

= SMS Schwalbe =

SMS Schwalbe ( " His Majesty 's Ship Schwalbe ? Swallow " ) was an unprotected cruiser built for the German Kaiserliche Marine ( Imperial Navy ) , the lead ship of the Schwalbe class . She had one sister ship , Sperber . Schwalbe was built at the Kaiserliche Werft ( Imperial Dockyard ) in Wilhelmshaven ; her keel was laid down in April 1886 and her completed hull was launched in August 1887 . She was commissioned for service in May 1888 . Designed for colonial service , Schwalbe was armed with a main battery of eight 10 @. @ 5 @-@ centimeter ( 4 @. @ 1 in ) guns and had a cruising radius of over 3 @, @ 000 nautical miles ( 5 @, @ 600 km ; 3 @, @ 500 mi ) ; she also had an auxiliary sailing rig to supplement her steam engines .

Schwalbe spent the majority of her career overseas . She served in German East Africa from 1889 to 1893 , and during this period she assisted in the suppression of the Abushiri Revolt . In 1893 , she returned to Germany for a major overhaul . She was decommissioned until 1898 , when she returned to service for another tour abroad . She initially returned to German East Africa , where she patrolled South African waters to protect German shipping during the Second Boer War . The outbreak of the Boxer Rebellion in China in 1900 prompted the Kaiserliche Marine to send Schwalbe to join the European forces battling the Boxers . Schwalbe spent 1901 and 1902 in Chinese waters , blockading the mouth of the Yangtze and suppressing local unrest . The ship returned to Germany in 1903 for another major overhaul and another stint in reserve . She ended her career as a barracks ship during World War I , and as a target ship in 1918 . She was ultimately broken up for scrap in 1922 .

= = Design = =

Schwalbe was 66 @. @ 9 meters ( 219 ft ) long overall and had a beam of 9 @. @ 36 m ( 30 @. @ 7 ft ) and a draft of 4 @. @ 40 m ( 14 @. @ 4 ft ) forward . She displaced 1 @, @ 359 t ( 1 @, @ 338 long tons ) at full combat load . Her propulsion system consisted of two horizontal 2 @-@ cylinder double @-@ expansion steam engines powered by four coal @-@ fired cylindrical water @-@ tube boilers . These provided a top speed of 13 @. @ 5 knots ( 25 @. @ 0 km / h ; 15 @. @ 5 mph ) and a range of approximately 3 @, @ 290 nautical miles ( 6 @, @ 090 km ; 3 @, @ 790 mi ) at 10 knots ( 19 km / h ; 12 mph ) . To supplement the steam engines , she was fitted with a barquentine rig . Schwalbe had a crew of 9 officers and 108 enlisted men .

The ship was armed with eight 10 @. @ 5 cm K L / 35 guns in single pedestal mounts , supplied with 765 rounds of ammunition in total . They had a range of 8 @, @ 200 m ( 26 @, @ 900 ft ) . Four guns were mounted on each broadside . The gun armament was rounded out by five 3 @. @ 7 cm ( 1 @. @ 5 in ) revolver cannon .

= = Service history = =

The keel for Schwalbe was laid down at the Kaiserliche Werft ( Imperial Dockyard ) in Wilhelmshaven in April 1886 . Her completed hull was launched on 16 August 1887 ; then @-@ Konteradmiral ( Rear Admiral ) Alexander von Monts gave the launching speech . She was commissioned for sea trials on 8 May 1888 , and they lasted until 8 August . Schwalbe was formally placed into service on 12 November and assigned to the East Africa Station in German East Africa . The assignment came following requests for reinforcement from Konteradmiral Karl August Deinhard , the local commander of naval forces in the region , to help suppress the Abushiri Revolt . She departed Germany eight days later and arrived in Zanzibar on 31 December , and was joined by the aviso Pfeil . The two ships reinforced the old sail corvettes Leipzig and Sophie .

= = = First deployment to East Africa = = =

On 3 January 1889 , Schwalbe bombarded rebel positions at Bagamoyo before taking Deinhard aboard to Dar es Salaam . The next day , she ran aground on the reef surrounding Fungu Yasini

Island . The ship remained stranded for two days before Leipzig and the British steamer SS Woodcock arrived to pull her free . She thereafter took her place in a blockade line to prevent contraband from reaching the rebels ; Schwalbe patrolled the line from Kiswero to Ras Kimbiji . On 1 March , she was moved to the area between Kilwa Kisiwani and Mafia Island . Schwalbe , Leipzig , and the corvette Carola sent a contingent of naval infantry ashore at Kunduchi to attack rebel forces there ; the three warships also provided artillery support to the landing force . Korvettenkapitän ( KK ? Corvette Captain ) Hirschberg , Schwalbe 's captain , commanded the operation . Schwalbe returned to Bagamoyo on 8 May to launch another attack ; further engagements took place at Saadani on 6 June and at Pangani on 8 July . Schwalbe and her crew were given a respite from the conflict from 20 July to 17 August for a period of rest and refit at Port Louis in Mauritius .

On 29 August , Schwalbe returned to the blockade line off German East Africa . During this period , she frequently carried Deinhard on special trips . Between 7 and 10 October , she carried the station commander to survey the colony 's northern border with British Kenya in company with the British gunboat HMS Mariner . Schwalbe continued to operate against insurgent forces , particularly to support Reichskommissar ( Imperial Commissioner ) Hermann Wissmann 's forces . At the end of October , Schwalbe was joined by her sister ship Sperber . In early December , Schwalbe and Sperber were present at ceremonial reception of the Emin Pasha Relief Expedition at Bagamoyo . Both ships were also involved with settling the border of Wituland on 27 ? 29 December . In mid @-@ January 1890 , Pfeil , Leipzig , and Sophie left East Africa , leaving Schwalbe , Sperber , and Carola on the station . Schwalbe went to Cape Town in South Africa for an overhaul that lasted from 3 March until mid @-@ April .

Following her return from Cape Town , Schwalbe returned to supporting operations to pacify the coastal area in southern German East Africa carried out by Wissmann . During this period , several artillery pieces were captured , one of which was taken aboard Schwalbe before eventually being given to the Training Inspection for the colonial troops . By mid @-@ May , the uprising had finally been suppressed . Schwalbe thereafter conducted the normal peacetime routine of cruising the coast to show the German flag . Hirschberg contracted malaria and became severely ill , prompting his return to Germany on 24 June to recover ; KK Rüdiger arrived on 13 July to take over command of the ship . On 9 October , Rüdiger presided over a ceremony to dedicate a memorial in Tanga to the naval personnel who had been killed in the Abushiri revolt . Meanwhile , on 1 July , Wituland had been ceded to Britain as part of the Heligoland ? Zanzibar Treaty ; this development upset the Sultan of Wituland , who ordered the killing of several Europeans in the colony , mostly Germans . The British launched a punitive expedition , and Schwalbe remained in the area as an observer until the end of October .

In June 1891 , Schwalbe went to Mahé in the Seychelles to rest her crew . Rüdiger was promoted to the position of Deputy Governor of the colony in October , and KK Oelrichs replaced him aboard the ship . Schwalbe then departed to visit Bombay , returning to German East Africa on 27 January 1892 . Unrest in Moshi required Schwalbe 's presence to provide support for the Schutztruppen . She was anchored off Tanga by June , and in October , the death of Ali bin Said , the Sultan of Zanzibar , caused a succession crisis that forced Schwalbe and other vessels to steam to the island to help mediate the disputes . By January 1893 , Schwalbe was free to return to Bombay for repairs . In May , Schwalbe received the order to return to Germany . She arrived in Kiel on 6 August , and was decommissioned on 25 August . The Kaiserliche Werft in Kiel took the ship into drydock for an extensive overhaul and modernization . She remained out of service after the repair work was completed , until 1 April 1898 , when she was recommissioned for another tour in German East Africa , to replace the cruiser Seeadler .

= = = Second deployment overseas = = =

On 20 April , Schwalbe left Germany and arrived off Zanzibar a month and a half later , on 7 June . She went to Cape Town for periodic maintenance from 10 October to mid @-@ November . In January 1899 , she towed the disabled German East @-@ Africa Line steamer SS Setos to Dar es Salaam . For this , the Line donated a sum to the Navy , which the Reichsmarineamt ( Imperial Navy

Office ) used to improve the sailors ' barracks . In October , the Second Boer War broke out between British South Africa and the Boer Orange Free State and the Transvaal . Schwalbe and the cruiser Condor were sent to South Africa to protect German shipping , since the British had begun aggressively searching foreign freighters to prevent contraband from reaching the Boers . Despite the presence of the two cruisers , several German ships , including the Imperial post steamers SS Bundesrat and SS General , the freighter SS Hans Wagner , and the barque Marie were seized by the Royal Navy . This caused a major diplomatic incident and led to the passage of the Second Naval Law in Germany . During her patrol of South African waters , she stopped in Durban from 19 to 21 January 1900 , Port Elizabeth , East London , Cape Town , and Delagoa Bay . Tensions eased as the Boers began to suffer several defeats in early 1900 , and on 7 May , Schwalbe was back in Dar es Salaam . From here , she was ordered to leave for East Asian waters to reinforce the German East Asia Squadron and assist with suppressing the Boxer Rebellion in China .

She arrived in Chinese waters in late September , and was assigned to the blockade of the mouth of the Yangtze . She spent the period from 14 February to 3 March 1901 in the German concession at Tsingtao , after which she returned to the Yangtze . The blockade of the river ended in June , and on 10 June she returned to Tsingtao . From 4 September to 11 November , she underwent an overhaul in Shanghai . She then returned to Tsingtao and the Yangtze area , before riots in Zhejiang province forced her to steam to Ningpo to assist in suppressing the unrest on 9 April 1902 . On 16 April , she left for repairs at Shanghai . On 23 July , while Schwalbe was moored in Tsingtao , she received the order to return to Germany . On 16 August , she departed Tsingtao and arrived in Danzig on 10 December . There , she was decommissioned a second time three days later . Another lengthy overhaul followed , which lasted from 1903 to 1905 at the Kaiserliche Werft in Danzig .

= = = Later career = = =

Schwalbe remained in reserve following the completion of her overhaul in 1905 , until 26 October 1911 , when she was recommissioned for use as a special @-@ purpose ship . The Navy planned to convert her into a survey ship for use abroad , but in 1912 the Navy instead decided to use her to replace the old aviso Grille as a training ship . After the outbreak of World War I in August 1914 , she was converted into a barracks ship based in Kiel . She served in this capacity until 1918 , when she was used as a target ship outside Kiel . She was stricken from the naval register on 6 December 1919 and sold for scrapping on 7 August 1920 . Schwalbe was ultimately broken up for scrap in 1922 in Hamburg .