

= Italian cruiser Calabria =

Calabria was a small protected cruiser built for the Italian Regia Marina (Royal Navy) in the 1890s , intended for service in Italy 's overseas empire . She was laid down in 1892 , launched in 1894 , and completed in 1897 , and was armed with a main battery of four 15 @-@ centimeter (5 @.@ 9 in) and four 12 cm (4 @.@ 7 in) guns . Calabria spent significant periods abroad , ranging from deployments to Chinese , North American , and Australian waters , in addition to periods in Italy 's East African empire . She saw action during the Italo @-@ Turkish War in 1912 in the Red Sea , primarily bombarding Turkish ports in the area . Calabria was reclassified as a gunboat in 1921 , reduced to a training ship in 1924 , and sold for scrap at the end of the year .

= = Design = =

Calabria was designed by the Chief Engineer , Edoardo Masdea , and was intended for overseas service . She had a steel hull sheathed with wood and zinc to protect it from fouling during lengthy deployments abroad . The hull was 76 meters (249 ft) long between perpendiculars and 81 m (266 ft) long overall . It had a beam of 12 @.@ 71 m (41 @.@ 7 ft) and a draft of 5 @.@ 05 m (16 @.@ 6 ft) . Her normal displacement was 2 @,@ 453 metric tons (2 @,@ 414 long tons ; 2 @,@ 704 short tons) but increased to 2 @,@ 660 t (2 @,@ 620 long tons ; 2 @,@ 930 short tons) at full load . Calabria had a crew of between 214 and 254 officers and enlisted crew .

The cruiser was powered by two @-@ shaft vertical triple @-@ expansion engines with steam supplied by four coal @-@ fired , cylindrical water @-@ tube boilers that were trunked into a single funnel amidships . The engines had an output of 4 @,@ 260 indicated horsepower (3 @,@ 180 kW) and produced a top speed of 16 @.@ 4 knots (30 @.@ 4 km / h ; 18 @.@ 9 mph) . Calabria had a cruising radius of about 2 @,@ 500 nautical miles (4 @,@ 600 km ; 2 @,@ 900 mi) at a speed of 10 knots (19 km / h ; 12 mph) .

Calabria was armed with a main battery of four 15 @-@ centimeter (5 @.@ 9 in) L / 40 guns and four 12 cm (4 @.@ 7 in) L / 40 guns , all mounted individually . Light armaments included eight 5 @.@ 7 cm (2 @.@ 2 in) L / 40 guns , eight 3 @.@ 7 cm (1 @.@ 5 in) L / 20 guns , and a pair of machine guns . She was also equipped with a pair of 45 cm (18 in) torpedo tubes . Armor protection consisted of a 50 mm (2 @.@ 0 in) thick deck ; her conning tower also received 50 mm of steel plating .

= = Service history = =

Calabria was built at the La Spezia dockyard , with her keel being laid down in February 1892 . She was launched on 20 September 1894 , and fitting @-@ out work was completed by mid @-@ 1897 ; the new cruiser was commissioned into the Regia Marina (Royal Navy) on 12 July . Calabria spent long periods abroad in her first decade of service . She was operating in Chinese waters in 1899 when the Boxer Rebellion broke out . She joined an international fleet that included representatives from the fleets of the Eight Nation Alliance in the mouth of the Hai River while a contingent of 475 soldiers traveled to Beijing to reinforce the Legation Quarter .

The ship was present on 20 May 1902 when the United States formally granted independence to the Republic of Cuba , following the Spanish ? American War three years earlier . Calabria and the British cruiser HMS Psyche fired salutes to the United States cruiser USS Brooklyn . In March 1905 Calabria went on another cruise to American waters , this time to Santo Domingo in the Dominican Republic . The visit represented an attempt at gunboat diplomacy , aimed at securing payments for debts to Italian nationals . Later in the year , Calabria visited Australia on a trip to show the flag . In October 1909 , Calabria took part in the Portola Festival in San Francisco , marking the 140th anniversary of the Portolà expedition , the first recorded European exploration of what became California .

= = = Italo @-@ Turkish War = = =

At the outbreak of the Italo - Turkish War in September 1911 , Calabria was stationed in the Far East , but she was immediately recalled to reinforce the Italian colony of Eritrea . After arriving in East African waters , she joined the cruiser Puglia in bombarding the Turkish port of Aqaba on 19 November to disperse a contingent of Ottoman soldiers there . Hostilities were temporarily ceased while the British King George V passed through the Red Sea following his coronation ceremony in India ? the ceasefire lasted until 26 November . Four days later , Calabria and the gunboat Volturno attacked a quarantine station near Perim .

In early 1912 , the Italian Red Sea Fleet searched for a group of seven Ottoman gunboats thought to be planning an attack on Eritrea , though they were in fact immobilized due to a lack of coal . Calabria and the Puglia carried out diversionary bombardments against Jebel Tahr , and Al Luqayyah , while the cruiser Piemonte and the destroyers Artigliere and Garibaldino searched for the gunboats . On 7 January , they found the gunboats and quickly sank four in the Battle of Kunfuda Bay ; the other three were forced to beach to avoid sinking as well . The next day , the Italian warships sent a shore party to destroy the grounded gunboats . Calabria and the rest of the Italian ships returned to bombarding the Turkish ports in the Red Sea before declaring a blockade of the city of Al Hudaydah on 26 January . Calabria returned to Italy by April for refitting . The Ottomans eventually agreed to surrender in October , ending the war .

=== Later career ===

In 1914 , her armament was reduced ; the 15 cm guns were removed and two additional 12 cm guns were installed in their place . Two of the 5 @ 7 cm guns and six of the 3 @ 7 cm guns were also removed . The ship took a diplomatic mission from Massawa across the Red Sea to visit Hussein bin Ali , the recently proclaimed King of Hejaz , in Mecca in July 1917 . Calabria returned to East African waters in January 1918 on another mission to show the flag , particularly off the coast of Somalia . Stops included Aden and Djibouti . Calabria was reclassified as a gunboat in 1921 , and she saw her armament modified again ; a 15 cm gun was reinstalled , as were two of the 5 @ 7 cm guns . A 4 cm (1 @ 6 in) L / 39 autocannon was also added at this time . She served in this role for only a short time , and was reduced to a training ship for naval gunners in early 1924 . This duty ended quickly , and she was sold for scrap on 13 November 1924 .