

= Goito @-@ class cruiser =

The Goito class was a group of four torpedo cruisers built for the Italian Regia Marina (Royal Navy) in the 1880s . The members of the class were Goito , Montebello , Monzambano , and Confienza . They were among the first torpedo cruisers built for the Italian fleet , and were built to improve on the previous vessel , Tripoli . Experimental ships , the four Goito @-@ class vessels varied in their dimensions , machinery , and armament , though all were comparable in terms of capabilities , having a top speed of 17 to 18 knots (31 to 33 km / h ; 20 to 21 mph) and carrying an armament of four or five 14 @-@ inch (360 mm) torpedo tubes .

All four ships spent the majority of their time in service with the main Italian fleet , alternating between active duty for training exercises and reserve status . In 1897 , Goito was converted into a minelayer and Montebello became a training ship for engine room personnel . Monzambano and Confienza were simply sold for scrap in 1901 . Goito laid defensive minefields after Italy entered World War I in 1915 , but otherwise did not see action during the war . The two surviving vessels remained in the Italian fleet until 1920 , when they too were broken up for scrap .

= = Design = =

The first three members of the Goito class was designed by Engineering General Inspector Benedetto Brin , while Confienza was designed by Engineering Director Giacinto Pullino . Brin had previously designed several classes of very large ironclad battleships , including the Caio Duilio and Italia classes , but by the 1880s , he had begun to embrace the ideas of the Jeune École , which emphasized small , fast , torpedo @-@ armed vessels that could damage or destroy the much larger battleships at a fraction of the cost . The four Goitos were similar to the preceding cruiser Tripoli , the first torpedo cruiser Brin designed . As these were among the initial designs prepared by the Italian navy , they were experimental ; Brin and Pullino used different hull shapes for all four vessels and fitted them with a variety of propulsion systems and armament .

= = = General characteristics and machinery = = =

As a result of their experimental nature , the ships of the Goito class varied slightly in size . They all were 70 meters (229 ft 8 in) long at the waterline and 73 @.@ 4 m (240 ft 10 in) long overall , but their beam varied from 7 @.@ 88 to 8 @.@ 05 m (25 ft 10 in to 26 ft 5 in) and their draft ranged from 3 @.@ 04 to 3 @.@ 6 m (10 ft 0 in to 11 ft 10 in) . The ships were built with steel hulls . They displaced 756 to 856 metric tons (744 to 842 long tons ; 833 to 944 short tons) normally and 955 to 974 metric tons (940 to 959 long tons ; 1 @,@ 053 to 1 @,@ 074 short tons) at full load . They had a crew of between 105 and 121 .

The first three ships had similar propulsion systems that consisted of three steam engines , each driving a single screw propeller . Goito and Monzambano had double @-@ expansion engines , while Montebello had more advanced triple @-@ expansion engines . Confienza instead used a two @-@ shaft configuration for her double @-@ expansion engines . Steam for the engines was supplied by coal @-@ fired locomotive boilers ; Goito and Montebello had six boilers , while Monzambano and Confienza had four . The boilers for Goito and Monzambano were trunked into two funnels , Montebello had three , and Confienza only had one .

Exact figures for the first three ships ' performance have not survived , but they could steam at a speed of about 18 knots (33 km / h ; 21 mph) from 2 @,@ 500 to 3 @,@ 180 indicated horsepower (1 @,@ 860 to 2 @,@ 370 kW) . Confienza , with only two screws , had a top speed of 17 knots (31 km / h ; 20 mph) from 1 @,@ 962 ihp (1 @,@ 463 kW) . In 1894 , Goito had her center engine and screw removed and her original boilers replaced with oil @-@ fired models . With these changes , her engines were capable of producing 17 @.@ 2 knots (31 @.@ 9 km / h ; 19 @.@ 8 mph) from 2 @,@ 521 ihp (1 @,@ 880 kW) . The ships had a cruising radius of 1 @,@ 100 nautical miles (2 @,@ 000 km ; 1 @,@ 300 mi) at a speed of 10 knots (19 km / h ; 12 mph) . They were originally fitted with a fore @-@ and @-@ aft sailing rig to supplement the steam engines

, though they were later removed .

== Armament and armor ==

The primary armament for the Goito class was five 14 in (356 mm) torpedo tubes , though Montebello only had four tubes . The ships also carried a variety of light guns . Goito was equipped with five 57 mm (2 @. 2 in) 40 @-@ caliber (cal .) guns , two 37 mm (1 @. 5 in) 20 @-@ cal. guns , and three 37 mm revolving Hotchkiss guns , all mounted singly . Montebello had six 57 mm guns and two 37 mm guns , and Monzambano carried only six 57 mm guns . Confienza was the only vessel to carry a medium @-@ caliber gun , a single 4 @. 7 in (120 mm) 32 @-@ cal. gun mounted on her bow . She also carried six 57 mm guns and two 37 mm guns . The ships were protected with an armored deck that was 1 @. 5 in (38 mm) thick .

== Ships ==

== Service history ==

All four Goito @-@ class cruisers served with the main Italian fleet for the majority of their careers . This time was spent either laid up in the reserve component of the fleet , or activated for yearly training maneuvers . These frequently gamed a French attack on Italy , as in the case of the 1888 maneuvers ? for which only Goito had been completed in time to participate ? that simulated a French attack on La Spezia , or the 1893 maneuvers , which tested a French attack on Naples . In 1898 , Monzambano and Montebello participated in a rare deployment for members of the class when they were assigned to the Levant Squadron that was tasked with patrolling the eastern Mediterranean Sea . Throughout this period , the ships of the class would either be distributed among the divisions of the fleet , as with the case of the annual training maneuvers , or stationed together while in reserve status ; in 1895 , for example , the four Goitos were assigned to the 2nd Maritime Department , along with Tripoli and the eight Partenope @-@ class torpedo cruisers .

In 1897 , Goito was withdrawn from front @-@ line service and converted in a minelayer , with a capacity for 60 naval mines in place of her torpedo tubes . Montebello remained on active duty until 1898 , when she was converted into a training ship for engine room personnel , and was re @-@ boilered with coal- and oil @-@ fired equipment from several manufacturers in 1903 . Confienza and Monzambano were the last members of the class to leave active service , being stricken from the naval register on the same day , 26 August 1901 and sold for scrapping . Goito continued to take part in fleet maneuvers as late as 1907 in her minelayer configuration , and both she and Monzambano remained in the Regia Marina 's inventory during the Italo @-@ Turkish War of 1911 ? 12 and World War I. Neither ship saw action in either conflict , though Goito laid defensive minefields in the Adriatic Sea after Italy entered World War I in 1915 . Montebello was eventually stricken on 26 January 1920 , and Goito followed her to the breakers ' yard on 15 March .