

= SMS Graudenz =

SMS Graudenz was the lead ship of her class of light cruisers . She had one sister ship , SMS Regensburg . The ship was built by the German Kaiserliche Marine ( Imperial Navy ) in the Kaiserliche Werft shipyard in Kiel , laid down in 1912 and commissioned into the High Seas Fleet in August 1914 , days after the outbreak of World War I. She was named for the then @-@ German town of Graudenz ( now Grudzi?dz , Poland ) . The ship was armed with a main battery of twelve 10 @.@ 5 cm SK L / 45 guns and had a top speed of 27 @.@ 5 knots ( 50 @.@ 9 km / h ; 31 @.@ 6 mph ) .

Graudenz saw extensive service during World War I , including serving as part of the reconnaissance screen for the battlecruisers of the I Scouting Group during the raid on Scarborough , Hartlepool and Whitby in December 1914 . The ship also took part in the Battle of Dogger Bank in January 1915 , and the Battle of the Gulf of Riga in August 1915 . She had been damaged by a mine and was unable to participate in the Battle of Jutland in May 1916 . She was assigned to the planned final operation of the High Seas Fleet in October 1918 , weeks before the end of the war , but a major mutiny forced the cancellation of the plan . After the end of the war , the ship was ceded to Italy as a war prize and commissioned into the Italian Navy as Ancona ; she remained in service until 1937 when she was stricken and broken up for scrap .

= = Design = =

Graudenz was ordered under the contract name " Ersatz Prinzess Wilhelm " and was laid down at the Kaiserliche Werft shipyard in Kiel in 1912 and was launched on 25 October 1913 . At her launch , the mayor of Graudenz , Dr. Kühnast , christened the ship . She was commissioned into the High Seas Fleet on 10 August 1914 . The ship was 142 @.@ 7 meters ( 468 ft ) long overall and had a beam of 13 @.@ 8 m ( 45 ft ) and a draft of 5 @.@ 75 m ( 18 @.@ 9 ft ) forward . She displaced 6 @,@ 382 t ( 6 @,@ 281 long tons ; 7 @,@ 035 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 ) . These were powered by ten coal @-@ fired Marine @-@ type water @-@ tube boilers and two oil @-@ fired double @-@ ended boilers . These gave the ship a top speed of 27 @.@ 5 knots ( 50 @.@ 9 km / h ; 31 @.@ 6 mph ) . Graudenz carried 1 @,@ 280 t ( 1 @,@ 260 long tons ) of coal , and an additional 375 t ( 369 long tons ) of oil that gave her a range of approximately 5 @,@ 500 nautical miles ( 10 @,@ 200 km ; 6 @,@ 300 mi ) at 12 knots ( 22 km / h ; 14 mph ) . She had a crew of 21 officers and 364 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 in a superfiring pair aft . The guns had a maximum elevation of 30 degrees , which allowed them to engage targets out to 12 @,@ 700 m ( 41 @,@ 700 ft ) . These were later replaced with seven 15 cm SK L / 45 guns and two 8 @.@ 8 cm SK L / 45 anti @-@ aircraft guns . 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 . Two deck @-@ mounted launchers were added when the gun armament was upgraded . 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 = =

Graudenz 's first operation was the raid on Yarmouth on 3 November 1914 . She formed part of the reconnaissance screen for the battlecruisers of Rear Admiral Franz von Hipper 's I Scouting Group , along with the cruisers Kolberg and Strassburg . The bombardment was conducted without incident , but on the return , the armored cruiser Yorck struck a German mine outside Wilhelmshaven and sank . She was also present for the raid on Scarborough , Hartlepool and Whitby on 15 ? 16

December 1914 . After completing the bombardment of the towns , the Germans began to withdraw , though British forces moved to intercept them . Graudenz , Stralsund , Strassburg , and two flotillas of torpedo boats steamed between two British squadrons . In the heavy mist , which reduced visibility to less than 4 @, @ 000 yd ( 3 @, @ 700 m ) , only Stralsund was spotted , though only briefly . The Germans were able to use the bad weather to cover their withdrawal . Graudenz again screened for the I Scouting Group for the sortie out to the Dogger Bank on 24 January 1915 . In the ensuing Battle of Dogger Bank , the large armored cruiser Blücher was sunk .

In August 1915 , Graudenz went into the Baltic for a major operation to clear the Gulf of Riga of Russian naval forces . Eight dreadnoughts and three battlecruisers from the High Seas Fleet were detached for the operation . Graudenz participated in the second attack on 16 August , led by the dreadnoughts Nassau and Posen . The minesweepers cleared the Russian minefields by the 20th , allowing the German squadron to enter the Gulf . The Russians had by this time withdrawn to Moon Sound , and the threat of Russian submarines and mines in the Gulf prompted the Germans to retreat . The major units of the High Seas Fleet were back in the North Sea before the end of August . Graudenz struck a mine in mid 1916 , and was in drydock for repairs in May 1916 . As a result , she was unavailable for the fleet operation that resulted in the Battle of Jutland on 31 May ? 1 June 1916 . For the remainder of the war , she served as a torpedo boat flotilla leader .

By October 1918 , Graudenz was assigned to the II Scouting Group , which was to participate in a final , climactic attack by the High Seas Fleet . The planned operation called for raids on Allied shipping in the Thames estuary and Flanders to draw out the Grand Fleet . Graudenz , Karlsruhe and Nürnberg were assigned to the force tasked with attacking Flanders . On the morning of 29 October 1918 , the order was given to sail from Wilhelmshaven the following day . Starting on the night of 29 October , sailors on Thüringen and then on several other battleships mutinied . The unrest ultimately forced Hipper and Scheer to cancel the operation . Commodore Andreas Michelsen organized a force of light craft , including light cruisers , destroyers , and U @-@ boats to oppose a possible British attack while the heavy units of the fleet were in disarray ; he chose Graudenz as his flagship .

Graudenz served with the newly reorganized Reichsmarine in the aftermath of the war , through 1919 . She was stricken from the naval register on 10 March 1920 and surrendered to the Allies as a war prize . She was transferred to Italy on 1 June 1920 under the name " E " in the French port of Cherbourg . She was placed in Italian service and renamed Ancona . She was overhauled starting in 1921 through 1924 . Her coal storage space was reduced from 1 @, @ 280 t ( 1 @, @ 260 long tons ; 1 @, @ 410 short tons ) to 900 metric tons ( 890 long tons ; 990 short tons ) and her oil bunker capacity was correspondingly increased from 375 t ( 369 long tons ; 413 short tons ) to 1 @, @ 520 t ( 1 @, @ 500 long tons ; 1 @, @ 680 short tons ) . Ancona was commissioned into the Italian Navy on 6 May 1925 . She was provided with equipment to handle an Macchi M.7 seaplane in 1926 . The ship 's bow and forecastle were lengthened between 1928 and 1929 to mount a catapult for the seaplane . She remained in service until 1932 when she was placed in reserve in Taranto . She was stricken on 11 March 1937 and subsequently broken up .