

= SMS Habsburg (1865) =

SMS Habsburg was the second and final member of the Erzherzog Ferdinand Max class of broadside ironclads built for the Austrian Navy in the 1860s . She was built by the Stabilimento Tecnico Triestino ; her keel was laid down in June 1863 , she was launched in June 1865 , and commissioning in June 1866 at the outbreak of the Third Italian War of Independence and the Austro -@ Prussian War , fought concurrently . The ship was armed with a main battery of sixteen 48 @-@ pounder guns , though the rifled guns originally intended , which had been ordered from Prussia , had to be replaced with old smoothbore guns until after the conflicts ended .

Habsburg saw action at the Battle of Lissa in July 1866 , though she was not significantly engaged during the battle . In 1870 , she was used in a show of force to try to prevent the Italian annexation of Rome while the city 's protector , France , was distracted with the Franco @-@ Prussian War , though the Italians took the city regardless . The ship 's armament was revised several times in the 1870s and 1880s , before she was ultimately withdrawn from frontline service and employed as a guard ship and a barracks ship in Pola in 1886 . She served in this role until 1898 when she was stricken from the naval register and broken up for scrap in 1899 ? 1900 .

= = Description = =

Habsburg was 83 @.@ 75 meters (274 ft 9 in) long overall ; she had a beam of 15 @.@ 96 m (52 ft 4 in) and an average draft of 7 @.@ 14 m (23 ft 5 in) . She displaced 5 @,@ 130 metric tons (5 @,@ 050 long tons ; 5 @,@ 650 short tons) . She had a crew of 511 . Her propulsion system consisted of one single @-@ expansion steam engine that drove a single screw propeller . The number and type of her coal @-@ fired boilers have not survived . Her engine produced a top speed of 12 @.@ 54 knots (23 @.@ 22 km / h ; 14 @.@ 43 mph) from 2 @,@ 925 indicated horsepower (2 @,@ 181 kW) .

Habsburg was a broadside ironclad , and she was armed with a main battery of sixteen 48 @-@ pounder muzzle @-@ loading smooth @-@ bore guns . She also carried several smaller guns , including four 8 @-@ pounder guns and two 3 @-@ pounders . The ship 's hull was sheathed with wrought iron armor that was 123 mm (4 @.@ 8 in) thick on the battery and reduced to 87 mm (3 @.@ 4 in) at the bow and stern .

= = Service history = =

Habsburg was built by the Stabilimento Tecnico Triestino shipyard in Trieste . Her keel was laid down in June 1863 , and she was launched on 24 June 1865 . The builders were forced to complete fitting @-@ out work quickly , as tensions with neighboring Prussia and Italy erupted into the concurrent Austro @-@ Prussian War and the Third Italian War of Independence in June 1866 . Habsburg 's rifled heavy guns were still on order from Krupp , and they could not be delivered due to the conflict with Prussia . Instead , the ship was armed with old smooth @-@ bore guns . Rear Admiral Wilhelm von Tegetthoff , the commander of the Austrian Fleet , immediately began to mobilize his fleet . As the ships became fully manned , they began to conduct training exercises in Fasana . On 26 June , Tegetthoff sortied with the Austrian fleet and steamed to Ancona in an attempt to draw out the Italians , but the Italian commander , Admiral Carlo Pellion di Persano , refused to engage Tegetthoff . Tegetthoff made another sortie on 6 July , but again could not bring the Italian fleet to battle .

= = Battle of Lissa = =

On 16 July , Persano took the Italian fleet , with twelve ironclads , out of Ancona , bound for the island of Lissa , where they arrived on the 18th . With them , they brought troop transports carrying 3 @,@ 000 soldiers . Persano then spent the next two days bombarding the Austrian defenses of the island and unsuccessfully attempting to force a landing . Tegetthoff received a series of telegrams

between the 17 and 19 July notifying him of the Italian attack , which he initially believed to be a feint to draw the Austrian fleet away from its main base at Pola and Venice . By the morning of the 19th , however , he was convinced that Lissa was in fact the Italian objective , and so he requested permission to attack . As Tegetthoff 's fleet arrived off Lissa on the morning of 20 July , Persano 's fleet was arrayed for another landing attempt . The latter 's ships were divided into three groups , with only the first two able to concentrate in time to meet the Austrians . Tegetthoff had arranged his ironclad ships into a wedge @-@ shaped formation , with Habsburg on the right flank ; the wooden warships of the second and third divisions followed behind in the same formation .

While he was forming up his ships , Persano transferred from his flagship , Re d 'Italia , to the turret ship Affondatore . This created a gap in the Italian line , and Tegetthoff seized the opportunity to divide the Italian fleet and create a melee . He made a pass through the gap , but failed to ram any of the Italian ships , forcing him to turn around and make another attempt . Habsburg was not as heavily engaged in the ensuing melee ; she did not attempt to ram any Italian vessels , instead employed converging fire , though without success . During this period , the leading Italian ironclads , Principe di Carignano and Castelfidardo , opened fire at long range on Habsburg , Kaiser Max , and Salamander , though they only inflicted splinter damage on Salamander .

The battle ended after Tegetthoff 's flagship , Erzherzog Ferdinand Max , rammed and sank Re d 'Italia and heavy Austrian fire destroyed the coastal defense ship Palestro with a magazine explosion . Persano broke off the engagement , and though his ships still outnumbered the Austrians , he refused to counter @-@ attack with his badly demoralized forces . In addition , the fleet was low on coal and ammunition . The Italian fleet began to withdraw , followed by the Austrians ; Tegetthoff , having gotten the better of the action , kept his distance so as not to risk his success . In the course of the battle , Habsburg had fired 170 shells and had been hit 38 times in response , though she was not damaged and sustained no casualties . The Austrian fleet proceeded to Lissa and anchored in the harbor in Saint George Bay . That evening , Habsburg , Prinz Eugen , and a pair of gunboats patrolled outside the harbor .

= = = Later career = = =

After returning to Pola , Tegetthoff kept his fleet in the northern Adriatic , where it patrolled against a possible Italian attack . The Italian ships never came , and on 12 August , the two countries signed the Armistice of Cormons ; this ended the fighting and led to the Treaty of Vienna . Though Austria had defeated Italy at Lissa and on land at the Battle of Custoza , the Austrian army was decisively defeated by Prussia at the Battle of Königgrätz . As a result of Austria 's defeat , Kaiser Franz Joseph was forced to accede to Hungarian demands for greater autonomy , and the country became Austria @-@ Hungary in the Ausgleich of 1867 . The two halves of the Dual Monarchy held veto power over the other , and Hungarian disinterest in naval expansion led to severely reduced budgets for the fleet .

In 1869 , Kaiser Franz Joseph took a tour of the Mediterranean Sea in his imperial yacht Greif ; Habsburg , Erzherzog Ferdinand Max , and a pair of paddle steamers escorted the Kaiser for the trip to Port Said at the mouth of the Suez Canal . The two ironclads remained in the Mediterranean while the other vessels passed through the Canal into the Red Sea in company with Empress Eugenie of France aboard her own yacht . The Austro @-@ Hungarian ships eventually returned to Trieste in December . The following year , Habsburg was the sole Austro @-@ Hungarian ironclad in active service , the rest having been disarmed and laid up in Pola . Following the outbreak of the Franco @-@ Prussian War that summer and the withdrawal of the French garrison from Rome , the Italy seemed likely to annex the city from the Papal States . Franz Joseph decided to attempt to deter an Italian attack on Rome , and since Habsburg was the only capital ship available , she was sent to several Italian ports as a show of force in August . She left Italian waters in September at the same time the Prussians decisively defeated the French at the Battle of Sedan . With the collapse of the Second French Empire , and Franz Joseph unwilling to unilaterally attack Italy to defend Rome , the Austro @-@ Hungarians backed down and Italy seized the city .

In 1874 Habsburg was rearmed with a battery of fourteen 7 in (178 mm) muzzle @-@ loading

Armstrong guns and four light guns . Her battery was revised again in 1882 , with the addition of four 9 cm (3 @. @ 5 in) breech @-@ loading guns , two 7 cm (2 @. @ 8 in) breech @-@ loaders , a pair of 47 mm (1 @. @ 9 in) quick @-@ firing revolver guns , and three 25 mm (0 @. @ 98 in) auto @-@ cannon . Habsburg was withdrawn from service in 1886 and thereafter served as a guard ship and barracks ship in Pola . That year , these were removed and a single 26 cm (10 @. @ 2 in) gun and a 24 cm (9 @. @ 4 in) gun were installed . She was stricken from the naval register on 22 October 1898 and broken up for scrap in 1899 ? 1900 .