

= Italian ironclad Messina =

Messina was the second of three Principe di Carignano @-@ class ironclads built for the Italian Regia Marina ( Royal Navy ) in the 1860s . She was laid down in September 1861 , her hull was launched in December 1864 , and she was completed in February 1867 . Messina was a broadside ironclad armed with a battery of four 8 @-@ inch ( 200 mm ) guns and eighteen 164 @-@ millimeter ( 6 @-@ 5 in ) guns . Her career was limited , owing to the emergence of more modern ironclads and a severe reduction in the Italian naval budget following their defeat at the Battle of Lissa in 1866 . She was discarded in 1875 and sold to ship breakers to help pay for new ironclads then under construction .

= = Design = =

Messina was 72 @-@ 8 meters ( 239 ft ) long between perpendiculars ; she had a beam of 15 @-@ 1 m ( 50 ft ) and an average draft of 7 @-@ 27 m ( 23 @-@ 9 ft ) . She displaced 3 @-@ 868 metric tons ( 3 @-@ 807 long tons ; 4 @-@ 264 short tons ) normally and up to 4 @-@ 245 t ( 4 @-@ 178 long tons ; 4 @-@ 679 short tons ) at full load . She had a crew of 572 . Her propulsion system consisted of one single @-@ expansion steam engine that drove a single screw propeller , with steam supplied by six coal @-@ fired , cylindrical fire @-@ tube boilers . Her engine produced a top speed of 11 @-@ 4 knots ( 21 @-@ 1 km / h ; 13 @-@ 1 mph ) from 1 @-@ 968 indicated horsepower ( 1 @-@ 468 kW ) , making her the fastest member of her class . She could steam for about 1 @-@ 200 nautical miles ( 2 @-@ 200 km ; 1 @-@ 400 mi ) at a speed of 10 knots ( 19 km / h ; 12 mph ) . To supplement her steam engine , the ship was barque @-@ rigged .

Messina was a broadside ironclad , and she was armed with a main battery of four 72 @-@ pounder 8 in ( 200 mm ) guns and eighteen 164 mm ( 6 @-@ 5 in ) rifled muzzle @-@ loading guns . The ship was equipped with a spur @-@ shaped ram at the bow . The ship 's hull was sheathed with wrought iron armor that was 4 @-@ 75 in ( 121 mm ) thick .

= = Service history = =

Messina was laid down at the Regio Cantiere di Castellammare di Stabia ( Royal Dockyard in Castellammare di Stabia ) on 28 September 1861 . She was launched on 20 December 1864 and completed in February 1867 . This was too late to see action during the Third Italian War of Independence , which had ended the previous August ; Principe di Carignano was the only member of her class to have been completed in time for the war . The conflict nevertheless had a significant effect on Messina 's career . The government lost confidence in the fleet after the defeat at the Battle of Lissa and drastically reduced the naval budget . The cuts were so severe that the fleet had great difficulty in mobilizing its ironclad squadron to attack the port of Civitavecchia in September 1870 , as part of the wars of Italian unification . Instead , the ships were laid up and the sailors conscripted to man them were sent home . In addition , Messina was rapidly surpassed first by central battery and then turret ships , which rendered the first generation of ironclads with traditional broadside obsolete . As a result , Messina was not used in any significant way in her ten years in service .

In around 1870 , the ship 's armament was revised to six 10 in ( 250 mm ) guns , four 8 in guns , and eight 164 mm guns . In 1880 , the Navy struck Messina from the list of ships and broke her up for scrap . The Navy discarded both of her sisters , along with the ironclad Re di Portogallo between 1875 and 1880 to remove the cost of maintaining them from the naval budget , as part of an effort to reduce the financial impact of the new Caio Duilio and Italia @-@ classes then under construction .