

= SMS Kaiser Karl VI =

SMS Kaiser Karl VI (" His Majesty 's Ship Kaiser Karl VI ") was the second of three armored cruisers built by the Austro -@- Hungarian Navy . She was built by the Stabilimento Tecnico Triestino in Trieste between June 1896 and May 1900 , when she was commissioned into the fleet . Kaiser Karl VI represented a significant improvement over the preceding design ? Kaiserin und Königin Maria Theresia ? being faster and more heavily armed and armored . She provided the basis for the third design , Sankt Georg , which featured further incremental improvements . Having no overseas colonies to patrol , Austria @-@ Hungary built the ship solely to reinforce its battle fleet .

Kaiser Karl VI spent the first decade in service rotating between the training and reserve squadrons , alternating with Sankt Georg . In 1910 , Kaiser Karl VI went on a major overseas cruise to South America , visiting Brazil , Uruguay , and Argentina ; this was the last trans @-@ Atlantic voyage of an Austro @-@ Hungarian warship . After the outbreak of war , she was mobilized into the Cruiser Flotilla , which spent the majority of the war moored at Cattaro . The lengthy inactivity eventually led to the Cattaro Mutiny in February 1918 , which the crew of Kaiser Karl VI joined . After the mutiny collapsed , Kaiser Karl VI and several other warships were decommissioned to reduce the number of idle sailors . After the war , she was allocated as a war prize to Britain and was sold to ship @-@ breakers in Italy , where she was scrapped in 1920 .

= = Design = =

In the 1890s , the Austro @-@ Hungarian Navy began to build armored cruisers to support the battle fleet and to perform some of the roles then reserved only for battleships . The first vessel , Kaiserin und Königin Maria Theresia , was built as an enlarged version of the protected cruiser Kaiserin Elisabeth , with a more powerful armament and heavier armor . Maria Theresia was followed by an improved cruiser , Kaiser Karl VI , which was about 800 metric tons (790 long tons ; 880 short tons) heavier , about 1 @.@ 5 knots (2 @.@ 8 km / h ; 1 @.@ 7 mph) faster , with much heavier armor . Kaiser Karl VI in turn provided the basis for an even larger ship , which was named Sankt Georg .

= = = General characteristics and machinery = = =

Kaiser Karl VI was 117 @.@ 9 meters (387 ft) long at the waterline and was 118 @.@ 96 m (390 @.@ 3 ft) long overall . She had a beam of 17 @.@ 27 m (56 @.@ 7 ft) and a draft of 6 @.@ 75 m (22 @.@ 1 ft) . She displaced 6 @,@ 166 metric tons (6 @,@ 069 long tons ; 6 @,@ 797 short tons) as designed and up to 6 @,@ 864 t (6 @,@ 756 long tons ; 7 @,@ 566 short tons) at full load . Her crew numbered 535 officers and men . Kaiser Karl VI was fitted with two pole masts for observation .

The ship 's propulsion system consisted of two 4 @-@ cylinder triple @-@ expansion engines that drove a pair of screw propellers . The engines were built at the Stabilimento Tecnico Triestino (STT) shipyard in Trieste that built the ship . Steam was provided by water @-@ tube boilers manufactured by Maudslay , Sons and Field of Britain . The engines were rated at 12 @,@ 000 indicated horsepower (8 @,@ 900 kW) and produced a top speed of 20 @.@ 83 knots (38 @.@ 58 km / h ; 23 @.@ 97 mph) .

= = = Armament and armor = = =

Kaiser Karl VI was armed with a main battery of two large @-@ caliber guns and several medium @-@ caliber pieces . She carried two 24 @-@ centimeter (9 @.@ 4 in) L / 40 C / 94 guns manufactured by Krupp in single gun turrets on the centerline , one forward and one aft . Eight 15 cm (5 @.@ 9 in) L / 40 guns mounted individually in casemates rounded out her offensive armament . She was armed with sixteen 4 @.@ 7 cm (1 @.@ 9 in) L / 44 guns built by ?koda and

two 4 @. @ 7 cm L / 33 Hotchkiss guns for close @-@ range defense against torpedo boats . She carried several smaller weapons , including a pair of 8 @-@ millimeter (0 @. @ 31 in) machine guns and two 7 cm landing guns . Kaiser Karl VI was also equipped with a pair of 45 cm (18 in) torpedo tubes , one on each broadside .

The ship was protected by a main armored belt that was 220 mm (8 @. @ 7 in) thick in the central portion that protected the ammunition magazines and machinery spaces , and reduced to 170 mm (6 @. @ 7 in) on either end . She had an armored deck that was 40 to 60 mm (1 @. @ 6 to 2 @. @ 4 in) thick . Her two gun turrets had 200 mm (7 @. @ 9 in) thick faces , and the 15 cm guns had 80 mm (3 @. @ 1 in) thick casemates . The conning tower had 200 mm thick sides and a 100 mm (3 @. @ 9 in) thick roof .

= = Service history = =

Named for the 18th @-@ century Holy Roman Emperor , Karl VI , Kaiser Karl VI was built at the STT shipyard in Trieste . Her keel was laid on 1 June 1896 and her completed hull was launched on 4 October 1898 . Fitting @-@ out work then commenced , which lasted until 23 May 1900 when the ship was commissioned into the Austro @-@ Hungarian fleet . Starting from her commissioning , Kaiser Karl VI frequently served in the training squadron , along with the three Habsburg @-@ class battleships , though she alternated in the squadron with the armored cruiser Sankt Georg . Once the summer training schedule was completed each year , the ships of the training squadron were demobilized in the reserve squadron , which was held in a state of partial readiness . In 1900 , she served as the flagship of then @-@ Rear Admiral Rudolf Montecuccoli in the training squadron , along with Kaiserin und Königin Maria Theresia . During the summer maneuvers of June 1901 , she served as the flagship of Rear Admiral G. Ritter von Brosch , commander of the reserve squadron . The other major ships in the squadron included the old ironclad Tegetthoff and the cruiser SMS Kaiser Franz Joseph I.

In mid @-@ 1910 , Kaiser Karl VI conducted the last trans @-@ Atlantic cruise of an Austrian vessel , when she visited Brazil , Uruguay and Argentina . On 25 May , she represented Austria @-@ Hungary at the centennial of Argentina 's May Revolution , which won the country 's independence from Spain .

= = = World War I = = =

On 28 June 1914 , Archduke Franz Ferdinand , the heir to the Austro @-@ Hungarian throne , was assassinated in Sarajevo ; the assassination sparked the July Crisis and ultimately the First World War , which broke out a month later on 28 July . The German battlecruiser SMS Goeben , which had been assigned to the Mediterranean Division , sought the protection of the Austro @-@ Hungarian fleet , and so Admiral Anton Haus sent the fleet , including Kaiser Karl VI , south on 7 August to assist his German ally . Goeben 's commander , Admiral Wilhelm Souchon , intended to use the Austro @-@ Hungarian move as a feint to distract the British Mediterranean Fleet which was pursuing Goeben ; Souchon instead took his ship to Constantinople in the Ottoman Empire . Their decoy mission complete , Kaiser Karl VI and the rest of the fleet returned to port without engaging any British forces .

On 8 August , Montenegrin gun batteries on Mount Lov?en began shelling the Austro @-@ Hungarian at Cattaro . At the time , Kaiser Karl VI was the only large warship in the harbor , and so she assisted the local army artillery in attempting to suppress the hostile guns . The Austro @-@ Hungarian gunners were aided by navy seaplanes that could spot the fall of their shots . On 13 September , the three Monarch @-@ class coastal defense ships arrived to strengthen the Austro @-@ Hungarian force . Five days later , a French artillery battery was landed in Montenegro to reinforce the guns on Lov?en with the aim of eventually capturing the port , which prompted the Austro @-@ Hungarians to send the pre @-@ dreadnought battleship Radetzky with its 30 @. @ 5 cm (12 @. @ 0 in) guns . By 27 October , the French and Montenegrin gun batteries had been silenced , and the French abandoned its attempt to seize Cattaro .

By the end of August , the mobilization of the fleet was complete ; Kaiser Karl VI was assigned to the Cruiser Flotilla , which was commanded by Vice Admiral Paul Fiedler . For most of the war , the Cruiser Flotilla and based at Cattaro , though the armored cruisers were too slow to operate with the newer Novara @-@ class cruisers that carried out the bulk of offensive operations . In May 1915 , Italy declared war on the Central Powers . The Austro @-@ Hungarians continued their strategy of serving as a fleet in being , which would tie down the now further numerically superior Allied naval forces . Haus hoped that torpedo boats and mines could be used to reduce the numerical superiority of the Italian fleet before a decisive battle could be fought .

By early 1918 , the long periods of inactivity had begun to wear on the crews of several warships at Cattaro , including Kaiser Karl VI . On 1 February , the Cattaro Mutiny broke out , starting aboard Sankt Georg and quickly spreading to Kaiser Karl VI . Officers were confined to their quarters while a committee of sailors met to formulate a list of demands , which ranged from longer periods of leave and better rations to an end to the war , based on the United States President Woodrow Wilson 's Fourteen Points . The following day , shore batteries loyal to the government fired on the old ironclad Kronprinz Erzherzog Rudolf , which prompted many of the mutinous ships to abandon the effort . Late in the day on 2 February , the red flags were struck from Kaiser Karl VI and she rejoined the loyalist ships in the harbor . The next morning , the Erzherzog Karl @-@ class battleships of the III Division arrived in Cattaro , which convinced the last holdouts to surrender . Trials on the ringleaders commenced quickly and four men were executed .

= = = Fate = = =

In the aftermath of the Cattaro Mutiny , most of the obsolete warships of the Austro @-@ Hungarian Navy , including Kaiser Karl VI , were decommissioned to reduce the number of idle warships . On 3 November 1918 , the Austro @-@ Hungarian government signed the Armistice of Villa Giusti with Italy , ending their participation in the conflict . After the end of the war , Kaiser Karl VI was ceded as a war prize to Great Britain , under the terms of the Treaty of Saint @-@ Germain @-@ en @-@ Laye . She was then sold to ship breakers in Italy and broken up for scrap after 1920 .