

= Italian battleship Benedetto Brin =

Benedetto Brin was a Regina Margherita class pre dreadnought battleship built for the Italian Regia Marina between 1899 and 1905 . The ship was armed with a main battery of four 12 inch ( 300 mm ) guns and was capable of a top speed of 20 knots ( 37 km / h ; 23 mph ) . Benedetto Brin saw combat in the Italo Turkish War of 1911 ? 1912 , including the bombardment of Tripoli in October 1911 . She was destroyed by an internal explosion during World War I in September 1915 , which killed over 450 of the ship 's crew .

= = Design = =

Benedetto Brin was 138 @. 65 meters ( 455 ft ) long overall and had a beam of 23 @. 84 m ( 78 ft ) and a draft of 9 m ( 30 ft ) . She displaced 14 @, 737 metric tons ( 14 @, 504 long tons ; 16 @, 245 short tons ) at full combat load . Her propulsion system consisted of two triple expansion engines . Steam for the engines was provided by twenty @- eight coal @- fired Belleville boilers . The ship 's propulsion system provided a top speed of 20 knots ( 37 km / h ; 23 mph ) and a range of approximately 10 @, 000 nautical miles ( 19 @, 000 km ; 12 @, 000 mi ) at 10 knots ( 19 km / h ; 12 mph ) . Benedetto Brin had a crew of 812 officers and enlisted men .

As built , the ship was armed with four 12 in ( 305 mm ) 40 @- caliber guns placed in two twin gun turrets , one forward and one aft . The ship was also equipped with four 8 in ( 203 mm ) 40 @- cal. guns in casemates in the superstructure , and twelve 6 in ( 152 mm ) 40 @- cal. guns , also in casemates in the side of the hull . Close @- range defense against torpedo boats was provided by a battery of twenty 3 in ( 76 mm ) 40 @- cal. guns . The ship also carried a pair of 47 mm ( 1 @. 9 in ) guns , two 37 mm ( 1 @. 5 in ) guns , and two 10 mm ( 0 @. 4 in ) Maxim guns . Benedetto Brin was also equipped with four 17 @. 7 in ( 450 mm ) torpedo tubes placed in the hull below the waterline . The ship was protected with Harvey steel manufactured in Terni . The main belt was 6 in ( 152 mm ) thick , and the deck was 3 @. 1 in ( 79 mm ) thick . The conning tower and the casemate guns were also protected by 6 in of armor plating . The main battery guns had stronger armor protection , at 8 in ( 203 mm ) thick .

= = Service = =

The ship was built by the Castellammare di Stabia shipyard . Her keel was laid down on 30 January 1899 , and the completed hull was launched on 7 November 1901 in the presence of the King and Queen of Italy , government officials , and the whole Italian Mediterranean squadron . Fitting out work lasted for the next four years , and she was completed on 1 September 1905 . It took so long primarily because of non @- delivery of material , particularly the heavy armor . After she entered active service , the ship was assigned to the Mediterranean Squadron . The Squadron was usually only activated for seven months of the year in peacetime , which was occupied with training maneuvers , and the rest of the year the ships were placed in reserve . In 1907 , the Mediterranean Squadron consisted of Benedetto Brin , her sister Regina Margherita , and three of the Regina Elena @- class battleships . The ships participated in the annual maneuvers in late September and early October , under the command of Vice Admiral Alfonso di Brocchetti . Benedetto Brin remained in the active duty squadron through 1910 , by which time the fourth Regina Elena @- class ship was completed , bringing the total number of front @- line battleships to six .

= = = Italo @- Turkish War = = =

On 29 September 1911 , Italy declared war on the Ottoman Empire in order to seize Libya . During the Italo @- Turkish War Benedetto Brin was assigned to the 1st Division of the 2nd Squadron , along with her sister and the two Ammiraglio di Saint Bon @- class battleships . Benedetto Brin served as the squadron flagship of Vice Admiral Farvelli . In early October , she arrived off Tripoli to relieve Roma on blockade duty outside the port . On 3 ? 4 October , she participated in the

bombardment of the fortifications protecting Tripoli . The Italian fleet used their medium 12-inch caliber guns to preserve their ammunition for the heavy guns . Turkish counter 12-inch battery fire was completely ineffective .

On 13 April 1912 , Benedetto Brin and the rest of the Squadron sailed from Tobruk to the Aegean Sea to rendezvous with the 1st Squadron . The two squadrons met off Stampalia on 17 April . The next day , the fleet steamed into the northern Aegean and cut several Turkish submarine telegraph cables . Most of the ships of the Italian fleet then bombarded the fortresses protecting the Dardanelles in an unsuccessful attempt to lure out the Turkish fleet . While they were doing this , Regina Margherita , Benedetto Brin , and two torpedo boats were detached to cut additional cables between Rhodes and Marmaris . In July , Benedetto Brin and the rest of the Division had withdrawn to Italy to replace worn 12-inch out gun barrels , along with other repairs . Also in 1912 , the ship had four 3-inch guns added , increasing her battery from 20 to 24 pieces .

== = World War I == =

Italy declared neutrality after the outbreak of World War I in August 1914 , but by April 1915 , the Triple Entente had convinced the Italians to enter the war against the Central Powers which it did in May . The primary naval opponent for the duration of the war was the Austro-Hungarian Navy ; the Naval Chief of Staff , Admiral Paolo Thaon di Revel , planned a distant blockade with the battle fleet , while smaller vessels , such as the MAS boats conducted raids . The heavy ships of the Italian fleet would be preserved for a potential major battle in the Austro-Hungarian fleet should emerge from its bases . As a result , the ship 's career during the war was limited . In addition to the cautious Italian strategy , Benedetto Brin 's long 12-inch since obsolescent ? was reduced to a training ship in the 3rd Division , along with her sister ship . On 27 September 1915 , Benedetto Brin was destroyed in a huge explosion in the harbor of Brindisi , the result of Austro-Hungarian sabotage . A total of 8 officers and 379 ratings survived but 454 members of the crew , including Rear Admiral Rubin de Cervin died . Two of the ship 's 12-inch guns were salvaged from the wreck and were reused as coastal guns protecting Venice .