battleship =

The Ammiraglio di Saint Bon class was a pair of pre @-@ dreadnought battleships built for the Italian Navy (Italian : Regia Marina) during the 1890s . The class comprised two ships : Ammiraglio di Saint Bon , the lead ship , and Emanuele Filiberto . They were armed with a main battery of four 10 @-@ inch (254 @-@ millimetre) guns and were capable of a top speed of 18 knots (33 km / h ; 21 mph) . Smaller and less powerfully @-@ armed than most contemporary battleships , they marked a brief departure from Italian battleship design , which had previous emphasized large ships equipped with large guns .

Both ships served in the active duty squadron early in their careers , and participated in the Italo @-@ Turkish War of 1911 ? 12 . They took part in the Italian offensives in North Africa and the island of Rhodes , but did not see combat with the Ottoman fleet . They were reduced to harbor defense ships by the outbreak of World War I , and they spent the war in Venice . The ships were discarded shortly after the end of the war , both having been stricken in 1920 .

= = Design = =

The previous Italian capital ships , the Re Umberto and the Ruggiero di Lauria classes of ironclad battleships , marked a period of experimentation on the part of Benedetto Brin , Admiral Simone di Pacoret Saint Bon , and the strategists of the Italian navy . Since the planners had not determined what type of battleship would best suit their strategic needs , the government stepped in and mandated a 10 @,@ 000 @-@ long @-@ ton (10 @,@ 000 t) design smaller than the earlier classes . Following the death of di Saint Bon , Brin took over the design process and proposed a small battleship armed with 10 in (254 mm) guns , a weaker main battery than those of contemporary foreign designs .

The ships , much smaller than their contemporaries , and slower than cruisers , were not particularly useful warships . The mistake of building a battleship of only 10 @,@ 000 tons was not repeated in the subsequent , and much more successful , Regina Margherita class .

= = = General characteristics and machinery = = =

The ships of the Ammiraglio di Saint Bon class were 105 meters (344 ft) long at the waterline and 111 @.@ 8 m (367 ft) long overall . They had a beam of 21 @.@ 12 m (69 @.@ 3 ft) and a maximum draft of 7 @.@ 69 m (25 @.@ 2 ft) . Ammiraglio di Saint Bon displaced 10 @,@ 082 metric tons (9 @,@ 923 long tons ; 11 @,@ 114 short tons) at standard loading and 10 @,@ 531 t (10 @,@ 365 long tons ; 11 @,@ 608 short tons) at full combat load , while Emanuele Filiberto displaced 9 @,@ 645 t (9 @,@ 493 long tons ; 10 @,@ 632 short tons) and 9 @,@ 940 t (9 @,@ 780 long tons ; 10 @,@ 960 short tons) , respectively . The ships had a low freeboard of only 3 m (9 @.@ 8 ft) . Ammiraglio di Saint Bon had a crew of 557 officers and enlisted men , while Emanuele Filiberto had a slightly larger complement of 565 .

The ships ' propulsion system consisted of two triple expansion engines ; Ammiraglio di Saint Bon 's were rated at 14 @,@ 296 indicated horsepower (10 @,@ 661 kW) , while Emanuele Filiberto 's engines only reached 13 @,@ 552 ihp (10 @,@ 106 kW) . Steam for the engines was provided by twelve coal @-@ fired cylindrical water @-@ tube boilers . The ships ' propulsion system provided a top speed of 18 knots (33 km / h ; 21 mph) and a range of approximately 5 @,@ 500 nautical miles (10 @,@ 200 km ; 6 @,@ 300 mi) at 10 knots (19 km / h ; 12 mph) .

= = = Armament and armor = = =

The ships were armed with four 10 in (254 mm) 40 @-@ caliber guns manufactured by Armstrong Whitworth . The guns were placed in two twin gun turrets , one forward and one aft . The ships were also equipped with eight 6 in (152 mm) 40 @-@ cal. guns in individual casemates amidships . These guns were export derivatives of the British QF 6 @-@ inch / 40 gun . Ammiraglio di Saint Bon

was also equipped with eight 4 @. @ 7 in (119 mm) 40 @-@ cal. guns in shielded pivot mounts directly above the casemate battery and eight 57 mm (2 @. @ 2 in) guns and two 37 mm (1 @. @ 5 in) guns . Emanuele Filiberto carried six 3 in (76 mm) guns and eight 47 mm (1 @. @ 9 in) guns instead . Both ships also carried four 17 @. @ 7 in (450 mm) torpedo tubes in deck @-@ mounted launchers .

The ships were protected with Harvey steel . The main belt was 9 @. @ 8 in (249 mm) thick , and the deck was 2 @. @ 75 in (70 mm) thick . The conning tower was protected by 9 @. @ 8 in of armor plating . The main battery guns had 9 @. @ 8 in thick plating , and the casemates were 5 @. @ 9 in (150 mm) thick .

= = Ships of the class = =

= = Service = =

Ammiraglio di Saint Bon was built by the Venice Naval Shipyard . She was laid down on 18 July 1893 , launched on 29 April 1897 , and completed on 24 May 1901 , although she had been commissioned on 1 February 1901 . Emanuele Filiberto was named after Prince Emanuele Filiberto , Duke of Aosta . She was built by the Castellammare Naval Shipyard in Castellammare di Stabia , Naples . She was laid down on 5 October 1893 , launched on 29 September 1897 , and completed on 16 April 1902 , although she had been commissioned on 6 September 1901 . The ships spend the first several years in the active duty squadron until they were replaced by the new Regina Elena @-@ class battleships , which entered service by 1908 .

Both ships took part in the Italo @-@ Turkish War in 1911 ? 1912 in the 3rd Division with the two Regina Margherita @-@ class battleships . Emanuele Filiberto took part in the attack on Tripoli in October 1911 , though Ammiraglio di Saint Bon did not see action in the first months of the war . Both ships participated in the seizure of the island of Rhodes , where Ammiraglio di Saint Bon provided gunfire support to the soldiers ashore .

The two ships were slated to be scrapped in 1914 ? 15 due to their age , but the outbreak of World War I in August 1914 prevented their disposal . Italy initially remained neutral during the war , but by 1915 , had been convinced by the Triple Entente to enter the war against Germany and Austria @-@ Hungary . Both Ammiraglio di Saint Bon and Emanuele Filiberto were used as harbor defense ships in Venice for the duration of the war , and did not see action there . Neither ship remained in service long after the end of the war . Emanuele Filiberto was stricken from the naval register on 29 March 1920 and Ammiraglio di Saint Bon was stricken on 18 June . Both ships were subsequently discarded .