

= SMS Friedrich Carl =

For the broadside ironclad , see SMS Friedrich Carl (1867)

SMS Friedrich Carl was a German armored cruiser built in the early 1900s for the Imperial German Navy . She was the second ship of the Prinz Adalbert class . Friedrich Carl was built in Blohm & Voss shipyard in Hamburg . She was laid down in 1901 , and completed in December 1903 , at the cost of 15 @, @ 665 @, @ 000 Marks . She was armed with a main battery of four 21 cm (8 @. @ 3 in) guns and was capable of a top speed of 20 @. @ 4 kn (37 @. @ 8 km / h ; 23 @. @ 5 mph) .

The ship served with the German fleet after her commissioning before being used as a torpedo training ship in 1909 . In August 1914 after the outbreak of World War I , she was brought back to active service to act as Rear Admiral Behring 's flagship in the Baltic Sea . Her wartime career was cut short on 17 November when she struck a pair of Russian mines off Memel at 55 ° 41 ' N 20 ° 11 ' E . The mines caused fatal damage , but the ship sank slowly enough to permit the safe evacuation of most of the crew ; only seven men were killed in the incident .

= = Construction = =

Friedrich Carl was ordered under the provisional name Ersatz König Wilhelm and built at the Blohm & Voss shipyard in Hamburg under construction number 155 . Her keel was laid in 1900 and she was launched on 22 June 1902 . Fitting @-@ out work followed and this was completed by 12 December 1903 , the day she was commissioned into the Imperial German Navy . She had cost the Imperial German Government 15 @, @ 665 @, @ 000 Goldmarks .

Friedrich Carl displaced 9 @, @ 087 t (8 @, @ 943 long tons ; 10 @, @ 017 short tons) as built and 9 @, @ 875 t (9 @, @ 719 long tons ; 10 @, @ 885 short tons) fully loaded , with a length of 126 @. @ 5 m (415 ft) , a beam of 19 @. @ 6 m (64 ft) and a draft of 7 @. @ 43 m (24 @. @ 4 ft) forward . She was powered by three vertical triple expansion engines , which produced a total of 17 @, @ 272 indicated horsepower (12 @, @ 880 kW) and yielded a maximum speed of 20 @. @ 4 kn (37 @. @ 8 km / h ; 23 @. @ 5 mph) on trials . She carried up to 1 @, @ 630 t (1 @, @ 600 long tons ; 1 @, @ 800 short tons) of coal , which enabled a maximum range of up to 5 @, @ 080 nautical miles (9 @, @ 410 km ; 5 @, @ 850 mi) at a cruising speed of 12 kn (22 km / h ; 14 mph) .

She was armed with four 21 cm (8 @. @ 3 in) guns arranged in two twin gun turrets , one on either end of the superstructure . Her secondary armament consisted of ten 15 cm (5 @. @ 91 in) SK L / 40 guns , twelve 8 @. @ 8 cm (3 @. @ 46 in) guns and four 45 cm (18 in) underwater torpedo tubes , one in the bow , one in the stern , and one on both beams .

= = Service history = =

Friedrich Carl served with the fleet from her commissioning on 12 December 1903 . She was assigned to I Subdivision of the Cruiser Division of the Active Fleet . Along with the light cruisers Frauenlob , Arcona , and Hamburg , Friedrich Carl 's subdivision was attached to the I Squadron of the Active Fleet . Friedrich Carl was the flagship of Rear Admiral Schmidt , the commander of the Cruiser Division . A second subdivision , composed of an armored cruiser and three light cruisers was attached to the II Squadron . On 20 September 1906 , Franz von Hipper took command of the ship . Under his leadership , the gunners aboard Friedrich Carl won the Kaiser 's Prize for best shooting in the fleet in 1907 . Hipper remained in the position until March 1908 .

Friedrich Carl served with the fleet until 1 March 1909 , when she was withdrawn for use as a torpedo training ship . She served in this capacity until the outbreak of World War I in August 1914 , when she was again placed in active service with the cruiser division in the Baltic Sea . In October 1914 , Friedrich Carl was the first German warship to carry seaplanes . The ship carried two planes provisionally and had no permanent modifications made to support them . She was made the flagship of Rear Admiral Behring , the commander of the German cruiser squadron in the Baltic Sea . The squadron was based in Neufahrwasser in Danzig . The German naval command was aware

that British submarines were operating in the Baltic Sea , and so ordered Behring to attack the Russian port at Libau to prevent it from being used as a British submarine base .

The Russian Navy , however , had begun a campaign of mine @-@ warfare in the Baltic . Russian destroyers laid a series of minefields off Memel , Pillau , and other German ports in October 1914 . The Russian operations went completely undetected by the German navy . During this period , Friedrich Carl used her seaplanes in operations against the port in Libau . Behring was ordered to begin the attack on Libau in November ; poor weather conditions delayed the operation until the 16th . Early on the 17th , Friedrich Carl was steaming some 30 nmi (56 km ; 35 mi) off Memel when she struck two Russian mines . The ship was kept afloat for several hours , which allowed the crew to be evacuated safely . The operation went ahead as scheduled and blockships were sunk at the entrance to Libau . After the crew was removed , Friedrich Carl was abandoned ; she capsized and sank at around 06 : 30 . Only seven men were killed in the attack .

= = In media = =

The sinking of Friedrich Carl is portrayed in the Russian movie Admiral , where Russian admiral Alexander Kolchak tricks the ship into a Russian minefield .