

= French ironclad Armide =

The French ironclad Armide was a wooden @-@ hulled armored corvette built for the French Navy in the mid @-@ 1860s . Placed into reserve after completion , she was first mobilized for the Franco @-@ Prussian War of 1870 ? 71 . She spent the rest of her career in the Mediterranean and then in the Far East as flagship of the French squadrons there , until her decommissioning in 1880 . Armide was use as a target for gunnery trials in 1886 .

= = 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 .

Armide measured 68 @.@ 9 meters (226 ft 1 in) between perpendiculars , with a beam of 14 @.@ 06 meters (46 ft 2 in) . She had a mean draft of 6 @.@ 43 meters (21 ft 1 in) and displaced 3 @,@ 692 metric tons (3 @,@ 634 long tons) . Her crew numbered 316 officers and men .

= = = Propulsion = = =

The ship had a single horizontal three @-@ cylinder return connecting @-@ rod steam engine driving a single four @-@ bladed propeller . Her engine was powered by four Creusot oval boilers . On sea trials the engine produced 1 @,@ 585 indicated horsepower (1 @,@ 182 kW) and the ship reached 10 @.@ 48 knots (19 @.@ 41 km / h ; 12 @.@ 06 mph) . Armide carried 250 metric tons (250 long tons) of coal which allowed the ship to steam for 1 @,@ 310 nautical miles (2 @,@ 430 km ; 1 @,@ 510 mi) at a speed of 10 knots (19 km / h ; 12 mph) . She was barque @-@ rigged and had a sail area of 1 @,@ 454 square meters (15 @,@ 650 sq ft) .

= = = Armament = = =

Armide 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 mm 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 = = =

Armide 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 barbette 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 = =

Armide was laid down at Rochefort in 1865 and launched on 12 April 1867 . The ship began her sea trials on 5 October 1867 and was put into reserve at Brest immediately after their completion .

She was commissioned on 20 July 1870 to serve with the Baltic Squadron during the Franco-Prussian War . The squadron was ordered to lift its blockade of the Prussian Baltic ports on 16 September and return to Cherbourg . Armide was decommissioned on 1 November , but was recommissioned on 12 January 1871 to blockade the Prussian corvette Arcona in Lisbon for the duration of the war . Afterward she was transferred to the Mediterranean where she remained until 1873 .

Armide was decommissioned on 28 October 1873 at Toulon and had her armament reduced to six guns . She was recommissioned as the flagship of the Levant Squadron on 25 August 1874 . On 19 September 1875 Armide was in Algiers . The ship was reduced to reserve in December 1875 at Brest . She was recommissioned in 1877 as the flagship of the China Squadron under Rear Admiral Duburquois and departed Brest on 17 January 1878 . She was relieved by her sister Thétis on 22 January 1880 at Singapore . She was decommissioned at Toulon on 17 March 1880 and condemned on 25 October 1882 . Armide was used in gunnery trials in March 1886 and filled with watertight barrels to keep her from sinking . She was set adrift and fired at by a group of French ironclads at ranges up to 5,000 meters (5,500 yd) ; she was towed back to port to examine the effects of the shells .