

= French ironclad Montcalm =

The French ironclad Montcalm was a wooden @-@ hulled armored corvette built for the French Navy in the mid @-@ 1860s . She was named after Major General Montcalm who lost the Battle of the Plains of Abraham in 1759 . She played a minor role in the Franco @-@ Prussian War of 1870 where she captured one Prussian sailing ship . Montcalm spent most of her later career abroad , either in Chinese waters or the Pacific Ocean . The ship was condemned in 1891 .

= = Design and description = =

The Alma @-@ class ironclads were designed as improved versions of the armored corvette Belliqueuse suitable for foreign deployments . Unlike their predecessor the Alma @-@ class ships were true central battery ironclads as they were fitted with armored transverse bulkheads . Like most ironclads of their era they were equipped with a metal @-@ reinforced ram .

Montcalm measured 68 @.@ 75 meters ( 225 ft 7 in ) between perpendiculars , with a beam of 14 @.@ 13 meters ( 46 ft 4 in ) . She had a mean draft of 6 @.@ 66 meters ( 21 ft 10 in ) and displaced 3 @,@ 889 metric tons ( 3 @,@ 828 long tons ) . Her crew numbered 316 officers and men .

= = = Propulsion = = =

The ship had a single horizontal return connecting @-@ rod steam engine driving a single propeller . Her engine was powered by four oval boilers . On sea trials , the engine produced 1 @,@ 830 indicated horsepower ( 1 @,@ 360 kW ) and the ship reached 11 @.@ 65 knots ( 21 @.@ 58 km / h ; 13 @.@ 41 mph ) . Montcalm carried 250 metric tons ( 250 long tons ) of coal which allowed the ship to steam for 1 @,@ 460 nautical miles ( 2 @,@ 700 km ; 1 @,@ 680 mi ) at a speed of 10 knots ( 19 km / h ; 12 mph ) . She was barque @-@ rigged and had a sail area of 1 @,@ 438 square meters ( 15 @,@ 480 sq ft ) .

= = = Armament = = =

Montcalm mounted her four 194 @-@ millimeter ( 7 @.@ 6 in ) Modèle 1864 breech @-@ loading guns in the central battery on the battery deck . The other two 194 @-@ millimeter guns were mounted in barbettes on the upper deck , sponsoned out over the sides of the ship . The four 120 @-@ millimeter ( 4 @.@ 7 in ) guns were also mounted on the upper deck . She may have exchanged her Mle 1864 guns for Mle 1870 guns . The armor @-@ piercing shell of the 20 @-@ caliber Mle 1870 gun weighed 165 @.@ 3 pounds ( 75 @.@ 0 kg ) while the gun itself weighed 7 @.@ 83 long tons ( 7 @.@ 96 t ) . The gun fired its shell at a muzzle velocity of 1 @,@ 739 ft / s ( 530 m / s ) and was credited with the ability to penetrate a nominal 12 @.@ 5 inches ( 320 mm ) of wrought iron armour at the muzzle . The guns could fire both solid shot and explosive shells .

= = = Armor = = =

Montcalm had a complete 150 @-@ millimeter ( 5 @.@ 9 in ) wrought iron waterline belt , approximately 2 @.@ 4 meters ( 7 @.@ 9 ft ) high . The sides of the battery itself were armored with 120 millimeters ( 4 @.@ 7 in ) of wrought iron and the ends of the battery were closed by bulkheads of the same thickness . The barrette armor was 100 millimeters ( 3 @.@ 9 in ) thick , backed by 240 millimeters ( 9 @.@ 4 in ) of wood . The unarmored portions of her sides were protected by 15 @-@ millimeter ( 0 @.@ 6 in ) iron plates .

= = Service = =

Montcalm was laid down at Rochefort on 26 October 1865 and launched on 16 October 1868 . The

ship began her sea trials on 16 June 1869 and was then sent to the Mediterranean until May 1870 . During the Franco @-@ Prussian War , she captured the German barque Union in the North Sea and watched the Prussian corvette Arcona in Portuguese waters . She cruised the North and South Atlantic before being put in reserve on 1 August 1871 at Cherbourg . Recommissioned on 20 October 1873 , she sailed for China on 5 January 1874 to relieve the armored corvette Belliqueuse as flagship of the China Station . Montcalm arrived back in Cherbourg on 20 May 1876 and was reduced to reserve from 1878 to 1880 . In 1882 , she became flagship for the Pacific division under command of Rear Admiral Landolfe . Back to Cherbourg in 1884 , she remained there until 2 April 1891 when she was condemned .