

= Regioni @-@ class cruiser =

The Regioni class was a group of six protected cruisers built for the Italian Regia Marina (Royal Navy) in the late 1880s through the early 1900s . The class comprised Umbria , Lombardia , Etruria , Liguria , Elba , and Puglia , all of which were named for regions of Italy with the exception of Elba , which was named for the island . The class is sometimes referred as the Umbria class , for the first ship to be laid down . The ships , built by four different shipyards , varied slightly in their size , speed , and armament , but all could steam at about 18 kn (33 km / h ; 21 mph) and their main armament consisted of four 15 @-@ centimeter (5 @-@ 9 in) guns and six 12 cm (4 @-@ 7 in) guns .

The ships served in a variety of roles throughout their careers , including scouts for the main fleet , colonial cruisers , and representatives of Italy at major foreign events . Elba observed the Russo @-@ Japanese War , including the Battle of Chemulpo Bay in 1904 , where she picked up Russian survivors . Lombardia was converted into a depot ship for submarines in 1906 . Elba and Liguria were equipped with observation balloons in 1907 ? 1908 . In 1910 , Umbria was sold to Haiti and renamed Consul Gostrück , though she quickly sank under the care of her inexperienced crew . The remaining ships , except for Lombardia , took part in the Italo @-@ Turkish War in 1911 ? 12 , where they provided gunfire support to Italian troops , bombarded Ottoman ports , and instituted a blockade in the Red Sea .

By World War I , most of the ships had been withdrawn to secondary roles , with Elba having been converted into a seaplane tender . Puglia was the only member of the class to take an active role , based out of Durazzo . Etruria was deliberately blown up by the Regia Marina as a deception operation against Austria @-@ Hungary . The remaining ships were broken up for scrap in the early 1920s , though the bow section of Puglia was preserved at the Vittoriale degli italiani museum .

= = Design = =

The design for the Regioni class , sometimes referred to as the Umbria class after the lead ship , was prepared by the naval architect Edoardo Masdea , and it was the first protected cruiser designed in Italy . All previous ships of the type had been designed in Britain , or in the case of the Etna class , enlarged copies of the British @-@ designed Giovanni Bausan . As a first attempt , the ships of the Regioni class proved to be a disappointment , owing to their slow speed and insufficient armor protection .

= = = General characteristics = = =

All six ships varied slightly in their dimensions . The ships were 80 to 83 @-@ 2 meters (262 to 273 ft) long at the waterline and 88 @-@ 25 m (289 @-@ 5 ft) long overall . They had a beam of 12 @-@ 03 to 12 @-@ 72 m (39 @-@ 5 to 41 @-@ 7 ft) and a draft of 4 @-@ 67 to 5 @-@ 35 m (15 @-@ 3 to 17 @-@ 6 ft) . The ships displaced 2 @-@ 245 to 2 @-@ 689 metric tons (2 @-@ 210 to 2 @-@ 647 long tons ; 2 @-@ 475 to 2 @-@ 964 short tons) normally and 2 @-@ 411 to 3 @-@ 110 t (2 @-@ 373 to 3 @-@ 061 long tons ; 2 @-@ 658 to 3 @-@ 428 short tons) at full load . The ships were originally designed with a fore and aft sailing rig , though this was quickly removed . Instead , they were fitted with two pole masts equipped with spotting tops . They had a crew of between 213 @-@ 78 .

= = = Machinery = = =

The ships ' propulsion system consisted of a pair of horizontal triple @-@ expansion engines , with steam supplied by four cylindrical water @-@ tube boilers . The boilers were trunked into a pair of funnels on the centerline . On her speed trials , Umbria reached a maximum of 19 knots (35 km / h ; 22 mph) at 7 @-@ 400 indicated horsepower (5 @-@ 500 kW) . Lombardia made 18 @-@ 4 kn (34 @-@ 1 km / h ; 21 @-@ 2 mph) at 6 @-@ 010 ihp (4 @-@ 480 kW) , while Etruria reached 18 @-@ 3 kn (33 @-@ 9 km / h ; 21 @-@ 1 mph) at 7 @-@ 018 ihp (5 @-@ 233 kW) . Liguria made

18 @. @ 1 kn (33 @. @ 5 km / h ; 20 @. @ 8 mph) at 5 @, @ 536 ihp (4 @, @ 128 kW) and Elba , the slowest member of the class , made 17 @. @ 9 kn (33 @. @ 2 km / h ; 20 @. @ 6 mph) at 7 @, @ 471 ihp (5 @, @ 571 kW) Puglia was by far the fastest , capable of steaming at a speed of 20 kn (37 km / h ; 23 mph) . The ships had a cruising radius of about 2 @, @ 100 nautical miles (3 @, @ 900 km ; 2 @, @ 400 mi) at a speed of 10 knots (19 km / h ; 12 mph) .

= = = Armament and armor = = =

All six ships were armed with a main battery of four 15 cm (5 @. @ 9 in) L / 40 guns mounted singly , with two side by side forward and two side by side aft . Six 12 cm (4 @. @ 7 in) L / 40 guns were placed between them , with three on each broadside . The ships ' light armament varied . All of the ships save Lombardia were equipped with eight 57 mm (2 @. @ 2 in) guns , which had an additional two of these guns . Umbria was also equipped with one 75 mm (3 @. @ 0 in) gun and nine 37 mm (1 @. @ 5 in) guns , while Puglia had eight of the 37 mm guns and Elba had six of them . Liguria and Etruria only had two 37 mm guns , and Lombardia had none . All six ships had a pair of machine guns and two 45 cm (18 in) torpedo tubes .

The ships all had their armament repeatedly revised throughout their careers . By 1905 , each ship had had two of the 15 cm guns replaced with two additional 12 cm guns , and their secondary battery was standardized at eight 57 mm guns and eight 37 mm guns , with the exception of Puglia , which had six and two guns , respectively . Puglia had also had her two torpedo tubes removed by this point . In 1914 , Liguria had all of her 15 cm guns removed , along with six of the 37 mm guns . Her armament was reduced further in 1917 when she was refitted as a minelayer ; at this point , she mounted only six 12 cm guns and two 37 mm guns . Starting in 1915 , Etruria and Lombardia were equipped with only six 12 cm guns , six 57 mm guns for Etruria and eight for Lombardia , two 37 mm guns , and their torpedo tubes . At the same time , Elba was rearmed with six 12 cm guns , two 37 cm guns , and one machine gun ; she retained her torpedo tubes .

The first five ships were protected by a 50 mm (2 @. @ 0 in) thick deck , and their conning tower had 50 mm thick sides . Puglia had a deck that was only 25 mm (0 @. @ 98 in) thick , though she had the same thickness of armor on her conning tower .

= = Ships = =

= = Service history = =

The ships of the Regioni class served in a variety of roles throughout their careers . Their first decade in service was marked by frequent deployments abroad , interspersed between stints in the main Italian fleet , where they served as scouts for the battleships . In 1895 , Etruria and much of the main fleet visited Germany for the opening ceremonies for the Kaiser Wilhelm Canal . Lombardia was stationed in South America in 1896 , when an outbreak of yellow fever killed half of her crew while she was in Rio de Janeiro . In 1897 , Umbria and Liguria were assigned to the Cruiser Squadron of the main fleet . Lombardia was deployed to China in 1901 , where she replaced Elba , and to Italian Somaliland in 1903 . There , she briefly skirmished with Somali rebels .

Elba was present in Korea during the Russo @-@ Japanese War , which took place primarily in neighboring Manchuria . She witnessed the Battle of Chemulpo Bay in February 1904 and rescued Russian survivors along with British and French cruisers . In 1905 , Umbria represented Italy at the Lewis and Clark Centennial Exposition in Portland , Oregon . Lombardia was converted into a depot ship for submarines in 1906 ? 08 . Etruria visited the United States twice for major events , the Jamestown Exposition in 1907 and the Hudson @-@ Fulton Celebration in 1909 . Elba and Liguria were modified to operate an observation balloon to assist in spotting naval mines , which could be more easily seen from the air . In December 1910 , Umbria was sold to the Haitian Navy and renamed Consul Gostrück , though she sank shortly after the transfer due to her new crew 's inexperience .

All of the remaining ships participated in the Italo @-@ Turkish War of 1911 ? 1912 , with the exception of Lombardia which was stationed in the Adriatic . Etruria and Liguria took part in the assault on Benghazi and thereafter provided gunfire support to Italian forces in North Africa . Puglia was stationed in East Africa for the duration of the war , and frequently bombarded Ottoman ports . These included a diversionary attack that helped the cruiser Piemonte and two destroyers sink or force aground a flotilla of seven Ottoman gunboats in the Battle of Kurfud Bay . In January 1912 Liguria and Elba joined the fleet in the Red Sea , where they imposed a blockade on Ottoman ports in the region , coupled with frequent bombardments of Ottoman positions .

In 1914 Elba was converted into the first dedicated seaplane tender in the Italian fleet . She was nevertheless too small to be of real use , and she remained in service for only two years . Puglia was the only ship of the class to take an active role in the First World War ; in 1915 , while patrolling off Durazzo she briefly encountered the Austro @-@ Hungarian cruiser SMS Novara , which retreated before either ship could open fire . She covered the withdrawal of elements of the Serbian Army from Durazzo and shelled the pursuing Austro @-@ Hungarian Army . Etruria was deliberately blown up in Livorno on 13 August 1918 to fool Austria @-@ Hungary into believing its espionage network , which had been thoroughly compromised , was still operational . Elba was sold for scrapping in January 1920 , followed by her sister Lombardia in July . That month , Puglia became involved in the civil unrest in Split , and the ship 's captain and another sailor were murdered by a group of Croat nationalists . Liguria was sold in May 1921 and broken up . The Navy sold Puglia in March 1923 , but while she was being dismantled Benito Mussolini donated her bow section to the Vittoriale degli italiani museum .