

= Folgore @-@ class cruiser =

The Folgore class was a pair of torpedo cruisers built for the Italian Regia Marina (Royal Navy) in the 1880s . The two ships ? Folgore and Saetta ? were designed by Benedetto Brin during a period of experimentation with the theories of the Jeune École in the 1880s . The vessels were armed with three 14 in (356 mm) torpedo tubes , and they had a top speed of 17 knots (31 km / h ; 20 mph) . Both ships ' careers were uneventful , and they spent most of their time in service conducting training exercises . Folgore was seriously damaged in a collision in 1889 , and was thereafter reduced to reserve status , as the damage could not be completely repaired . She was eventually sold for scrapping in 1900 , while Saetta served as a gunnery training ship from 1897 to 1908 , when she too was dismantled .

= = Design = =

Folgore and Saetta were designed by Benedetto Brin ; Brin had previously designed several classes of very large ironclad battleships , including the Caio Duilio and Italia classes , but by the 1880s , he had begun to embrace the ideas of the Jeune École , which emphasized small , fast , torpedo @-@ armed vessels that could damage or destroy the much larger battleships at a fraction of the cost . After the two Folgores , which were rated as torpediniere @-@ avisos (torpedo @-@ avisos) , the eight ships of the Partenope class were laid down , continuing Brin 's ideas at the time .

= = = Characteristics = = =

The ships of the Folgore class were 56 @.@ 7 meters (186 ft) long overall and had a beam of 6 @.@ 31 m (20 @.@ 7 ft) . Folgore displaced 364 metric tons (358 long tons ; 401 short tons) normally , while Saetta displaced 394 metric tons (388 long tons ; 434 short tons) . Folgore had an average draft of 2 @.@ 15 m (7 ft 1 in) , while Saetta sat slightly lower in the water as a result of her greater displacement , with a draft of 2 @.@ 27 m (7 ft 5 in) . Their hulls were constructed from steel and featured a pronounced ram bow . The ships had a crew of between 57 ? 70 that varied in size over the course of their careers .

Her propulsion system consisted of a pair of horizontal double @-@ expansion steam engines manufactured by Hawthorn Leslie and Co . , each driving a single screw propeller . Steam for the engines was supplied by four coal @-@ fired locomotive boilers that were trunked into a single funnel amidships . In 1892 , Saetta was re @-@ boilered with oil @-@ fired models for experimentation purposes . Folgore could steam at a speed of 17 knots (31 km / h ; 20 mph) from 2 @, @ 150 indicated horsepower (1 @, @ 600 kW) , while Saetta reached the same speed from 2 @, @ 130 ihp (1 @, @ 590 kW) . The ships had a coal storage capacity of 60 metric tons (59 long tons ; 66 short tons) .

The primary armament for the Folgore class was three 14 in (356 mm) torpedo tubes . They also carried a small gun armament , consisting of two 57 mm (2 @.@ 2 in) 43 @-@ caliber (cal .) guns and four 37 mm (1 @.@ 5 in) 25 @-@ cal. guns , all mounted singly . The ships carried no armor protection .

= = Ships = =

= = Service history = =

After entering service , both vessels were assigned to the main Italian fleet . They were primarily occupied with annual training exercises , along with occasional fleet reviews for monarchs , including one for the King of Italy , Umberto I in 1887 and German Emperor Wilhelm II in 1888 . In 1889 , Folgore was badly damaged in a collision with the protected cruiser Giovanni Bausan and

could not be repaired to her original condition . As a result , she spent most of the rest of her career in reserve .

For much of the 1890s , Saetta was frequently reduced to reserve , in part to reduce maintenance on the vessel . Folgore made a temporary return to active service in 1895 , when she joined Saetta for the annual maneuvers . In 1897 , she was withdrawn from front @-@ line service and employed with the gunnery school ; her gun armament was accordingly increased in 1902 to provide a variety of weapons for gunnery trainees to practice operating . In the meantime , Folgore was stricken from the naval register in 1900 and broken up for scrap . Saetta continued in her service with the gunnery school until 1908 , when she too was broken up .