

= SMS Emden =

SMS Emden ( " His Majesty 's Ship Emden " ) was the second and final member of the Dresden class of light cruisers built for the Imperial German Navy ( Kaiserliche Marine ) . Named for the town of Emden , she was laid down at the Kaiserliche Werft ( Imperial Dockyard ) in Danzig in 1906 . Her hull was launched in May 1908 , and completed in July 1909 . She had one sister ship , Dresden . Like the preceding Königsberg @-@ class cruisers , Emden was armed with ten 10 @. @ 5 cm ( 4 @. @ 1 in ) guns and two torpedo tubes .

Emden spent the majority of her career overseas in the German East Asia Squadron , based in Tsingtao , in the Kiautschou Bay concession in China . In 1913 , she came under the command of Karl von Müller , who would captain the ship during World War I. At the outbreak of hostilities , Emden captured a Russian steamer and converted her into the commerce raider Cormoran . Emden rejoined the East Asia Squadron , after which she was detached for independent raiding in the Indian Ocean . The cruiser spent nearly two months operating in the region , and captured nearly two dozen ships . In late October 1914 , Emden launched a surprise attack on Penang ; in the resulting Battle of Penang , she sank the Russian cruiser Zhemchug and the French destroyer Mousquet .

Müller then took Emden to raid the Cocos Islands , where he landed a contingent of sailors to destroy British facilities . There , Emden was attacked by the Australian cruiser HMAS Sydney . The more powerful Australian ship quickly inflicted serious damage and forced Müller to run his ship aground to prevent her from sinking . Out of a crew of 376 , 133 were killed in the battle . Most of the survivors were taken prisoner ; the landing party , led by Hellmuth von Mücke , commandeered an old schooner and eventually returned to Germany . Emden 's wreck was quickly destroyed by wave action , and was broken up for scrap in the 1950s .

= = Design = =

Emden was 118 @. @ 3 meters ( 388 ft 1 in ) long overall and had a beam of 13 @. @ 5 m ( 44 ft 3 in ) and a draft of 5 @. @ 5 m ( 18 ft 2 in ) forward . She displaced 4 @, @ 268 t ( 4 @, @ 201 long tons ) at full combat load . Her propulsion system consisted of two triple @-@ expansion steam engines , designed to give 13 @, @ 315 indicated horsepower ( 9 @, @ 929 kW ) for a top speed of 23 @. @ 5 knots ( 43 @. @ 5 km / h ; 27 @. @ 0 mph ) . The engines were powered by twelve coal @-@ fired Marine @-@ type water @-@ tube boilers and drove a pair of screw propellers . Emden carried up to 860 tonnes ( 850 long tons ) of coal , which gave her a range of 3 @, @ 760 nautical miles ( 6 @, @ 960 km ; 4 @, @ 330 mi ) at 12 knots ( 22 km / h ; 14 mph ) . She had a crew of 18 officers and 343 enlisted men . Emden was the last German cruiser to be equipped with triple @-@ expansion engines ; all subsequent cruisers used the more powerful steam turbines .

The ship was armed with ten 10 @. @ 5 cm SK L / 40 guns in single mounts . Two were placed side by side forward on the forecastle , six were located amidships , three on either side , and two were placed side by side aft . The guns could engage targets out to 12 @, @ 200 m ( 40 @, @ 000 ft ) . They were supplied with 1 @, @ 500 rounds of ammunition , for 150 shells per gun . She carried a secondary battery of eight 5 @. @ 2 cm ( 2 @. @ 0 in ) SK L / 55 guns , also in single mounts . She was also equipped with two 45 cm ( 17 @. @ 7 in ) torpedo tubes with four torpedoes , mounted in the hull below the waterline . She was also fitted to carry fifty naval mines . The ship was protected by an armored deck that was up to 80 mm ( 3 @. @ 1 in ) thick . The conning tower had 100 mm ( 3 @. @ 9 in ) thick sides , and the guns were protected by 50 mm ( 2 @. @ 0 in ) thick shields .

= = Service history = =

The contract for Emden , ordered as ersatz ( replacement ) SMS Pfeil , was placed on 6 April 1906 at the Kaiserliche Werft ( Imperial Dockyard ) in Danzig ( now Gda?sk , Poland ) . Her keel was laid down on 1 November 1906 . She was launched on 26 May 1908 and christened by the Oberbürgermeister ( Lord Mayor ) of her namesake city , Dr. Leo Fürbringer . After fitting @-@ out

work was completed by 10 July 1909 , she was commissioned into the fleet . The new cruiser began her sea trials that day ; they were interrupted from 11 August to 5 September when she participated in the annual autumn maneuvers of the main fleet . During this period , she also served as the escort for Kaiser Wilhelm II aboard his yacht Hohenzollern . Emden was decommissioned in September after she completed her trials .

On 1 April 1910 Emden was reactivated and assigned to the Ostasiengeschwader ( East Asia Squadron ) , based at Tsingtao in Germany 's Kiautschou concession in China . The concession had been seized in 1897 in retaliation for the murder of German nationals in the area . Emden left Kiel on 12 April 1910 , bound for Asia by way of a goodwill tour of South America . A month later , on 12 May , she stopped in Montevideo and met with the cruiser Bremen , which was assigned to the Ostamerikanischen ( East American ) Station . Emden and Bremen stayed in Buenos Aires from 17 to 30 May to represent Germany at the celebrations of the hundredth anniversary of Argentinian independence . The two ships then rounded Cape Horn ; Emden stopped in Valparaíso , Chile , while Bremen continued on to Peru .

The cruise across the Pacific was delayed because of a lack of good quality coal . Emden eventually took on around 1 @, @ 400 t ( 1 @, @ 400 long tons ; 1 @, @ 500 short tons ) of coal at the Chilean naval base at Talcahuano and departed on 24 June . The cruise was used to evaluate the ship on long @-@ distance voyages for use in future light cruiser designs . Emden encountered unusually severe weather on the trip , which included a stop at Easter Island . She anchored at Papeete , Tahiti to coal on 12 July , her bunkers nearly empty after crossing 4 @, @ 200 nautical miles ( 7 @, @ 800 km ; 4 @, @ 800 mi ) . The ship then proceeded to Apia in German Samoa , arriving on 22 July . There , she met the rest of the East Asia Squadron , commanded by Konteradmiral ( Rear Admiral ) Erich Gühler . The squadron remained in Samoa until October , when the ships returned to their base at Tsingtao . Emden was thereafter sent to the Yangtze River from 27 October to 19 November , which included a visit to Hankou . The ship visited Nagasaki , Japan , before returning to Tsingtao on 22 December for her annual refit . The repair work was not carried out , since the Sokehs Rebellion erupted on Ponape in the Carolines , which required Emden 's presence ; she departed Tsingtao on 28 December , and Nürnberg left Hong Kong to join her .

The two cruisers reinforced German forces at Ponape , which included the old unprotected cruiser Cormoran . The ships bombarded rebel positions and sent a landing force , which included men from the ships along with colonial police troops , ashore in mid @-@ January 1911 . By the end of February the revolt had been suppressed , and on 26 February the unprotected cruiser Condor arrived to take over the German presence in the Carolines . Emden and the other ships held a funeral the following day for those killed in the operation , before departing on 1 March for Tsingtao via Guam . After arriving on 19 March , she finally began her yearly overhaul . In mid @-@ 1911 , the ship went on a cruise to Japan ; while there she accidentally rammed a Japanese steamer during a typhoon . The collision caused significant damage and necessitated another trip to the drydock in Tsingtao . She thereafter returned to the Yangtze to protect Europeans during the Chinese Revolution that broke out on 10 October . In November , Vizeadmiral ( Vice Admiral ) Maximilian von Spee replaced Gühler as the commander of the East Asia Squadron .

At the end of the year , Emden won the Kaiser 's Schießpreis ( Shooting Prize ) for excellent gunnery in the East Asia Squadron . In early December , Emden steamed to Incheon to assist the grounded German steamer Deike Rickmers . In May 1913 , Korvettenkapitän ( Lieutenant Commander ) Karl von Müller became the ship 's commanding officer ; he was shortly thereafter promoted to Fregattenkapitän ( Commander ) . In mid @-@ June , Emden went on a cruise to the German colonies in the Central Pacific , after which she was stationed off Nanjing , as fighting between Qing and revolutionary forces raged there . During this period , on 26 August , rebels attacked the ship , and Emden 's gunners immediately returned fire , silencing her attackers . Emden moved to Shanghai on 14 August .

== = World War I == =

Emden spent the first half of 1914 on the normal routine of cruises in Chinese and Japanese waters without incident . During the July Crisis that followed the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria , Emden was the only German cruiser in Tsingtao ; Spee 's two armored cruisers , Scharnhorst and Gneisenau , were cruising in the South Pacific and Leipzig was en route to replace Nürnberg off the coast of Mexico . On 31 July , with war days away , Müller decided to put to sea to begin commerce raiding once war had been formally declared . Two days later , on 2 August , Germany declared war on Russia , and the following day , Emden captured the Russian steamer Ryazan . The Russian vessel was sent back to Tsingtao , where she was converted into the auxiliary cruiser Cormoran .

On 5 August , Spee ordered Müller to join him at Pagan Island in the Mariana Islands ; Emden left Tsingtao the following day along with the auxiliary cruiser Prinz Eitel Friedrich and the collier Markomannia . The ships arrived in Pagan on 12 August . The next day , Spee learned that Japan would enter the war on the side of the Triple Entente and had dispatched a fleet to track his squadron down . Spee therefore decided to take the East Asia Squadron to South America , where it could attempt to break through to Germany , harassing British merchant traffic along the way . Müller suggested that one cruiser be detached for independent operations in the Indian Ocean , since the squadron would be unable to attack British shipping while it was crossing the Pacific . Spee agreed , and allowed Müller to operate independently , since Emden was the fastest cruiser in the squadron .

= = = = Independent raider = = = =

On 14 August , Emden and Markomannia left the company of the East Asia Squadron , bound for the Indian Ocean . Since the cruiser Königsberg was already operating in the western Indian Ocean around the Gulf of Aden , Müller decided he should cruise in the shipping lanes between Singapore , Colombo and Aden . Emden steamed toward the Indian Ocean by way of the Molucca and Banda Seas . While seeking to coal off Jampea Island , the Dutch coastal defense ship Tromp stopped Emden and made clear that she would enforce Dutch neutrality . Müller therefore decided to steam into the Lombok Strait . There , Emden 's radio @-@ intercept officers picked up messages from the British armored cruiser HMS Hampshire . To maintain secrecy , Emden 's crew rigged up a dummy funnel to give her the appearance of a British light cruiser . She then steamed up the coast of Sumatra toward the Indian Ocean .

On 5 September , Emden entered the Bay of Bengal , achieving complete surprise , since the British assumed she was still with Spee 's squadron . She operated on shipping routes there without success , until 10 September , when she moved to the Colombo ? Calcutta route . There , she captured the Greek collier Pontoporros , which was carrying equipment for the British . Müller took the ship into his service and agreed to pay the crew . Emden captured five more ships ; four were sunk , and the fifth , a steamer named Kabinga , was used to carry the crews from the other vessels . On 13 September , Müller released Kabinga and sank two more British prizes . Off the Ganges estuary , Emden caught a Norwegian merchantman ; upon searching her , the Germans determined she was not carrying contraband and therefore released her . The Norwegians informed Müller that Entente warships were operating in the area , and so he decided to return to the eastern coast of India .

Emden thereafter stopped and released an Italian freighter , whose crew relayed news of the incident to a British vessel , which in turn informed British naval authorities in the region . The result was an immediate cessation of shipping and the institution of a blackout . Vice Admiral Martyn Jerram ordered Hampshire , Yarmouth , and the Japanese protected cruiser Chikuma to search for Emden . The British armored cruiser Minotaur and the Japanese armored cruiser Ibuki were sent to patrol likely coaling stations .

In late September , Müller decided to bombard Madras . Müller believed the attack would demonstrate his freedom of maneuver and decrease British prestige with the local population . At around 20 : 00 on 22 September , Emden entered the port , which was completely illuminated , despite the blackout order . Emden closed to within 3 @,@ 000 yards ( 2 @,@ 700 m ) from the

piers before she opened fire . She set fire to two oil tanks and damaged three others , and damaged a merchant ship in the harbor . In the course of the bombardment , Emden had fired 130 rounds . The following day , the British again mandated that shipping stop in the Bay of Bengal ; during the first month of Emden 's raiding career in the Indian Ocean , the value of exports there had fallen by 61 @. @ 2 percent .

From Madras , Müller had originally intended to rendezvous with his colliers off Simalur Island in Indonesia , but instead decided to make a foray to the western side of Ceylon . On 25 September , Emden sank a pair of British merchantmen and two days later , captured the collier Buresk , which was carrying a cargo of high @-@ grade coal . A German prize crew went aboard Buresk and she was thereafter used to support Emden 's operations . Later that day , the German raider sank two more British vessels . Low on fuel , Emden proceeded to the Maldives to coal . She arrived there on 29 September and remained for a day while her crew replenished her coal stocks . The raider then cruised the routes between Aden and Australia and between Calcutta and Mauritius for two days without success . Emden thereafter steamed to Diego Garcia for engine maintenance and to rest her crew .

The British garrison at Diego Garcia had not yet learned of the state of war between Britain and Germany , and so treated Emden to a warm reception . She remained there until 10 October , during which time her bottom was cleaned of fouling . She then resumed searching for merchant ships in the area west of Colombo . While operating there , Emden picked up Hampshire 's wireless signals again , and so departed for the Chagos Archipelago on 13 October . Meanwhile , the British had captured Markomannia on 12 October , depriving Emden of one of her colliers . On 15 October , Emden captured a British steamer off Minikoi and sank her the next day . Over the next five days , she captured five more vessels ; one was used as a collier , three were sunk , and the fifth was sent to port with the crews of the other vessels . On 20 October , Müller decided it was time to move to a new area of operations .

= = = = Attack on Penang = = = =

Müller decided his next course of action would be a surprise attack on Penang in British Malaya . Emden coaled in the Nicobar Islands and departed for Penang on the night of 27 October , with the departure timed to allow her to arrive off the harbor at dawn . She approached the harbor entrance at 03 : 00 on 28 October , steaming at a speed of 18 kn ( 33 km / h ; 21 mph ) , with her fourth dummy funnel erected to disguise her identity . Emden 's lookouts quickly spotted a warship in the port with her lights on ; it turned out to be the Russian protected cruiser Zhemchug , a veteran of the Battle of Tsushima . Zhemchug had put into Penang for repairs to her boilers ; only one was in service , which meant that she could not get under way , nor were her ammunition hoists powered . Only five rounds of ready ammunition were permitted for each gun , with a sixth chambered . Emden pulled alongside Zhemchug at a distance of 300 yards ( 270 m ) ; Müller ordered a torpedo to be fired at the Russian cruiser . Immediately thereafter , he gave the order for the 10 @. @ 5 cm guns to open fire .

Emden quickly inflicted grievous damage on her adversary ; she turned around to make another pass at Zhemchug . One of the Russian gun crews managed to get their weapon into action , but scored no hits . Müller ordered a second torpedo to be fired into the burning Zhemchug while his guns continued to batter her . The second torpedo caused a tremendous explosion that tore the ship apart . By the time the smoke cleared , Zhemchug had already slipped beneath the waves , her masts the only parts of the ship still above water . The destruction of Zhemchug killed 81 Russian sailors and wounded 129 , of whom seven later died of their injuries . The elderly French cruiser D 'Iberville and the destroyer Fronde opened wildly inaccurate fire on Emden .

Müller then decided to depart , owing to the risk of encountering superior warships . Upon leaving the harbor , he encountered a British freighter , SS Glen Turret , loaded with ammunition , that had already stopped to pick up a harbor pilot . While preparing to take possession of the ship , Emden had to recall her boats when she spotted an approaching ship . This proved to be the French destroyer Mousquet , and the unprepared ship was quickly destroyed . Emden stopped to pick up

survivors from Mousquet and departed at around 08 : 00 as the other French ships were raising steam in preparation to get underway . One officer and thirty @-@ five sailors were plucked from the water . Another French destroyer tried to follow , but lost sight of the German raider in a rainstorm . On 30 October , Emden stopped the British steamer Newburn and put the French sailors aboard her after they signed statements promising not to return to the war . The attack on Penang was a significant shock to the Entente powers , and caused them to delay the large convoys from Australia , since they would need more powerful escorts .

#### = = = Battle of Cocos = = =

After releasing the British steamer , Emden turned south to Simalur , where she met the captured collier Buresk . Müller then decided to attack the British coaling station in the Cocos Islands ; he intended to destroy the wireless station there and draw away British forces searching for him in the Indian Ocean . While en route to the Cocos , Emden spent two days combing the Sunda Strait for merchant shipping without success . She thereafter proceeded to the Cocos , arriving off Direction Island at 06 : 00 on the morning of 9 November . Since there were no British vessels in the area , Müller sent ashore a landing party led by Kapitänleutnant ( First Lieutenant ) Hellmuth von Mücke , Emden 's executive officer . The party consisted of another two officers , six non @-@ commissioned officers , and thirty @-@ eight sailors .

Emden was using jamming , but the British wireless station was able to transmit the message " Unidentified ship off entrance . " The message was received by the Australian light cruiser HMAS Sydney , which was 52 nautical miles ( 96 km ; 60 mi ) away , escorting a convoy . Sydney immediately headed for the Cocos Islands at top speed . Emden picked up wireless messages from the then unidentified vessel approaching , but believed her to be 250 nautical miles ( 460 km ; 290 mi ) away , giving them much more time than they actually had . At 09 : 00 , lookouts aboard Emden spotted a smoke cloud on the horizon , and thirty minutes later identified it as a warship approaching at high speed . Mücke 's landing party was still ashore , and there was no time left to recover them .

Sydney closed to a distance of 9 @,@ 500 yards ( 8 @,@ 700 m ) before turning to a parallel course with Emden . The German cruiser opened fire first , and straddled the Australian vessel with her third salvo . Emden 's gunners were firing rapidly , with a salvo every ten seconds ; Müller hoped to overwhelm Sydney with a barrage of shells before her heavier armament could take effect . Two shells hit Sydney , one of which disabled the aft fire control station ; the other failed to explode . It took slightly longer for Sydney to find the range , and in the meantime , Emden turned toward her opponent in an attempt to close to torpedo range . Sydney 's more powerful 6 in ( 152 mm ) guns soon found the range and inflicted serious damage . The wireless compartment was destroyed and the crew for one of the forward guns was killed early in the engagement . At 09 : 45 , Müller turned his ship toward Sydney in another attempt to reach a torpedo firing position . Five minutes later , a shell hit disabled the steering gear , and other fragments jammed the hand steering equipment . Emden could only be steered with her propellers . Sydney 's gunfire also destroyed the rangefinders and caused heavy casualties amongst Emden 's gun crews .

Müller made a third attempt to close to torpedo range , but Sydney quickly turned away . Shortly after 10 : 00 , a shell from Sydney detonated ready ammunition near the starboard No. 4 gun and started a serious fire . A fourth and final attempt to launch a torpedo attack was made shortly thereafter , but Sydney was able to keep the range open . By 10 : 45 , Emden 's guns had largely gone silent ; her superstructure had been shredded and the two rear @-@ most funnels had been shot away , along with the foremast . Müller realized that his ship was no longer able to fight , and so he decided to beach Emden on North Keeling Island to save the lives of his crew . At 11 : 15 , Emden was run onto the reef , and her engines and boilers were flooded . Her breech blocks and torpedo aiming gear were thrown overboard to render the weapons unusable , and all signal books and secret papers were burned . Sydney turned to capture the collier Buresk , whose crew scuttled her when the Australian cruiser approached . Sydney then returned to the wrecked Emden and inquired if she surrendered . The signal books had been destroyed by fire and so the Germans could not reply , and since her flag was still flying , Sydney resumed fire . The Germans quickly

raised white flags and the Australians ceased fire .

In the course of the action , Emden scored sixteen hits on Sydney , killing three of her crew and wounding another thirteen . A fourth crewman died later from his injuries . Sydney had meanwhile fired some 670 rounds of ammunition , with around 100 hits claimed . Emden had suffered much higher casualties : 133 officers and enlisted men died , out of a crew of 376 . Most of her surviving crew , including Müller , were taken into captivity the following day . The wounded men were sent to Australia , while the uninjured were interned at a camp in Malta ; the men were returned to Germany in 1920 . Mücke 's landing party evaded capture . They had observed the battle , and realized that Emden would be destroyed . Mücke therefore ordered the old 97 @-@ metric @-@ ton ( 95 @-@ long @-@ ton ) schooner Ayesha to be prepared for sailing . The Germans departed before Sydney reached Direction Island , and sailed to Padang in the Dutch East Indies . From there , they traveled to Yemen , which was then part of the Ottoman Empire , an ally of Germany . They then traveled overland to Constantinople , arriving in June 1915 . There , they reported to Vizeadmiral Wilhelm Souchon , the commander of the ex @-@ German battlecruiser Goeben . In the meantime , the British sloop Cadmus arrived at the Cocos Islands about a week after the battle to bury the sailors killed in the battle .

= = = Legacy = = =

Over a raiding career spanning three months and 30 @,@ 000 nautical miles ( 56 @,@ 000 km ; 35 @,@ 000 mi ) , Emden had destroyed two Entente warships and sank or captured sixteen British steamers and one Russian merchant ship , totaling 70 @,@ 825 gross register tons ( GRT ) . Another four British ships were captured and released , and one British and one Greek ship were used as colliers . In 1915 , a Japanese company proposed that Emden be repaired and refloated , but an inspection by the elderly flat @-@ iron gunboat HMAS Protector concluded that wave damage to Emden made such an operation unfeasible . By 1919 , there were reports that the wreck had almost completely broken up and disappeared beneath the waves . The wreck was eventually broken up in situ in the early 1950s by a Japanese salvage company ; parts of the ship remain scattered around the area .

Following the destruction of Emden , Kaiser Wilhelm II awarded the Iron Cross to the ship and announced that a new Emden would be built to honor the original cruiser . Wilhelm II ordered that the new cruiser wear a large Iron Cross on her bow to commemorate her namesake ship . The third cruiser to bear the name Emden , built in the 1920s for the Reichsmarine , also carried the Iron Cross , along with battle honors for the Indian Ocean , Penang , Cocos Islands , and Ösel , where the second Emden had engaged several Russian destroyers and torpedo boats . Two further vessels have been named for the cruiser in the West German Bundesmarine : the Köln @-@ class frigate Emden laid down in 1959 , and the Bremen @-@ class frigate Emden laid down in 1979 .

Three of the ship 's 10 @.@ 5 cm guns were removed from the wreck three years after the battle . One is preserved in Hyde Park in Sydney , a second is located at the Royal Australian Navy Heritage Centre in HMAS Kuttabul , the main naval base in Sydney , and the third is on display at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra . In addition , Emden 's bell and stern ornament were recovered from the wreck and both are currently in the collection of the Australian War Memorial . A number of other artifacts , including a damaged 10 @.@ 5 cm shell case , an iron rivet from the hull , and uniforms were also recovered and are held in the Australian War Memorial .

A number of films have been made about Emden 's wartime exploits , including the 1915 movies How We Beat the Emden and How We Fought the Emden and the 1928 The Exploits of the Emden , all produced in Australia . German films include the 1926 silent film Unsere Emden , footage from which was incorporated in Kreuzer Emden of 1932 , and Heldentum und Toteskampf unserer Emden , produced in 1934 . All three films were directed by Louis Ralph . More recently , in 2012 , Die Männer der Emden ( The men of the Emden ) was released , which was made about how the crew of Emden made their way back to Germany after the Battle of Cocos .

After the bombardment of Madras , Emden 's name , as " Amdan " , entered the Sinhala and Tamil languages meaning " someone who is tough , manipulative and crafty . " In the Malayalam language

the word " Emadan " means " a big and powerful thing " or " as big as Emden " .