

= SMS Bussard =

SMS Bussard ( " His Majesty 's Ship Bussard ? Buzzard " ) was an unprotected cruiser of the Imperial German Navy , built in the 1880s . She was the lead ship of her class , which included five other vessels . The cruiser 's keel was laid in 1888 , and she was launched in January 1890 and commissioned in October of that year . Intended for overseas duty , Bussard was armed with a main battery of eight 10 @. @ 5 @-@ centimeter ( 4 @. @ 1 in ) guns , and could steam at a speed of 15 @. @ 5 knots ( 28 @. @ 7 km / h ; 17 @. @ 8 mph ) .

Bussard served abroad for the majority of her career , first in the East Asia Division in the mid @-@ 1890s , and in German East Africa for the first decade of the 20th century . She had a relatively peaceful career ; her only major action came while stationed in Asia in 1894 . There , she assisted in suppressing a local revolt in Samoa . In 1910 , she returned to Germany , where she remained in service for only two more years ; she was stricken in October 1912 and scrapped the following year in Hamburg .

= = Design = =

Bussard was 82 @. @ 6 meters ( 271 ft ) long overall and had a beam of 12 @. @ 5 m ( 41 ft ) and a draft of 4 @. @ 45 m ( 14 @. @ 6 ft ) forward . She displaced 1 @, @ 868 t ( 1 @, @ 838 long tons ; 2 @, @ 059 short tons ) at full combat load . Her propulsion system consisted of two horizontal 3 @-@ cylinder triple @-@ expansion steam engines powered by four coal @-@ fired cylindrical boilers . These provided a top speed of 15 @. @ 5 kn ( 28 @. @ 7 km / h ; 17 @. @ 8 mph ) and a range of approximately 2 @, @ 990 nautical miles ( 5 @, @ 540 km ; 3 @, @ 440 mi ) at 9 kn ( 17 km / h ; 10 mph ) . She had a crew of 9 officers and 152 enlisted men .

The ship was armed with eight 10 @. @ 5 cm K L / 35 guns in single pedestal mounts , supplied with 800 rounds of ammunition in total . They had a range of 8 @, @ 200 m ( 26 @, @ 900 ft ) . Two guns were placed side by side forward , two on each broadside in sponsons , and two side by side aft . The gun armament was rounded out by five revolver cannon . She was also equipped with two 35 cm ( 14 in ) torpedo tubes with five torpedoes , both of which were mounted on the deck .

= = Service history = =

Bussard was laid down at the Kaiserliche Werft ( Imperial Shipyard ) in Danzig under the contract name " C " . She was launched on 23 January 1890 ; fitting @-@ out work was completed quickly , and the new cruiser was ready for commissioning into the Imperial fleet on 7 October 1890 . She thereafter served on overseas stations in the German Empire . Early in her career , Bussard served on the East Asia Station with the East Asia Division . In July 1893 , she and her sister ship Falke assisted in the suppression of a local revolt led by Mata 'afa Iosefo in Samoa . They were joined by the old British corvette HMS Curacao , and the three vessels bombarded rebel positions on 7 July , forcing their surrender . Mata 'afa was taken to Apia , the capital , while Bussard remained behind to ensure the demilitarization of his supporters .

In 1898 , Bussard returned to Germany , arriving in the Elbe River in March . On the return voyage , she carried several tropical birds for the Berlin Zoological Garden . After her arrival , Bussard went into drydock at the Kaiserliche Werft in Danzig for reconstruction . The barque rig was cut down to a top @-@ sail schooner rig . A new , larger conning tower structure was built . Work was completed by 1900 , when Bussard returned to service . She was sent to China in response to the Boxer Rebellion earlier that year . While en route to China on 6 August 1900 , a boiler room exploded aboard Bussard , due to a blown out manhole gasket ; the explosion killed three sailors and seriously wounded another three men . After arriving in China , Bussard took part in the attack on the Taku Forts , along with her sisters Seeadler and Geier . Her crew suffered no casualties during the campaign .

As of 1901 , Bussard was assigned to the East Africa Station in German East Africa , along with the unprotected cruiser Schwalbe . The only other German warships in Africa at the time were the

gunboats Habicht and the elderly Wolf ; these two ships were stationed in German West Africa . Bussard remained on the East Africa station in 1904 , and Schwalbe was replaced by her sister Sperber . During this period , Hans Paasche served as the ship 's navigation officer ; he held this position for two years .

By 1908 , Sperber had been transferred to German West Africa , and another of Bussard 's sisters , Seeadler , took her place alongside Bussard . Bussard remained in Africa until 1910 , when she returned to Germany for a second and final time . She remained in active service for only a brief time ; she was stricken from the naval register on 25 October 1912 and was broken up for scrap the following year in Hamburg .