

= French ironclad Belliqueuse =

The French ironclad Belliqueuse ( " Bellicose " ) was a wooden @-@ hulled , armored corvette , built for the French Navy in the 1860s and designed as a cheap ironclad . She was the first French ironclad to sail around the world , which she did between December 1867 and May 1869 . She spent the bulk of her career in the Pacific before returning to Toulon , where she was used as a target in 1886 .

= = Design and description = =

Belliqueuse was designed as a small and cheap ironclad suitable for foreign deployments . Her armament and armor was concentrated in the middle of the ship like a central battery ironclad , but unlike those ships she lacked armored transverse bulkheads and was very vulnerable to raking fire . Like most ironclads of her era she was equipped with a bronze ram ; hers weighed 2 @,@ 200 kilograms ( 4 @,@ 900 lb ) .

Belliqueuse measured 68 @.@ 05 meters ( 223 ft 3 in ) at the waterline and 70 meters ( 229 ft 8 in ) between perpendiculars , with a beam of 14 @.@ 01 meters ( 46 ft 0 in ) . She had a draft of 6 @.@ 97 meters ( 22 ft 10 in ) and displaced 3 @,@ 777 metric tons ( 3 @,@ 717 long tons ) .

= = = Propulsion = = =

The ship had a single horizontal return connecting @-@ rod steam engine driving a single propeller . Her engine was powered by four oval boilers . The engine produced a total of 1 @,@ 200 indicated horsepower ( 890 kW ) and gave a top speed of 11 knots ( 20 km / h ; 13 mph ) . On sea trials the engine produced 1 @,@ 227 indicated horsepower ( 915 kW ) and the ship reached 11 @.@ 83 knots ( 21 @.@ 91 km / h ; 13 @.@ 61 mph ) . Belliqueuse carried 250 metric tons ( 250 long tons ) of coal which allowed the ship to steam for 1 @,@ 410 nautical miles ( 2 @,@ 610 km ; 1 @,@ 620 mi ) at a speed of 10 knots ( 19 km / h ; 12 mph ) .

Belliqueuse was barque @-@ rigged ; initially she had a sail area of 1 @,@ 450 square meters ( 15 @,@ 600 sq ft ) , but this was later increased to 1 @,@ 800 square metres ( 19 @,@ 000 sq ft ) in 1869 .

= = = Armament = = =

Belliqueuse mounted her four 194 @-@ millimeter ( 7 @.@ 6 in ) Modèle 1864 guns in the central battery on the battery deck along with four of her six 164 @-@ millimeter ( 6 @.@ 5 in ) Modèle 1864 guns . The other two 164 mm guns were carried on pivot mounts fore and aft on the upper deck . She was partially rearmed in 1870 and exchanged her 164 @-@ mm pivot guns for a pair of 138 @-@ millimeter ( 5 @.@ 4 in ) Modèle 1870 guns . In addition four 37 @-@ millimeter ( 1 @.@ 5 in ) Hotchkiss 5 @-@ barrel revolving guns each were added . They fired a shell weighing about 500 g ( 1 @.@ 1 lb ) at a muzzle velocity of about 610 m / s ( 2 @,@ 000 ft / s ) to a range of about 3 @,@ 200 meters ( 3 @,@ 500 yd ) . They had a rate of fire of about 30 rounds per minute .

= = = Armor = = =

Belliqueuse was completely armored with 150 millimeters ( 5 @.@ 9 in ) of wrought iron from the battery deck down to 1 @.@ 5 meters ( 4 ft 11 in ) below the waterline . The sides of the battery itself were protected with 120 millimeters ( 4 @.@ 7 in ) of armor , but the ends were closed only by light screens . Fore and aft of the battery , her sides were unprotected .

= = Service = =

Belliqueuse was laid down at Toulon in September 1863 , and launched on 6 September 1865 .

The ship began her sea trials on 30 December 1865 , but did not enter service until 30 October 1866 . That day she was commissioned as the flagship of the Pacific Station under command of Rear Admiral Penhoat . On 22 December 1867 , the ship departed Toulon in an attempt to circumnavigate the world . Belliqueuse arrived at Brest on 26 May 1869 after 396 days at sea , the first French ironclad to do so . On 15 November 1869 she hoisted the flag of Rear Admiral Chevalier as commander of the Levant Squadron . During 1870 she was transferred to New Caledonia as flagship of the Western Pacific Division ( French : Division de l'Océanie Occidentale ) , but returned to Toulon on 5 June 1871 after the death of Rear Admiral Chevalier . In 1872 the ship was sent to the China Station and relieved French ironclad Alma as flagship of the station on 1 October 1872 . She returned to Toulon on 3 May 1874 .

Belliqueuse served with the Evolutionary Squadron for six months from 5 June 1877 and was reduced to reserve afterwards . She was paid off on 15 November 1884 and struck off the Navy List on 3 May 1886 . Belliqueuse was used as a target afterwards .