

= Italian cruiser Coatit =

Coatit was a torpedo cruiser of the Italian Regia Marina built in the late 1890s . She was the second and final member of the Agordat class . The ship , which was armed with twelve 76 mm ( 3 @. @ 0 in ) guns and two 450 mm ( 18 in ) torpedo tubes , was too slow and short @-@ ranged to be able to scout effectively for the fleet , so her career was limited . She saw action during the Italo @-@ Turkish War in 1911 ? 12 , where she provided gunfire support to Italian troops in North Africa . She also caused a minor diplomatic incident from an attack on retreating Ottoman soldiers in Anatolia . Coatit was part of an international fleet sent to Constantinople when the city appeared to be at risk of falling to the Bulgarian Army during the First Balkan War . In 1919 , she was converted into a minelayer and was sold for scrap in 1920 .

= = Design = =

Coatit was 91 @. @ 6 meters ( 301 ft ) long overall and had a beam of 9 @. @ 32 m ( 30 @. @ 6 ft ) and a draft of 3 @. @ 54 m ( 11 @. @ 6 ft ) . She displaced up to 1 @, @ 292 metric tons ( 1 @, @ 272 long tons ; 1 @, @ 424 short tons ) at full load . Her propulsion system consisted of a pair of horizontal triple @-@ expansion steam engines each driving a single screw propeller , with steam supplied by eight Blechynden water @-@ tube boilers . Her engines were rated at 8 @, @ 215 indicated horsepower ( 6 @, @ 126 kW ) and produced a top speed of 23 knots ( 43 km / h ; 26 mph ) . The ship had a cruising radius of about 300 nautical miles ( 560 km ; 350 mi ) at a speed of 10 knots ( 19 km / h ; 12 mph ) . She had a crew of between 153 ? 185 .

Coatit was armed with a main battery of twelve 76 mm ( 3 @. @ 0 in ) L / 40 guns mounted singly . She was also equipped with two 450 mm ( 17 @. @ 7 in ) torpedo tubes . The ship was only lightly armored , with a 20 mm ( 0 @. @ 79 in ) thick deck .

= = Service history = =

The keel for Coatit was laid down at the Castellammare shipyard on 8 April 1897 and her completed hull was launched on 15 November 1899 . After completing fitting @-@ out work , the new cruiser was commissioned into the Italian fleet on 1 October 1900 . She proved to be too slow and short @-@ legged to be useful as a fleet scout , which limited her active duty career . She served in the main fleet in 1903 ? 1904 , during which time the fleet was kept in a state of readiness for seven months . For the remaining five months , the ships had reduced crews . In 1904 , the ship was transferred to the Red Sea and stationed in Italy 's colony in Eritrea along with three other small vessels . Coatit was assigned to the hostile force that was tasked with simulating an attempt to land troops on Sicily during the 1908 fleet maneuvers .

At the outbreak of the Italo @-@ Turkish War against the Ottoman Empire in September 1911 , Coatit was stationed in the 4th Division of the 2nd Squadron , under Rear Admiral Paolo Thaon di Revel , the commander of the division . Coatit protected several battleships and armored cruisers while they bombarded the defenses of Tripoli on 3 ? 4 October . Coatit , the armored cruiser Varese , and sixteen destroyers were tasked with patrolling the flanks of the bombardment force to prevent a surprise attack by the Ottoman Navy , which did not materialize . On 15 October , Coatit and her sister joined the battleship Napoli , the armored cruisers Pisa , Amalfi , and San Marco , three destroyers , and several troop transports for an attack on the port of Derna . Negotiators were sent ashore to attempt to secure the surrender of the garrison , which was refused . Napoli and the armored cruisers bombarded the Ottoman positions throughout the day , and on 18 October the Ottomans withdrew , allowing the Italian troops to come ashore and take possession of the port . The fleet remained offshore and helped to repel Ottoman counterattacks over the following two weeks . On 3 October 1912 , Coatit bombarded the port of Kalkan . She thereafter shelled an Ottoman infantry battalion in the area , which fled ; she nevertheless continued to fire on the retreating troops , expending around 200 rounds during the attack . The French cruiser Bruix was nearby and witnessed the attack , which her commander protested as a breach of international law .

Coatit was among an international force that entered the Ottoman capital city , Constantinople , during the First Balkan War in November 1912 , less than a month after the end of the Italo -@ Turkish War . She and the battleship Emanuele Filiberto entered the straits on 11 November , along with the French armored cruisers Victor Hugo and Léon Gambetta , where they joined a pair of British cruisers . Warships from Germany , including the battlecruiser Goeben , Russia ? the battleship Rostislav ? and Spain arrived thereafter . The ships put a force of about 3 @, @ 000 men ashore to protect their nationals , though by the end of the month , the Bulgarian advance on the city had been halted . The international fleet nevertheless remained in the Sea of Marmara for a time until it was withdrawn to the island of Crete and subsequently dispersed . Coatit was converted into a minelayer in 1919 . Eight of the 76 mm guns and her torpedo tubes were removed and a pair of 12 cm ( 4 @. @ 7 in ) L / 40 guns were installed . She served only briefly in this role and she was sold to ship breakers on 11 June 1920 .