

= Italian ironclad Caio Duilio =

Caio Duilio was the lead ship of the Caio Duilio class of ironclad turret ships built for the Italian Regia Marina (Royal Navy) . Named for the Roman admiral Gaius Duilius , the ship was laid down in January 1873 , was launched in May 1876 , and was completed in January 1880 . She was armed with a main battery of four 17 @. @ 7 @-@ inch (450 mm) guns , then the largest gun afloat , and she was capable of a top speed of around 15 kn (28 km / h ; 17 mph) .

Caio Duilio 's career was uneventful . She spent her first two decades in service with the Active and Reserve Squadrons , primarily tasked with training maneuvers and exercises . She was withdrawn from front @-@ line duty in 1902 and thereafter employed as a training ship , though this role only lasted until 1909 when she was converted into a floating oil tank and renamed GM40 . The ship 's ultimate fate is unknown .

= = Design = =

Caio Duilio was 109 @. @ 16 meters (358 @. @ 1 ft) long overall and had a beam of 19 @. @ 74 m (64 @. @ 8 ft) and an average draft of 8 @. @ 31 m (27 @. @ 3 ft) . She displaced 10 @, @ 962 metric tons (10 @, @ 789 long tons ; 12 @, @ 084 short tons) normally and up to 12 @, @ 071 t (11 @, @ 880 long tons ; 13 @, @ 306 short tons) at full load . Her propulsion system consisted of two vertical compound steam engines each driving a single screw propeller , with steam supplied by eight coal @-@ fired , rectangular boilers . Her engines produced a top speed of 15 @. @ 04 knots (27 @. @ 85 km / h ; 17 @. @ 31 mph) at 7 @, @ 711 indicated horsepower (5 @, @ 750 kW) . She could steam for 3 @, @ 760 nautical miles (6 @, @ 960 km ; 4 @, @ 330 mi) at a speed of 10 knots (19 km / h ; 12 mph) . She had a crew of 420 officers and men , which later increased to 515 .

Caio Duilio was armed with a main battery of four 17 @. @ 7 in (450 mm) 20 @-@ caliber guns , mounted in two turrets placed en echelon amidships . These were the largest naval guns in use at the time . As was customary for capital ships of the period , she carried three 14 in (360 mm) torpedo tubes . Caio Duilio was protected by belt armor that was 21 @. @ 5 in (550 mm) thick at its strongest section , which protected the ship 's magazines and machinery spaces . Both ends of the belt were connected by transverse bulkheads that were 15 @. @ 75 in (400 mm) thick . She had an armored deck that was 1 @. @ 1 to 2 in (28 to 51 mm) thick . Her gun turrets were armored with 17 in of steel plate . The ship 's bow and stern were not armored , but they were extensively subdivided into a cellular " raft " that was intended to reduce the risk of flooding .

= = Service history = =

Caio Duilio was laid down at the Regio Cantiere di Castellammare di Stabia shipyard in Castellammare di Stabia on 6 January 1873 , the same day that the keel for her sister ship Enrico Dandolo was laid down at the Arsenale di La Spezia . Construction on Caio Duilio proceeded much faster than on her sister ; she was launched on 8 May 1876 and completed on 6 January 1880 , more than two years before Enrico Dandolo would be finished . On 8 March , shortly after Caio Duilio entered service , one of her 17 @. @ 7 in guns exploded . The inexperienced gun crew had accidentally double @-@ loaded the gun . During the annual fleet maneuvers held in 1885 , Caio Duilio served in the 1st Division of the " Western Squadron " ; she was joined by her sister Enrico Dandolo , the protected cruiser Giovanni Bausan , and a sloop . The " Western Squadron " attacked the defending " Eastern Squadron " , simulating a Franco @-@ Italian conflict , with operations conducted off Sardinia .

Caio Duilio took part in the annual 1888 fleet maneuvers , along with the ironclads Lepanto , Italia , Enrico Dandolo , and San Martino , one protected cruiser , four torpedo cruisers , and numerous smaller vessels . The maneuvers consisted of close @-@ order drills and a simulated attack on and defense of La Spezia . Later that year , the ship was present during a naval review held for the German Kaiser Wilhelm II during a visit to Italy . In 1890 , Caio Duilio received a secondary battery of three 4 @. @ 7 in (120 mm) 40 @-@ caliber guns to defend the ship against torpedo boats .

Caio Duilio served with the 1st Division of the Reserve Squadron during the 1893 fleet maneuvers , along with the ironclad Re Umberto , which served as the divisional flagship , the torpedo cruiser Minerva , and four torpedo boats . During the maneuvers , which lasted from 6 August to 5 September , the ships of the Reserve Squadron defended against a simulated attack by the Active Squadron , which gamed a French attack on the Italian fleet .

For the periodic fleet maneuvers of 1897 , Caio Duilio was assigned to the First Division of the Reserve Squadron , which also included the ironclads Ruggiero di Lauria and Lepanto and the protected cruiser Lombardia . In 1900 , the ship 's secondary battery was supplemented with two 75 mm (3 @. @ 0 in) guns , eight 57 mm (2 @. @ 2 in) 40 @-@ caliber quick @-@ firing guns , and four 37 mm (1 @. @ 5 in) 20 @-@ caliber revolver cannon . By 1902 , the ship had been removed from front line service and was employed as a boys ' training ship ; she was at that time the flagship of the Training Division . The Italian Navy had considered rebuilding the ship along the same lines as her sister Enrico Dandolo , but the cost of the project proved to be prohibitive , and by 1902 they had abandoned the plan . In early 1909 , Caio Duilio was stricken from the naval register , and on 27 June she was disarmed . The ship was converted into a coal and oil storage hulk and was renamed GM40 . Her ultimate fate is unknown .