

= SMS Juan de Austria =

SMS Juan de Austria was the third member of the Kaiser Max class built for the Austrian Navy in the 1860s . Her keel was laid in October 1861 at the Stabilimento Tecnico Triestino shipyard ; she was launched in July 1862 , and was completed in 1863 . She carried her main battery ? composed of sixteen 48 @-@ pounder guns and fifteen 24 @-@ pounders ? in a traditional broadside arrangement , protected by an armored belt that was 110 mm (4 @. @ 3 in) thick .

Juan de Austria saw action at the Battle of Lissa in July 1866 . There she was heavily engaged in the center of the melee ; she traded broadsides with the Italian ironclad Re di Portogallo and was hit three times by the turret ship Affondatore , though she received little damage . After the war , Juan de Austria was modernized slightly in 1867 to correct her poor seakeeping and improve her armament , but she was nevertheless rapidly outpaced by naval developments in the 1860s and 1870s . Obsolescent by 1873 , Juan de Austria was officially " rebuilt " , though in actuality she was broken up for scrap , with only her armor plate , parts of her machinery , and other miscellaneous parts being reused in the new Don Juan d 'Austria .

= = Design = =

Juan de Austria was 70 @. @ 78 meters (232 ft 3 in) long between perpendiculars ; she had a beam of 10 m (32 ft 10 in) and an average draft of 6 @. @ 32 m (20 ft 9 in) . She displaced 3 @, @ 588 metric tons (3 @, @ 531 long tons ; 3 @, @ 955 short tons) . She had a crew of 386 . Her propulsion system consisted of one single @-@ expansion steam engine that drove a single screw propeller . The number and type of her coal @-@ fired boilers have not survived . Her engine produced a top speed of 11 knots (20 km / h ; 13 mph) from 1 @, @ 900 indicated horsepower (1 @, @ 400 kW) . She could steam for about 1 @, @ 200 nautical miles (2 @, @ 200 km ; 1 @, @ 400 mi) at a speed of 10 knots (19 km / h ; 12 mph) .

Juan de Austria was a broadside ironclad , and she was armed with a main battery of sixteen 48 @-@ pounder muzzle @-@ loading guns and fifteen 24 @-@ pounder 15 cm (5 @. @ 9 in) rifled muzzle @-@ loading guns . She also carried a single 12 @-@ pounder gun and a six @-@ pounder . The sides of ship 's hull were sheathed with wrought iron armor that was 110 mm (4 in) thick and extended from bow to stern .

= = Service history = =

Juan de Austria was built by the Stabilimento Tecnico Triestino (STT) shipyard . She was laid down in October 1861 , and her completed hull was launched on 26 July 1862 . Fitting @-@ out work was completed the following year and she was commissioned into the Austrian fleet . She proved to be very wet forward , owing to her open bow , and as a result , tended to handle poorly . In June 1866 , Italy declared war on Austria , as part of the Third Italian War of Independence , which was fought concurrently with the Austro @-@ Prussian War . Rear Admiral Wilhelm von Tegetthoff brought the Austrian fleet to Ancona on 27 June , in an attempt to draw out the Italians , but the Italian commander , Admiral Carlo Pellion di Persano , refused to engage Tegetthoff .

= = = Battle of Lissa = = =

On 16 July , Persano took the Italian fleet , with twelve ironclads , out of Ancona , bound for the island of Lissa , where they arrived on the 18th . With them , they brought troop transports carrying 3 @, @ 000 soldiers . Persano then spent the next two days bombarding the Austrian defenses of the island and unsuccessfully attempting to force a landing . Tegetthoff received a series of telegrams between 17 and 19 July notifying him of the Italian attack , which he initially believed to be a feint to draw the Austrian fleet away from its main bases at Pola and Venice . By the morning of the 19th , however , he was convinced that Lissa was in fact the Italian objective , and so he requested permission to attack . As Tegetthoff 's fleet arrived off Lissa on the morning of 20 July , Persano 's

fleet was arrayed for another landing attempt . The latter 's ships were divided into three groups , with only the first two able to concentrate in time to meet the Austrians . Tegetthoff had arranged his ironclad ships into a wedge @-@ shaped formation , with Juan de Austria on his right flank ; the wooden warships of the second and third divisions followed behind in the same formation .

While he was forming up his ships , Persano transferred from his flagship , Re d 'Italia , to the turret ship Affondatore . This created a gap in the Italian line , and Tegetthoff seized the opportunity to divide the Italian fleet and create a melee . He made a pass through the gap , but failed to ram any of the Italian ships , forcing him to turn around and make another attempt . Juan of Austria initially attempted to follow Tegetthoff 's flagship , Erzherzog Ferdinand Max , but quickly lost contact with her in the ensuing melee . Juan of Austria became surrounded by Italian vessels , prompting her sister Kaiser Max to come to her aid . Juan of Austria thereafter engaged Re di Portogallo for around half an hour before shifting targets back to Affondatore . The latter scored three hits on Juan of Austria 's unarmored bow , but they caused little damage . The first passed directly through the ship without exploding , the second struck the belt armor and failed to penetrate , and the third hit her quarter deck .

By this time , Re d 'Italia had been rammed and sunk and the coastal defense ship Palestro was burning badly , soon to be destroyed by a magazine explosion . Persano broke off the engagement , and though his ships still outnumbered the Austrians , he refused to counter @-@ attack with his badly demoralized forces . In addition , the fleet was low on coal and ammunition . The Italian fleet began to withdraw , followed by the Austrians ; Tegetthoff , having gotten the better of the action , kept his distance so as not to risk his success . As night began to fall , the opposing fleets disengaged completely , heading for Ancona and Pola , respectively .

= = = Later career = = =

After returning to Pola , Tegetthoff kept his fleet in the northern Adriatic , where it patrolled against a possible Italian attack . The Italian ships never came , and on 12 August , the two countries signed the Armistice of Cormons ; this ended the fighting and led to the Treaty of Vienna . Though Austria had defeated Italy at Lissa and on land at the Battle of Custoza , the Austrian army was decisively defeated by Prussia at the Battle of Königgrätz . As a result , Austria , which became Austria @-@ Hungary in the Ausgleich of 1867 , was forced to cede the city of Venice to Italy .

Juan de Austria was rebuilt in 1867 , particularly to correct her poor sea @-@ keeping . Her open bow was plated over and she was rearmed with twelve 7 @-@ inch (178 mm) muzzle @-@ loaders manufactured by Armstrong and two 3 @-@ inch (76 mm) 4 @-@ pounder guns . By 1873 , the ship was obsolescent and had a thoroughly @-@ rotted hull , so the Austro @-@ Hungarian Navy decided to replace the ship . Parliamentary objection to granting funds for new ships forced the navy to resort to subterfuge to replace the ship . Reconstruction projects were routinely approved by the parliament , so the navy officially " rebuilt " Juan de Austria and her sister ships . In reality , only some parts of the engines , armor plate , and other miscellaneous parts were salvaged from the ships . Juan de Austria was dismantled at the STT shipyard beginning in December 1878 . The new ironclads were given the same names of the old vessels in an attempt to conceal the deception .