

= Italian ironclad Ruggiero di Lauria =

Ruggiero di Lauria was an ironclad battleship built in the 1880s for the Italian Regia Marina (Royal Navy) . She was the lead ship of the Ruggiero di Lauria class , which included two other ships , Francesco Morosini and Andrea Doria . Ruggiero di Lauria , named for the medieval Sicilian admiral Ruggiero di Lauria , was armed with a main battery of four 17 @-@ inch (432 mm) guns , was protected with 17 @.@ 75 @-@ inch (451 mm) thick belt armor , and was capable of a top speed of 17 knots (31 km / h ; 20 mph) .

The ship 's construction period was very lengthy , beginning in August 1881 and completing in February 1888 . She was quickly rendered obsolescent by the new pre @-@ dreadnought battleships being laid down and , as a result , her career was limited . She spent her career alternating between the Active and Reserve Squadrons , where she took part in training exercises each year with the rest of the fleet . The ship was stricken from the naval register in 1909 and converted into a floating oil tank . She was used in this capacity until 1943 , when she was sunk by bombs during World War II . The wreck was eventually raised and scrapped in 1945 .

= = Design = =

Ruggiero di Lauria was 105 @.@ 9 meters (347 ft) long overall and had a beam of 19 @.@ 84 m (65 @.@ 1 ft) and an average draft of 8 @.@ 29 m (27 @.@ 2 ft) . She displaced 9 @,@ 886 metric tons (9 @,@ 730 long tons ; 10 @,@ 897 short tons) normally and up to 10 @,@ 997 t (10 @,@ 823 long tons ; 12 @,@ 122 short tons) at full load . Her propulsion system consisted of a pair of compound steam engines each driving a single screw propeller , with steam supplied by eight coal @-@ fired , cylindrical fire @-@ tube boilers . Her engines produced a top speed of 17 knots (31 km / h ; 20 mph) at 10 @,@ 591 indicated horsepower (7 @,@ 898 kW) . She could steam for 2 @,@ 800 nautical miles (5 @,@ 200 km ; 3 @,@ 200 mi) at a speed of 10 knots (19 km / h ; 12 mph) . She had a crew of 507 ? 509 officers and men .

Ruggiero di Lauria was armed with a main battery of four 17 in (432 mm) / 27 guns , mounted in two pairs en echelon in a central barbette . She carried a secondary battery of two 6 in (152 mm) / 32 guns , one at the bow and the other at the stern , and four 4 @.@ 7 in (119 mm) / 32 guns . As was customary for capital ships of the period , she carried five 14 in (356 mm) torpedo tubes submerged in the hull . She was protected by belt armor that was 17 @.@ 75 in (451 mm) thick , an armored deck that was 3 in (76 mm) thick , and her conning tower was armored with 9 @.@ 8 in (249 mm) of steel plate . The barbette had 14 @.@ 2 in (361 mm) of steel armor .

= = Service history = =

Ruggiero di Lauria was laid down at the Regio Cantiere di Castellammare di Stabia shipyard on 3 August 1881 and launched on 9 August 1884 . She was not completed for another three and a half years , her construction finally being finished on 1 February 1888 . Because of the rapid pace of naval technological development in the late 19th century , her lengthy construction period meant that she was an obsolete design by the time she entered service . The year after she entered service , the British began building the Royal Sovereign class , the first pre @-@ dreadnought battleships , which marked a significant step forward in capital ship design . In addition , technological progress , particularly in armor production techniques ? first Harvey armor and then Krupp armor ? rapidly rendered older vessels like Ruggiero di Lauria obsolete .

The ship served with the 1st Division of the Active Squadron during the 1893 fleet maneuvers , along with the ironclad Lepanto , which served as the divisional flagship , the torpedo cruisers Euridice and Monzambano , and four torpedo boats . During the maneuvers , which lasted from 6 August to 5 September , the ships of the Active Squadron simulated a French attack on the Italian fleet . In 1895 , Ruggiero di Lauria , the ironclad Sardegna , and the torpedo cruiser Partenope were assigned to the 2nd Division of the Italian fleet in the Reserve Squadron . At the time , the ships of the Reserve Squadron were based in La Spezia . Ruggiero di Lauria joined the ironclads Re

Umberto , Sardegna , and Andrea Doria and the cruisers Stromboli , Etruria , and Partenope for a visit to Spithead in the United Kingdom in July 1895 . Later that year , the squadron stopped in Germany for the celebration held to mark the opening of the Kaiser Wilhelm Canal .

For the periodic fleet maneuvers of 1897 , Ruggiero di Lauria was assigned to the First Division of the Reserve Squadron , which also included the ironclads Caio Duilio and Lepanto and the protected cruiser Lombardia . The following year , the Reserve Squadron consisted of Ruggiero di Lauria , Francesco Morosini , Lepanto , and five cruisers . In 1899 , Ruggiero di Lauria , Andrea Doria , Sicilia , and Sardegna took part in a naval review in Cagliari for the Italian King Umberto I , which included a French and British squadron as well . That year , Ruggiero di Lauria and her two sisters served in the Active Squadron , which was kept in service for eight months of the year , with the remainder spent with reduced crews . The Squadron also included the ironclads Re Umberto , Sicilia , and Lepanto . In 1900 , Ruggiero di Lauria and her sisters were significantly modified and received a large number of small guns for defense against torpedo boats . These included a pair of 75 mm (3 @. @ 0 in) guns , ten 57 mm (2 @. @ 2 in) 40 @- @ caliber guns , twelve 37 mm (1 @. @ 5 in) guns , five 37 mm revolver cannon , and two machine guns .

In 1905 , Ruggiero di Lauria and her two sisters were joined in the Reserve Squadron by the three Re Umberto @- @ class ironclads and Enrico Dandolo , three cruisers , and sixteen torpedo boats . This squadron only entered active service for two months of the year for training maneuvers , and the rest of the year was spent with reduced crews . During the annual training maneuvers in October 1906 , a severe storm swept a man overboard , drowning him . During a gunnery competition held during the maneuvers , Ruggiero di Lauria 's gunners came in last place . In 1908 , the Italian Navy decided to discard Ruggiero di Lauria and her sister Francesco Morosini . The former was stricken from the naval register on 11 November 1909 . The ship was then converted into a floating oil depot . She was renamed GM45 and stationed at La Spezia until 1943 , when she was sunk in shallow water by an air raid during World War II . Her wreck was scrapped after the end of the war in 1945 .