

= HMS Emperor of India =

HMS Emperor of India was an Iron Duke class battleship of the British Royal Navy . She was originally to have been named Delhi but was renamed before she was completed , to honour King George V , who was also Emperor of India . The ship was laid down on 31 May 1912 at the Vickers shipyard , and was launched on 27 November 1913 . The finished ship was commissioned a year later in November 1914 , shortly after the start of the First World War . She was armed with a main battery of ten 13.5 inch (340 mm) guns and was capable of a top speed of 21.25 knots (39.36 km / h ; 24.45 mph) .

Upon commissioning , Emperor of India joined the 4th Battle Squadron of the Grand Fleet , based at Scapa Flow . She took part in numerous sorties into the northern North Sea to enforce the blockade of Germany , along with frequent training exercises and gunnery drills . Emperor of India was in dock for a refit in late May 1916 , so she was unavailable for the Battle of Jutland . The increased danger from submarines led both the Grand Fleet and the German High Seas Fleet to pursue more cautious strategies after Jutland , which led to a less eventful war .

After the war , Emperor of India was sent to the Mediterranean Fleet , where she became involved in the Allied intervention in the Russian Civil War in the Black Sea in 1919 ? 1921 . She remained in the Mediterranean until 1926 , when she was transferred to the Atlantic Fleet . The London Naval Treaty of 1930 mandated that Emperor of India and her three sister ships be dismantled . In 1931 , she and HMS Marlborough underwent a series of weapons tests that proved to be highly beneficial for future British battleship designs . Emperor of India was ultimately sold for scrap in February 1932 , and was broken up shortly thereafter .

= = Design = =

Emperor of India was 622 feet 9 inches (190 m) long overall and had a beam of 90 ft (27 m) and an average draught of 29 ft 6 in (9 m) . She displaced 25,000 long tons (25,401 t) as designed and up to 29,560 long tons (30,034 t) at combat loading . Her propulsion system consisted of four Parsons steam turbines , with steam provided by eighteen Babcock & Wilcox boilers . The engines were rated at 29,000 shaft horsepower (21,625 kW) and produced a top speed of 21.25 kn (39 km / h ; 24 mph) . Her cruising radius was 7,800 nautical miles (14,446 km ; 8,976 mi) at a more economical 10 kn (19 km / h ; 12 mph) . Emperor of India had a crew of 995 officers and enlisted men , though during wartime this grew to up to 1,022 .

Emperor of India was armed with a main battery of ten BL 13.5 inch Mk V naval guns mounted in five twin gun turrets . They were arranged in two superfiring pairs , one forward and one aft ; the fifth turret was located amidships , between the funnels and the rear superstructure . Close range defence against torpedo boats was provided by a secondary battery of twelve BL 6 inch Mk VII guns . The ship was also fitted with a pair of QF 3 inch 20 cwt anti aircraft guns and four 47 mm (2 in) 3 pounder guns . As was typical for capital ships of the period , she was equipped with four 21 in (530 mm) torpedo tubes submerged on the broadside . Emperor of India was protected by a main armoured belt that was 12 in (305 mm) thick over the ship 's vitals . Her deck was 2.5 in (64 mm) thick . The main battery turret faces were 11 in (279 mm) thick , and the turrets were supported by 10 in (254 mm) thick barbettes .

= = Service history = =

Emperor of India was laid down at the Vickers shipyard on 31 May 1912 , originally to have been named Delhi . She was launched on 27 November 1913 and christened Emperor of India . The ship was commissioned into the Royal Navy 's Grand Fleet under Admiral John Jellicoe in November 1914 for sea trials , three months after the outbreak of World War I. The following month she was assigned to the 4th Battle Squadron as the second division flagship , where she served for the first two years of the war . On 1 December , Emperor of India and her sister ship Benbow arrived at the

4th Squadron to begin working up , before being pronounced fit for service with the fleet on 10 December . During this period , the rearmost 6 6-inch guns were removed from the four Iron Duke class ships and their casemates were sealed off , as they were too low in the hull and permitted water to continually enter the ship .

== = World War I == =

On 23 and 24 December , the 4th and 2nd Squadrons conducted gunnery practice north of the Hebrides . The following day , the entire fleet sortied for a sweep in the North Sea , which concluded on 27 December ; this was Emperor of India 's first fleet operation . Another round of gunnery drills followed on 10 ? 13 January 1915 west of the Orkneys and Shetlands , this time with the entire fleet . On the evening of 23 January , the bulk of the Grand Fleet sailed in support of Beatty 's Battlecruiser Fleet , but the main fleet did not become engaged in the Battle of Dogger Bank that took place the following day . On 7 ? 10 March , the Grand Fleet conducted a sweep in the northern North Sea , during which it conducted training manoeuvres . Another such cruise took place on 16 ? 19 March . On 11 April , the Grand Fleet conducted a patrol in the central North Sea and returned to port on 14 April ; another patrol in the area took place on 17 ? 19 April , followed by gunnery drills off the Shetlands on 20 ? 21 April .

The Grand Fleet conducted a sweep into the central North Sea on 17 ? 19 May without encountering any German vessels . In mid June , the fleet conducted another round of gunnery training . On 2 ? 5 September , the fleet went on another cruise in the northern end of the North Sea and conducted gunnery drills . Throughout the rest of the month , the Grand Fleet conducted numerous training exercises . On 13 October the majority of the fleet conducted another sweep into the North Sea , returning to port on the 15th . On 2 ? 5 November , Emperor of India participated in another fleet training operation west of the Orkneys . Another such cruise took place on 1 ? 4 December .

The typical routine of gunnery drills and squadron exercises occurred in January . The fleet departed for a cruise in the North Sea on 26 February ; Jellicoe had intended to use the Harwich Force to sweep the Heligoland Bight , but bad weather prevented operations in the southern North Sea . As a result , the operation was confined to the northern end of the sea . On the night of 25 March , Emperor of India and the rest of the fleet sailed from Scapa Flow to support the Battlecruiser Fleet and other light forces that raided the German zeppelin base at Tondern . By the time the Grand Fleet approached the area on 26 March , the British and German forces had already disengaged and a severe gale threatened the light craft . Iron Duke , the fleet flagship , guided the destroyers back to Scapa while Emperor of India and the rest of the fleet retired independently .

On 21 April , the Grand Fleet conducted a demonstration off Horns Reef to distract the Germans while the Russian Navy relaid its defensive minefields in the Baltic Sea . The fleet returned to Scapa Flow on 24 April and refuelled before proceeding south in response to intelligence reports that the Germans were about to launch a raid on Lowestoft . The Grand Fleet did not arrive in the area until after the German High Seas Fleet had withdrawn , however . On 2 ? 4 May , the fleet conducted another demonstration off Horns Reef to keep German attention focused on the North Sea . Emperor of India was not available for the Battle of Jutland on 31 May ? 1 June , as she was in dock for a refit . Following Jutland , she was transferred to the 1st Battle Squadron , where she again served as the second division flagship . She remained in the 1st Squadron for the rest of the war .

On 18 August , the Germans again sortied , this time to bombard Sunderland ; Vice Admiral Reinhard Scheer , the German fleet commander , hoped to draw out Beatty 's battlecruisers and destroy them . British signals intelligence decrypted German wireless transmissions , allowing Jellicoe enough time to deploy the Grand Fleet in an attempt to engage in a decisive battle . Both sides withdrew , however , after their opponents ' submarines inflicted losses : the British cruisers Nottingham and Falmouth were both torpedoed and sunk by German U boats , and the German battleship SMS Westfalen was damaged by the British submarine E23 . After returning to port , Jellicoe issued an order that prohibited risking the fleet in the southern half of the North Sea due to the overwhelming risk from mines and U boats . Later that year , Emperor of India was

equipped with equipment to handle a kite balloon . Following the investigation into the Battle of Jutland , the Royal Navy determined that deck protection was insufficient in all of its capital ships ; as a result , Emperor of India had an additional 100 t (98 long tons ; 110 short tons) of armour over the magazines between October and December 1916 .

A series of minor modifications followed throughout 1917 and 1918 ; these included the installation of larger and additional searchlights to improve night combat capabilities , funnel caps to reduce smoke interference with the spotting tops , and rangefinder baffles that were intended to make it more difficult to estimate the range for enemy gunners . The baffles were later removed in 1918 . In late 1917 , the Germans began using destroyers and light cruisers to raid the British convoys to Norway ; this forced the British to deploy capital ships to protect the convoys . In April 1918 , the German fleet sortied in an attempt to catch one of the isolated British squadrons , though the convoy had already passed safely . The Grand Fleet sortied too late to catch the retreating Germans , though the battlecruiser SMS Moltke was torpedoed and badly damaged by the submarine HMS E42 .

Following the capitulation of Germany in November 1918 , the Allies interned most of the High Seas Fleet in Scapa Flow . The fleet rendezvoused with the British light cruiser Cardiff , which led the ships to the Allied fleet that was to escort the Germans to Scapa Flow . The massive fleet consisted of some 370 British , American , and French warships . The fleet remained in captivity during the negotiations that ultimately produced the Treaty of Versailles . Reuter believed that the British intended to seize the German ships on 21 June 1919 , which was the deadline for Germany to have signed the peace treaty . That morning , the Grand Fleet left Scapa Flow to conduct training maneuvers , and while they were away Reuter issued the order to scuttle the High Seas Fleet .

== = Post @-@ war career == =

In 1919 , Emperor of India was assigned to the Mediterranean Fleet , as part of the 4th Battle Squadron , along with her three sisters and two Centurion @-@ class battleships . During this period , she served in the Black Sea during the Allied intervention in the Russian Civil War to support the Whites against the Red Bolsheviks . Admiral Edward Hobart Seymour , the commander of British forces in the Black Sea , hoisted his flag aboard the ship on 14 April . The ship bombarded Bolshevik troops on 5 May 1919 outside Theodosia , and later to disrupt the operations of a railway being used to supply the Bolshevik assault on the port . On 26 March 1920 , Emperor of India provided gunfire support to White Russian forces outside Novorossiysk , along with the French armoured cruiser Waldeck @-@ Rousseau . Shortly thereafter , Emperor of India came under fire from an armoured train , prompting the ship to leave the harbour , bound for Theodosia . The ship was also involved in observing the Greco @-@ Turkish War of 1919 ? 22 ; this included stops in the ports of Mitylene and Smyrna .

She returned to Britain for a refit in 1922 , during which new long @-@ base rangefinders were installed on " X " turret . This was followed by another stint in the Mediterranean Fleet that lasted until 1926 . During this period , she took part in a demonstration in Smyrna against Turkish demands that foreign warships leave the port . She was thereafter transferred to the Atlantic Fleet , where she served until 1930 . In May 1926 , stability tests were conducted with the ship ; these provided the basis for a 1927 proposal from the Director of Naval Construction to add anti @-@ torpedo bulges to the four Iron Duke @-@ class ships . The proposal was sent to the Board for review , but concerns over the further value of the ships , which were due to be replaced in 1931 ? 32 under the terms of the Washington Naval Treaty , and the cost of the reconstruction led the Board to cancel it . From July to September 1927 , she had a refit in Devonport . She served as the squadron flagship from June 1929 until January 1931 , when she was relieved by Marlborough .

According to the terms of the London Naval Treaty of 1930 , the four ships of the Iron Duke class were to be scrapped or demilitarised ; Emperor of India was scheduled to be removed from service in 1931 and broken up for scrap . The ship provided one final service to the Navy by serving as a gunnery target , along with Marlborough . The tests included firing destroyer armament at the upper works at close range to test their effectiveness in a simulated night engagement , direct hits from 13

13.5 inch shells , aerial attacks , and experiments with flash tightness in the magazines . The main tests for Emperor of India took place in June off Bognor Regis . She departed Portsmouth on 6 June and ran aground on the Owers Bank . Salvage efforts proved fruitless , and so the Navy decided to conduct the gunnery tests there . The tests were conducted on 10 & 11 June , with her sister Iron Duke , which hit Emperor of India with twelve 13.5 inch shells over the two days . The first round of shells were fired from 12,000 yards (11,000 m) , while on the second day the range was increased to 18,000 yards (16,000 m) . She was refloated later and sold for scrap to the Alloa Shipbreaking Co. on 6 February 1932 . She arrived in Rosyth for demolition on 16 February .

The tests provided invaluable experience that was incorporated into the King George V and Lion classes and HMS Vanguard . Of particular importance was a shell that struck Emperor of India on the bottom edge of the main belt , which penetrated into one of the boiler rooms , where it caused tremendous damage . This showed that the depth of British belt armour was too shallow , which influenced the design of the King George V class . In addition , the tests with Emperor of India and Marlborough highlighted the weaknesses of the deck armour of British battleship designs , particularly over the ammunition magazines , and the other First World War vintage battleships that continued in service had additional armour installed in subsequent modernisations in the 1930s .