

= SMS Rostock =

SMS Rostock was a light cruiser of the Karlsruhe class built by the German Kaiserliche Marine (Imperial Navy) . She had one sister ship , SMS Karlsruhe ; the ships were very similar to the previous Magdeburg @-@ class cruisers . The ship was laid down in 1911 , launched in November 1912 , and completed by February 1914 . Armed with twelve 10 @.@ 5 cm SK L / 45 guns , Rostock had a top speed of 28 @.@ 5 knots (52 @.@ 8 km / h ; 32 @.@ 8 mph) and displaced 6 @, @ 191 t (6 @, @ 093 long tons ; 6 @, @ 824 short tons) at full load .

Rostock served with the High Seas Fleet as a leader of torpedo boat flotillas for the duration of her career . She served with the screens for both the battlecruisers of the I Scouting Group during operations against the British coast and the Battle of Dogger Bank . She was assigned to the screen for the battle fleet during the Battle of Jutland on 31 May ? 1 June 1916 . She saw major action at Jutland and frequently engaged British light forces , culminating in her being torpedoed by destroyers shortly after midnight . She was taken under tow by German torpedo boats , but the following morning the cruiser HMS Dublin came upon the retreating ships . The Germans set scuttling charges aboard Rostock and took off the crew before Dublin arrived on the scene .

= = Construction = =

Rostock was ordered under the contract name " Ersatz Geier " and was laid down at the Howaldtswerke shipyard in Kiel in 1911 . She was launched on 12 November 1912 ; at her launching , she was christened by the mayor of Rostock , Dr. Magnus Maßmann . After completing Fitting @-@ out work , the ship was commissioned into the High Seas Fleet on 5 February 1914 . The ship was 142 @.@ 2 meters (467 ft) long overall and had a beam of 13 @.@ 7 m (45 ft) and a draft of 5 @.@ 38 m (17 @.@ 7 ft) forward . She displaced 6 @, @ 191 t (6 @, @ 093 long tons ; 6 @, @ 824 short tons) at full combat load . Her propulsion system consisted of two sets of Marine steam turbines driving two 3 @.@ 5 @-@ meter (11 ft) propellers . They were designed to give 26 @, @ 000 shaft horsepower (19 @, @ 000 kW) , but reached 43 @, @ 628 shp (32 @, @ 533 kW) in service . These were powered by twelve coal @-@ fired Marine @-@ type water @-@ tube boilers and two oil @-@ fired double @-@ ended boilers . These gave the ship a top speed of 29 @.@ 3 knots (54 @.@ 3 km / h ; 33 @.@ 7 mph) . Rostock carried 1 @, @ 300 tonnes (1 @, @ 300 long tons) of coal , and an additional 200 tonnes (200 long tons) of oil that gave her a range of approximately 5 @, @ 000 nautical miles (9 @, @ 300 km ; 5 @, @ 800 mi) at 12 knots (22 km / h ; 14 mph) . Rostock had a crew of 18 officers and 355 enlisted men .

The ship was armed with twelve 10 @.@ 5 cm SK L / 45 guns in single pedestal mounts . Two were placed side by side forward on the forecastle , eight were located amidships , four on either side , and two were side by side aft . The guns had a maximum elevation of 30 degrees , which allowed them to engage targets out to 12 @, @ 700 m (41 @, @ 700 ft) . They were supplied with 1 @, @ 800 rounds of ammunition , for 150 shells per gun . She was also equipped with a pair of 50 cm (19 @.@ 7 in) torpedo tubes with five torpedoes submerged in the hull on the broadside . She could also carry 120 mines . The ship was protected by a waterline armored belt that was 60 mm (2 @.@ 4 in) thick amidships . The conning tower had 100 mm (3 @.@ 9 in) thick sides , and the deck was covered with up to 60 mm thick armor plate .

= = Service history = =

Following her commissioning in February 1914 , Rostock was assigned as a torpedo boat flotilla leader with the High Seas Fleet . On 24 January 1915 , Rostock formed part of the support for Admiral Franz von Hipper battlecruisers in the I Scouting Group during a sortie to destroy British light forces known to be operating near the Dogger Bank . The ship steamed with three other light cruisers and nineteen torpedo boats . Rostock and several of the torpedo boats were tasked with screening the port flank of the battlecruiser squadron . The German group encountered five British battlecruisers , resulting in the Battle of Dogger Bank , during which the armored cruiser Blücher

was sunk . Rostock participated in the bombardment of Yarmouth and Lowestoft on 24 April 1916 , and as part of the screen for the I Scouting Group . While the battlecruisers bombarded Lowestoft , Rostock and five other cruisers engaged the Harwich Force . Shortly thereafter , the battlecruisers intervened and forced the Harwich Force to withdraw . The German squadron then broke off and returned to port .

Rostock also participated in the Battle of Jutland , on 31 May 1916 . She served as the leader of the torpedo boat flotillas , flying the flag of Kommodore Andreas Michelsen . The flotilla was tasked with screening for the battle squadrons of the High Seas Fleet . As the German fleet reached the engagement between the British and German battlecruiser squadrons at 17 : 30 , a pair of destroyers , HMS Nestor and Nicator attempted to attack the German battle line . Rostock and a number of the battleships engaged the destroyers , which were both disabled by the heavy German fire . The battleships destroyed Nestor and Nicator and their crews were picked up by German torpedo boats .

At 19 : 32 , Rostock and several torpedo boats crossed through the German line and began to lay a smoke screen to cover the withdrawal of the German fleet . Some twenty minutes later , Michelsen detached several torpedo boats to assist the badly damaged battlecruiser Lützow . By the time the German fleet had assumed its night cruising formation , Rostock fell in with the light cruisers of the IV Scouting Group on the port side of the fleet . Shortly before midnight , Rostock and the IV Scouting Group came into contact with the 2nd Light Cruiser Squadron . Shortly after midnight , the British 4th Destroyer Flotilla attacked the German line , where Rostock was positioned . She joined the cannonade directed against the destroyers as they pressed home their attack . The destroyers launched several torpedoes at the Germans , forcing Rostock and the other cruisers to turn away to avoid them ; this pointed the ships directly at the battleships in the I Battle Squadron . Rostock successfully passed through the formation , but the cruiser Elbing was rammed by one of the battleships and disabled .

In the chaos of the night engagement , Rostock 's search lights illuminated the destroyer Broke . Gunfire from Rostock and the battleships Westfalen and Rheinland smothered the British destroyer ; although heavily damaged , she managed to limp back to port . The ship was attacked by the destroyers Ambuscade and Contest ; the two ships each fired a single torpedo at high @-@ speed settings at a range of about 1 @,@ 000 yd (910 m) . One torpedo struck Rostock at 1 : 30 , though it is unknown which destroyer launched it . Rostock was also hit by three 4 in (100 mm) shells , probably from the destroyer Broke . The disabled Rostock called the destroyer S54 to join her ; S54 took Rostock in tow , at times making up to 10 kn (19 km / h ; 12 mph) . The pair was subsequently joined by the destroyers V71 and V73 , which had been detached from the flotilla to escort Rostock back to port .

At around 03 : 55 on 1 June , the four German ships encountered the British cruiser Dublin . The three destroyers went alongside the crippled cruiser and evacuated her crew , while flashing the first two letters of the British signal challenge . Smoke screens were laid to obscure the identity of the German warships . After about ten minutes , S54 departed with Rostock 's crew aboard , while V71 and V73 remained . Scuttling charges had been set in the cruiser , but to ensure Rostock sank faster , the two destroyers fired a total of three torpedoes into the ship . Rostock sank bow @-@ first at approximately 04 : 25 , after which V71 and V73 made for Horns Reef at high speed . Of Rostock 's crew , 14 men were killed and 6 were wounded during the battle . In the course of the battle , Rostock fired some 500 rounds of 10 @.@ 5 cm ammunition , more than any other German ship . A second Rostock , of the Cöln class , was launched in April 1918 , but was not completed before the end of the war .