

= Italian cruiser Goito =

Goito was a torpedo cruiser built for the Italian Regia Marina (Royal Navy) in the 1880s . She was the lead ship of the Goito class , which included three other vessels . Goito was built by the Regio Cantiere di Castellammare di Stabia shipyard between September 1885 and February 1888 . She was armed with a variety of light guns and five 14 inch (356 mm) torpedo tubes , and was capable of a top speed of 18 knots (33 km / h ; 21 mph) . The ship served the duration of her career in the main Italian fleet . Her early service was primarily occupied with training exercises ; front line duties ended in 1897 when she was converted into a minelayer , though she continued to participate in fleet exercises . During World War I , Goito laid defensive minefields in the Adriatic Sea . She was eventually sold for scrap in 1920 and broken up .

= Design =

Goito was 73 meters (241 ft) long overall and had a beam of 7 m (25 ft) and an average draft of 3 m (12 ft) . She displaced 829 metric tons (816 long tons ; 914 short tons) normally . Her propulsion system consisted of three double expansion steam engines each driving a single screw propeller , with steam supplied by six coal fired locomotive boilers . Exact figures for the ship 's performance have not survived , but the members of the Goito class could steam at a speed of about 18 knots (33 km / h ; 21 mph) from 2 ,500 to 3 ,180 indicated horsepower (1 ,860 to 2 ,370 kW) . Goito had a cruising radius of 1 ,000 nautical miles (2 ,000 km ; 1 ,300 mi) at a speed of 10 knots (19 km / h ; 12 mph) . She had a crew of between 105 and 121 .

The primary armament for Goito was five 14 in (356 mm) torpedo tubes . She was also equipped with five 57 mm (2 in) 40 caliber guns , two 37 mm (1 in) 20 cal. guns , and three 37 mm revolving Hotchkiss guns , all mounted singly . The ship was protected with an armored deck that was 1 in (38 mm) thick .

= Service history =

Goito was built by the Regio Cantiere di Castellammare di Stabia shipyard ; her keel was laid down in September 1885 and her completed hull was launched on 6 July 1887 . She was completed on 16 February 1888 and commissioned into the fleet , the first member of her class to enter service . That year , she took part in the annual fleet maneuvers , along with five ironclads , a protected cruiser , the torpedo cruisers Tripoli , Saetta , and Folgore , and numerous smaller vessels . The maneuvers consisted of close order drills and a simulated attack on and defense of La Spezia . Later that year , the ship was present during a naval review held for the German Kaiser Wilhelm II during a visit to Italy .

The ship served in the 3rd Division of the Active Squadron during the 1893 fleet maneuvers , along with the ironclads Affondatore and Enrico Dandolo and four torpedo boats . During the maneuvers , which lasted from 6 August to 5 September , the ships of the Active Squadron simulated a French attack on the Italian fleet . The following year , the ship took part in the annual fleet maneuvers in the 1st Division of the Active Squadron , along with the ironclad battleship Re Umberto and the protected cruiser Stromboli . That year , Goito had her coal fired boilers replaced with oil fired models , and her center engine and propeller shaft were removed . Her engines now produced 2 ,521 ihp (1 ,880 kW) for a top speed of 17 knots (31 km / h ; 19 mph) .

In 1895 , Goito was stationed in the 2nd Maritime Department , split between Taranto and Naples , along with most of the torpedo cruisers in the Italian fleet . These included her sister ships Monzambano , Montebello , and Confienza , the eight Partenope class cruisers , and Tripoli . Goito was converted into a minelayer in 1897 . Her torpedo tubes were removed and equipment to handle sixty naval mines was installed . In 1898 , Goito was assigned to the Reserve Squadron , which included the ironclads Lepanto , Francesco Morosini , and Ruggiero di Lauria , and three

protected cruisers . The following year , she returned to the Active Squadron , where she served with six ironclads , the armored cruiser Vettor Pisani , the protected cruiser Lombardia , and Calatafimi . During the 1907 fleet maneuvers , Goito was attached to the main fleet to lay mines at a simulated advance base that would be created during the exercises .

At the outbreak of the Italo @-@ Turkish War in September 1911 , Goito was stationed in Venice along with Tripoli and Montebello . None of the vessels saw action during the war . 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 . Goito was initially used to lay a series of defensive minefields , along with the torpedo cruisers Partenope and Minerva , in support of this strategy . The ship remained in service until early 1920 ; she was stricken from the naval register on 15 March 1920 and subsequently broken up for scrap .