

= Habsburg @-@ class battleship =

The Habsburg class was a group of pre @-@ dreadnought battleships built by Austria @-@ Hungary at the turn of the 20th century . They were the first sea @-@ going battleship built by Austria @-@ Hungary since the center @-@ battery ship Tegetthoff in 1876 . The class was composed of three ships : Habsburg , Árpád , and Babenberg . They were armed with three 24 cm (9 @. @ 4 in) guns in two turrets and were capable of slightly better than 19 @. @ 5 knots (36 @. @ 1 km / h ; 22 @. @ 4 mph) at full speed . Habsburg and Árpád were modernized in 1910 ? 11 .

Habsburg was launched on 9 September 1900 , Árpád just over a year later on 11 September 1901 , and Babenberg on 4 October 1902 . The ships saw limited service during World War I in the IV Division of the Austro @-@ Hungarian fleet . Babenberg and Árpád bombarded the Italian port of Ancona in 1915 , but the three battleships were largely inactive for the remainder of their service . They were decommissioned in 1916 to free up the majority of their crews for service in the submarine and air forces . All three ships were ultimately ceded to Great Britain following the end of the war ; they were sold to Italian ship @-@ breakers and scrapped in 1921 .

= = Design = =

= = = General characteristics and machinery = = =

The ships of the Habsburg class were 113 @. @ 11 m (371 ft) long at the waterline and 114 @. @ 55 m (375 ft 10 in) long overall . They had a beam of 19 @. @ 8 m (65 ft) and a draft of 7 @. @ 5 m (24 ft 6 in) . Freeboard was approximately 5 @. @ 80 m (19 @. @ 0 ft) forward and about 5 @. @ 50 m (18 @. @ 0 ft) aft . They displaced 8 @, @ 364 metric tons (8 @, @ 232 long tons) . The ships had a crew of 638 officers and enlisted men . The ships had a flush main deck that was planked with wood , while the upper decks were covered with linoleum or corticine .

The hulls for each ship were constructed from transverse and longitudinal steel frames , over which the outer hull plates were riveted . The hull incorporated a double bottom that ran for 63 % of its length . A series of watertight bulkheads extended from the keel to the gun deck ; there were a total of 174 watertight compartments in each ship . The ships had a metacentric height of between .82 m (2 @. @ 7 ft) and 1 @. @ 02 m (3 @. @ 3 ft) . Bilge keels were mounted on either side of the hull to reduce rolling .

Their machinery system consisted of 2 @-@ shaft 4 @-@ cylinder vertical triple expansion engines . They were supplied with steam by 16 Belleville boilers . Habsburg 's powerplant was rated at 15 @, @ 063 indicated horsepower (11 @, @ 232 kW) , which produced a top speed of 19 @. @ 62 knots (36 @. @ 34 km / h ; 22 @. @ 58 mph) . Árpád 's system was slightly less efficient , at 14 @, @ 307 ihp (10 @, @ 669 kW) , though it achieved a comparable speed of 19 @. @ 65 knots (36 @. @ 39 km / h ; 22 @. @ 61 mph) on trials . Babenberg had the most powerful engines of the three , which ran at 16 @, @ 000 ihp (12 @, @ 000 kW) and provided a top speed of 19 @. @ 85 knots (36 @. @ 76 km / h ; 22 @. @ 84 mph) .

= = = Armament = = =

The ships ' primary armament was three 24 cm (9 @. @ 4 in) L / 40 guns , with two mounted in a twin turret forward and one mounted in a single turret aft of the main superstructure . The guns were manufactured by Krupp in Germany , and were the C 97 type .

Secondary armament included twelve 15 cm (5 @. @ 9 in) SK L / 40 guns in casemates . They were mounted in an unusual arrangement : there were two decks of three guns each on either side amidships . These guns could fire armor @-@ piercing shells at a rate of 4 ? 5 per minute . The guns could depress to ? 7 degrees and elevate to 20 degrees , for a maximum range of 13 @, @ 700 metres (15 @, @ 000 yd) . They were manually elevated and trained .

The ships carried a wide array of smaller weapons , for defense against torpedo boats . These

included ten 7 cm (2 @. @ 8 in) L / 45 guns , six 4 @. @ 7 cm (1 @. @ 9 in) L / 44 quick @-@ firing (QF) guns , and two 4 @. @ 7 cm (1 @. @ 9 in) L / 33 QF guns . All of these guns were emplaced in single mounts , either on the upper decks and superstructure , or in casemates at the bow and stern . With the exception of the main battery 24 cm weapons , all of the guns carried on the ships were manufactured by ?koda Works in Pilsen . The ships also carried two Whitehead 45 cm (17 @. @ 7 in) submerged torpedo tubes .

= = = Armor = = =

Habsburg and her sisters were protected by face @-@ hardened chrome @-@ nickel steel . The main armored belt was 220 mm (8 @. @ 7 in) in the central portion of each ship , where the ammunition magazines , machinery spaces , and other critical areas were located . The belt tapered slightly to 180 mm (7 @. @ 1 in) on either end of the central section . Past the barbettes , the hull was protected by about 50 mm (2 @. @ 0 in) of armor plate , up to the bow and stern . The entire belt , including the thinner portions forward and aft of the main battery barbettes , extended for 1 @. @ 30 m (4 @. @ 3 ft) below the waterline and 1 @. @ 06 m (3 @. @ 5 ft) above . The belt was widened at the bow to cover the ram . Side protection was supplemented by 100 mm (3 @. @ 9 in) thick armor above the main belt ; this section of armor extended up to meet the gun deck . The armored deck was 40 mm (1 @. @ 6 in) thick .

The main battery turrets were protected by armor plate that was 210 mm (8 @. @ 3 in) thick on the sides and faces of the gun mounts . The armored barbettes that held the turrets , working chambers , and shell rooms were protected with 183 mm (7 @. @ 2 in) of armor . The casemates for the 15 cm guns were 137 mm (5 @. @ 4 in) on the outboard side and 88 mm (3 @. @ 5 in) on the less vulnerable inboard side . The forward conning tower was armored with sides that were 200 mm (7 @. @ 9 in) thick and contained a 150 mm (5 @. @ 9 in) thick communications tube ; the aft conning tower was less well @-@ protected . Its sides were 100 mm thick , and its communication tube was only 50 mm thick .

= = Construction = =

Habsburg was laid down at the Stabilimento Tecnico Triestino shipyard in Trieste on 13 March 1899 . She was launched on 9 September 1900 , after which fitting @-@ out work was conducted . The ship was finally finished by December 1902 ; she was commissioned into the Austro @-@ Hungarian fleet on the 31st of that month . Árpád followed Habsburg three months later ; she was laid down at the STT shipyard on 10 June 1899 and launched on 11 September 1901 . She was commissioned into the fleet on 15 June 1903 . Babenberg , the last ship of the three , was laid down at the STT dockyard on 19 January 1901 . She was launched on 4 October 1902 and completed on 15 April 1904 , when she joined her sisters in the fleet .

= = Service history = =

= = = Peace @-@ time = = =

Habsburg and Árpád took part in their first fleet maneuvers in mid 1903 . By the following summer , Babenberg was ready for active service , and she too participated in fleet drills . During the 1904 training exercises , the three Habsburgs engaged the three Monarch @-@ class battleships in simulated combat ; the maneuver marked the first time two homogeneous squadrons consisting of modern battleships operated in the Austro @-@ Hungarian navy . The three Habsburg @-@ class ships formed the I Division while the Monarchs formed the II Division . The ships were also active in the Mediterranean . Habsburg conducted a training cruise with the three Monarch @-@ class battleships in January 1903 . She was joined by Árpád the following year . With the commissioning of the Erzherzog Karl @-@ class battleships in 1906 ? 1907 , the three Habsburg @-@ class ships

were transferred to the II Division , and the three Monarchs went to the III Division .

= = = World War I = = =

At the outbreak of World War I in late July 1914 , Habsburg was serving as the flagship of the III Battleship Division of the Austro -@-@ Hungarian fleet , under the command of Captain Miklós Horthy , alongside her two sisters . They were later transferred to the IV Division after the new Tegetthoff @-@ class battleships came into service . At around the same time , she was mobilized along with her sister ships Árpád and Babenberg and the remainder of the Austro @-@ Hungarian Navy to support the flight of SMS Goeben and Breslau . The two German ships were stationed in the Mediterranean and were attempting to break out of the strait of Messina , which was surrounded by British troops and vessels and make their way to Turkey . After the Germans successfully broke out of Messina , the navy was recalled . The fleet had by that time advanced as far south as Brindisi in south eastern Italy . After Italy entered the war on the side of France and England , the Austro @-@ Hungarian navy bombarded several Italian installations ; Babenberg took part in the attack on Ancona in 1915 . They were later decommissioned and served as harbor defense ships for the latter portion of the conflict . Their crews were then transferred to man new U @-@ boats and aircraft . By 1918 , Árpád was converted into a training ship . Following the end of the war , the ships were awarded to Great Britain as war prizes , but were instead sold and broken up for scrapping in Italy in 1921 .