Named after Louis-Joseph de Montcalm-Gozon, commander of the French forces in North America during the French Indian Wars, the Montcalm earned distinction for nearly not surviving her maiden cruise. When she inadvertently entered restricted British military airspace, she was pounced on by three Royal Sky Fleet ships. Her A turret was hit and exploded, sending a fire down her magazine train that risked blowing up the main magazine and destroying the ship. Only the actions of a brave fireman who sealed off the train saved the Montcalm.

The Montcalm managed to break off the fight and get home. French engineers are said to have reviewed her damage and retrofitted the magazine trains on the French Fleet de Volée with sophisticated fire suppression systems and compartmentalization. The damage to the Montcalm has long since been repaired and the ship may very well have saved the lives of many French airmen who could otherwise die in a coming conflict.

Grenouille-class Destroyer

Dimensions: 155 ft. x 34 ft. x 40 ft. (excluding funnels & masts)

Complement: 63

Weight: 970 tons

Engines: Turbines, producing 11,800 shaft hp (max. speed 31 knots)

Fuel: (coal) normal 105 tons; max 145 tons

Armament: 4-3” QF, 2-launch bays