

= Pillau @-@ class cruiser =

The Pillau class of light cruisers was a pair of ships built in Germany just before the start of World War I. The class consisted of SMS Pillau and Elbing . The ships were initially ordered for the Imperial Russian Navy in 1912 , and were built by the Schichau @-@ Werke shipyard in Danzig . After the outbreak of World War I , however , the German Kaiserliche Marine (Imperial Navy) confiscated the ships before they were completed . The ships were similar in design to other German light cruisers , although they lacked an armored belt . They were the first German light cruisers to be equipped with 15 cm SK L / 45 guns , of which they carried eight . The two ships had a top speed of 27 @. @ 5 knots (50 @. @ 9 km / h ; 31 @. @ 6 mph) .

Pillau and Elbing saw extensive service with the German High Seas Fleet . Pillau participated in the Battle of the Gulf of Riga in August 1915 , and Elbing took part in the bombardment of Yarmouth and Lowestoft in April 1916 . The following month , both ships were heavily engaged in the Battle of Jutland on 31 May ? 1 June ; there , Elbing scored the first hit of either side in the battle . Elbing was accidentally rammed and immobilized by the German battleship SMS Posen in the confused night fighting , and her crew were ultimately forced to scuttle her . Pillau continued to serve with the fleet until the end of the war . After the German defeat , she was ceded to Italy as a war prize and renamed Bari . She served in the Regia Marina (Royal Navy) until June 1943 , when she was sunk in Livorno by USAAF bombers , and eventually broken up for scrap in 1948 .

= = Design = =

In 1912 , the Russian Navy sought builders for a pair of light cruisers ; the Schichau @-@ Werke shipyard in Danzig won the contract . The two ships were originally ordered by the Russian Navy as Maraviev Amursky and Admiral Nevelskoy from the Schichau @-@ Werke that year . The two ships were laid down in 1913 ; Maraviev Amursky was launched on 11 April 1914 , after which fitting @-@ out work commenced . Both ships were requisitioned by the German Navy on 5 August 1914 , and were renamed Pillau and Elbing , respectively . Elbing was launched on 21 November 1914 . Pillau and Elbing were commissioned into the High Seas Fleet on 14 December 1914 and 4 September 1915 , respectively .

= = = General characteristics and machinery = = =

The Pillau class ships were 134 @. @ 3 meters (441 ft) long at the waterline and 135 @. @ 3 m (444 ft) long overall They had a beam of 13 @. @ 6 m (45 ft) and a draft of 5 @. @ 98 m (19 @. @ 6 ft) forward and 5 @. @ 31 m (17 @. @ 4 ft) aft . They displaced 4 @, @ 390 metric tons (4 @, @ 320 long tons ; 4 @, @ 840 short tons) at designed displacement and 5 @, @ 252 t (5 @, @ 169 long tons ; 5 @, @ 789 short tons) at full combat load . The ships ' hulls were constructed with transverse and longitudinal steel frames . The hulls were divided into sixteen watertight compartments and had a double bottom that extended for 51 percent of the length of the hull .

The ships had a crew of twenty @-@ one officers and 421 enlisted men . They carried a number of smaller boats , including one picket boat , one barge , two yawls , and two dinghies . They were good sea boats , but were fairly stiff and suffered from severe roll . The cruisers were maneuverable , but were slow going into a turn . Steering was controlled by a single large rudder . They lost speed only slightly in a head sea , but lost up to sixty percent in hard turns .

Their propulsion system consisted of two sets of Marine steam turbines driving two 3 @. @ 5 @-@ meter (11 ft) propellers . They were designed to give 30 @, @ 000 shaft horsepower (22 @, @ 400 kW) . These were powered by six coal @-@ fired Yarrow water @-@ tube boilers , and four oil @-@ fired Yarrow boilers , trunked into three funnels on the centerline . These gave the ships a top speed of 27 @. @ 5 knots (50 @. @ 9 km / h ; 31 @. @ 6 mph) . The two ships carried 620 t (610 long tons) of coal , and an additional 580 t (570 long tons) of oil that gave them a range of approximately 4 @, @ 300 nautical miles (8 @, @ 000 km ; 4 @, @ 900 mi) at 12 knots (22 km / h ; 14 mph) . The two ships each had three turbo @-@ generators that provided a combined electrical

output of 360 kilowatts (480 hp) at 220 Volts .

== Armament and armor ==

As designed , the ships would have mounted eight 13 @-@ centimeter (5 @. @ 1 in) L / 55 quick @-@ firing guns and four 6 @. @ 3 cm (2 @. @ 5 in) L / 38 guns of Russian design . After they were seized by the German Navy , the planned armament was revised to be standardized with new German cruisers . The standard 10 @. @ 5 cm SK L / 45 gun used on previous German cruisers was considered , but abandoned in favor of a larger weapon . As completed , the ships were 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 side by side aft . They were the first German light cruisers to mount the 15 cm gun . These guns had a range of 17 @, @ 600 m (57 @, @ 700 ft) and were supplied with a total of 1 @, @ 024 rounds of ammunition . Pillau and Elbing also carried four 5 @. @ 2 cm SK L / 55 anti @-@ aircraft guns , though these were replaced with a pair of two 8 @. @ 8 cm SK L / 45 anti @-@ aircraft guns . They were also equipped with a pair of 50 cm (19 @. @ 7 in) torpedo tubes mounted on the deck . The ships could also carry 120 mines .

Since they had been ordered and designed for the Russian Navy , the ships did not possess a waterline armored belt like contemporary German designs . The conning tower had 75 mm (3 @. @ 0 in) thick sides and a 50 mm (2 @. @ 0 in) thick roof . The deck was covered with 80 mm (3 @. @ 1 in) thick armor plate forward , which was reduced to 20 mm (0 @. @ 79 in) aft . Sloping armor 40 mm (1 @. @ 6 in) thick provided a measure of protection on the upper portion of the ships ' sides . The main battery guns were equipped with 50 mm thick gun shields .

== Service history ==

=== Pillau ===

Pillau spent the majority of her career in the II Scouting Group , and saw service in both the Baltic and North Seas . In August 1915 , she participated in the Battle of the Gulf of Riga against the Russian Navy , and on 31 May ? 1 June 1916 , she saw significant action at the Battle of Jutland . She was hit by a large @-@ caliber shell once in the engagement , but suffered only moderate damage . She assisted the badly damaged battlecruiser SMS Seydlitz reach port on 2 June after the conclusion of the battle . She also took part in the Second Battle of Heligoland Bight , though was not damaged in the engagement . Pillau was assigned to the planned , final operation of the High Seas Fleet in the closing weeks of the war , but a large scale mutiny in the fleet forced it to be canceled .

After the end of the war , Pillau was ceded to Italy as a war prize in 1920 . Renamed Bari , she was commissioned in the Regia Marina (Royal Navy) in January 1924 . She was modified and rebuilt several times over the next two decades . In the early years of World War II , she provided gunfire support to Italian troops in several engagements in the Mediterranean . In 1943 , she was slated to become an anti @-@ aircraft defense ship , but while awaiting conversion , she was sunk by USAAF bombers in Livorno in June 1943 . The wreck was partially scrapped by the Germans in 1944 , and ultimately raised for scrapping in January 1948 .

=== Elbing ===

Elbing participated in only two major operations during her career . The first , the bombardment of Yarmouth and Lowestoft , occurred in April 1916 ; there , she briefly engaged the British Harwich Force . A month later , she took part in the Battle of Jutland , where she scored the first hit of the engagement . She was heavily engaged in the confused fighting on the night of 31 May ? 1 June , and shortly after midnight she was accidentally rammed by the battleship Posen , which tore a hole

in the ship 's hull . Flooding disabled the ship 's engines and electrical generators , rendering her immobilized and without power . At around 02 : 00 , a German torpedo boat took off most of her crew , and an hour later the remaining men scuttled the ship ; they escaped in the ship 's cutter and were later picked up by a Dutch steamer .