

= Italian cruiser Etna =

Etna was a protected cruiser of the Italian Regia Marina (Royal Navy) built in the 1880s . She was the lead ship of the Etna class , which included three sister ships . Named for Mount Etna on the island of Sicily , the ship was laid down in January 1883 , was launched in September 1885 , and was completed in December 1887 . She was armed with a main battery of two 10 @-@ inch (254 mm) and six 6 @-@ inch (152 mm) guns , and could steam at a speed of around 17 knots (31 km / h ; 20 mph) .

Etna frequently cruised abroad throughout her career , including visits to the United States for the World 's Columbian Exposition and the Hudson @-@ Fulton Celebration in 1893 and 1909 , respectively . She served as a training ship for naval cadets from 1907 . She saw action during the Italo @-@ Turkish War of 1911 ? 12 , primarily providing gunfire support to Italian troops ashore in Libya . By the outbreak of World War I in 1914 , Etna had been withdrawn from service and was employed as a headquarters ship for the commander of the Italian fleet at Taranto and later for the light forces based at Brindisi . The old cruiser was finally sold for scrap in May 1921 .

= = Description = =

Etna was 283 feet 6 inches (86 @.@ 4 m) between perpendiculars , with a beam of 42 feet 6 inches (13 @.@ 0 m) . She had a mean draft of 19 feet (5 @.@ 8 m) and displaced between 3 @,@ 474 long tons (3 @,@ 530 t) . Her crew numbered 12 officers and 296 men . The ship had two horizontal compound steam engines , each driving a single propeller , with steam provided by four double @-@ ended cylindrical boilers . Etna was credited with a top speed of 17 @.@ 8 knots (33 @.@ 0 km / h ; 20 @.@ 5 mph) from 7 @,@ 480 indicated horsepower (5 @,@ 580 kW) . She had a cruising radius of 5 @,@ 000 nautical miles (9 @,@ 300 km ; 5 @,@ 800 mi) at a speed of 10 knots (19 km / h ; 12 mph) .

The main armament of the ships consisted of two Armstrong 10 @-@ inch (254 mm) , 30 @-@ caliber breech @-@ loading guns mounted in barbettes fore and aft . She was also equipped with six 6 @-@ inch (152 mm) , 32 @-@ caliber , breech @-@ loading guns that were carried in sponsons along the sides of the ship . For anti @-@ torpedo boat defense , Etna was fitted with five 57 @-@ millimeter (2 @.@ 2 in) 6 @-@ pounder Hotchkiss guns and five 37 @-@ millimeter (1 @.@ 5 in) 1 @-@ pounder Hotchkiss guns . Etna was also armed with four 14 @-@ inch (356 mm) torpedo tubes . One was mounted in the bow underwater and the other three were above water . She was protected with an armored deck below the waterline with a maximum thickness of 1 @.@ 5 inches (38 mm) . The conning tower had .5 in (13 mm) worth of armor plating .

From 1905 to 1907 the ship was rebuilt with forecastle and poop decks added and her armament was revised . The heavy 10 @-@ inch guns were replaced with two quick @-@ firing (QF) 4 @.@ 7 @-@ inch (120 mm) guns and the six breech @-@ loading 6 @-@ inch guns were replaced by four QF 6 @-@ inch guns , two on each side amidships .

= = Service history = =

Etna was built by the Castellammare shipyard ; her keel was laid down on 19 January 1883 and her completed hull was launched on 26 September 1885 . After fitting @-@ out work was finished , she was commissioned into the Italian fleet on 3 December 1887 . Etna served in the Squadra Permanente (Permanent Squadron) from her commissioning to 1893 and then served in North and South American waters until the end of 1895 . During this period , Etna and the protected cruisers Dogali and Giovanni Bausan represented Italy at the international naval review in New York , held at the start of the World 's Columbian Exposition in Chicago in 1893 . The Exposition marked the 400th anniversary of Christopher Columbus 's arrival in North America . Contingents from France , Germany , Britain , Spain , and several other nations also participated in the celebration . During the visit , she flew the flag of Rear Admiral G. B. Magnaghi ,

During the First Italo @-@ Ethiopian War of 1895 ? 6 she was stationed in the Red Sea . She

thereafter supported Italian interests during the Cretan Revolt of 1898 . In 1897 , Etna was assigned to the cruiser squadron along with Lombardia and Dogali . The ship was then transferred to the Far East , during which time she made a visit to Sydney , Australia . She returned home in 1902 and was disarmed ; she was then commissioned as the flagship of the Superior Torpedo @-@ Boat Command in 1904 . In 1907 , Etna was converted into a training cruiser for naval cadets . Etna visited 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 cruiser Etruria .

Etna saw limited action during the Italo @-@ Turkish War in 1911 ? 12 . At the outbreak of the war in September 1911 , she was stationed in eastern Africa , where Italy had colonies in Eritrea and Somaliland . She was joined there by the cruisers Elba , Liguria , Piemonte and Puglia . In December 1911 , she was stationed at Tobruk , where she , the battleship Vittorio Emanuele , the cruiser Etruria , and twelve torpedo boats provided gunfire support to the Italians defending the city . She remained there through January 1912 while the bulk of the Italian fleet returned to Italy for repairs . In April , Etna bombarded Ottoman positions outside Benghazi , and in August , she sent men ashore at Zuwarah to relieve the garrison there . On 13 September she shelled Ottoman troops near the ruins of ancient Tripoli . The following month , the Ottomans agreed to surrender , ending the war .

In September 1914 , Etna was withdrawn from service as a training ship and used instead as a floating headquarters . Italy entered World War I in May 1915 and the ship was thereafter used as a harbor defense ship before returning to her previous role as a headquarters ship for the commander in chief of the Italian fleet at Taranto . By May 1917 , she had been transferred to Brindisi , where she served as the headquarters ship for Rear Admiral Alfredo Acton during the Battle of the Strait of Otranto . The old cruiser was sold for scrapping on 15 May 1921 , and was the last surviving ship of her class .