

= Italian ironclad Principe Amedeo =

Principe Amedeo was an ironclad warship built by the Italian Regia Marina in the 1860s and 1870s . She was the lead ship of the Principe Amedeo class , alongside her sister ship Palestro . Principe Amedeo was laid down in 1865 , launched in 1872 , and completed in late 1874 . She was armed with a battery of six 10 in ( 254 mm ) guns and one 11 in ( 279 mm ) gun . The last sail @@ rigged ironclad of the Italian fleet , she had a single steam engine that was capable of propelling the ship at a speed of slightly over 12 knots ( 22 km / h ; 14 mph ) .

Principe Amedeo 's lengthy construction time rendered her obsolescent by the time she entered service . As a result , she primarily served as a station ship in Italy 's overseas empire . In November 1881 , she collided with the ironclad Roma in a storm in Naples . Principe Amadeo was withdrawn from service in 1888 and converted into a headquarters ship for the vessels defending Taranto . She was stricken from the naval register in 1895 and thereafter used as a depot ship until she was broken up for scrap in 1910 .

= = Design = =

Principe Amedeo was 79 @. @ 73 meters ( 261 @. @ 6 ft ) long between perpendiculars ; she had a beam of 17 @. @ 4 m ( 57 ft ) and an average draft of 7 @. @ 9 m ( 26 ft ) . She displaced 5 @, @ 761 metric tons ( 5 @, @ 670 long tons ; 6 @, @ 350 short tons ) normally and up to 6 @, @ 020 t ( 5 @, @ 920 long tons ; 6 @, @ 640 short tons ) at full load . Her propulsion system consisted of one single @- @ expansion steam engine that drove a single screw propeller , with steam supplied by six coal @- @ fired , cylindrical fire @- @ tube boilers . Her engine produced a top speed of 12 @. @ 2 knots ( 22 @. @ 6 km / h ; 14 @. @ 0 mph ) at 6 @, @ 117 indicated horsepower ( 4 @, @ 561 kW ) . She could steam for 1 @, @ 780 nautical miles ( 3 @, @ 300 km ; 2 @, @ 050 mi ) at a speed of 10 knots ( 19 km / h ; 12 mph ) . The ship was barque @- @ rigged to supplement the steam engine ; Principe Amedeo and her sister were the last rigged ironclads to be built by Italy . She had a crew of 548 officers and men .

Principe Amedeo was armed with a main battery of six 10 in ( 254 mm ) guns , mounted in a single armored casemates placed amidships , with three guns on each broadside . A 11 in ( 279 mm ) gun was mounted forward as a bow chaser . Principe Amedeo was protected by iron belt armor that was 8 @. @ 7 in ( 221 mm ) thick and extended for the entire length of the hull . The casemates were protected with 5 @. @ 5 in ( 140 mm ) of iron plating , and the small conning tower had 2 @. @ 4 in ( 61 mm ) thick iron plates .

= = Service history = =

Principe Amedeo was laid down at the Arsenale di La Spezia in August 1865 , and her completed hull was launched on 15 January 1872 . Fitting @- @ out work proceeded very slowly , and the ship was finally completed on 15 December 1874 . Obsolescent by the time she was completed , Principe Amedeo primarily served in the Italian colonial empire , which Italy had begun acquiring in the 1880s . She occasionally took part in training maneuvers with the main Italian fleet throughout her career .

Principe Amedeo took part in the launching ceremony for the ironclad Italia on 29 September 1880 ; also present were the Italian ironclad Regina Maria Pia and King Umberto I aboard his yacht , and the British ironclads HMS Monarch and Thunderer with Vice Admiral George Tryon , both members of the Mediterranean Fleet . At the time , Principe Amedeo flew the flag of Vice Admiral Martini . In early November 1881 , Principe Amedeo was moored in Naples when a severe storm tore the ironclad Roma free from her anchors and knocked her into Principe Amedeo . Neither ship was damaged in the collision .

For the annual fleet maneuvers held in 1885 , Principe Amedeo served as the flagship of the " Eastern Squadron " , with Rear Admiral Civita commanding . She was joined by the ironclad Castelfidardo , the corvette Amerigo Vespucci , a sloop , and four torpedo boats . The " Eastern

Squadron " defended against an attacking " Western Squadron " , simulating a Franco @-@ Italian conflict , with operations conducted off Sardinia . During the exercises , Principe Amedeo was forced to " surrender " by the ironclad Caio Duilio .

From 1888 to 1889 , Principe Amedeo was employed as the headquarters ship for the forces defending Taranto . By this time , she had been equipped with six 2 @. @ 9 in ( 74 mm ) guns for close @-@ range defense , six machine guns , and two torpedo tubes . The ship was stricken from the naval register on 28 March 1895 and thereafter used as an ammunition depot ship in Taranto . She was eventually broken up for scrap in 1910 .