

= Italian battleship Napoli =

Napoli was a Regina Elena class pre dreadnought battleship built for the Italian Regia Marina (Royal Navy) in 1903 ? 08 . She was the last member of the four ship class , which included the lead ship Regina Elena , Vittorio Emanuele , and Roma . Napoli was armed with a main battery of two 12 inch (305 mm) and twelve 8 in (203 mm) guns , and was capable of a top speed of 21 knots (39 km / h ; 24 mph) .

Napoli saw action in the Italo Turkish War in 1911 and 1912 ; she took part in the attack on Derna , Libya , and the amphibious assaults on the islands of Rhodes and the Dodecanese in the Aegean Sea . Napoli remained in service during World War I in 1915 ? 18 , but saw no action as a result of the cautious policies of both the Italian and Austro Hungarian navies . She remained in the Italian inventory until she was stricken from the naval register in August 1926 and was subsequently broken up for scrap .

= = Design = =

Napoli was 144 meters (474 ft) long overall and had a beam of 22 meters (73 ft) and a maximum draft of 8 meters (28 ft) . She displaced 13,774 metric tons (13,056 long tons ; 15,000 short tons) at full combat load . Her propulsion system consisted of two vertical four cylinder triple expansion engines rated at 19,618 indicated horsepower (14,629 kW) . Steam for the engines was provided by twenty eight coal fired Babcock & Wilcox boilers . The ship 's propulsion system provided a top speed of 22 knots (41 km / h ; 25 mph) and a range of approximately 10,000 nautical miles (19,000 km ; 12,000 mi) at 10 knots (19 km / h ; 12 mph) . Napoli had a crew of 742 ? 764 officers and enlisted men .

As built , the ship was armed with two 12 in (305 mm) 40 caliber guns placed in two single gun turrets , one forward and one aft . The ship was also equipped with twelve 8 in (203 mm) 40 cal. guns in six twin turrets amidships . Close range defense against torpedo boats was provided by a battery of twenty four 3 in (76 mm) 40 cal. guns . She was also equipped with two 17 in (450 mm) torpedo tubes placed in the hull below the waterline . Napoli was protected with Krupp steel manufactured in Terni . The main belt was 9 in (249 mm) thick , and the deck was 1 in (38 mm) thick . The conning tower was protected by 10 in (250 mm) of armor plating . The main battery guns had 8 in (203 mm) thick plating , and the 8 inch gun turrets had 6 in (152 mm) thick sides .

= = Service history = =

The keel for Napoli was laid down at Castellammare di Stabia on 21 October 1903 . She was launched on 10 September 1905 , and completed on 1 August 1908 . Napoli served in the active duty squadron through 1910 , which included her three sisters and the two Regina Margherita class battleships . At the time , these six battleships represented Italy 's front line battle fleet . The active duty squadron was typically in service for seven months of the year for training ; the rest of the year they were placed in reserve .

= = Italo Turkish War = =

On 29 September 1911 , Italy declared war on the Ottoman Empire in order to seize Libya . For the duration of the conflict , Napoli served in the 1st Division of the 1st Squadron with her three sister ships , under the command of Vice Admiral Augusto Aubry . After the outbreak of war , Napoli , her sister Roma , and the armored cruisers Pisa and Amalfi , were sent to blockade Tripoli in North Africa . On 2 October , the battleship Benedetto Brin and the training squadron arrived to relieve Napoli and the other ships , which thereafter left to rejoin the flagship , Vittorio Emanuele .

On 15 October , Napoli , which had been detached to reinforce the armored cruisers in the 2nd

Division , 1st Squadron , arrived in Derna , Libya in company with several troopships . After a request sent to the defending Ottoman garrison to surrender was rejected , Napoli and the armored cruisers bombarded the town . In the span of 30 minutes , they had razed the town . At 14 : 00 , the Italians attempted to land a contingent of 500 infantry , but heavy Turkish fire repulsed the assault , which prompted further bombardment from the Italian fleet . On 18 October , the Turks retreated from the town , which was thereafter occupied by the Italian army . In the meantime , Napoli had rejoined the 1st Division , and on 18 October , the unit had escorted a convoy of troopships to Benghazi . The Italian fleet bombarded the city the next morning after the Ottoman garrison refused to surrender . During the bombardment , parties from the ships and the infantry from the troopships went ashore . The Italians quickly forced the Ottomans to withdraw into the city by evening . After a short siege , the Ottoman forces withdrew on 29 October , leaving the city to the Italians .

In November , the Ottomans launched a major attempt to retake the town . Toward the end of the month , the Italians launched a counter @-@ attack that consisted of three battalions of infantry and 150 men from Napoli . By December , Napoli and the other ships of the 1st Squadron were dispersed in the ports of Cyrenaica ; Napoli remained in Derna . In early 1912 , most of the fleet , including Napoli , withdrew to Italy for repairs and refit , leaving only a small force of cruisers and light craft to patrol the North African coast . On 13 April , the 1st Division left Taranto , bound for the island of Rhodes . Meanwhile , the 3rd Division escorted a convoy of troopships from Tobruk to the island . The Italian heavy ships demonstrated off the city of Rhodes while the transports landed the expeditionary force 10 miles (16 km) to the south on 4 May ; the soldiers quickly advanced on the city , supported by artillery fire from the Italian fleet . The Turks surrendered the city the following day .

Between 8 and 20 May , Napoli was involved in the seizure of several islands in the Dodecanese between Crete , Rhodes , and Samos . In June , Napoli and the rest of the 1st Division was stationed at Rhodes . Over the next two months , the ships cruised in the Aegean to prevent the Turks from attempting to launch their own amphibious operations to retake the islands Italy had seized in May . The 1st Division returned to Italy in late August for repairs and refitting , and were replaced by the battleships of the 2nd Squadron . The 1st Division left port on 14 October , but was recalled later that day , when the Ottomans had agreed to sign a peace treaty to end the war .

= = = World War I = = =

Italy declared neutrality after the outbreak of World War I in August 1914 , but by July 1915 , the Triple Entente had convinced the Italians to enter the war against the Central Powers . Italy 's traditional naval rival , the Austro @-@ Hungarian Navy , was the primary opponent in the conflict , and lay directly across the narrow Adriatic Sea . Admiral Paolo Thaon di Revel , the Italian Naval Chief of Staff , understood that Austro @-@ Hungarian submarines presented too serious a threat to his capital ships for him to mount an active fleet policy . Instead , Revel decided to implement blockade at the relatively safer southern end of the Adriatic with the battle fleet , while smaller vessels , such as the MAS boats conducted raids on Austro @-@ Hungarian ships and installations . Meanwhile , Revel 's battleships would be preserved to confront the Austro @-@ Hungarian battle fleet in the event that it sought a decisive engagement . As a result , the ship was not particularly active during the war .

During the war , Napoli and her three sisters were assigned to the 2nd Division . They spent much of the war rotating between the bases at Taranto , Brindisi , and Valona , but did not see combat . On 14 ? 15 May 1917 , three light cruisers of the Austro @-@ Hungarian Navy raided the Otranto Barrage ; in the ensuing Battle of the Strait of Otranto , Napoli and her sisters raised steam to assist the Allied warships , but the Italian commander refused to permit them to join the battle for fear of risking their loss in the submarine @-@ infested Adriatic .

In early 1922 , the world 's major navies , including Italy , signed the Washington Naval Treaty . According to the terms of the treaty , Italy could keep Napoli and her three sisters , along with the newer dreadnought battleships . Due to the small size and age of the ships , particularly in comparison to the modern dreadnoughts , the Italians could have kept the ships in service

indefinitely . They could not , however , be replaced by new battleships under the normal practice of the Treaty system , which provided for replacements after a ship was 20 years old . Napoli was retained for a few years , but was stricken from the naval register on 3 August 1926 and sold for scrap .