

= Italian cruiser Carlo Alberto =

The Italian cruiser Carlo Alberto was the second of two Vettor Pisani class armored cruisers built for the Royal Italian Navy (Regia Marina) in the 1890s . She was deployed overseas several times during her career , notably to the Far East and South America . The ship was used as a royal yacht by King Victor Emmanuel III of Italy in 1902 , during which time she was used for radio experiments by Guglielmo Marconi . Carlo Alberto served as a training ship before the start of the Italo - Turkish War of 1911 ? 12 . During the war she supported Italian operations in Libya . The ship was virtually inactive during World War I and was converted into a troop transport in 1917 ? 18 . Carlo Alberto was stricken from the Navy List in 1920 and subsequently broken up for scrap .

= = Design and description = =

Carlo Alberto had a length between perpendiculars of 99 meters (324 ft 10 in) and an overall length of 105 @. @ 7 meters (346 ft 9 in) . She had a beam of 18 @. @ 04 meters (59 ft 2 in) and a draft of 7 @. @ 2 meters (23 ft 7 in) . The ship displaced 6 @, @ 397 metric tons (6 @, @ 296 long tons) at normal load , and 7 @, @ 057 metric tons (6 @, @ 946 long tons) at deep load . The Vettor Pisani @- @ class ships had a complement of 28 officers and 472 to 476 enlisted men .

The ship was powered by two vertical triple @- @ expansion steam engines , each driving one propeller shaft . Steam for the engines was supplied by eight Scotch marine boilers . Designed for a maximum output of 13 @, @ 000 indicated horsepower (9 @, @ 700 kW) and a speed of 19 knots (35 km / h ; 22 mph) , Carlo Alberto barely exceeded her designed speed when she reached 19 @. @ 1 knots (35 @. @ 4 km / h ; 22 @. @ 0 mph) during her sea trials from 13 @, @ 219 ihp (9 @, @ 857 kW) . She had a cruising radius of about 5 @, @ 400 nautical miles (10 @, @ 000 km ; 6 @, @ 200 mi) at a speed of 10 knots (19 km / h ; 12 mph) .

The main armament of the Vettor Pisani @- @ class ships consisted of twelve quick @- @ firing (QF) Cannone da 152 / 40 A Modello 1891 guns in single mounts . All of these guns were mounted on the broadside , eight on the upper deck and four at the corners of the central citadel in armored casemates . Single QF Cannone da 120 / 40 A Modello 1891 guns were mounted in the bow and stern and the remaining two 120 mm (4 @. @ 7 in) guns were positioned on the main deck between the 152 mm (6 @. @ 0 in) guns . For defense against torpedo boats , the ship carried fourteen QF 57 mm (2 @. @ 2 in) Hotchkiss guns and eight QF 37 mm (1 @. @ 5 in) Hotchkiss guns . The ship was also equipped with four 450 mm (17 @. @ 7 in) torpedo tubes .

Carlo Alberto was protected by an armored belt that was 15 cm (5 @. @ 9 in) thick amidships and reduced to 11 cm (4 @. @ 3 in) at the bow and stern . The upper strake of armor was also 15 cm thick and protected just the middle of the ship , up to the height of the upper deck . The curved armored deck was 3 @. @ 7 cm thick . The conning tower armor was also 15 cm thick and each 15 @. @ 2 cm gun was protected by a 5 cm (2 @. @ 0 in) gun shield .

= = Construction and career = =

Carlo Alberto , named after King Charles Albert of Sardinia , was laid down on 1 February 1892 at the Arsenal di La Spezia in La Spezia . The ship was launched on 23 September 1896 and completed on 1 May 1898 . She was deployed to South America later that year and returned to Italy on 28 February 1899 . Later that year Carlo Alberto was sent to the Far East and returned on 1 June 1900 . After her return the ship was assigned to the Mediterranean Fleet .

Carlo Alberto served as the royal yacht for Victor Emmanuel III when he attended the Coronation of King Edward VII and Queen Alexandra of the United Kingdom in 1902 . Victor Emmanuel invited Guglielmo Marconi to accompany him and conduct radio experiments en route . Originally scheduled for 26 June , the coronation was delayed by Edward 's illness and rescheduled for 9 August . In the meantime , the ship took Victor Emmanuel to meetings with Tsar Nicholas II of Russia in Kronstadt . She returned to England before the coronation ceremony and then participated in the fleet review at Spithead on 16 August . On the return voyage Marconi conducted more long

@-@ range experiments with his site in Poldhu , Cornwall . The King then loaned Carlo Alberto to Marconi in September for more testing . She then ferried Marconi across the Atlantic to Glace Bay , Nova Scotia for further experiments transmitting radio messages across the ocean . After 15 December , when Marconi successfully transmitted messages from Glace Bay to Poldhu , Carlo Alberto was sent to Venezuelan waters during the Venezuelan crisis of 1902 ? 03 , when an international force of British , German , and Italian warships blockaded Venezuela over the country 's refusal to pay foreign debts . She returned in early 1903 and was briefly deployed in Salonica later that year . From 1907 to 1910 she served as a gunnery and torpedo training ship .

When the Italo @-@ Turkish War of 1911 ? 12 began on 29 September , Carlo Alberto was assigned to the Training Division . She bombarded the fortifications defending Tripoli and provided gunfire support to Italian forces at Zanzur , Zuara and elsewhere in Tripolitania . She fired enough ammunition during these missions that her guns had to be replaced in early 1912 . After the war the ship was transferred to the Aegean Sea where she remained until March 1913 .

Obsolescent by the beginning of World War I , Carlo Alberto was not very active during the war . She spent almost the entire war based in Venice . The ship began conversion into a troop transport there in 1917 . This required the removal of her armor , the addition of a new deck and internal modifications to suit her new role . The work was finished in Taranto early the next year ; she was recommissioned with the new name of Zenson on 4 April 1918 . The ship was discarded on 12 June 1920 and subsequently scrapped .