

= Italian ironclad Francesco Morosini =

Francesco Morosini was an ironclad battleship built in the 1880s and 1890s for the Italian Regia Marina (Royal Navy). The ship , named for Francesco Morosini , the 17th @-@ century Doge of Venice , was the second of three ships in the Ruggiero di Lauria class , along with Ruggiero di Lauria and Andrea Doria . She was armed with a main battery of four 17 @-@ inch (432 mm) guns , was protected with 17 @.@ 75 @-@ inch (451 mm) thick belt armor , and was capable of a top speed of 17 knots (31 km / h ; 20 mph) .

The ship 's construction period was very lengthy , beginning in August 1881 and completing in February 1888 . She was quickly rendered obsolescent by the new pre @-@ dreadnought battleships being laid down , and as a result , her career was limited . She spent her career alternating between the Active and Reserve Squadrons , where she took part in training exercises each year with the rest of the fleet . The ship was stricken from the naval register in August 1909 ; the following month , she was expended as a target ship for experiments with torpedoes .

= = Design = =

Francesco Morosini was 105 @.@ 9 meters (347 ft) long overall and had a beam of 19 @.@ 84 m (65 @.@ 1 ft) and an average draft of 8 @.@ 37 m (27 @.@ 5 ft) . She displaced 9 @,@ 886 metric tons (9 @,@ 730 long tons) normally and up to 11 @,@ 145 t (10 @,@ 969 long tons) at full load . Her propulsion system consisted of a pair of compound steam engines each driving a single screw propeller , with steam supplied by eight coal @-@ fired , oval boilers . Her engines produced a top speed of 16 knots (30 km / h ; 18 mph) at 10 @,@ 000 indicated horsepower (7 @,@ 500 kW) . She could steam for 2 @,@ 800 nautical miles (5 @,@ 200 km ; 3 @,@ 200 mi) at a speed of 10 knots (19 km / h ; 12 mph) . She had a crew of 507 ? 509 officers and men .

Francesco Morosini was armed with a main battery of four 17 in (432 mm) 27 @-@ caliber guns , mounted in two pairs en echelon in a central barbette . She carried a secondary battery of two 6 in (152 mm) 32 @-@ cal. guns , one at the bow and the other at the stern , and four 4 @.@ 7 in (119 mm) 32 @-@ cal. guns . As was customary for capital ships of the period , she carried five 14 in (356 mm) torpedo tubes submerged in the hull . She was protected by steel armor ; her armored belt was 17 @.@ 75 in (451 mm) thick , and her armored deck was 3 in (76 mm) thick . Her conning tower was armored with 9 @.@ 8 in (249 mm) of steel plate , and the barbette had 14 @.@ 2 in (361 mm) thick sides .

= = Service history = =

Francesco Morosini was under construction for nearly eight years . She was laid down at the Venetian Arsenal on 4 December 1881 and launched on 30 July 1885 . She was not completed for another four years , her construction finally being finished on 21 August 1889 . Because of the rapid pace of naval technological development in the late 19th century , her lengthy construction period meant that she was an obsolete design by the time she entered service . The year she entered service , the British began building the Royal Sovereign class ; these ships marked a significant advance over previous types of capital ships and set the standard for future vessels , which became known as pre @-@ dreadnought battleships . In addition , technological progress , particularly in armor production techniques ? first Harvey armor and then Krupp armor ? rapidly rendered older vessels like Francesco Morosini obsolete .

Francesco Morosini took part in the annual fleet maneuvers of 1894 in 2nd Division of the Active Squadron , along with the protected cruiser Ettore Fieramosca , the torpedo cruiser Tripoli , and four torpedo boats . She remained in the 2nd Division the following year , which now included the protected cruiser Etruria and the torpedo cruisers Euridice and Calatafimi . The Squadron was based at La Spezia at the time . The following year , she cruised off Crete as the flagship of the 2nd Division , under Rear Admiral E. Gaulterio . During that year 's summer maneuvers , held in July , Francesco Morosini continued as Gaulterio 's flagship ; the 2nd Division also included her sister

Andrea Doria and the protected cruiser Giovanni Bausan . The 1st and 2nd Divisions of the Active Squadron were tasked with defending against a hostile fleet , simulated by older ships in reserve .

In 1898 , Francesco Morosini was transferred to the Reserve Squadron , along with Ruggiero di Lauria and the ironclad Lepanto and five cruisers . The following year , Francesco Morosini and her two sisters returned to the Active Squadron , which was kept in service for eight months of the year , with the remainder spent with reduced crews . The Squadron also included the ironclads Re Umberto , Sicilia , and Lepanto . In 1900 , Francesco Morosini and her sisters were significantly modified and received a large number of small guns for defense against torpedo boats . These included a pair of 75 mm (3 @. @ 0 in) guns , ten 57 mm (2 @. @ 2 in) 40 @-@ caliber guns , twelve 37 mm (1 @. @ 5 in) guns , five 37 mm revolver cannon , and two machine guns .

In 1905 , Francesco Morosini and her two sisters were joined in the Reserve Squadron by the three Re Umberto @-@ class ironclads and Enrico Dandolo , three cruisers , and sixteen torpedo boats . This squadron only entered active service for two months of the year for training maneuvers , and the rest of the year was spent with reduced crews . In 1908 , the Italian Navy decided to discard Francesco Morosini and her sister Ruggiero di Lauria . She was formally stricken from the naval register in August 1909 , and was thereafter used as a target ship for a torpedo experiment . On 15 September , she was sunk at La Spezia ; the experiment was conducted to test the effect of a torpedo hit in order to develop more a more effective hull design . The explosion tore a 50 @-@ square @-@ meter (540 sq ft) hole in the hull , causing her to list severely and sink on her side . Her wreck was later scrapped .