“There are times we do things simply to confound our foes,” were the words at the surprise christening of the Montpellier in 1904. The Flotte de Volée had ordered her hull laid in secret in a new construction facility located somewhere in central France. The British Foreign Service had not known that the ship was under construction until she arrived at La Borget for her christening ceremony. This sudden appearance shook the intelligence services of several governments.

The Montpellier is a fast destroyer packing a powerful wallop in the form of a 138mm forward turret, putting her on a par with many cruisers. Unlike many French destroyers, she lacks the traditional torpedo launching tubes, but her heavy punch of firepower more than makes up for it.

Under the command of Capitaine François Baston, she is usually assigned to squadrons along the German border and, more recently, in a stint along the Channel coast. Rumors abound that the Montpellier will be attached to a new squadron in North Africa, but these have yet to be confirmed.

Grenouille-class Destroyer

Dimensions: 185 ft. x 32 ft. x 40 ft. (excluding funnels & masts)

Complement: 70

Weight: 785 tons

Engines: Turbines, for 12,000 SHP (max 42 knots)

Fuel: oil, 120 tons

Armament: 2-138mm, 2-65mm