

= Italian battleship Ammiraglio di Saint Bon =

Ammiraglio di Saint Bon was a pre-dreadnought battleship of the Italian Navy (Italian : Regia Marina) built during the 1890s . She was laid down in July 1893 , launched in April 1897 , and completed in May 1901 . She was the lead ship of her class , and had one sister ship , Emanuele Filiberto . The ship was armed with a main battery of four 10-inch (254 mm) guns and was capable of a top speed of 18 knots (33 km / h ; 21 mph) .

Ammiraglio di Saint Bon served in the active squadron of the Italian navy for the first several years of her career . She was assigned to the 3rd Division during the Italo-Turkish War of 1911-1912 . During the war , she was involved in the seizure of the island of Rhodes , where she provided gunfire support to Italian infantry . The ship was obsolescent by World War I and was slated to be broken up in 1914-15 , but the need for warships granted Ammiraglio di Saint Bon a reprieve . She spent the war as a harbor defense ship in Venice and , after April 1916 , was used primarily as a floating anti-aircraft battery . She was stricken from the naval register in June 1920 and subsequently broken up for scrap .

= Design =

Ammiraglio di Saint Bon was 111.8 meters (367 ft) long overall , and had a beam of 21.12 m (69.3 ft) and a maximum draft of 7.69 m (25.2 ft) . She displaced 10,531 long tons (10,700 t) at full combat load . Her propulsion system consisted of two triple expansion engines rated at 14,296 indicated horsepower (10,661 kW) . Steam for the engines was provided by twelve coal-fired cylindrical water-tube boilers . The ship's propulsion system provided a top speed of 18.3 knots (33.9 km / h ; 21.1 mph) and a range of approximately 5,500 nautical miles (10,200 km ; 6,300 mi) at 10 knots (19 km / h ; 12 mph) . Ammiraglio di Saint Bon had a crew of 557 officers and enlisted men .

As built , the ship was armed with four 10-in (254 mm) 40-caliber guns placed in two twin gun turrets , one forward and one aft . She was also equipped with eight 6-in (152 mm) 40-cal. guns in individual casemates amidships , and eight 4.7-in (119 mm) 40-cal. guns in shielded pivot mounts directly above the casemate battery . The ship's gun armament was rounded out by eight 57 mm (2.2-in) guns and two 37 mm (1.5-in) guns . Ammiraglio di Saint Bon also carried four 17.7-in (450 mm) torpedo tubes in deck-mounted launchers . The ship was protected by 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 .

= Service =

Ammiraglio di Saint Bon was built by the Venice Naval Shipyard . She was laid down on 18 July 1893 and launched on 29 April 1897 , after which her fitting out took place . The ship began her sea trials in January 1901 off La Spezia , and was commissioned on 1 February . Her preliminary full-power trials began on 5 May , during which she reached 19.2 knots (35.6 km / h ; 22.1 mph) . Her official speed trials took place on 23 May , where she reached a top speed of 18.5 knots (34.3 km / h ; 21.3 mph) . Her trials were completed the following day .

The ship spent the first several years of her career in the 1st Squadron , along with her sister Emanuele Filiberto and the two Regina Margherita-class battleships . In October 1906 , Ammiraglio di Saint Bon participated in major fleet maneuvers under the command of Vice Admiral Alfonso di Brochetti in the Ionian Sea . The exercises lasted from 10 to 26 October . The maneuvers culminated in a mock attack by the Italian fleet on the harbor defenses at Taranto . During the 1908 maneuvers , Ammiraglio di Saint Bon served in the hostile squadron , tasked with attacking the friendly squadron , where her sister was assigned .

== Italio @-@ Turkish War ==

On 29 September 1911 , Italy declared war on the Ottoman Empire in order to seize Libya . Ammiraglio di Saint Bon initially served in the 3rd Division of the 2nd Squadron , but was later transferred to the Division of the Torpedo Boat Inspector , commanded by Rear Admiral Prince Luigi Amedeo . The ship was not heavily involved in the fighting in North Africa in the first months of the war and , in December , was transferred to Italy . On 13 April 1912 , Ammiraglio di Saint Bon and the rest of the Division sailed from Tobruk to the Aegean Sea to rendezvous with the 1st Division . The two divisions met on 17 April off the island of Stampalia , after which the combined fleet steamed north . The following day , the ships cut submarine telegraph cables between Imbros , Tenedos , Lemnos , Salonica , and the Dardanelles . They then steamed to the entrance to the Dardanelles in an attempt to lure out the Ottoman fleet . When the Ottoman coastal fortifications began to take the Italian ships under fire , the Italians returned fire and inflicted serious damage on them . On 19 April , Ammiraglio di Saint Bon and most of the fleet returned to Italy , leaving only Pisa , Amalfi , and a flotilla of torpedo boats to cruise off the Ottoman coast .

On 30 April 1912 , Ammiraglio di Saint Bon and the rest of the 3rd Division escorted a convoy of troopships from Tobruk to the island of Rhodes . The Italian heavy ships demonstrated off the city of Rhodes , while the transports landed the expeditionary force 10 miles (16 km) to the south on 4 May ; the soldiers quickly advanced on the city , supported by artillery fire from the Italian fleet . The Turks surrendered the city the following day . While the Italian troops completed the conquest of the island , Ammiraglio di Saint Bon bombarded Ottoman positions in support of the Italian offensive . Toward the end of May , the 3rd Division returned to Italy . In July , Ammiraglio di Saint Bon and the rest of the Division had withdrawn to Italy to replace worn @-@ out gun barrels , along with other repairs . By October , the Ottomans had agreed to sign a peace treaty to end the war . After the war , Ammiraglio di Saint Bon had six searchlights installed on platforms abreast the funnels and the mast . A rangefinder was also added on top of the conning tower .

In 1913 , Ammiraglio di Saint Bon participated in an international naval demonstration in the Ionian Sea to protest the Balkan Wars . Ships from other navies included in the demonstration were the British pre @-@ dreadnought HMS King Edward VII , the Austro @-@ Hungarian pre @-@ dreadnought SMS Zrínyi , the French armored cruiser Edgar Quinet , and the German light cruiser SMS Breslau . The most important action of the combined flotilla , which was under the command of British Admiral Cecil Burney , was to blockade the Montenegrin coast . The goal of the blockade was to prevent Serbian reinforcements from supporting the siege at Scutari , where Montenegro had besieged a combined force of Albanians and Ottomans . Pressured by the international blockade , Serbia withdrew its army from Scutari , which was subsequently occupied by a joint Allied ground force .

== World War I ==

Italy declared her neutrality after the outbreak of World War I in August 1914 but , by July 1915 , the Triple Entente had convinced the Italians to enter the war against the Central Powers . Nevertheless , the outbreak of war prompted Italy to retain Ammiraglio di Saint Bon and her sister , which had been scheduled for disposal in 1914 ? 15 . The Austro @-@ Hungarian Navy , Italy 's traditional naval rival , was the primary opponent in the conflict . The Italian Naval Chief of Staff , Admiral Paolo Thaon di Revel , believed that an active fleet policy was prohibited by the serious threat from submarines in the confined waters of the Adriatic Sea . Instead , Revel decided to implement blockade at the southern end of the Adriatic with the battle fleet , while smaller vessels , such as the MAS boats , conducted raids on Austro @-@ Hungarian ships and installations . Meanwhile , Revel 's capital ships would be preserved to confront the Austro @-@ Hungarian battle fleet in the event that it sought a decisive engagement . As a result , the ship was not particularly active during the war .

From the onset of Italian participation in the war , Ammiraglio di Saint Bon was used as a harbor

defense ship in Venice , along with her sister and the old battleship Sardegna , as well as two cruisers and several smaller craft . After April 1916 , Ammiraglio di Saint Bon was used as a floating anti @-@ aircraft battery to defend Venice . She continued in this role until the end of the war in November 1918 . The ship remained in the Italian Navy 's inventory for only a short time after the end of the war ; she was stricken from the naval register on 18 June 1920 and subsequently broken up for scrap .