

= Pisa @-@ class cruiser =

The Pisa class consisted of three armored cruisers built in Italy in the first decade of the 20th century . Two of these were for the Royal Italian Navy (Regia Marina) and the third was sold to the Royal Hellenic Navy and named Georgios Averof . This ship served as the Greek flagship for the bulk of her active career and participated in the Balkan Wars of 1912 ? 13 , fighting in two battles against the Ottoman Navy . She played a minor role in World War II after escaping from Greece during the German invasion in early 1941 . Influenced by communist agitators , her crew mutinied in 1944 , but it was suppressed without any bloodshed . Georgios Averof returned to Greece after the German evacuation in late 1944 and became a museum ship in 1952 . She is the only surviving armored cruiser in the world .

The two Italian ships participated in the Italo @-@ Turkish War of 1911 ? 12 during which they supported ground forces in Libya with naval gunfire and helped to occupy towns in Libya and islands in the Dodecanese . They played a minor role in World War I after a submarine sank Amalfi shortly after Italy joined the war in 1915 . Her sister ship , Pisa , became a training ship after the war and was broken up for scrap in 1937 .

= = Design and description = =

The Pisa class was designed in 1904 by Italian engineer Giuseppe Orlando , who attempted to replicate on a smaller scale the armament and armor of the Regina Elena @-@ class battleships then entering the service of the Regia Marina . The Italians classified large armored cruisers like the Pisas as second @-@ class battleships . For ships of their displacement , they were considered to have been heavily armed , but inferior to battlecruisers , a type introduced during their lengthy construction time .

The Pisa @-@ class ships had a length between perpendiculars of 130 meters (426 ft 6 in) and an overall length of 140 @.@ 5 meters (460 ft 11 in) . They had a beam of 21 meters (68 ft 11 in) and a draft of 7 @.@ 1 meters (23 ft 4 in) . The ships displaced 9 @, @ 832 metric tons (9 @, @ 677 long tons) at normal load , and 10 @, @ 401 ? 10 @, @ 600 metric tons (10 @, @ 237 ? 10 @, @ 433 long tons) at deep load . The Pisa class had a complement of 32 officers and 652 to 655 enlisted men .

= = = Propulsion = = =

The ships were powered by two vertical triple @-@ expansion steam engines , each driving one propeller shaft using steam supplied by 22 Belleville boilers . Designed for a maximum output of 20 @, @ 000 indicated horsepower (15 @, @ 000 kW) and a speed of 22 @.@ 5 knots (41 @.@ 7 km / h ; 25 @.@ 9 mph) , both ships handily exceeded this , reaching speeds of 23 @.@ 47 ? 23 @.@ 6 knots (43 @.@ 47 ? 43 @.@ 71 km / h ; 27 @.@ 01 ? 27 @.@ 16 mph) during their sea trials from 20 @, @ 260 ? 20 @, @ 808 ihp (15 @, @ 108 ? 15 @, @ 517 kW) . They had a cruising range of about 2 @, @ 500 nautical miles (4 @, @ 600 km ; 2 @, @ 900 mi) at a speed of 12 knots (22 km / h ; 14 mph) and 1 @, @ 400 nautical miles (2 @, @ 600 km ; 1 @, @ 600 mi) at a speed of 21 knots (39 km / h ; 24 mph) .

= = = Armament = = =

The main armament of the two Italian Pisa @-@ class ships consisted of four Cannone da 254 / 45 V Modello 1906 guns in hydraulically powered , twin @-@ gun turrets fore and aft of the superstructure . The 254 mm (10 @.@ 0 in) gun fired 217 ? 224 @-@ kilogram (478 ? 494 lb) armor @-@ piercing (AP) projectiles at a muzzle velocity of 869 meters per second (2 @, @ 850 ft / s) . The Royal Hellenic Navy preferred smaller 234 mm (9 @.@ 2 in) guns purchased from Britain for Georgios Averof , but the ship was otherwise armed nearly identically to her half @-@ sisters . The 380 @-@ pound (170 kg) shell of the Elswick Pattern ' H ' gun was fired at a muzzle

velocity of 2 @, @ 770 feet per second (840 m / s) .

The Italian ships mounted eight Cannone da 190 / 45 V Modello 1906 in four hydraulically powered twin @-@ gun turrets , two in each side amidships , as their secondary armament . These Vickers 190 mm (7 @. @ 5 in) guns fired 91 @-@ kilogram (201 lb) AP shells at 850 ? 870 m / s (2 @, @ 789 ? 2 @, @ 853 ft / s) . The Elswick Pattern ' B ' 7 @. @ 5 @-@ inch guns aboard Georgios Averof used 90 @. @ 7 @-@ kilogram (200 lb) AP shells which were fired at muzzle velocities of 844 m / s (2 @, @ 770 ft / s) .

For defense against torpedo boats , all three ships mounted 16 Vickers quick @-@ firing (QF) Cannone da 76 / 40 V Modello 1908 guns . This gun fired a 6 @. @ 5 @-@ kilogram (14 lb) projectile at a muzzle velocity of 930 meters per second (3 @, @ 100 ft / s) . The ships were also fitted with eight (Pisa and Amalfi) or four (Georgios Averof) QF Cannone da 47 / 40 V Modello 1908 guns . The two Italian ships were equipped with three submerged 450 mm (17 @. @ 7 in) torpedo tubes while those of Georgios Averof were 457 mm (18 @. @ 0 in) in diameter .

During World War I , Pisa 's 76 and 47 mm guns were replaced by twenty 76 / 40 guns ; six of these were anti @-@ aircraft (AA) guns while Georgios Averof received one additional 76 mm AA gun . During her 1925 refit , the latter ship had her light armament changed to four 76 mm low @-@ angle guns , two 76 mm AA guns , four 47 mm low @-@ angle guns and five 40 mm AA guns .

= = = Protection = = =

All three ships were protected by an armored belt that was 200 mm (7 @. @ 9 in) thick amidships and reduced to 90 mm (3 @. @ 5 in) at the bow and stern . The armored deck was 51 mm (2 @. @ 0 in) thick . The conning tower armor was 180 mm (7 @. @ 1 in) thick . The 254 mm gun turrets were protected by 160 mm (6 @. @ 3 in) of armour while the 190 mm turrets had 140 mm (5 @. @ 5 in) .

= = Ships = =

= = Careers = =

Two of the three Pisa @-@ class armored cruisers were originally built for the Regia Marina . The third ship was built on speculation and was sold to Greece and completed as Georgios Averof , named after a wealthy Greek businessman who had left a sizeable legacy for the increase of the Greek Navy in his will . The ship participated in the Coronation Fleet Review for King George V of the United Kingdom in 1911 shortly after commissioning . She served in the Balkan Wars and was instrumental in the Greek victories over the Ottoman Empire in the Battles of Elli and Lemnos during the First Balkan War . During World War I , Georgios Averof did not see much active service , as Greece was neutral during the first years of the war . After the Noemvriana riots of 1916 , she was seized by the French to ensure that she could do nothing against the Enente . After the war 's end , the ship participated in the Greco @-@ Turkish War of 1919 ? 22 and helped in the evacuation of the refugees after the Greek Army 's defeat . In 1925 ? 27 Georgios Averof was reconstructed in France and rearmed .

The ship was seized by rebels during the failed 1935 Greek coup d 'état attempt and was present at the 1935 Silver Jubilee Fleet Review for King George V. During World War II , the ship escaped to Egypt after the Allied defense began to collapse in 1941 during the Battle of Greece . She performed convoy escort and patrolling duties in the Indian Ocean until the end of 1942 . Her crew mutinied in early 1944 under the influence of communist sympathizers of the ELAN . The mutiny was suppressed and she ferried the Greek government @-@ in @-@ exile to Athens in late 1944 . She was decommissioned in 1952 and is now preserved as a museum ship in Faliron Bay near Athens . Georgios Averof is the only armored cruiser still in existence .

Pisa and Amalfi both participated in the Italo @-@ Turkish War of 1911 ? 12 , during which Pisa supported the occupations of Tobruk , Libya and several islands in the Dodecanese while Amalfi

briefly blockaded Tripoli and supported the occupation of Derna , Libya . The sisters came together in 1912 and they bombarded the fortifications defending the entrance to the Dardanelles in July . After the end of the war , Amalfi escorted the Italian king and queen on the royal yacht to Germany and Sweden during a 1913 visit .

After Amalfi was sunk by the submarine U @-@ 26 (actually the Imperial German submarine SM UB @-@ 14 flying the Austro @-@ Hungarian flag) on 7 July 1915 , Pisa 's activities were limited by the threat of submarine attack , although the ship did participate in the bombardment of Durazzo , Albania in late 1918 . After the war she became a training ship and was stricken from the Navy List in 1937 before being scrapped .