

= Italian battleship Caio Duilio =

Caio Duilio was an Italian Andrea Doria class battleship that served in the Regia Marina during World War I and World War II . She was named after the Roman fleet commander Gaius Duilius . Caio Duilio was laid down in February 1912 , launched in April 1913 , and completed in May 1916 . She was initially armed with a main battery of thirteen 305 mm (12 in) guns , but a major reconstruction in the late 1930s replaced these with ten 320 mm (13 in) guns . Caio Duilio saw no action during World War I owing to the inactivity of the Austro-Hungarian fleet during the conflict . She cruised the Mediterranean in the 1920s and was involved in the Corfu incident in 1923 .

During World War II , she participated in numerous patrols and sorties into the Mediterranean , both to escort Italian convoys to North Africa and in attempts to catch the British Mediterranean Fleet . In November 1940 , the British launched an air raid on Taranto ; Caio Duilio was hit by one torpedo launched by a Fairey Swordfish torpedo bomber , which caused significant damage . Repairs lasted some five months , after which the ship returned to convoy escort duties . A fuel shortage immobilized the bulk of the Italian surface fleet in 1942 , and Caio Duilio remained out of service until the Italian surrender in September 1943 . She was thereafter interned at Malta until 1944 , when the Allies permitted her return to Italian waters . She survived the war , and continued to serve in the post-war Italian navy , primarily as a training ship . Caio Duilio was placed in reserve for a final time in 1953 ; she remained in the Italian navy 's inventory for another three years before she was stricken from the naval register in late 1956 and sold for scrapping the following year .

= = Design = =

Caio Duilio was 176 meters (577 ft) long overall and had a beam of 28 m (92 ft) and a draft of 9 m (31 ft) . At full combat load , she displaced up to 24,715 metric tons (24,325 long tons ; 27,244 short tons) . She had a crew of 35 officers and 1,198 enlisted men . She was powered by four Parsons steam turbines , with steam provided by eight oil-fired and twelve coal and oil burning Yarrow boilers . The boilers were trunked into two large funnels . The engines were rated at 30,000 shaft horsepower (22,000 kW) , which provided a top speed of 21 knots (39 km / h ; 24 mph) . She had a cruising radius of 4,800 nautical miles (8,900 km ; 5,500 mi) at 10 kn (19 km / h ; 12 mph) .

The ship was armed with a main battery of thirteen 305 mm (12 in) 46-caliber guns in three triple turrets and two twin turrets . The secondary battery comprised sixteen 152 mm (6 in) 45-caliber guns , all mounted in casemates clustered around the forward and aft main battery turrets . Caio Duilio was also armed with thirteen 76 mm (3 in) 50-caliber guns and six 76 mm anti-aircraft guns . As was customary for capital ships of the period , she was equipped with three submerged 450 mm (18 in) torpedo tubes . She was protected with Krupp cemented steel manufactured by U.S. Steel . The belt armor was 254 mm (10 in) thick and the main deck was 98 mm (3 in) thick . The conning tower and main battery turrets were protected with 280 mm (11 in) worth of armor plating .

= = Modifications = =

Caio Duilio was heavily rebuilt in 1937-1940 at Genoa . Her forecastle deck was extended further aft , until it reached the mainmast . The stern and bow were rebuilt , increasing the length of the ship to 186 m (613 ft) , and the displacement grew to 28,882 t (28,426 long tons ; 31,837 short tons) . Her old machinery was replaced with more efficient equipment and her twenty boilers were replaced with eight oil-fired models ; the new power plant was rated at 75,000 shp (56,000 kW) and speed increased to 26 kn (48 km / h ; 30 mph) . The ship 's amidships turret was removed and the remaining guns were bored out to 320 mm (13 in) . Her secondary battery was completely overhauled ; the 152 mm guns were replaced with twelve 135 mm (5 in) guns in triple turrets amidships . The anti-aircraft battery was significantly

improved , to include ten 90 mm (3 @. @ 5 in) guns , fifteen 37 mm (1 @. @ 5 in) guns , and sixteen 20 mm (0 @. @ 79 in) guns . Later , during World War II , four more 37 mm guns were installed and two of the 20 mm guns were removed . After emerging from the modernization , Caio Duilio 's crew numbered 35 officers and 1 @, @ 450 enlisted men .

= = Service history = =

Caio Duilio was laid down at the Regio Cantieri di Castellammare di Stabia on 24 February 1912 . She was launched on 24 April 1913 , and completed on 10 May 1916 . She saw no action in World War I , given the fact that the Austro @-@ Hungarian fleet , Italy 's main naval rival , remained in port for the duration of the conflict . In addition , Admiral Paolo Thaon di Revel , the Italian naval chief of staff , believed that Austro @-@ Hungarian submarines and minelayers could operate too effectively in the narrow waters of the Adriatic . The threat from these underwater weapons to his capital ships was too serious for him to use the fleet in an active way . Instead , Revel decided to implement blockade at the relatively safer southern end of the Adriatic with the battle fleet , while smaller vessels , such as the MAS boats , conducted raids on Austro @-@ Hungarian ships and installations . Meanwhile , Revel 's battleships would be preserved to confront the Austro @-@ Hungarian battle fleet in the event that it sought a decisive engagement .

As a result , Caio Duilio only went on four patrols during the war , and was operational for a total of 70 hours . She was based at Taranto starting in November 1918 to April 1919 , but during that time , she deployed to Corfu , from 10 November 1918 to 26 January 1919 . On 26 April 1919 , Caio Duilio was sent to Smyrna to help mediate a dispute over ownership of the area . While there , she had a confrontation with the Greek armored cruiser Georgios Averof , but this was defused when the Greeks landed troops to occupy Smyrna . On 9 June , she was relieved by the old pre @-@ dreadnought battleship Roma , allowing her to move to Constantinople .

During her deployment to Turkey , Caio Duilio entered the Black Sea to support the White Russians in the Russian Civil War , from 23 June to 13 July . During this period , she was transferred to the Levant Squadron of the Italian Navy . She returned to Izmir after completing her deployment to the Black Sea , and remained there until 9 September , when she was relieved by the battleship Giulio Cesare . She returned to Taranto on 12 September , and was placed in reserve . Placed back into service in 1920 , Caio Duilio went to Albania on 30 June to support the Italian Army contingent occupying the country , and participated in their withdrawal on 5 September . The following year , she was assigned to the Dodecanese Squadron and cruised in the eastern Mediterranean . She returned to Constantinople as part of an Allied fleet from 27 July to 10 November 1921 .

During the 1923 Corfu incident with Greece , the Italian Navy , including Caio Duilio , was deployed to the island to secure a Greek apology following the murder of Enrico Tellini and four others . Later that year , she escorted the battleship Dante Alighieri on a state visit to Spain . A magazine explosion on 8 April 1925 wrecked the No. 3 turret 's barbette hoist . The ship went into reserve while repairs were effected in La Spezia , which lasted until April 1928 . She underwent refitting at Taranto from 18 March to 15 June 1930 . She again went into reserve on 11 August 1932 until 11 August 1933 , when she was made the flagship of the Commanding Officer , Reserve Fleet . Starting on 19 March 1937 , she was taken to Genoa where an extensive reconstruction began at the Cantieri del Tirreno shipyard . The work was completed on 15 July 1940 , at which point she was recommissioned into the 5th Division of the 1st Squadron , based in Taranto .

Caio Duilio 's first wartime patrol took place on 31 August . She and the rest of the fleet sailed to intercept the British battleship HMS Valiant , which was steaming to Alexandria , and a convoy sailing to Malta . The Italian fleet did not have sufficient aerial reconnaissance , which , along with bad weather , prevented the Italians from locating the British forces . They put back in to Taranto on 1 September . Caio Duilio again put to sea on 7 September , in an attempt to catch the British Force H , but the Italian intelligence was faulty , as Force H was in the process of attacking Dakar . Caio Duilio returned to Taranto , where she remained until early November .

= = = Attack at Taranto = = =

On the night of 10 ? 11 November , the British Mediterranean Fleet launched a surprise air raid on the harbor in Taranto . Twenty @-@ one Swordfish torpedo bombers launched from the aircraft carrier HMS Illustrious attacked the Italian fleet in two waves . They scored one hit on Caio Duilio , three hits on Littorio , and one on Conte di Cavour . The torpedo hit Caio Duilio on her starboard side ; it tore an 11 @-@ by @-@ 7 @-@ meter (36 by 23 ft) hole in the hull and flooded the forward main battery magazines . A water tanker and several smaller craft pushed the battleship aground in shallow water to prevent her from sinking in the harbor . Temporary repairs were effected , and in January 1941 , she was refloated and sent to Genoa for permanent repairs , which began on 26 January .

While Caio Duilio was in dock for repairs , the British Force H departed from its normal role as a convoy escort in the western Mediterranean in early February to attack Genoa . Admiral James Somerville 's surface ships fired over a thousand shells at the port , and aircraft of the carrier HMS Ark Royal dropped magnetic mines in the harbor . Five ships were sunk , but Caio Duilio was not hit in the attack . During the attack , Caio Duilio 's anti @-@ aircraft battery fired some 8 @,@ 000 rounds at the British spotter aircraft . Repair work was completed by May , and on 16 May she was back in Taranto in the 1st Squadron .

= = = Later service = = =

Caio Duilio , now the flagship of the Italian fleet , sailed on 29 November to cover an Italian convoy to North Africa . She was escorted by the cruiser Giuseppe Garibaldi and six destroyers . She sailed again on 13 December , to cover the convoy M41 ; the Italian fleet was forced to break off the convoy escort after Vittorio Veneto was torpedoed . Caio Duilio returned to port on the 14th , and departed to cover the convoy M42 two days later . She was stationed south of Messina with three cruisers and four destroyers . During the convoy operation , British forces attacked , resulting in the First Battle of Sirte , but Caio Duilio 's group was too far away to engage the Royal Navy . She returned to Taranto on 19 December . She escorted convoy M43 on 3 ? 6 January 1942 , which successfully reached Tripoli unmolested . Convoy T18 followed on 22 ? 5 January , and four of the five transports in the convoy reached Tripoli .

Caio Duilio 's next operation was a sortie against the British convoy MW 9 bounded from Alexandria to Malta in February . She departed from Taranto on 14 February with a pair of light cruisers and seven destroyers , but the force could not locate the British ships , and so returned to port . Her mere presence at sea , however , forced the British escort to scuttle the transport Rowallan Castle , previously disabled by German aircraft . On the 21st , she escorted the convoy K7 from Messina and Corfu to Taranto . By this point in 1942 , the Italian fleet began to suffer a severe shortage of fuel , which curtailed its operations . The situation was so bad that Caio Duilio had to be placed in reserve and drained of fuel , in order to keep the escort craft operational . She was at Taranto when Italy surrendered to the Allies in September 1943 , and on 9 September she was taken to Malta , where she was interned with the rest of the Italian fleet .

In June 1944 , the Allies allowed Caio Duilio to return to Italian ports ; she spent the rest of the war in Taranto , Syracuse , and Augusta . She survived the war , and continued to serve in the Italian navy ; she was the fleet flagship from 1 May 1947 until 10 November 1949 , based in Taranto . She was moved to La Spezia in 1953 and removed from active service . Caio Duilio remained there until she was stricken from the naval register on 15 September 1956 . She was sold for scrapping the following year .