

= Italian cruiser Caprera =

Caprera was a torpedo cruiser of the Partenope class built for the Italian Regia Marina ( Royal Navy ) in the 1880s . She was built by the Cantiere navale fratelli Orlando shipyard ; her keel was laid in July 1891 , she was launched in May 1894 , and was commissioned in December 1895 . Her main armament were her five torpedo tubes , which were supported by a battery of eleven small 4.7-inch caliber guns . Caprera spent most of her career in the main Italian fleet , where she was primarily occupied with training exercises . She served in the Red Sea during the Italo - Turkish War of 1911 - 12 , where she conducted shore bombardments and blockaded Ottoman ports in the area . Caprera did not remain in service long after the war , being sold for scrap in May 1913 .

= = Design = =

Caprera was 73.1 meters ( 239 ft 10 in ) long overall and had a beam of 8.22 m ( 27 ft 0 in ) and an average draft of 3.48 m ( 11 ft 5 in ) . She displaced 833 metric tons ( 820 long tons ; 918 short tons ) normally . Her propulsion system consisted of a pair of horizontal triple 4-cylinder expansion steam engines , each driving a single screw propeller , with steam supplied by four coal - fired locomotive boilers . Specific figures for Caprera 's engine performance have not survived , but the ships of her class had top speeds of 18.1 to 20.8 knots ( 33.5 to 38.5 km / h ; 20.8 to 23.9 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 ( 3,300 km ; 2,000 mi ) at a speed of 10 knots ( 19 km / h ; 12 mph ) . She had a crew of between 96 and 121 personnel .

Caprera was armed with a main battery of two 120 mm ( 4.7 in ) / 40 guns and six 57 mm ( 2.2 in ) / 43 guns mounted singly. She was also equipped with three 37 mm ( 1.5 in ) / 20 guns in single mounts . Her primary offensive weapon was her five 450 mm ( 17.7 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 = =

Caprera was laid down at the Cantiere navale fratelli Orlando ( Orlando Brothers ' Shipyard ) in Livorno on 27 July 1891 , originally under the name Clio . She was renamed Caprera on 23 February 1893 and was launched on 6 May 1894 , the last member of her class to enter the water . After fitting out work was completed , she underwent sea trials in mid - 1895 . While testing the engines with forced draft , the ship reached 17.75 knots ( 32.87 km / h ; 20.43 mph ) . The ship was commissioned into the fleet on 12 December 1895 . Upon entering service , Caprera was initially 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 , Iride , Minerva , and Urania , the four Goito - class cruisers , and Tripoli . Shortly thereafter , she was transferred to Italian East Africa . She departed with the protected cruiser Etna in late December , passing through the Suez Canal on 30 December , along with a transport carrying a battalion of infantry . The rest of the Red Sea Squadron , which included the protected cruisers Dogali and Etruria , met Caprera and Etna in Massawa .

The ship was assigned to the Atlantic Naval Division in 1899 , along with the armored cruiser Marco Polo and the protected cruisers Etna , Dogali , and Giovanni Bausan . By 1907 , Caprera had been transferred to the Reserve Squadron , along with four of the older ironclad battleships . The following year , she was stationed in Italian East Africa . While there , an Italian meteorologist conducted several experiments aboard the ship with a hot air balloon to study the monsoon winds in the region , beginning in Zanzibar . The tests , which were conducted in the last week of July , were unsuccessful , as the weather was unfavorable .

At the start of the Italo - Turkish War in September 1911 , Caprera was stationed in Italy , alternating between the ports of La Spezia and Naples , along with her sister ships Urania and Iride .

The threat of an Ottoman attack from the Arabian Peninsula across the Red Sea to Italian Eritrea led the Italian High Command to reinforce the Red Sea Squadron . Caprera and several destroyers were sent to strengthen the Italian defenses . The protected cruiser Piemonte and two destroyers annihilated a force of seven Ottoman gunboats in the Battle of Kufuda Bay on 7 January 1912 , wiping out the core of Ottoman naval forces in the area . Caprera and the rest of the Italian ships then commenced a bombardment campaign against the Turkish ports in the Red Sea before declaring a blockade of the city of Al Hudaydah on 26 January . On 27 July and 12 August , Caprera , her sister ship Aretusa , and the protected cruiser Piemonte conducted two bombardments of Al Hudaydah . During the second attack , they destroyed an Ottoman ammunition dump . On 14 October , the Ottoman government agreed to sign a peace treaty , ending the war . Caprera did not remain in service long after the end of the war . She was sold for scrap in May 1913 and thereafter broken up .