

= SMS Emden ( 1916 ) =

SMS Emden ( " His Majesty 's Ship Emden " ) was a German light cruiser belonging to the Königsberg class , built during the First World War . Emden served in the German Imperial Navy until the end of the war , at which point she was ceded to France . The ship was named after the previous Emden , which had been destroyed at the Battle of Cocos earlier in the war . She mounted an Iron Cross on her stem @-@ head in honor of the earlier Emden . The new cruiser was laid down in 1914 at the AG Weser shipyard in Bremen , launched in February 1916 , and commissioned into the High Seas Fleet in December 1916 . Armed with eight 15 cm SK L / 45 guns , the ship had a top speed of 27 @.@ 5 kn ( 50 @.@ 9 km / h ; 31 @.@ 6 mph ) .

After her commissioning , she was assigned to serve as a flotilla leader for torpedo boats . She participated in only one major action , Operation Albion , in October 1917 . There , she shelled Russian gun batteries and troop positions and engaged Russian destroyers and gunboats . The ship also led a successful , albeit minor , operation against British shipping in the North Sea in December 1917 . After the end of the war , she was interned with the rest of the German fleet in Scapa Flow . On 21 June 1919 , the interned fleet scuttled itself , though Emden was run aground by British ships before she could sink completely . Ceded to France in the Treaty of Versailles , she was too badly damaged by the attempted scuttling and beaching to see service with the French Navy , so was instead used as a target after 1922 , and broken up for scrap in 1926 .

= = Construction and specifications = =

Emden was ordered under the contract name " Ersatz Nymphe " and was laid down at the AG Weser shipyard in Bremen in 1914 . She was launched on 1 February 1916 , after which fitting @-@ out work commenced . She was commissioned into the High Seas Fleet on 16 December 1916 . The ship was 151 @.@ 4 meters ( 497 ft ) long overall and had a beam of 14 @.@ 2 m ( 47 ft ) and a draft of 5 @.@ 96 m ( 19 @.@ 6 ft ) forward . She displaced 7 @,@ 125 t ( 7 @,@ 012 long tons ; 7 @,@ 854 short tons ) at full combat load . Her propulsion system consisted of two sets of steam turbines powered by ten coal @-@ fired and two oil @-@ fired Marine @-@ type boilers . These provided a top speed of 27 @.@ 5 kn ( 50 @.@ 9 km / h ; 31 @.@ 6 mph ) and a range of 4 @,@ 850 nautical miles ( 8 @,@ 980 km ; 5 @,@ 580 mi ) at 12 kn ( 22 km / h ; 14 mph ) .

The ship was armed with eight 15 cm SK L / 45 guns in single pedestal mounts . Two were placed side by side forward on the forecastle , four were located amidships , two on either side , and two were arranged in a super firing pair aft . They were supplied with 1 @,@ 040 rounds of ammunition , for 130 shells per gun . Königsberg also carried two 8 @.@ 8 cm ( 3 @.@ 5 in ) L / 45 anti @-@ aircraft guns mounted on the centerline astern of the funnels . She was also equipped with a pair of 60 cm ( 24 in ) torpedo tubes with eight torpedoes in deck @-@ mounted swivel launchers amidships . She also carried 200 mines . The ship was protected by a waterline armored belt that was 60 mm ( 2 @.@ 4 in ) thick amidships . The conning tower had 100 mm ( 3 @.@ 9 in ) thick sides , and the deck was covered with 60 mm thick armor plate .

= = Service history = =

In October 1917 , Emden was serving as the flagship of Commodore Paul Heinrich , the commander of torpedo @-@ boats assigned to Operation Albion . For the initial assault on 12 October , Emden was tasked with bombarding a Russian gun emplacement at Pamerort ; Heinrich was given command of the landings there . At 06 : 08 , Emden opened fire on the gun battery . Her first two salvos fell short , but the third hit and disabled the telephone wires and speaking tubes , which rendered central control of the Russian guns impossible . By 07 : 00 , the Russian guns were silenced and German troops began to go ashore unopposed . Two and a half hours later , a pair of Russian destroyers attempted to intervene , but Emden engaged them and drove them off .

The next morning , a group of eight Russian destroyers made an attack on the German fleet . Emden moved forward at around 07 : 45 to support the German screen , and at 07 : 56 , she

opened fire on the three leading destroyers at a range of 13 @, @ 800 meters ( 45 @, @ 300 ft ) . Emden 's salvos straddled the destroyers several times , raining shell splinters down on the Russians . They suffered no casualties , but the wireless equipment for the destroyer Grom was disabled . At 09 : 30 , another pair of destroyers briefly engaged Emden . The weather had by then become poor , but the Germans had erected a signal station at Pamerort to assist Emden in directing her fire . At around 12 : 20 , the Russian gunboat Chivinetz arrived with a pair of destroyers ; she was intended to use her long @-@ range guns to drive off Emden . She arrived at 13 : 00 and briefly engaged Emden . Neither ship was hit , though Emden straddled the gunboat several times before Chivinetz retreated .

On 14 October , Emden participated in an operation to clear the Kassar Wiek ? the body of water between the islands of Dagö and Ösel ? of Russian naval forces . She and the battleship Kaiser were to steam to the entrance to Soelo Sound , where they could support the force of torpedo @-@ boats tasked with sweeping the Kassar Wiek . Four Russian destroyers approached Emden , but kept out of range of her guns . Kaiser , however , was in range , and at approximately 11 : 50 , she opened fire . She quickly scored a hit on the destroyer Grom . The round failed to explode and passed through Grom , causing the ship to begin sinking . The other destroyers subsequently steamed off at high speed . Emden remained in her position outside Soelo Sound after the sweep was completed , through the next day . The following day , Emden initiated the bombardment of Dagö , starting at 15 : 00 . On the morning of the 18th , Emden bombarded Russian positions on Dagö again ; she fired 170 shells and forced the Russians to retreat . By 20 October , the islands were under German control and the Russian naval forces had either been destroyed or forced to withdraw . The Admiralstab ordered the naval component to return to the North Sea .

In December 1917 , Emden led a raid on British shipping in the North Sea . Early on the 11th , Emden and the II Flotilla left port ; the torpedo @-@ boat flotilla split in half off the Dogger Bank to search for the British convoy , while Emden stood by in support at the Dogger Bank . The torpedo boats sank four of six steamers located and did not encounter any British warships . The torpedo @-@ boats rejoined Emden late on the 12th and returned to port .

In October 1918 Emden was to have taken part in the final fleet action against the British Fleet , but the operation was aborted after the outbreak of mutiny in the German Fleet .

= = = Fate = = =

After the Armistice with Germany in November 1918 most of the High Seas Fleet 's ships , under the command of Rear Admiral Ludwig von Reuter , were interned at the British naval base at Scapa Flow . Emden was among them . While at Scapa Flow , the crew of the battleship Friedrich der Grosse harassed Reuter incessantly , until the British allowed him to transfer his flag to Emden , where he remained for the remainder of the internment .

The fleet remained interned during the negotiations that ultimately produced the Versailles Treaty . Reuter believed the British intended to seize his fleet on 21 June 1919 , which was the deadline for Germany to sign the peace treaty . Unaware that the deadline had been extended to the 23rd , Reuter ordered the ships to be scuttled at the next opportunity . On the morning of 21 June the British fleet left Scapa Flow to conduct training maneuvers , and at 11 : 20 Reuter transmitted the order to his ships . Emden , however , did not sink ; British ships towed her close to shore where she was beached and later re @-@ floated . Emden was awarded to the French Navy on 11 March 1920 , but unlike their other war prize cruisers she was so badly damaged by flooding and beaching that the French could not put her into service . Instead she was used as an explosives testing target and ultimately broken up for scrap in Caen in 1926 .