

= SMS Weissenburg =

SMS Weissenburg was one of the first ocean-going battleships of the Imperial German Navy . She was the third pre-dreadnought of the Brandenburg class , along with her sister ships Brandenburg , Wörth , and Kurfürst Friedrich Wilhelm . She was laid down in 1890 in the AG Vulcan dockyard in Stettin , launched in 1891 , and completed in 1894 . The Brandenburg class battleships were unique for their era in that they carried six large-caliber guns in three twin turrets , as opposed to four guns in two turrets , as was the standard in other navies . The British Royal Navy derisively referred to the ships as " whalers " .

Weissenburg saw limited active duty during her service career with the German fleet . She , along with her three sisters , saw one major overseas deployment , to China in 1900-01 , during the Boxer Rebellion . The ship underwent a major modernization in 1902-1904 . In 1910 , Weissenburg was sold to the Ottoman Empire and renamed Turgut Reis , after the famous 16th century Turkish admiral Turgut Reis . The ship saw heavy service during the Balkan Wars , primarily providing artillery support to Ottoman ground forces and taking part in two naval engagements with the Greek navy in December 1912 and January 1913 . She was largely inactive during World War I , due in part to her slow speed . In 1924 , Turgut Reis was used as a school ship , before eventually being scrapped in the mid-1950s .

= = Design = =

Weissenburg was 115 m (379 ft 7 in) long overall , had a beam of 19 m (64 ft 0 in) which was increased to 19 m 74 mm (64 ft 9 in) with the addition of torpedo nets , and had a draft of 7 m 6 mm (24 ft 11 in) forward and 7 m 9 mm (25 ft 11 in) aft . The ship displaced 10 013 t (9 855 long tons) at its designed weight , and up to 10 670 t (10 500 long tons) at full combat load . She was equipped with two sets of 3-cylinder triple-expansion steam engines that provided 10 228 metric horsepower (10 088 ihp ; 7 523 kW) and a top speed of 16.9 knots (31.3 km / h ; 19.4 mph) ; steam was provided by twelve coal-fired , transverse cylindrical water-tube boilers . Weissenburg had a cruising range of 4 300 nautical miles (8 000 km ; 4 900 mi) at 10 knots (19 km / h ; 12 mph) . Her crew numbered 38 officers and 530 enlisted men .

The ship was unusual for its time in that it possessed a broadside of six heavy guns in three twin gun turrets , rather than the four guns typical of contemporary battleships . The forward and after turrets carried 28 cm (11 inch) SK L / 40 guns , while the amidships turret mounted a pair of 28 cm (11 inch) with shorter L / 35 barrels . Her secondary armament consisted of eight 10.5 cm (4.1 in) SK L / 35 quick-firing guns mounted in casemates and eight 8.8 cm (3.45 in) SK L / 30 quick-firing guns , also casemate mounted . Weissenburg 's armament system was rounded out with six 45 cm torpedo tubes , all in above-water swivel mounts . Although the main battery was heavier than other capital ships of the period , the secondary armament was considered weak in comparison to other battleships . Weissenburg was protected with nickel-steel Krupp armor , a new type of stronger steel . Her main belt armor was 400 millimeters (15.7 in) thick in the central section that protected the ammunition magazines and machinery spaces . The deck was 60 mm (2.4 in) thick . The main battery barbettes were protected with 300 mm (11.8 in) thick armor .

= = Service history = =

Weissenburg was the third of four ships of the Brandenburg class . She was ordered as battleship C , and was laid down at the AG Vulcan shipyard in Stettin in 1890 under construction number 199 . She was the third ship of the class to be launched , which she was on 30 June 1891 . She was commissioned into the German fleet on 29 April 1894 , the same day as her sister Brandenburg . Upon her commissioning , Weissenburg was assigned to the I Division of the I Battle Squadron alongside her three sisters . The I Division was accompanied by the four older Sachsen-class

armored frigates in the II Division , though by the time the four Brandenburgs returned from China by 1901 ? 2 , the Sachsens were replaced by the new Kaiser Friedrich III @-@ class battleships .

= = = Boxer Rebellion = = =

The first major operation in which Weissenburg took part occurred in 1900 , when the I Division was deployed to China to assist in the suppression of the Boxer Rebellion . The expeditionary force consisted of the four Brandenburgs , six cruisers , 10 supply ships , three torpedo boats , and six regiments of marines , under the command of Marshal Alfred von Waldersee . Admiral Alfred von Tirpitz opposed the plan , which he saw as unnecessary and costly . Although the naval force arrived in China after the siege of Peking had already been lifted , the task force suppressed local uprisings around Kiaochow . In the end , the operation cost the German government more than 100 million marks .

= = = Service with the Ottoman navy = = =

In 1902 , following the return from China , Weissenburg entered the Kaiserliche Werft shipyard in Wilhelmshaven for a significant reconstruction . After she emerged from her refit in 1904 , the ship rejoined the active fleet . However , she and her sisters were rapidly made obsolete by the launch of HMS Dreadnought in 1906 . As a result , their service careers with the German navy were limited . On 12 September 1910 , Weissenburg and Kurfürst Friedrich Wilhelm , the more advanced ships of the class , were sold to the Ottoman Empire and renamed Turgut Reis and Barbaros Hayreddin , respectively (after the famous 16th @-@ century Ottoman admirals , Turgut Reis and Hayreddin Barbarossa) . A year later , in September 1911 , when Italy declared war on the Ottoman Empire . Turgut Reis , along with Barbaros Hayreddin and the obsolete central battery ironclad Mesûdiye had been on a summer training cruise since July , and so were prepared for the conflict . Despite this , the ships spent the war in harbor .

= = = = Balkan wars = = = =

The Balkan League declared war on the Ottoman Empire in October 1912 . In the First Balkan War Turgut Reis , as with most ships of the Ottoman fleet , were in a state of disrepair . During the war , Turgut Reis conducted gunnery training along with the other capital ships of the Ottoman navy , escorted troop convoys , and bombarded coastal installations . On 17 November 1912 , Turgut Reis supported the Ottoman III Corps by bombarding the attacking Bulgarian forces . The ship was aided by artillery observers ashore . The battleship 's gunnery was largely ineffective , though it provided a morale boost for the besieged Ottoman army dug in at Çatalca . By 17 : 00 , the Bulgarian infantry had largely been forced back to their starting positions , in part due to the psychological effect of the battleships ' bombardment .

Late in 1912 , the Ottoman fleet attacked the Greek navy , in an attempt to disrupt the naval blockade surrounding the Dardanelles . Two engagements took place , the Naval Battle of Elli on 16 December 1912 , followed by the Naval Battle of Lemnos on 18 January 1913 . The first action was supported by Ottoman coastal batteries ; both Greek and Ottoman forces suffered minor damage during the engagement , but the Ottomans were unable to break through the Greek fleet and retired back into the Dardanelles . The Ottoman fleet , which included Turgut Reis , her sister Barbaros Hayreddin ? the flagship of the fleet ? two outdated ironclad battleships , nine destroyers and six torpedo boats , sortied from the Dardanelles at 9 : 30 . The smaller ships remained at the mouth of the straits while the battleships sailed north , while remaining near to the coast . The Greek flotilla , which included the armored cruiser Georgios Averof and three Hydra @-@ class battleships , had been sailing from the island of Imbros to the patrol line outside the straits . When the Ottomans were sighted , the Greeks altered course to the northeast , in order to block the advance of their opponents . The Ottoman ships opened fire first , at 9 : 50 , from a range of about 15 @,@ 000 yards ; the Greeks returned fire ten minutes later , by which time the range had decreased

significantly to 8 @, @ 500 yards . At 10 : 04 , the Ottoman ships completed a 16 @-@ point turn , which reversed their course , and steamed for the safety of the straits in a disorganized withdrawal . Within an hour , the routed Ottoman ships had withdrawn into the Dardanelles .

The Naval Battle of Lemnos resulted from an Ottoman plan to lure the faster Georgios Averof away from the Dardanelles . The protected cruiser Hamidiye evaded the Greek blockade and broke out into the Aegean Sea ; the assumption was that the Greeks would dispatch Georgios Averof to hunt down Hamidiye . Despite the threat to Greek lines of communication posed by the cruiser , the Greek commander refused to detach Georgios Averof from its position . However , presuming that the plan had worked , Turgut Reis , Barbaros Hayreddin , and other units of the Ottoman fleet departed the Dardanelles on the morning of 18 January , and sailed towards the island of Lemnos . Georgios Averof appeared approximately 12 miles from Lemnos ; when the powerful Greek ship was spotted , the Ottomans turned to retreat . Georgios Averof 's superior speed allowed the ship to close the distance between her and the fleeing Ottoman ships . A long range artillery duel that lasted for two hours began at around 11 : 25 ; towards the end of the engagement , Georgios Averof closed to within 5 @, @ 000 yards and scored several hits on the fleeing Ottoman ships . Between Turgut Reis and Barbaros Hayreddin , the ships fired some 800 rounds , mostly of their main battery 28 cm guns but without success . During the battle , barbettes on both Turgut Reis and her sister were disabled by gunfire , and both ships caught fire .

On 8 February 1913 , the Ottoman navy supported an amphibious assault at ?arköy . Turgut Reis and Barbaros Hayreddin , along with two small cruisers provided artillery support to the right flank of the invading force once it went ashore . The ships were positioned about a kilometer off shore ; Turgut Reis was the second ship in the line , behind her sister Barbaros Hayreddin . The Bulgarian army resisted fiercely , which ultimately forced the Ottoman army to retreat , though the withdrawal was successful in large part due to the gunfire support from Turgut Reis and the rest of the fleet . During the battle , Turgut Reis fired 225 rounds from her 10 @. @ 5 cm guns and 202 shells from her 8 @. @ 8 cm guns .

In March 1913 , the ship returned to the Black Sea to resume support of the Çatalca garrison , which was under renewed attacks by the Bulgarian army . On 26 March , the barrage of 28 and 10 @. @ 5 cm shells fired by Turgut Reis and Barbaros Hayreddin assisted in the repelling of advance of the 2nd Brigade of the Bulgarian 1st Infantry Division . On 30 March , the left wing of the Ottoman line turned to pursue the retreating Bulgarians . Their advance was supported by both field artillery and the heavy guns of Turgut Reis and the other warships positioned off the coast ; the assault gained the Ottomans about 1 @, @ 500 meters by nightfall . In response , the Bulgarians brought the 1st Brigade to the front , which beat the Ottoman advance back to its starting position .

= = = = World War I = = = =

In the summer of 1914 , when World War I broke out in Europe , the Ottomans initially remained neutral . In early November , the actions of the German battlecruiser SMS Goeben , which had been transferred to the Ottoman navy and renamed Yavûz Sultân Selîm , resulted in declarations of war by Russia , France , and Great Britain . Between 1914 ? 15 , some of Turgut Reis 's guns were removed and employed as coastal guns to shore up the defenses protecting the Dardanelles . On 19 January 1918 , Yavûz and the light cruiser SMS Breslau , which had also been transferred to Ottoman service under the name Midilli , sailed from the Dardanelles to attack several British monitors stationed outside . The ships quickly sank HMS Raglan and HMS M28 before turning back to the safety of the Dardanelles . While en route , Midilli struck five mines and sank , while Yavûz hit three mines and began to list to port . The ship 's captain gave an incorrect order to the helmsman , which caused the ship to run aground . Yavûz remained there for almost a week , until Turgut Reis arrived on the scene on 25 January ; the old battleship took Yavûz under tow and managed to free her from the sandbank by that afternoon .

Turgut Reis was removed from active service after the end of World War I. By 1924 , the ship was transferred to the role of a training ship . At the time , she retained only two of her originally six 28 cm guns . Turgut Reis was converted into a hulk and stationed in the Dardanelles until 1938 . She

remained afloat until she was finally broken up for scrap , between 1956 ? 57 .