

= Italian ironclad San Martino =

San Martino was a Regina Maria Pia @-@ class ironclad warship , the second member of her class . She was built for the Italian Regia Marina in the 1860s ; like her three sister ships , she was built in France . San Martino was laid down in July 1862 , was launched in September 1863 , and was completed in November 1864 . The ships were broadside ironclads , mounting a battery of four 8 @-@ inch ( 200 mm ) and twenty @-@ two 164 mm ( 6 @-@ 5 in ) guns on the broadside .

San Martino saw action at the Battle of Lissa , fought during the Third Italian War of Independence in 1866 . There she was in the center of the action , at the head of the Italian main body . Of the three ships in her division , San Martino was the only vessel to survive the battle . After the war , the ship 's career was uneventful , the result of the emergence of more modern ironclads and a severe reduction in the Italian naval budget following their defeat at Lissa . She was rebuilt as a central battery ship some time after Lissa , and was modernized again in the late 1880s . The ship was eventually broken up for scrap in 1903 .

= = Design = =

San Martino was 81 @-@ 2 meters ( 266 ft ) long overall ; she had a beam of 15 @-@ 24 m ( 50 @-@ 0 ft ) and an average draft of 6 @-@ 35 m ( 20 @-@ 8 ft ) . She had a crew of 480 ? 485 officers and men . She was a broadside ironclad , and she was initially armed with a main battery of four 8 in ( 203 mm ) guns and twenty @-@ two 164 mm ( 6 @-@ 5 in ) guns , though her armament changed throughout her career . The ship was protected by iron belt armor that was 4 @-@ 75 in ( 121 mm ) thick and extended for the entire length of the hull at the waterline . The battery deck was protected by 4 @-@ 3 in ( 110 mm ) of iron plate .

San Martino displaced 4 @-@ 201 metric tons ( 4 @-@ 135 long tons ; 4 @-@ 631 short tons ) normally and up to 4 @-@ 527 t ( 4 @-@ 456 long tons ; 4 @-@ 990 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 , rectangular boilers . Her engine produced a top speed of 12 @-@ 6 knots ( 23 @-@ 3 km / h ; 14 @-@ 5 mph ) from 2 @-@ 620 indicated horsepower ( 1 @-@ 950 kW ) . She could steam for 2 @-@ 600 nautical miles ( 4 @-@ 800 km ; 3 @-@ 000 mi ) at a speed of 10 knots ( 19 km / h ; 12 mph ) . The ship was initially schooner @-@ rigged to supplement the steam engine , though her masts were later reduced to a barque rig . Ultimately , she lost her sailing rig completely , having it replaced with a pair of military masts with fighting tops .

= = Service history = =

The keel for San Martino was laid down at the Société Nouvelle des Forges et Chantiers de la Méditerranée shipyard in La Seyne , France , on 22 July 1862 . She was launched on 21 September 1863 , and completed on 9 November 1864 . In June 1866 , Italy declared war on Austria , as part of the Third Italian War of Independence , which was fought concurrently with the Austro @-@ Prussian War . The Italian fleet commander , Admiral Carlo Pellion di Persano , initially adopted a cautious course of action ; he was unwilling to risk battle with the Austrian Navy , despite the fact that the Austrian fleet was much weaker than his own . Persano claimed he was simply waiting on the ironclad ram Affondatore , en route from Britain , but his inaction weakened morale in the fleet , with many of his subordinates openly accusing him of cowardice .

Rear Admiral Wilhelm von Tegetthoff brought the Austrian fleet to Ancona on June 27 , in attempt to draw out the Italians . At the time , many of the Italian ships were in disarray ; several ships did not have their entire armament , and several others had problems with their engines . San Martino was one of the few ironclads fit for action , so she , Castelfidardo , Regina Maria Pia , and Principe di Carignano formed up to prepare to attack Tegetthoff 's ships . Persano held a council of war aboard Principe di Carignano to determine whether he should sortie to engage Tegetthoff , but by that time , the Austrians had withdrawn , making the decision moot . The Minister of the Navy ,

Agostino Depretis , urged Persano to act and suggested the island of Lissa , to restore Italian confidence after their defeat at the Battle of Custoza the previous month . On 7 July , Persano left Ancona and conducted a sweep into the Adriatic , but encountered no Austrian ships and returned on the 13th .

= = = Battle of Lissa = = =

On 16 July , Persano took the Italian fleet out of Ancona , bound for Lissa , where they arrived on the 18th . With them , they brought troop transports carrying 3 @, @ 000 soldiers ; the Italian warships began bombarding the Austrian forts on the island , with the intention of landing the soldiers once the fortresses had been silenced . In response , the Austrian Navy sent the fleet under Tegetthoff to attack the Italian ships . At that time , San Martino was assigned to the 2nd Division , under Persano , along with the ironclad Re d 'Italia and the coastal defense ship Palestro . After arriving off Lissa on the 18th , Persano sent most of his ships to bombard the town of Vis , but Persano was unable to effect the landing . The next morning , Persano ordered another attack ; four ironclads would force the harbor defenses at Vis while San Martino and the rest of the fleet would attempt to suppress the outer fortifications . This second attack also proved to be a failure , but Persano decided to make a third attempt the next day . San Martino and the bulk of the fleet would again try to disable the outer forts in preparation for the landing .

Before the Italians could begin the attack , the dispatch boat Esploratore arrived , bringing news of Tegetthoff 's approach . Persano 's fleet was in disarray ; the three ships of Admiral Giovanni Vacca 's 1st Division were three miles to the northeast from Persano 's main force , and three other ironclads were further away to the west . Persano immediately ordered his ships to form up with Vacca 's , first in line abreast formation , and then in line ahead formation . San Martino was at the center of the Italian line . Shortly before the action began , Persano decided to leave his flagship and transfer to Affondatore , though none of his subordinates on the other ships were aware of the change . They there thus left to fight as individuals without direction . More dangerously , by stopping Re d 'Italia , he allowed a significant gap to open up between Vacca 's three ships and the rest of the fleet .

Tegetthoff took his fleet through the gap between Vacca 's and Persano 's ships , though he failed to ram any Italian vessels on the first pass . The Austrians then turned back toward Persano 's ships , and took Re d 'Italia , San Martino , and Palestro under heavy fire . San Martino initially engaged the unarmored ships of the Austrian 2nd Division , but as Re d 'Italia became embroiled in the ensuing melee , San Martino 's captain attempted to come to her aid , though the ship was unable to prevent the Austrian flagship , Erzherzog Ferdinand Max , from ramming and sinking her . Tegetthoff immediately ordered his crew to lower boats to pick up the men in the water , but with San Martino fast approaching , he could not leave his ship a stationary target . He instead ordered the small aviso Kaiserin Elizabeth to pick up the Italian survivors , but she too came under fire and was forced to abandon the effort .

During the battle , San Martino collided with Regina Maria Pia and had her ram bow twisted , causing leaks in her hull . Shortly thereafter , Persano broke off the engagement to consolidate his forces , but his ships , low on coal and ammunition , and with badly demoralized crews , could not be rallied by Persano 's half @-@ hearted attempt to launch an attack . The Italian fleet began to withdraw , followed by the Austrians ; as night began to fall , the opposing fleets disengaged completely , heading for Ancona and Pola , respectively . San Martino had been hit numerous times , and had her side armor penetrated by one shell , which did not succeed in penetrating the timber backing . Twice during the engagement , the ship was set on fire by Austrian shells , though her crew was able to put the fires out . After the battle , Vacca replaced Persano ; he was ordered to attack the main Austrian naval base at Pola , but the war ended before the operation could be carried out .

= = = Later career = = =

For the rest of her long career , San Martino served in a variety of roles , both in the main fleet and in Italy 's colonial empire . After the war , the Italian government slashed the naval budget so significantly that the fleet had great difficulty in mobilizing its ironclad squadron to attack the port of Civitavecchia in September 1870 , as part of the wars of Italian unification . Instead , the ships were laid up and the sailors conscripted to man them were sent home . Some time after 1866 , the ship was rebuilt as a central battery ship , with most of her guns located in a central , armored casemate . Two other guns were placed in the bow as chase guns , with a third mounted as a stern chaser . At this time , her armament was also revised , to two 220 mm ( 8 @. @ 7 in ) guns in the bow and nine 8 in guns , four on each broadside and the last in the stern .

San Martino took part in the annual 1888 fleet maneuvers , along with the ironclads Lepanto , Italia , Caio Duilio , and Enrico Dandolo , one protected cruiser , four torpedo cruisers , and numerous smaller vessels . The maneuvers consisted of close @-@ order drills and a simulated attack on and defense of La Spezia . Between 1888 and 1890 , the ship had her barque rig replaced with military masts . By this time , she had been rearmed with eight 6 in ( 150 mm ) guns in the casemate and several smaller guns for close @-@ range defense against torpedo boats . These included five 4 @. @ 7 in ( 120 mm ) guns , four 57 mm ( 2 @. @ 2 in ) guns , and eight 37 mm ( 1 @. @ 5 in ) Hotchkiss revolver cannons . She also received three torpedo tubes . In 1894 , the ship was assigned to the Third Division of the Italian fleet , along with the newly commissioned protected cruiser Liguria and the torpedo cruiser Confienza . The ship was stricken from the naval register in 1903 and thereafter broken up for scrap .