

= Amiral Charner @-@ class cruiser =

The Amiral Charner class was a group of four armoured cruisers built for the French Navy during the 1890s . They were designed to be smaller and cheaper than the preceding design while also serving as commerce raiders in times of war . Three of the ships were assigned to the International Squadron off the island of Crete during the Greco @-@ Turkish War of 1897 to protect French interests and citizens . With several exceptions the sister ships spent most of the first decade of the 20th century serving as training ships or in reserve . Bruix aided survivors of the devastating eruption of Mount Pelée on the island of Martinique in 1902 . Chanzy was transferred to French Indochina in 1906 and ran aground off the Chinese coast in mid @-@ 1907 . She proved impossible to refloat and was destroyed in place .

The three survivors escorted troop convoys from French North Africa to France for several months after the beginning of World War I in August 1914 . Unlike her sisters , Bruix was transferred to the Atlantic to support Allied operations against the German colony of Kamerun in September 1914 while Amiral Charner and Latouche @-@ Tréville were assigned to the Eastern Mediterranean. where they blockaded the Ottoman @-@ controlled coast , and supported Allied operations . Amiral Charner was sunk in early 1916 by a German submarine . Latouche @-@ Tréville became a training ship in late 1917 and was decommissioned in 1919 . Bruix was decommissioned in Greece at the beginning of 1918 and recommissioned after the end of the war in November for service in the Black Sea against the Bolsheviks . She returned home in 1919 and was sold for scrap in 1921 . Latouche @-@ Tréville followed her to the breakers five years later .

= = Design and description = =

The Amiral Charner @-@ class ships were designed to be smaller and cheaper than the preceding armored cruiser design , the Dupuy de Lôme . Like the older ship , they were intended to fill the commerce @-@ raiding strategy of the Jeune École .

The ships measured 106 @.@ 12 metres ( 348 ft 2 in ) between perpendiculars and had a beam of 14 @.@ 04 metres ( 46 ft 1 in ) . They had a forward draught of 5 @.@ 55 metres ( 18 ft 3 in ) and drew 6 @.@ 06 metres ( 19 ft 11 in ) aft . The Amiral Charner class displaced 4 @, @ 748 tonnes ( 4 @, @ 673 long tons ) at normal load and 4 @, @ 990 tonnes ( 4 @, @ 910 long tons ) at deep load . They were fitted with a prominent plough @-@ shaped ram at the bow . This made the ships very wet forward , although they were generally felt to be reasonably good sea boats and handled well by their captains . Their metacentric height was deemed to be inadequate and all of the surviving ships had their military masts replaced by lighter pole masts between 1910 and 1914 .

The Amiral Charner @-@ class ships had two horizontal triple @-@ expansion steam engines , each driving a single propeller shaft . Steam for the engines was provided by 16 Belleville boilers at a working pressure of 17 kg / cm<sup>2</sup> ( 1 @, @ 667 kPa ; 242 psi ) and the engines were rated at a total of 8 @, @ 300 metric horsepower ( 6 @, @ 100 kW ) using forced draught . The engines in Bruix were more powerful than those of her sister ships and were rated at 9 @, @ 000 metric horsepower ( 6 @, @ 600 kW ) . The ships had a designed speed of 19 knots ( 35 km / h ; 22 mph ) , but during sea trials they failed to meet their specified speed , only reaching maximum speeds of 18 @.@ 16 to 18 @.@ 4 knots ( 33 @.@ 63 to 34 @.@ 08 km / h ; 20 @.@ 90 to 21 @.@ 17 mph ) from 8 @, @ 276 to 9 @, @ 107 metric horsepower ( 6 @, @ 087 to 6 @, @ 698 kW ) . They carried up to 535 tonnes ( 527 long tons ) of coal and could steam for 4 @, @ 000 nautical miles ( 7 @, @ 400 km ; 4 @, @ 600 mi ) at a speed of 10 knots ( 19 km / h ; 12 mph ) .

= = Armament = =

The ships of the Amiral Charner class had a main armament that consisted of two 45 @-@ calibre Canon de 194 mm Modèle 1887 guns that were mounted in single gun turrets , one each fore and aft of the superstructure . The turrets were hydraulically operated in all ships except on Latouche @-@ Tréville , whose turrets were electrically powered . The guns fired 75 ? 90 @.@ 3 @-@

kilogram ( 165 ? 199 lb ) shells at muzzle velocities ranging from 770 to 800 metres per second ( 2 @, @ 500 to 2 @, @ 600 ft / s ) .

Their secondary armament comprised six 45 @-@ calibre Canon de 138 @.@ 6 mm Modèle 1887 guns , each in single gun turrets on each broadside . Their 30 ? 35 @-@ kilogram ( 66 ? 77 lb ) shells were fired at muzzle velocities of 730 to 770 metres per second ( 2 @, @ 400 to 2 @, @ 500 ft / s ) . For close @-@ range anti @-@ torpedo boat defense , they carried four quick @-@ firing ( QF ) 65 @-@ millimetre ( 2 @.@ 6 in ) guns , four QF 47 @-@ millimetre ( 1 @.@ 9 in ) and eight QF 37 @-@ millimetre ( 1 @.@ 5 in ) five @-@ barreled revolving Hotchkiss guns . They were also armed with four 450 @-@ millimetre ( 17 @.@ 7 in ) pivoting torpedo tubes ; two mounted on each broadside above water .

= = = Protection = = =

The side of the Amiral Charner class was generally protected by 92 millimetres ( 3 @.@ 6 in ) of steel armor , from 1 @.@ 3 metres ( 4 ft 3 in ) below the waterline to 2 @.@ 5 metres ( 8 ft 2 in ) above it . The bottom 20 centimetres ( 7 @.@ 9 in ) tapered in thickness and the armor at the ends of the ships thinned to 60 millimetres ( 2 @.@ 4 in ) . The curved protective deck of mild steel had a thickness of 40 millimetres ( 1 @.@ 6 in ) along its centerline that increased to 50 millimetres ( 2 @.@ 0 in ) at its outer edges . Protecting the boiler rooms , engine rooms , and magazines below it was a thin splinter deck . A watertight internal cofferdam , filled with cellulose , ran the length of the ship from the protective deck to a height of 1 @.@ 2 metres ( 4 ft ) above the waterline . Below the protective deck the ship was divided by 13 watertight transverse bulkheads with five more above it . The ship 's conning tower and turrets were protected by 92 millimeters of armor .

= = Ships = =

= = Service = =

Amiral Charner spent most of her career in the Mediterranean , although she was sent to China during the Boxer Rebellion of 1900 ? 01 . Together with her sisters , Chanzy and Latouche @-@ Tréville , the ship was assigned to the International Squadron off the island of Crete during the Greco @-@ Turkish War of 1897 to protect French interests and citizens . With the exception of Bruix , the sisters spent most of the first decade of the 20th century as training ships or in reserve . Bruix served in the Atlantic Ocean , the Mediterranean , and in the Far East before World War I . In 1902 she aided survivors of the devastating eruption of Mount Pelée on the island of Martinique and spent several years as guardship at Crete , protecting French interests in the region in the early 1910s . Chanzy was transferred to French Indochina in 1906 . She ran aground off the Chinese coast in mid @-@ 1907 , where she proved impossible to refloat and was destroyed in place after her crew was rescued without loss .

The surviving ships escorted troop convoys from French North Africa to France for several months after the beginning of World War I in August 1914 . Amiral Charner and Latouche @-@ Tréville were then assigned to the Eastern Mediterranean where they blockaded the Ottoman @-@ controlled coast and supported Allied operations . During this time , Amiral Charner helped to rescue several thousand Armenians from Syria during the Armenian Genocide of 1915 . She was sunk in early 1916 by a German submarine , with only a single survivor rescued . Latouche @-@ Tréville was lightly damaged in 1915 by an Ottoman shell while providing naval gunfire support during the Gallipoli Campaign . Unlike her sisters , Bruix was transferred to the Atlantic to support Allied operations against the German colony of Kamerun in September 1914 . She was briefly assigned to support Allied operations in the Dardanelles in early 1915 before she began patrolling the Aegean Sea and Greek territorial waters .

Latouche @-@ Tréville became a training ship in late 1917 and was decommissioned in 1919 . Bruix was decommissioned in Greece at the beginning of 1918 and recommissioned after the end of

the war in November for service in the Black Sea against the Bolsheviks . She returned home later in 1919 and was reduced to reserve before she was sold for scrap in 1921 . Latouche @-@ Tréville was stricken from the navy list in 1920 and was sold for scrap in 1926 .