

= Italian cruiser Etruria =

Etruria was a protected cruiser of the Italian Regia Marina (Royal Navy) built in the 1891 by Cantiere navale fratelli Orlando ivorno . She was the third of six vessels of the Regioni class , all of which were named for current , or in the case of Etruria , former regions of Italy . 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) .

Etruria spent her early career with the main fleet in the Mediterranean Sea . In the early 1900s , she spent much of her time in North and South American waters ; she visited the United States for the Jamestown Exposition and the Hudson @-@ Fulton Celebration in 1907 and 1909 . The ship took part in the Italo @-@ Turkish War of 1911 ? 12 , primarily by providing gunfire support to Italian troops in North Africa .

Reduced to a training ship by World War I , Etruria was deliberately sunk by the Regia Marina in Livorno to convince Austria @-@ Hungary that its espionage network had not been compromised by double agents .

= = Design = =

Etruria was 84 @. @ 8 meters (278 ft) long overall , had a beam of 12 @. @ 03 m (39 @. @ 5 ft) and a draft of 4 @. @ 87 m (16 @. @ 0 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 @. @ 3 knots (33 @. @ 9 km / h ; 21 @. @ 1 mph) at 7 @, @ 018 indicated horsepower (5 @, @ 233 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 @-@ 78 .

Etruria 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 . Etruria was protected by a 50 mm (2 @. @ 0 in) thick deck , and her conning tower had 50 mm thick sides .

= = Service history = =

Etruria was laid down at the Odero @-@ Terni @-@ Orlando shipyard in Livorno on 1 April 1889 . Shortages of funding slowed the completion Etruria 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 . As a result , it took two years to complete her hull , which was launched on 23 April 1891 . Fitting @-@ out work proceeded even more slowly ; she was not ready for commissioning until 11 July 1894 . Following her commissioning , Etruria was assigned to the Second Division of the Italian fleet in October 1894 , along with the ironclad battleships Francesco Morosini , two cruisers and six torpedo boats . In 1895 , she the other ships were replaced by the ironclads Sardegna and Ruggiero di Lauria and the torpedo cruiser Partenope . On 20 June 1895 , Etruria and a fleet that included the battleships Sardegna , Re Umberto , Andrea Doria , and Ruggiero di Lauria , visited Germany for the ceremony of the opening of the Kaiser Wilhelm Canal . Contingents from Britain , France , Russia , Spain , and several other countries joined the celebration .

In April 1907 , Etruria and the armored cruiser Varese crossed the Atlantic to represent Italy during the Jamestown Exposition , the commemoration of the 300th anniversary of the Jamestown colony , the first permanent English settlement in the Americas . In addition to the Austro @-@ Hungarian delegation , the international fleet consisted of warships from Great Britain , Japan , Germany , Austria @-@ Hungary , and several other nations . Etruria returned to the United States in September 1909 for the Hudson @-@ Fulton Celebration in New York City , which also included

ships from the German , British , and French fleets , among others , in addition to the hosting US Navy . On this occasion , she was joined by the training cruiser Etna .

Etruria also represented Italy at the commemoration of Peruvian pilot Jorge Chávez on 27 October 1910 , who had been killed in a crash attempting to cross the Alps from France to Italy a month before . The French cruiser Montcalm joined Etruria for the event . The ship made another visit to the United States in March 1911 , this time in San Francisco . Her visit coincided with the 50th anniversary of the proclamation of the Kingdom of Italy on 17 March ; Etruria fired a 21 @-@ gun salute in honor of the anniversary , which was returned by the US Navy training facility in the harbor .

On 29 September 1911 , Italy declared war on the Ottoman Empire in order to seize Libya . At the time , Etruria was still in American waters , but she was quickly recalled . 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 , her sister Liguria and another cruiser , 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 .

By December , Etruria had been moved to Tobruk , where she provided gunfire support to the Italians defending the city . She was joined there by Etna and twelve torpedo boats . In the meantime , most of the fleet had returned to Italy for refitting . In January 1912 , Etruria was moved back to Benghazi . For the next six months she remained here , supporting the garrison against Ottoman counter @-@ attacks . The ship repeatedly shelled the Ottoman camps outside the city . On 15 October , the Ottomans surrendered , ending the war .

Etruria was stationed in Libya as part of the local defense force , which included the old ironclad battleships Lepanto and Enrico Dandolo , along with several smaller vessels . By the outbreak of World War I , the ship had been reduced to a training cruiser . The Italian Navy deliberately blew up Etruria in Livorno on 13 August 1918 , ostensibly as an act of sabotage by Austro @-@ Hungarian agents in Italy . The purported agents had in fact been coopted as double agents , and the destruction of Etruria was meant to strengthen Austro @-@ Hungarian confidence in their espionage network .