

= Italian cruiser Giovanni Bausan =

Giovanni Bausan was a protected cruiser of the Regia Marina (Royal Navy) that was designed and built by Sir W G Armstrong Mitchell & Co . ' s Elswick Works in England in the mid @-@ 1880s . The finished ship entered service in May 1885 . She was the first ship of this type to be built for the Italian fleet , and she provided the basis for subsequent designs built in Italy , including the Etna class . Giovanni Bausan was intended to serve as a " battleship destroyer " , and was armed with a main battery of two 10 @-@ inch (254 mm) guns to give her the ability to defeat heavy armor , but design flaws rendered her unfit for this role .

Giovanni Bausan frequently served abroad . She participated in the conquest of Eritrea in 1887 ? 88 as the flagship of the Italian squadron during the campaign . She took part in the Venezuelan crisis of 1902 ? 03 alongside British and German warships . During the Italo @-@ Turkish War of 1911 ? 12 , she provided gunfire support to Italian troops ashore in North Africa . By the outbreak of the First World War , Giovanni Bausan had been relegated to secondary duties , first as a distilling ship , and later as a depot ship for seaplanes . The ship was disarmed during the conflict and ultimately was sold to ship @-@ breakers in March 1920 .

= = Design = =

The design of Giovanni Bausan was based on that of Elswick 's earlier Esmeralda , built for Chile and designed by George Rendel , and was the first modern protected cruiser constructed for the Italian Navy . The new ship was ordered in 1882 by Guglielmo Acton , then the Minister for the Navy , and was named for Giovanni Bausan , a Neapolitan naval commander who fought in the French Revolutionary Wars and the Napoleonic Wars . Referred to by some as a torpedo ram , she was one of the first ships of her type . Giovanni Bausan was intended for use as a " battleship destroyer " , but the low rate of fire of her guns and her lack of steadiness as a gun platform made her ineffective in this role . She nevertheless represented a temporary embrace of the theories of the Jeune École doctrine espoused by French naval architects and strategists .

= = General characteristics and machinery = =

Giovanni Bausan was 84 @.@ 12 meters (276 @.@ 0 ft) long between perpendiculars and 89 @.@ 32 m (293 @.@ 0 ft) long overall . She had a beam of 12 @.@ 85 m (42 @.@ 2 ft) and a draft of 5 @.@ 98 m (19 @.@ 6 ft) . Giovanni Bausan was steel @-@ hulled , and had a crew of 295 officers and enlisted men , though later in her career this was reduced to 256 . The four Etna @-@ class cruisers were half @-@ sisters of Giovanni Bausan , built to a modified , slightly enlarged design . She was equipped with a ram bow and initially fitted with rigging as a schooner .

Giovanni Bausan was powered by two compound @-@ expansion steam engines that each drove a screw propeller . Steam was provided by four cylindrical Scotch boilers , which were trunked into two funnels on the centerline . On trials , the engines produced 6 @,@ 470 indicated horsepower (4 @,@ 820 kW) for a top speed of 17 @.@ 4 knots (32 @.@ 2 km / h ; 20 @.@ 0 mph) . At a cruising speed of 10 knots (19 km / h ; 12 mph) , the ship could steam for 5 @,@ 000 nautical miles (9 @,@ 300 km ; 5 @,@ 800 mi) . The schooner rig was intended to provide an auxiliary method of propulsion if the ship 's engines broke down ; by the time Giovanni Bausan entered service in the mid @-@ 1880s , marine steam engines had become reliable enough that auxiliary sails were no longer necessary , and hers were later removed .

= = Armament and armor = =

Armament was heavy for her size , with the main battery consisting of a pair of 10 @-@ inch 30 @-@ caliber breech @-@ loading (BL) guns mounted in individual barbettes fore and aft , capable of training up to 30 degrees abaft of the beam . These were Pattern G models manufactured by Elswick Ordnance Company . Six BL 5 @.@ 9 @-@ inch (150 mm) , 26 @-@ caliber secondary

guns were mounted in sponsons , three on a side , comprised the secondary battery . Close @-@ range defense against torpedo boats was provided by a tertiary battery of four quick @-@ firing (QF) 6 @-@ pounder (57 mm (2 @. @ 2 in)) 40 @-@ caliber guns and two QF 1 @-@ pounder (37 mm (1 @. @ 5 in)) guns . She was also equipped with three 14 @-@ inch (360 mm) torpedo tubes , one on each broadside above water and one submerged tube in the bow .

She was fitted with an armored deck that ran from stem to stern . It was 1 @. @ 5 inches (38 mm) in thickness over the boilers and engines and reduced in thickness to .75 inches (19 mm) fore and aft . The ship also had an " armor " belt of cork at her waterline , which was intended to swell through water absorption after being hit . This proved to be unsuccessful as hits would result in the destruction of the cork . Giovanni Bausan 's conning tower was protected with armor plating 2 inches (51 mm) thick and the breeches of her main guns were also protected by 2 inches of armor .

= = Service history = =

Giovanni Bausan was laid down at the Armstrong Whitworth shipyard in Elswick in England on 21 August 1882 . Her completed hull was launched on 15 December 1883 . After her commissioning on 9 May 1885 , she departed from England on 21 May to join the Squada Permanente (Permanent Squadron) , and in 1887 ? 1888 she participated in the conquest of Eritrea , where she acted as the flagship of the Italian Red Sea Squadron . Following the conclusion of the Eritrean campaign , Giovanni Bausan returned to Italy . In 1888 , she took part in the annual fleet maneuvers , along with four ironclads , three other protected cruisers , 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 . On 5 July 1889 , she collided with the torpedo cruiser Folgore , badly damaging her . Giovanni Bausan thereafter spent much of her time in service overseas , particularly in the Americas . During this service , she made a port visit to New York City in 1892 , during which she was the first foreign warship to be repaired at the Brooklyn Navy Yard in 15 years . 1896 , she took part in the annual summer maneuvers in July as part of the Second Division of the Active Squadron , which also included the ironclads Francesco Morosini and Andrea Doria and the torpedo cruiser Tripoli . In 1899 , Giovanni Bausan had her 5 @. @ 9 @-@ inch guns replaced by modern QF 6 @-@ inch (152 mm) guns .

In late 1902 , Giovanni Bausan 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 . The Italian contingent also included the protected cruiser Elba and the armored cruiser Carlo Alberto . The following year , she and the protected cruisers Etna and Dogali represented Italy at the international naval review in New York , held at the start of the World 's Columbian Exposition in Chicago . The Exposition marked the 400th anniversary of Christopher Columbus 's arrival in North America . Contingents from France , Germany , Britain , Spain , and several other nations also participated in the celebration . In 1904 , Giovanni Bausan returned to Italy , where she was assigned to the Reserve Division , and two of her 6 @-@ inch guns were removed , though she was slated to be replaced by the new armored cruiser Francesco Ferruccio , when she entered service in September 1905 .

From 1905 , Giovanni Bausan served as a training ship for stokers and mechanics until the outbreak of the Italo @-@ Turkish War in 1912 . Returning to active duty as Flagship Cyrenaica , she served in the shore bombardment role until the end of the war , when she was again returned to second @-@ line service as a distilling ship . Fitted with four distillers and capable of producing 200 tons of fresh water every 24 hours , she was operating in this role at the start of the First World War . Because of the pressing need for artillery for service with the army , Giovanni Bausan was partially disarmed in 1915 , losing her 10 @-@ inch guns and two of the 6 @-@ inch pieces . Later in the war , the rest of her armament was removed . She was reassigned for service as a seaplane depot ship at Brindisi . Decommissioned in 1919 , she was sold for scrap in March 1920 and broken up soon after .

