

= Italian battleship Andrea Doria =

Andrea Doria was the lead ship of her class of battleships built by the Regia Marina ( Royal Navy ) . The class included only one sister ship , Caio Duilio . Andrea Doria was named after the 16th century Genoese admiral of the same name . Laid down in March 1912 , the battleship was launched a year later in March 1913 , and completed in March 1916 . She was armed with a main battery of thirteen 305 mm ( 12 @. @ 0 in ) guns and had a top speed of 21 kn ( 39 km / h ; 24 mph )

Andrea Doria saw no major action in World War I , and served extensively in Mediterranean in the 1920s and 1930s . She was involved in the suppression of rebels in Fiume and the Corfu incident in the 1920s . Starting in 1937 , Andrea Doria underwent an extensive modernization , which lasted until 1940 . She saw relatively little action during World War II ; she was tasked with escorting convoys to Libya throughout 1941 and into 1942 , during which she engaged in the inconclusive First Battle of Sirte . After the Armistice in September 1943 the ship was sailed to Malta and interned by the Allies . She remained there until 1944 , when she was permitted to return to Italian ports . Andrea Doria survived the war and soldiered on in the post @-@ war navy as a training ship until 1956 . Paid off in September , she was formally stricken from the naval register on 1 November and sold for scrapping later that year .

= = Design = =

Andrea Doria was 176 meters ( 577 ft ) long overall ; she had a beam of 28 m ( 92 ft ) and a draft of 9 @. @ 4 m ( 31 ft ) . At full combat load , she displaced up to 24 @, @ 729 metric tons ( 24 @, @ 338 long tons ; 27 @, @ 259 short tons ) . She had a crew of 35 officers and 1 @, @ 198 enlisted men . She was powered by four Parsons steam turbines , with steam provided by eight oil @-@ fired and twelve coal and oil @-@ burning Yarrow boilers . The boilers were trunked into two large funnels . The engines were rated at 30 @, @ 000 shaft horsepower ( 22 @, @ 000 kW ) , which provided a top speed of 21 knots ( 39 km / h ; 24 mph ) . She had a cruising radius of 4 @, @ 800 nautical miles ( 8 @, @ 900 km ; 5 @, @ 500 mi ) at 10 kn ( 19 km / h ; 12 mph ) .

The ship was armed with a main battery of thirteen 305 mm ( 12 @. @ 0 in ) 46 @-@ caliber guns in three triple turrets and two twin turrets . The secondary battery comprised sixteen 152 mm ( 6 @. @ 0 in ) 45 @-@ caliber guns , all mounted in casemates clustered around the forward and aft main battery turrets . Andrea Doria was also armed with thirteen 76 mm ( 3 @. @ 0 in ) 50 @-@ caliber guns and six 76 @-@ mm anti @-@ aircraft guns . As was customary for capital ships of the period , she was equipped with three submerged 450 mm ( 18 in ) torpedo tubes . She was protected with Krupp cemented steel manufactured by Terni . The belt armor was 254 mm ( 10 @. @ 0 in ) thick and the main deck was 98 mm ( 3 @. @ 9 in ) thick . The conning tower and main battery turrets were protected with 280 mm ( 11 in ) worth of armor plating .

= = Modifications = =

Andrea Doria was heavily rebuilt in 1937 ? 1940 at Trieste . Her forecastle deck was extended further aft , until it reached the mainmast . The stern and bow were rebuilt , increasing the length of the ship to 186 @. @ 9 m ( 613 ft ) , and the displacement grew to 28 @, @ 882 t ( 28 @, @ 426 long tons ; 31 @, @ 837 short tons ) . Her old machinery was replaced with more efficient equipment and her twenty boilers were replaced with eight oil @-@ fired models ; the new power plant was rated at 75 @, @ 000 shp ( 56 @, @ 000 kW ) and speed increased to 26 kn ( 48 km / h ; 30 mph ) . The ship 's amidships turret was removed and the remaining guns were bored out to 320 mm ( 13 in ) . Her secondary battery was completely overhauled ; the 152 mm guns were replaced with twelve 135 mm ( 5 @. @ 3 in ) guns in triple turrets amidships . The anti @-@ aircraft battery was significantly improved , to include ten 90 mm ( 3 @. @ 5 in ) guns , fifteen 37 mm ( 1 @. @ 5 in ) guns , and sixteen 20 mm ( 0 @. @ 79 in ) guns . Later , during World War II , four more 37 mm guns were installed and two of the 20 mm guns were removed . After emerging from the modernization ,

Andrea Doria 's crew numbered 35 officers and 1 @, @ 450 enlisted men .

= = Service history = =

Andrea Doria , named for the 16th century Genoese admiral of the same name , was laid down at the La Spezia shipyard in Naples on 24 March 1912 . She was launched on 30 March 1913 and completed by 13 March 1916 . The Austro @-@ Hungarian Navy , which had been Italy 's primary rival for decades , was the primary opponent in the conflict . The Austro @-@ Hungarian battle fleet lay in its harbors directly across the narrow Adriatic Sea and did not emerge for the duration of the conflict . In addition , Admiral Paolo Thaon di Revel , the Italian naval chief of staff , believed that Austro @-@ Hungarian submarines and minelayers could operate too effectively in the narrow waters of the Adriatic . The threat from these underwater weapons to his capital ships was too serious for him to use the fleet in an active way . Instead , Revel decided to implement blockade at the relatively safer southern end of the Adriatic with the battle fleet , while smaller vessels , such as the MAS boats , conducted raids on Austro @-@ Hungarian ships and installations . Meanwhile , Revel 's battleships would be preserved to confront the Austro @-@ Hungarian battle fleet in the event that it sought a decisive engagement .

Starting in November 1918 , Andrea Doria was based in Taranto . On 10 November , she was sent to Corfu , where she remained until 19 February 1919 . She then returned to Taranto , before proceeding to Constantinople in July , departing on the 4th and arriving on the 9th of the month . She joined an Allied fleet in the city and remained there until 9 November , when she returned again to Taranto . In 1920 , most of the Italian fleet was temporarily demobilized to provide crews to bring ex @-@ German warships that had been awarded to Italy under the Treaty of Versailles ; Andrea Doria was the only battleship to remain operational during the period . In November , the Treaty of Rapallo was signed with the Kingdom of Serbs , Croats and Slovenes . Andrea Doria was sent to remove the rebellious forces of Gabriele d 'Annunzio from Fiume that month . On 24 December , she joined the attack on Fiume , and two days later fired three salvos from her 76 mm guns at the destroyer Espero , which had rebelled and joined d 'Annunzio . Andrea Doria 's gunfire badly damaged Espero . Andrea Doria also shelled d 'Annunzio 's headquarters and wounded him ; he surrendered on 31 December .

During the 1923 Corfu incident with Greece , the Italian Navy , including Andrea Doria , was deployed to the island to secure a Greek apology following the murder of Enrico Tellini and four others . Following the peaceful resolution of the incident , Andrea Doria visited Spain . On 16 January 1925 , Andrea Doria visited Lisbon to participate in the 400th anniversary of the death of Vasco de Gama . She thereafter went to La Spezia for a refit , which began on 7 February and was completed by June . Following civil unrest in Syria , Andrea Doria steamed to the eastern Mediterranean with a squadron of destroyers in the event that Italian nationals would need to be evacuated . The ships remained docked in Leros until 12 December , by which time the disturbances in Syria had been calmed down . She spent the next six years on normal peacetime duties , until she was withdrawn from service in August 1932 . She was placed in reserve in Taranto , with a skeleton crew for maintenance . In March 1937 , she started the major reconstruction in Trieste , where she arrived on the 30th . The refit began on 8 April at the Cantieri Riuniti dell 'Adriatico shipyard .

= = = World War II = = =

Andrea Doria was still out of service in 1939 when the Second World War broke out in Europe . Work was finished by October 1940 , and on the 26th of the month , she rejoined the Italian fleet in the 5th Division in Taranto . She was undamaged by the British attack on Taranto on the night of 11 ? 12 November , and was sent to Naples on the 12th . In early December , the Italian Navy reorganized the fleet ; Andrea Doria remained in the 5th Division , along with the battleship Giulio Cesare . She undertook her first operation in early January with the new battleship Vittorio Veneto in response to Operation Excess , a complex series of British convoys to Malta . The Italian battleships

were unable to locate any British forces , and so returned to port by 11 January . On 8 February , Andrea Doria sortied again , along with Vittorio Veneto and Giulio Cesare , in response to reports of a British fleet in the area . They were steaming off Sardinia when they received word that the British had bombarded Genoa ; they immediately turned north to intercept them , but heavy fog allowed the British to escape .

In December 1941 , Andrea Doria formed part of the escort during Operation M41 , a major convoy from Italy to Benghazi in Libya on the 13th . M42 followed on 17 ? 19 December , where Andrea Doria saw action against British cruisers and destroyers in the First Battle of Sirte . Late on the 17th , the Italian fleet , commanded by Admiral Angelo Iachino , engaged the British light forces . Both sides acted hesitantly , however , and no decisive engagement resulted . Operation M43 followed on 3 January 1942 ; Andrea Doria again provided escort for the three convoys to Libya . While on the operation , Andrea Doria suffered mechanical problems and had to return to port early . She remained inactive for the remainder of the year , and indeed until the Armistice in September 1943 that removed Italy from the war , owing to severe fuel shortages in the Italian Navy . On 9 September 1943 , Andrea Doria left Italy , bound for internment in Malta , where she remained until 8 June 1944 . She was then released to return to Sicily , and eventually returned to Taranto on 14 March 1945 . After the war ended in May 1945 , Andrea Doria went to Syracuse , where she remained until 13 December 1949 . She was then made flagship of the Italian fleet , a role she performed until 9 December 1950 . She held the position again from 9 March 1951 to May 1953 , after which time she was used as a gunnery training ship . She was paid off on 16 September 1956 , after serving in the Italian Navy for over 40 years . She was formally stricken from the naval register on 1 November and subsequently broken up for scrap in La Spezia .