

= Italian cruiser Iride =

Iride was a torpedo cruiser of the Partenope class built for the Italian Regia Marina (Royal Navy) in the 1880s . Laid down in February 1889 at the Regio Cantiere di Castellammare di Stabia shipyard , she was launched in July 1890 and was commissioned in November 1892 . Her main armament were her six torpedo tubes , which were supported by a battery of ten small 47 mm caliber guns . Iride spent most of her career in the main Italian fleet , where she was primarily occupied with training exercises . During the Italo - Turkish War in September 1911 , she remained in Italian waters until late in the conflict ; she escorted a troop convoy to North Africa in April 1912 and bombarded Ottoman positions in June and July . Iride was eventually broken up for scrap in December 1920 .

= = Design = =

Iride was 73 m (239 ft 10 in) long overall and had a beam of 8 m (27 ft 0 in) and an average draft of 3 m (11 ft 5 in) . She displaced 931 metric tons (916 long tons ; 1 026 short tons) normally . Her propulsion system consisted of a pair of horizontal triple expansion steam engines , each driving a single screw propeller , with steam supplied by four coal fired locomotive boilers . Specific figures for Iride 's engine performance have not survived , but the ships of her class had top speeds of 18 to 20 knots (33 to 38 km / h ; 20 to 23 mph) at 3 884 to 4 422 indicated horsepower (2 896 to 3 297 kW) . The ship had a cruising radius of about 1 800 nautical miles (3 000 km ; 2 100 mi) at a speed of 10 knots (19 km / h ; 12 mph) . She had a crew of between 96 and 121 personnel .

Iride was armed with a main battery of one 120 mm (4 7 in) / 40 gun and six 57 mm (2 1/2 in) / 43 guns mounted singly. She was also equipped with three 37 mm (1 1/2 in) / 20 guns in single mounts . Her primary offensive weapon was her six 450 mm (17 3/4 in) torpedo tubes . The ship was protected by an armored deck that was up to 1 6 in (41 mm) thick ; her conning tower was armored with the same thickness of steel plate .

= = Service history = =

Iride was laid down at the Regio Cantiere di Castellammare di Stabia (Royal Dockyard in Castellammare di Stabia) on 21 February 1889 , and was launched on 20 July 1890 . After fitting out work was completed , the ship was commissioned into the fleet on 1 November 1892 . Iride took part in the annual fleet exercises in 1893 in the " attacking squadron " , which also included six ironclads , her sister ship Euridice and the torpedo cruisers Goito and Monzambano . In 1895 , Iride was stationed in the 2nd Maritime Department , split between Taranto and Naples , along with most of the torpedo cruisers in the Italian fleet . These included her sister ships Partenope , Aretusa , Euridice , Urania , Minerva , and Caprera , the four Goito class cruisers , and Tripoli .

In 1904 - 05 , Iride was assigned to the Levant Station in the eastern Mediterranean . She took part in the 1907 fleet maneuvers that took place in September and October that year . At the start of the Italo - Turkish War in September 1911 , Iride was stationed in Italy , alternating between the ports of La Spezia and Naples , along with her sister ships Urania and Caprera . By January 1912 , Iride had been stationed in Tripoli to support the garrison there against Ottoman forces . In early April , Iride , the torpedo cruiser Agordat , and six torpedo boats rendezvoused with a troop convoy carrying 10 000 men to Zuwarah near the border with Tunisia . In June and July , Iride and the armored cruiser Carlo Alberto bombarded Turkish forces near Zuara . The Ottomans eventually agreed to surrender in October , ending the war .

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 with promises of territory acquisition in Italia irredenta . The Austro - Hungarian Navy , which had been Italy 's primary rival for decades , was the primary opponent in the conflict . The Austro - Hungarian

battle fleet lay in its harbors directly across the narrow Adriatic Sea . Admiral Paolo Thaon di Revel , the Italian naval chief of staff , believed that the narrow waters and numerous islands of the Adriatic allowed Austro -@- Hungarian submarines and minelayers to operate with a great degree of freedom . The threat from these underwater weapons to his capital ships was too serious for him to use the fleet in an active way . 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 . As a result , Iride did not see action during the war . She was sold for scrap in December 1920 and was subsequently broken up for scrap .