

= Roma @-@ class ironclad =

The Roma class was a pair of ironclad warships built for the Italian Regia Marina (Royal Navy) in the 1860s and 1870s . The class comprised two ships , Roma and Venezia . Roma was a broadside ironclad armed with five 10 @-@ inch (254 mm) and twelve 8 @-@ inch (200 mm) guns , while Venezia was converted into a central battery ship during construction , armed with a much more powerful battery of eighteen 10 @-@ inch guns . Neither ship had an eventful career , due in large part to their rapid shift to obsolescence . Venezia and Roma were withdrawn from service for auxiliary duties in 1880 and 1890 , respectively . Both were stricken from the naval register in 1895 and broken up for scrap the following year , Roma having been badly damaged in a fire in 1895 .

= = Design = =

The Roma class was designed by Insp. Eng . Giuseppe De Luca , who initially planned to build both ships as broadside ironclads . By this time , however , other navies had begun to build central battery ships , which concentrated a smaller number of guns in an armored casemate that had limited capability for end @-@ on fire . This change allowed the ship to be shorter , which in turn required less armor and made the ship more maneuverable . As a result , De Luca re @-@ designed the second ship of the class , Venezia , into a central battery ironclad while she was under construction .

= = = General characteristics and machinery = = =

The ships of the Roma class had wooden hulls , though they did incorporate some iron in their construction . The two ships varied slightly in their dimensions , a result of Venezia having been converted into a central battery ship during construction . Roma was 79 @.@ 67 meters (261 @.@ 4 ft) long between perpendiculars ; she had a beam of 17 @.@ 33 m (56 @.@ 9 ft) and an average draft of 7 @.@ 57 m (24 @.@ 8 ft) . Venezia was 79 @.@ 65 m (261 @.@ 3 ft) between perpendiculars , with a beam of 17 @.@ 48 m (57 @.@ 3 ft) and a draft of 7 @.@ 6 m (25 ft) . Roma displaced 5 @,@ 698 metric tons (5 @,@ 608 long tons ; 6 @,@ 281 short tons) normally , while Venezia displaced 5 @,@ 722 t (5 @,@ 632 long tons ; 6 @,@ 307 short tons) . Both ships displaced 6 @,@ 151 t (6 @,@ 054 long tons ; 6 @,@ 780 short tons) at full load . The ships had a crew of 549 ? 551 officers and men .

The ships ' propulsion system consisted of one single @-@ expansion steam engine that drove a single screw propeller , with steam supplied by six coal @-@ fired , cylindrical fire @-@ tube boilers . The boilers were trunked into a single funnel amidships . The engines produced a top speed of 13 knots (24 km / h ; 15 mph) from 3 @,@ 670 indicated horsepower (2 @,@ 740 kW) . They could steam for 1 @,@ 940 nautical miles (3 @,@ 590 km ; 2 @,@ 230 mi) at a speed of 10 knots (19 km / h ; 12 mph) . The ships were fitted with a three @-@ masted barque rig to supplement the steam engine for long distance cruising . Each ship had 31 @,@ 833 square feet (2 @,@ 957 @.@ 4 m²) of sail area .

= = = Armament and armor = = =

Roma was a broadside ironclad , and she was armed with a main battery of five 10 in (254 mm) guns and twelve 8 in (200 mm) guns . Venezia was completed as a central battery ship , with a battery of eighteen 10 in guns placed in an armored casemate . Both ships had their armament revised throughout their careers . In 1874 ? 75 , the ships ' batteries were replaced with eleven 10 in guns for Roma and eight 10 in and one 220 mm (8 @.@ 7 in) for Venezia . From 1886 , Roma carried eleven 220 mm guns ; four years later her armament was reduced to five 8 in (200 mm) guns . Venezia was converted into a training ship in 1881 , and was equipped with four 75 mm (3 @.@ 0 in) guns and four 57 mm (2 @.@ 2 in) guns .

Both ships were protected by wrought iron belt armor that was 5 @.@ 9 in (150 mm) thick and

extended for the entire length of the hull at the waterline . Venezia 's casemate had 4 @. @ 75 in (121 mm) of wrought iron protecting the guns .

= = Ships = =

= = Service history = =

The two ships , completed too late to see action in the Third Italian War of Independence , had uneventful careers . Roma was obsolescent by the time she entered service , having been superseded by more advanced central battery ships . Venezia was modified during construction into a central battery ship , but the changes necessitated lengthy delays . Ironically , by the time she was completed , the Italian navy had moved on to yet further advanced turret ships like the Caio Duilio class . Roma was mobilized during the Franco @-@ Prussian War , during which Italy took advantage of the French defeat to seize Rome . Roma and the rest of the fleet was to attack the port of Civitavecchia , but the fleet was unable to assemble sufficient forces for the operation .

In 1880 , Roma took part in a naval demonstration off Ragusa in an attempt to force the Ottoman Empire to comply with the terms of the Treaty of Berlin and turn over the town of Ulcinj to Montenegro . The following year , she was involved in a collision with the ironclad Principe Amedeo , though neither ship was damaged . That year , Venezia was converted into a torpedo training ship , while Roma remained in service until 1890 , when she became a guard ship at La Spezia . In 1895 , both ships were stricken from the naval register . Venezia was broken up for scrap the following year , but Roma was converted into a depot ship in La Spezia . On 28 July 1896 , she was set on fire by a lightning strike and badly burned . The damage proved to be beyond economical repair , and so she was broken up for scrap .