

= Italian cruiser Libia =

Libia was a protected cruiser built in Italy in the 1900s . The ship had originally been laid down in 1907 for the Ottoman Navy and was to have been named Drama , and was based on the Ottoman cruiser Hamidiye . She had not been completed by the outbreak of the Italo -@- Turkish War in 1911 and so she was seized by the Italian Regia Marina (Royal Navy) and was completed in 1913 . The ship was armed with two 152 mm (6 @. @ 0 in) and eight 120 mm (4 @. @ 7 in) guns , and was capable of a top speed of over 22 knots (41 km / h ; 25 mph) .

Libia had a relatively uneventful career . Before Italy 's entry into World War I , she was involved in the evacuation of Prince William , the ruler of Albania , from Durazzo in late 1914 . Following Italy 's declaration of war in May 1915 , Libia patrolled the Otranto Barrage but did not see action . In 1921 ? 22 , she went on a world tour , during which she was featured in a short documentary produced by the then @-@ unknown Frank Capra . In 1925 she was deployed to China , where she remained for nearly a decade . In 1937 , the old cruiser was stricken from the naval register and sold for scrap .

= = Design = =

The design for the new cruiser was based on the British @-@ built Ottoman cruiser Hamidiye . The ship was 103 @. @ 6 meters (340 ft) long at the waterline and 111 @. @ 8 m (367 ft) long overall . She had a beam of 14 @. @ 5 m (48 ft) and a draft of 5 @. @ 5 m (18 ft) . She displaced 3 @, @ 760 metric tons (3 @, @ 700 long tons ; 4 @, @ 140 short tons) standard and up to 4 @, @ 466 t (4 @, @ 395 long tons ; 4 @, @ 923 short tons) at full load . The ship was fitted with two pole masts . She had a crew of 14 officers and 300 enlisted men . The ship was protected by an armored deck that was 100 mm (4 in) thick , and the conning tower had the same thickness of armor plating on the sides . The main guns were protected by 76 mm (3 @. @ 0 in) thick gun shields .

Libia was powered by two @-@ shaft vertical triple @-@ expansion engines . Steam for the engines was provided by sixteen coal @-@ fired Niclausse water @-@ tube boilers that were trunked into three closely spaced funnels on the centerline . The engines were rated at 12 @, @ 500 indicated horsepower (9 @, @ 300 kW) , though they only reached 11 @, @ 530 ihp (8 @, @ 600 kW) in service . This was sufficient to propel the ship at a top speed of 22 @. @ 9 knots (42 @. @ 4 km / h ; 26 @. @ 4 mph) . Libia had a cruising radius of 3 @, @ 150 nautical miles (5 @, @ 830 km ; 3 @, @ 620 mi) at a speed of 10 knots (19 km / h ; 12 mph) .

The ship was armed with a main battery of two 152 mm (6 @. @ 0 in) L / 50 quick @-@ firing guns , one forward and one astern . These guns were probably Pattern FF Armstrong guns , which fired a 20 @-@ kilogram (44 lb) shell at a muzzle velocity of 780 meters per second (2 @, @ 600 ft / s) . These were augmented by a battery of eight 120 mm (4 @. @ 7 in) L / 45 guns , four mounted individually on each broadside . Close @-@ range defense against torpedo boats was provided by a battery of eight 47 mm (1 @. @ 9 in) L / 50 guns and six 37 mm (1 @. @ 5 in) L / 20 guns . She was also equipped with four 450 mm (18 in) torpedo tubes .

= = Service history = =

The new cruiser was laid down in 1907 at the Ansaldo shipyard in Genoa for the Ottoman Empire , under the name Drama . But following the rise of the Young Turks in the Ottoman Empire , the Ottoman government became unwilling to pay its foreign debts , which led Ansaldo to halt construction work . Work on the ship only resumed in late 1911 when Italy seized the ship following its declaration of war against the Ottoman Empire in the Italo @-@ Turkish War . The completed hull was launched on 11 November 1912 , and following the completion of fitting @-@ out work , the new ship was commissioned on 25 March 1913 . On 3 September 1914 , Libia was in the port of Durazzo , Albania when Prince William , the ruler of the country , departed following turmoil caused by an insurgency in the country , coupled with the outbreak of World War I. Libia had landed a contingent of marines to restore order in the city , where some 2 @, @ 000 refugees fleeing the insurgents attempted to board passenger ships bound for Italy . After the refugees were evacuated ,

Libia recalled her marines and departed as well .

Italy had declared neutrality at the start of World War I , but by July 1915 , the Triple Entente had convinced the Italians to enter the war against the Central Powers . Admiral Paolo Thaon di Revel , the Italian naval chief of staff , believed that the threat from Austro - Hungarian submarines and naval mines in the narrow waters of the Adriatic was too serious for him to use the fleet in an active way . Instead , Revel decided to implement a blockade at the relatively safer southern end of the Adriatic with the main fleet , while smaller vessels , such as the MAS boats , conducted raids on Austro - Hungarian ships and installations . Libia spent much of the war patrolling the Otranto Barrage , along with the cruisers Piemonte and Agordat and several Italian and French destroyers . During the war , the ship had three 76 mm (3 @ . 0 in) L / 40 anti - aircraft guns installed .

In 1921 the ship went on a world tour under the command of Admiral Ernesto Burzagli . During the cruise , she stopped in San Francisco , United States in November , where she stayed for a month . While there , she was filmed for a short documentary by the then @ - @ unknown film director Frank Capra on 6 and 7 November ? though it did not generate much attention , it was Capra 's first publicly screened film . The ship departed San Francisco on 4 December . In 1922 , Libia visited Australia while on her tour . In 1925 , her 150 mm guns were removed . That year , she was sent to China , where she joined the armored cruisers San Marco and San Giorgio and the river gunboats Caboto and Carlotta . These ships contributed men to form the Battaglione Italiano in China (Italian Battalion in China) ; the contingents from Libia were sent to guard the consulates in Beijing and Shanhaiguan . The ship remained in Chinese waters for nearly a decade ; in the early 1930s , she was replaced by the protected cruiser Quarto . In September 1935 she was drydocked to prepare for her disposal . She was stricken from the naval register on 11 March 1937 and was sold to ship breakers .