

= Italian cruiser Liguria =

Liguria was a protected cruiser built for the Italian Regia Marina (Royal Navy) . She was the fourth of six Regioni @-@ class cruisers , all of which were named for regions of Italy . Liguria was built by the Ansaldo shipyard in Genoa ; her keel was laid in July 1899 , she was launched in June 1893 , and was commissioned into the fleet in December 1894 . The ship was equipped with a main armament of four 15 cm (5 @. @ 9 in) and six 12 cm (4 @. @ 7 in) guns , and she could steam at a speed of 18 knots (33 km / h ; 21 mph) .

Liguria served in a variety of roles throughout her career . She frequently was assigned to the main fleet , but in 1904 she was deployed to the American Station . In 1906 , she conducted tests with coaling while at sea , and from 1908 to 1911 , she was fitted with an experimental observation balloon . She saw extensive action during the Italo @-@ Turkish War in 1911 ? 12 . She took part in the seizure of Benghazi , provided gunfire support to the defenders of Tripoli , and conducted bombardments of Ottoman ports in western Libya and the Red Sea coast of Arabia . She was still in service during World War I as a training ship , but she did not see action during the conflict . Liguria was eventually sold for scrap in May 1921 .

= = Design = =

Liguria was 84 @. @ 8 meters (278 ft) long overall and had a beam of 12 @. @ 03 m (39 @. @ 5 ft) and a draft of 4 @. @ 67 m (15 @. @ 3 ft) . She displaced up to 3 @, @ 110 metric tons (3 @, @ 060 long tons ; 3 @, @ 430 short tons) at full load . Her propulsion system consisted of a pair of horizontal triple @-@ expansion engines , with steam supplied by four cylindrical water @-@ tube boilers . On her speed trials , she reached a maximum of 18 @. @ 1 knots (33 @. @ 5 km / h ; 20 @. @ 8 mph) at 5 @, @ 536 indicated horsepower (4 @, @ 128 kW) . The ship had a cruising radius of about 2 @, @ 100 nautical miles (3 @, @ 900 km ; 2 @, @ 400 mi) at a speed of 10 knots (19 km / h ; 12 mph) . She had a crew of between 213 ? 278 .

Liguria was armed with a main battery of four 15 cm (5 @. @ 9 in) L / 40 guns mounted singly , with two side by side forward and two side by side aft . Six 12 cm (4 @. @ 7 in) L / 40 guns were placed between them , with three on each broadside . Light armament included eight 57 mm (2 @. @ 2 in) guns two 37 mm (1 @. @ 5 in) guns , and a pair of machine guns . She was also equipped with two 45 cm (18 in) torpedo tubes . Liguria was protected by a 50 mm (2 @. @ 0 in) thick deck , and her conning tower had 50 mm thick sides .

= = Service history = =

Liguria was built by the Ansaldo shipyard in Genoa ; her keel was laid on 1 July 1889 . Shortages of funding slowed the completion Liguria and her sister ships . Tight budgets forced the Navy to reduce the pace of construction so that the funds could be used to keep the active fleet in service . It took nearly four years to complete the hull , which was launched on 8 June 1893 . Fitting @-@ out work proceeded much more quickly , and the new cruiser was ready for service a year and a half later . She was commissioned into the fleet on 1 December 1894 . That year , Liguria was assigned to the Third Division of the Italian fleet , along with San Martino , an ancient center battery ironclad , which had been launched in 1862 .

In 1902 ? 03 , Liguria was in the main Italian fleet ; while in their normal peacetime training routine , the ships of the main fleet were kept in commission for exercises for seven months of the year . For the remaining five months , they were kept in a partial state of readiness with reduced crews . The ship was assigned to the American Station in 1904 , the sole Italian warship in the region . In late 1906 , the ship took part in experiments with coaling while underway . She towed the collier SS Sterope at a speed of 12 knots (22 km / h ; 14 mph) while coal was transferred via the towing cable . An average of 60 t (59 long tons ; 66 short tons) of coal was transferred per hour during the test . Starting in 1908 , Liguria was modified to operate an observation balloon . This service , which lasted until 1911 , involved towing a " draken " balloon ? invented by the Germans August von

Parseval and Rudolf von Sigsfeld ? to spot naval mines for the fleet .

At the outbreak of the Italo -Turkish War in September 1911 , Liguria was stationed in Italian Eritrea with four other cruisers . She was transferred to the Mediterranean Sea , and on 18 October she joined the escort for a troop convoy headed to Benghazi . The convoy was heavily protected against a possible Ottoman attack ; the escort comprised the four Regina Elena -class pre-dreadnought battleships , two other cruisers , and five destroyers . The Italian fleet bombarded the city the next morning after the Ottoman garrison refused to surrender . During the bombardment , parties from the ships and the infantry from the troopships went ashore . The Italians quickly forced the Ottomans to withdraw into the city by evening . After a short siege , the Ottoman forces withdrew on 29 October , leaving the city to the Italians .

Liguria thereafter moved to Tripoli , where she supported the Italians who had taken the city against Turkish counterattacks . On 9 November , she , the armored cruiser Carlo Alberto , the minelayer Partenope , and the torpedo boat Cigno provided critical gunfire support that broke a series of Ottoman attacks on the city . A month later , Liguria joined Partenope and the torpedo boats Dardo and Euro for a series of bombardments on the ports of Zuwarah , Misrata , and Argub . Liguria then returned to Tripoli with Carlo Alberto , the torpedo cruiser Iride , and several torpedo boats while most of the Italian fleet returned to Italy for refitting . In January 1912 , Liguria and her sister Elba were transferred to the Red Sea , along with a pair of fast mail steamers . The cruiser fleet in the Red Sea then began a campaign of coastal bombardments of Ottoman ports in the area . A blockade was proclaimed of the Ottoman ports , which included the cities of Al Luqayyah and Al Hudaydah . The Ottomans eventually agreed to surrender in October , ending the war .

By the outbreak of World War I in August 1914 , Liguria was assigned to the Third Division of the First Squadron as a training ship . Italy declared neutrality at the start of the war , but by July 1915 , the Triple Entente had convinced the Italians to enter the war against the Central Powers . The old cruiser nevertheless saw no action during the war . She was sold for scrap on 15 May 1921 and was subsequently broken up .