

= Italian cruiser Partenope =

Partenope was a torpedo cruiser built for the Italian Regia Marina (Royal Navy) in the 1880s , the lead ship of her class , which included seven other vessels . The ship was built by the Regio Cantiere di Castellammare di Stabia ; she was laid down in June 1888 , was launched in December 1889 , and was completed in September 1890 . Her main armament were her five torpedo tubes , which were supported by a battery of ten small 47 mm caliber guns .

Partenope spent most of her career in the main Italian fleet , where she was primarily occupied with training exercises . In 1906 - 08 , she was converted into a minelayer , losing her torpedo tubes . During the Italo - Turkish War of 1911 - 12 , she provided gunfire support to Italian forces in Libya . She was used to lay a series of minefields in the Adriatic Sea after Italy entered World War I in 1915 . In March 1918 , Partenope was torpedoed and sunk by the German submarine UC 67 off Bizerte .

= = Design = =

Partenope was 73 m (240 ft) long overall and had a beam of 8 m (27 ft) and an average draft of 3 m (11 ft) . She displaced 821 metric tons (808 long tons ; 905 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 Partenope '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 (3,300 km ; 2,100 mi) at a speed of 10 knots (19 km / h ; 12 mph) . She had a crew of between 96 - 121 .

Partenope was armed with a main battery of one 120 mm (4.7 in) / 40 gun 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 (18 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 = =

Partenope was laid down on 8 June 1888 at the Regio Cantiere di Castellammare di Stabia (Royal Dockyard in Castellammare di Stabia) , and was launched on 23 December 1889 . After fitting out work was completed , the ship was commissioned into the fleet on 11 September 1890 . Throughout the first decade of her career , Partenope primarily served with the main Italian fleet in the 2nd Division , which was usually kept in reserve . The reserve ships were typically only kept in service for three months of the year for annual training maneuvers , while the 1st Division was on active status for nine months per year .

In 1893 , Partenope was assigned to the 2nd Division of the Italian fleet , along with the ironclad Enrico Dandolo and the protected cruiser Vesuvio . By 1895 , the 2nd Division consisted of the ironclads Sardegna and Ruggiero di Lauria , along with Partenope . Partenope joined the ironclads Re Umberto , Sardegna , Ruggiero di Lauria , and Andrea Doria and the cruisers Stromboli and Etruria for a visit to Spithead in the United Kingdom in July 1895 . All of the ships , save Sardegna and Ruggiero di Lauria , joined an international naval demonstration in late 1895 off Crete during a period of tension between Greece and the Ottoman Empire that culminated in the Greco - Turkish War . By 1899 , the division consisted of the ironclads Affondatore , Castelfidardo , and Sicilia and her sister ship Urania in addition to Partenope . During 1901 , Partenope was joined by the ironclads Dandolo , Andrea Doria , and Francesco Morosini , the armored cruiser Carlo Alberto , and three torpedo boats .

By 1904 , the Italian fleet had expanded enough to increase the 1st Division to the 1st Squadron ;

this unit spent seven months in commission for training and five in reserve . Partenope was transferred to the new unit , along with her sister Minerva . The 1st Squadron included six battleships , four other cruisers , and nine destroyers . Between 1906 and 1908 , the ship was modernized and converted into a minelayer . She received new oil @-@ fired boilers and had her armament reduced to two 3 in (76 mm) guns , four 57 mm guns and two 37 mm guns . Partenope 's speed was reduced to 17 @.@ 05 knots (31 @.@ 58 km / h ; 19 @.@ 62 mph) on 2 @,@ 481 ihp (1 @,@ 850 kW) . The ship was now equipped to carry sixty naval mines , with a bank of thirty mines on a platform on each side of the ship .

At the start of the Italo @-@ Turkish War in September 1911 , Partenope was attached to the 2nd Division of the 1st Squadron of the Italian fleet . By this time , she was being used as a minelayer . On 9 November , she , the armored cruiser Carlo Alberto , the protected cruiser Liguria , and the torpedo boat Cigno provided critical gunfire support that broke a series of Ottoman attacks on the city of Tripoli . A month later , Partenope , Liguria , and the torpedo boats Dardo and Euro conducted a series of bombardments on the ports of Zuwarah , Misrata , and Argub . Partenope then returned to Tripoli , where she continued providing gunfire support to the defending Italian garrison there . She and the ironclads Sardegna and Re Umberto bombarded the oasis at Taguira , though no Turkish forces were present . The Italians then sent a garrison to protect the oasis .

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 . Partenope was initially used to lay a series of defensive minefields , along with her sister Minerva and the cruiser Goito , in support of this strategy . On 24 March 1918 , the German U @-@ boat UC @-@ 67 torpedoed and sank Partenope north of Bizerte , Tunisia , at coordinates 37 ° 53 ' N 10 ° 10 ' E.