

= Yugoslav monitor Drava =

The Yugoslav monitor Drava was the name ship of the Enns @-@ class river monitors built for the Austro @-@ Hungarian Navy . As SMS Enns , she was part of the Danube Flotilla during World War I , and fought against the Serbian and Romanian armies from Belgrade to the lower Danube . In October 1915 , she was covering an amphibious assault on Belgrade when she was holed below the waterline by a direct hit , and had to be towed to Budapest for repairs . After World War I she was provided to the newly created Kingdom of Serbs , Croats and Slovenes (later Yugoslavia) , and renamed Drava .

During the German @-@ led Axis invasion of Yugoslavia in April 1941 , Drava spent six days shelling airfields near Mohács in Hungary and fought off a small flotilla of Hungarian gunboats . On 12 April , she was attacked by Junkers Ju 87 Stuka divebombers of the Luftwaffe . The anti @-@ aircraft gunners on the ship claimed three enemy aircraft , but nine of the Stukas scored hits , most of which had little effect . Unfortunately for Drava , the last bomb dropped straight down her funnel and exploded in her engine room , killing 54 of the crew , including her captain , Aleksandar Beri? . Only thirteen of the crew survived . She was subsequently raised and scrapped by Hungary during their occupation of parts of Yugoslavia . Beri? was posthumously awarded the Order of Kara?or?e 's Star for his sacrifice , and the base of the Serbian River Flotilla at Novi Sad is named after him .

= = Description and construction = =

The name ship of the Enns @-@ class river monitors was built for the Austro @-@ Hungarian Navy by Schiffswerft Linz and Stabilimento Tecnico Triestino (STT) . She was laid down by Schiffswerft Linz at Linz on 21 November 1913 , as part of the Austro @-@ Hungarian 1912 Naval Program . When World War I broke out in July 1914 , construction of Enns was well advanced , but Schiffswerft Linz had been taken over by STT , and her machinery was therefore ordered from the STT works near Trieste . On 2 August , the machinery was dispatched by train to Linz and installation began without delay . She was launched in September 1914 , and completed on 17 October of that year . Despite the requirement that Enns and SMS Inn be constructed as sister ships , and the fact that their size and armament were identical , there were significant design differences between the two vessels , as they were constructed by completely independent shipbuilding companies . Enns had an overall length of 60 @.@ 2 m (197 ft 6 in) , a beam of 10 @.@ 3 m (33 ft 10 in) , and a normal draught of 1 @.@ 3 m (4 ft 3 in) . Her standard displacement was 536 tonnes (528 long tons) , and her crew consisted of 95 officers and enlisted men . She had two triple @-@ expansion steam engines , each driving a single propeller shaft . Steam for the engines was provided by two Yarrow water @-@ tube boilers , and her engines were rated at 1 @,@ 500 indicated horsepower (1 @,@ 100 kW) , with a maximum of 1 @,@ 700 ihp (1 @,@ 300 kW) . She was designed to reach a top speed of 13 knots (24 km / h ; 15 mph) , and carried 70 tonnes (69 long tons) of fuel oil .

Enns was armed with one twin gun turret of 120 mm (4 @.@ 7 in) L / 45 guns mounted forward , and three single 120 mm (4 @.@ 7 in) L / 10 howitzer turrets mounted on the aft deck . On the upper deck there were two single 66 mm (2 @.@ 6 in) L / 50 anti @-@ aircraft guns , one on the port side forward of the funnel , and one on the starboard side to the rear of the funnel . She was also equipped with six 8 mm (0 @.@ 31 in) machine guns . The maximum range of her ?koda 120 mm (4 @.@ 7 in) L / 45 guns was 15 kilometres (9 @.@ 3 mi) . Her armour consisted of belt and bulkheads 40 mm (1 @.@ 6 in) thick , deck armour 25 mm (0 @.@ 98 in) thick , and her conning tower and gun turrets were 50 mm (2 @.@ 0 in) thick .

The original plans called for open anti @-@ aircraft mounts , but the experience of the existing monitors in the first battles on the Danube against Serbia demonstrated that the mounts needed protection from small arms fire , so armoured barbettes were added . These modifications meant that crew in the conning tower were unable to view directly aft of the ship , so a 1 @.@ 3 m (4 ft 3 in) high rectangular box was placed on top of the conning tower . When standing on a platform inside the conning tower , the crew were then able to look aft . In order to avoid any increase in her

draught from these modifications , her hull was lengthened . Due to the urgent need for the ship to be put into service , the planned telescopic mast was not installed , and an alternative mast was constructed using angle iron lattice . Enns was launched on 29 July 1914 and commissioned on 17 October 1914 .

= = Career = =

= = = World War I = = =

The month after Enns was commissioned into the Danube Flotilla she was in action against Serbian forces at Belgrade , under the command of Linien-Schiffsleutnant (LSL) Richard Funk . French artillery support arrived in Belgrade in November , endangering the monitor 's anchorage , with only Enns having the range to match the French guns . On 21 November , Enns engaged the French battery in an artillery duel at a range of 10 km (6 @. @ 2 mi) . This stalemate continued until the following month when the Serbs briefly evacuated Belgrade in the face of an Austro @-@ Hungarian assault . After less than two weeks , the Austrians had to withdraw from Belgrade , and it was soon re @-@ occupied by the Serbs , reinforced by the Russians and French . Enns continued in action against Serbia and her allies at Belgrade until late December , when her base was withdrawn to Petrovaradin for the winter .

In January 1915 , British artillery arrived in Belgrade , further bolstering its defences . In mid @-@ February , the monitors redeployed to an anchorage at Zemun . Following the commencement of the Gallipoli campaign , munitions supply to the Ottomans became critical , and despite the failure of an earlier attempt to ship arms and ammunition down the Danube , another attempt was planned . On 30 March , the steamer Belgrad left Zemun , escorted by Enns and the monitor SMS Bodrog . The convoy was undetected as it sailed past Belgrade at night during a storm , but after the monitors returned to base , the steamer struck a mine near Vin?a , and after coming under heavy artillery fire , exploded near Ritopek . On 22 April 1915 , a British picket boat that had been brought overland by rail from Salonika was used to attack the Danube Flotilla anchorage at Zemun , firing two torpedoes without success . In September 1915 , the Central Powers were joined by Bulgaria , and the Serbian Army soon faced overwhelming Austrian and German ground troops . In early October , the Austro @-@ Hungarian Third Army attacked Belgrade , and Enns , along with the majority of the flotilla , was heavily engaged in support of the crossings near the Belgrade Fortress and Ada Ciganlija island . During the final river crossing and support of the resulting bridgehead , Enns was near Grosser Krieg Island on 8 October when she received a direct hit below the waterline and her 120 mm (4 @. @ 7 in) magazine flooded . She was towed out of danger by the armed steamer Almos , and was eventually hauled to Budapest where she was repaired . During repairs , the barbets on her upper deck were replaced with turrets for the anti @-@ aircraft guns . Despite the fact that the howitzers had not been particularly successful , a plan to replace the aft howitzer mount with a turret similar to that used on SMS Bodrog was not carried out .

When she returned to the flotilla after repairs , she saw action at Rjahovo in early October 1916 , where she contributed to the defeat of the Romanian Fîr?mânda Offensive . The Romanian attempt to cross the Danube to attack the rear of Generalfeldmarschall August von Mackensen 's Austro @-@ Hungarian Third Army was thwarted , and a force consisting of Enns , the monitors SMS Leitha , SMS Temes (II) and SMS Szamos , the patrol boat Viza and the armed steamer Balaton destroyed a pontoon bridge near Rjahovo . After forays against Giurgiu to secure trains loaded with coal and oil , in November Enns and other ships supported the crossing of the Danube by von Mackensen 's army at Sistow . The following month , Enns bombarded C?scioarele , resulting in the expulsion of enemy troops from the village . From late December 1916 to mid @-@ March 1917 , Enns and other ships of the flotilla wintered at Turnu Severin .

In March 1917 , Enns relocated to Br?ila in eastern Romania , where it remained until July 1918 . Sent to Linz and Budapest for an overhaul in dry dock , Enns then returned to eastern Romania and was stationed at Reni where she met a group of monitors and patrol boats that had been operating

against Russia in the Black Sea . In October 1918 , the Danube Flotilla was under serious threat of being cut off in the lower Danube by French forces after the Bulgarians concluded an armistice with the British and French . After the steamer Croatia was fired on by the French as it tried to get past Lom , she cut her tow line , releasing seven lighters , which ran aground on a sandbank . Croatia was hit , suffered casualties and grounded on the Romanian side of the river . The French retrieved three of the lighters and towed them into the anchorage at Lom . The following day , Enns and two other monitors managed to release three of the remaining lighters while under heavy French fire , and towed them upstream . The flotilla continued to retreat up the Danube , running the gauntlet of French and Serbian forces . With the dissolution of Austria @-@ Hungary , the South Slavs went ashore at Vukovar , and the Austrian , Hungarian and Czech crew members of the flotilla continued on their journey , arriving in Budapest on 6 November , and Enns began flying the Hungarian flag . On 8 December , the monitors were seized by the Allies , and less than two weeks later Enns was towed to Belgrade where she was handed over to Serbia to be maintained on behalf of the soon to be formed Kingdom of Serbs , Croats and Slovenes .

= = = Interwar period and World War II = = =

Immediately after the armistice , Enns was crewed by sailors of the newly created Kingdom of Serbs , Croats and Slovenes (KSCS , later the Kingdom of Yugoslavia) in 1918 ? 19 . Under the terms of the Treaty of Saint @-@ Germain @-@ en @-@ Laye concluded in September 1919 , Enns was transferred to the KSCS along with a range of other vessels , including three other river monitors , and was officially handed over to the KSCS navy and renamed Drava in 1920 . Her sister ship Inn was transferred to Romania and renamed Besarabia . In 1925 ? 26 , Drava was refitted , but by the following year only two of the four river monitors of the KSCS Navy were being retained in full commission at any time . In 1932 , the British naval attaché reported that Yugoslav ships were engaging in little gunnery training , and few exercises or manoeuvres , due to reduced budgets .

Drava was based at Bezdan under the command of Aleksandar Beri? , when the German @-@ led Axis invasion of Yugoslavia began on 6 April 1941 . She was assigned as flagship of the 1st Mine Barrage Division , and was responsible for the Hungarian border on the Danube , under the operational control of the 30th Infantry Division Osije?ka , which was part of the 2nd Army . Drava steamed upstream to Mohács in Hungary to shell the airfield there on 6 and 8 April , but was subjected to daily attacks by the Luftwaffe . On 10 April , Drava and her fellow monitor Morava were ordered to sail downstream to conform with the withdrawals of the 1st and 2nd Army 's from Ba?ka and Baranja . About 14 : 00 the following day , a Yugoslav lookout near Batina signalled Drava that a group of four Hungarian patrol boats , armed with 70 mm (2 @. @ 8 in) guns , was coming down the Danube from the direction of Mohács . Drava engaged the patrol boats at a range of 6 ? 7 km (3 @. @ 7 ? 4 @. @ 3 mi) , and drove the small Hungarian flotilla north again . Beri? followed this up at 16 : 00 by once again shelling the airfield at Mohács . Morale on the ship was good , but when Beri? met with Army elements later that day he became aware of the situation elsewhere , and nine crew deserted .

Early on 12 April , with the other three monitors having been scuttled the night before , Drava was attacked by Junkers Ju 87 Stuka divebombers of Sturzkampfgeschwader 77 flying from Arad , Romania . The anti @-@ aircraft gunners on the ship claimed three enemy aircraft , and nine of the Stukas scored hits on her , most of which had little effect . However , the last bomb dropped straight down her funnel and exploded in her engine room , killing 54 of the crew . Only 13 survived , and she sank off ?ib . Having ordered the burning of codes before she sank , Beri? and his first officers were among the dead , but two of the successful anti @-@ aircraft gunners were among the survivors . During the occupation of Yugoslavia , Drava was raised and then scrapped by Hungary . Beri? was posthumously awarded the Order of Kara?or?e 's Star for his sacrifice . In April 2015 , a bust of Beri? was unveiled at the village of Belegi? , near Stara Pazova . The barracks of the Serbian River Flotilla in Novi Sad are also named after him .

= = = Books = = =

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