

= Italian cruiser Amalfi =

Amalfi was a Pisa class armored cruiser of the Italian Royal Navy (Italian : Regia Marina) built in the first decade of the 20th century . During the Italo Turkish War of 1911 - 12 , Amalfi operated with the Italian fleet off Tripoli in September 1911 and participated in the amphibious landings at Derna in October . In April 1912 , Amalfi and sister ship Pisa led the way in attacks on Turkish forts in the Dardanelles . After the rest of the fleet retired later in the month , the pair of armored cruisers remained in the area to attack Turkish communications facilities . After the Treaty of Lausanne signed in October 1912 ended the war , Amalfi escorted the Italian king and queen on the royal yacht to Germany and Sweden during a 1913 visit .

At the outbreak of World War I in August 1914 , Italy declined to join her Triple Alliance partners , Germany and Austria - Hungary . The country was eventually persuaded to side with the Entente Powers and declared war on neighboring Austria - Hungary in May 1915 . After the Austro - Hungarian Navy raided the Italian coast with relative impunity in May and June , Amalfi , Pisa , and two other armored cruisers were sent to Venice to thwart future sorties by the Austrians . Shortly after their arrival , the ships were sent in a show of force to patrol near the main Austrian naval base at Pola on the night of 6 / 7 July 1915 . During Amalfi 's return from that mission , she was torpedoed by Austria - Hungarian submarine U - 26 (in fact SM UB - 14 flying the Austro - Hungarian flag , since Germany and Italy were not yet at war) and sunk with the loss of 67 men . Amalfi 's loss caused the Italians to keep the other armored cruisers at Venice in port for most of the next year before they were eventually relocated .

= = Design and description = =

As built , Amalfi was 461 feet (140 . 5 m) long overall by 68 feet 11 inches (21 . 01 m) abeam , with a draft of 22 feet 8 inches (6 . 91 m) . She had twin propeller shafts powered by two vertical triple expansion steam engines . The steam engines were fed from 22 coal - fired Belleville boilers . The projected output of her power plant was 20 , 000 indicated horsepower (15 , 000 kW) , but in service Amalfi was able to produce 20 , 260 indicated horsepower (15 , 110 kW) ? some 600 indicated horsepower (450 kW) less than her sister ship , Pisa ? which was enough to give a maximum speed of 23 . 6 knots (43 . 7 km / h ; 27 . 2 mph) .

The main armament of the Pisa class ships consisted of four Cannone da 254 / 45 V Modello 1906 guns in twin gun turrets fore and aft of the superstructure . The ships mounted eight Cannone da 190 / 45 V Modello 1906 in four twin gun turrets , two in each side amidships , as their secondary armament . For defense against torpedo boats , they carried 16 quick firing (QF) Cannone da 76 / 40 V Modello 1908 guns and eight QF Cannone da 47 / 40 V Modello 1908 guns . They were also equipped with three submerged 450 mm (17 . 7 in) torpedo tubes . During World War I , Pisa 's 76 and 47 mm guns were replaced by twenty 76 / 40 guns ; six of these were anti aircraft guns .

Amalfi was protected by a main belt of armor 200 millimetres (7 . 9 in) thick . The 10 inch gun turrets were protected by 160 millimetres (6 . 3 in) of armor plate , and the 7 . 5 inch gun turrets by 130 millimetres (5 . 1 in) . The conning tower had armor 180 millimetres (7 . 1 in) thick , while the thickness of the deck armor was 130 millimeters .

= = Construction and career = =

Work began on the pair of Pisa class ships in August 1904 , nearly a year before the keel of Amalfi , named after the eponymous city , was laid down on 24 July 1905 at the Cantieri navali Odero shipyard in Sestri Ponente . It was nearly three years before Amalfi was launched on 5 May 1908 . The ship was completed on 1 September 1909 , just over four years after her keel was laid .

= = = Italo Turkish War = = =

Amalfi and sister ship Pisa both entered service in 1909 , but there is little information in sources on their activities until the 1911 Italo @-@ Turkish War . On 24 September 1911 , five days before Italy declared war against the Ottoman Empire to start the conflict , Amalfi departed from Syracuse for Tripoli as part of a squadron that included battleships Roma and Napoli ; armored cruisers Pisa , Giuseppe Garibaldi , Varese , and Francesco Ferruccio ; and two flotillas of destroyers . Five days later , Amalfi and several of the other ships were seen taking on coal at Malta , before heading on to blockade Tripoli .

On 2 October , a division headed by the battleship Benedetto Brin relieved Amalfi 's groups in blockade duty , allowing them to proceed to the east to join the main Italian fleet . Napoli , Amalfi , and Pisa were joined by the recently commissioned armored cruiser San Marco , three destroyers , and two torpedo boats . The group escorted several Italian transports that arrived off Derna on 15 October . After negotiations for a surrender of the town fell apart , Pisa shelled the barracks and a fort . There was no return fire from Derna , so a boat with offers of a truce was sent in . When it was greeted by a volley of rifle fire Amalfi and the other armored cruisers opened fire on the town with their 190 @-@ millimeter (7 @.@ 5 in) guns and , according to a contemporary account , " completely destroyed " the town in 30 minutes time . A landing party dispatched at 14 : 00 was unable to reach the shore because of rough seas and gunfire from the shore . Amalfi and company then shelled the beach until 16 : 00 . Weather conditions prevented a landing until the 18th , when 1 @,@ 500 men took possession of the Derna .

On 13 April 1912 , Amalfi sailed from Taranto as part of the Italian 1st Squadron , which consisted of the battleships Vittorio Emanuele (the squadron flagship) , Roma , and Napoli ; fellow armored cruisers Pisa , San Marco , and Vettor Pisani . The squadron was initially destined for Tripoli , but was diverted to the Aegean Sea to bombard the Turkish coast . The 2nd Squadron ? consisting of battleships Regina Margherita (squadron flagship) , Benedetto Brin , Ammiraglio di Saint Bon , and Emanuele Filiberto ; and armored cruisers Francesco Ferruccio , Varese , and Giuseppe Garibaldi ? sailed from Tobruk and Augusta at the same time . The two squadrons rendezvoused at Stampalia on 17 April . At 06 : 30 , Pisa and Amalfi steamed into the Dardanelles in advance of the Italian fleet in an attempt to draw out the Turkish fleet . Four Turkish shore batteries , outfitted with 18 Krupp guns ranging from 8 to 11 inches (200 to 280 mm) in size fired on the Italian fleet . The Italians , firing at a range of 8 @,@ 000 metres (8 @,@ 700 yd) , returned fire in an exchange that lasted more than two hours . Official Italian reports claimed that no ships were hit and specifically rebutted Turkish claims that Varese had been set on fire , but a summary in The New York Times reports that Varese was hit twice . On 19 April , the Italian fleet departed for home , but left Amalfi , Pisa , and an assortment of smaller craft to continue destroying telegraph stations and cutting cables .

One other action of note involving Amalfi occurred on 28 April when a party of 250 men recruited from her complement and that of Pisa took the Turkish garrison on the island of Astropalia . The 1912 Treaty of Lausanne that ended the war was signed on 18 October .

= = = Interwar period = = =

In the period between the end of the Italo @-@ Turkish War in 1912 and Italy 's entry into the First World War in 1915 , Amalfi is mentioned in several news accounts that offer hints of her peace @-@ time activities . In June 1913 , Amalfi escorted King Victor Emmanuel III and his wife , Queen Elena , on the royal yacht Trinacria to the annual regatta at Kiel , Germany . While there , Victor Emmanuel met with Kaiser Wilhelm II , to discuss ? it was speculated in a contemporary news report ? the ongoing Balkan War . After departing from Kiel , Amalfi escorted the King and Queen on Trinacria to their next stop at Stockholm .

By November , Amalfi was back in Italian waters when Admiral Cattolica , the former Italian Minister of the Marine , and the captains of Amalfi and the battleship Emanuele Filiberto greeted United States Navy Admiral Charles J. Badger at Naples on his flagship , USS Wyoming . During the Wyoming 's stay , one stop on the battleship 's 1913 Mediterranean tour , Badger returned the visits and toured Amalfi as part of his courtesy calls .

== First World War ==

At the outbreak of the First World War in August 1914 , Italy declined to join its Triple Alliance partners Germany and Austria @-@ Hungary when they declared war against the Entente Powers , opting instead to remain neutral . Pressure from the United Kingdom and France swayed Italy to sign the secret Treaty of London on 26 April 1915 . In the agreement , Italy promised to leave the Triple Alliance and declare war against its former allies within a month in return for territorial gains after the end of the war .

At the beginning of May , Amalfi was part of the squadron headquartered at Brindisi that included six pre @-@ dreadnought battleships ? Regina Elena , Vittorio Emanuele , Roma , Napoli , Benedetto Brin , and Ammiraglio di Saint Bon ? and four armored cruisers ? Pisa , San Marco , San Giorgio , and Amalfi herself .

After Italy 's declaration of war against Austria @-@ Hungary on 23 May , Admiral Anton Haus , the fleet commander of the Austro @-@ Hungarian Navy sortied his fleet to bombard the Italian coast on the night of 23 / 24 May in an attempt to disrupt the Italian mobilization . Of the many targets , Ancona was hardest hit , with disruptions to the town 's gas , electric , and telephone service ; the city 's stockpiles of coal and oil were left in flames . All of the Austrian ships safely returned to port , making it seem that they had been able to attack with impunity , putting political pressure on the Regia Marina from Rome . When the Austrians resumed attacks on the Italian coast in mid @-@ June , Italian Admiral Paolo Thaon di Revel responded by sending Amalfi and the other armored cruisers at Brindisi ? the navy 's newest ? to Venice to supplement the older ships already there . Historian Lawrence Sondhaus argues that the arrival of the four fast armored cruisers in Venice should have been a major deterrent against future Austrian coastal raids , but concedes that they ended up becoming more inviting targets for Austrian U @-@ boats instead .

== Sinking ==

Shortly after the arrival of the quartet of cruisers at Venice , Amalfi participated in a " reconnaissance in force " mission near the Austro @-@ Hungarian port of Pula on the night of 6 / 7 July 1915 . After completion of the mission , the cruiser was about 20 nautical miles (37 km ; 23 mi) from Venice when she was torpedoed by the Austrian submarine U @-@ 26 at dawn on 7 July . U @-@ 26 ? in actuality the German submarine UB @-@ 14 , marked as an Austrian vessel and flying the Austrian flag since Italy and Germany were not at war ? was under the command of Oberleutnant zur See Heino von Heimburg , and on her first patrol .

Amalfi immediately began listing to port and , after initial damage control efforts proved fruitless , her commander ordered the ship evacuated . The cruiser sank less than 30 minutes after she was torpedoed . Distress calls were answered by other ships of the division which rescued a large number of the ship 's complement . The loss of men was reported as about 200 at the time , but later reports list only 67 fatalities . Amalfi was among the largest ships sunk by U @-@ boats during the war . As a result of Amalfi 's sinking , sister ship Pisa and the other pair of armored cruisers at Venice rarely ventured out of port for most of the next year , and were eventually transferred to Valona in April 1916 .