

= SMS Augsburg =

SMS Augsburg was a Kolberg class light cruiser of the German Kaiserliche Marine ( Imperial Navy ) during the First World War . She had three sister ships , SMS Kolberg , Mainz , and Cöln . The ship was built by the Kaiserliche Werft in Kiel ; her hull was laid down in 1908 and she was launched in July 1909 . Augsburg was commissioned into the High Seas Fleet in October 1910 . She was armed with a main battery of twelve 10 cm SK L / 45 guns and had a top speed of 25 knots ( 47 km / h ; 29 mph ) .

After her commissioning , Augsburg spent her peacetime career first as a torpedo test ship and then as a gunnery training ship . After the outbreak of World War I , she was assigned to the Baltic Sea , where she spent the entire war . On 2 August 1914 , she participated in an operation that saw the first shots of the war with Russia fired , and she later took part in the Battle of the Gulf of Riga in August 1915 and Operation Albion in October 1917 , as well as numerous smaller engagements throughout the war . She struck a mine , once , in January 1915 , though the ship was again operational in a few months . After the end of the war , Augsburg was ceded to Japan as a war prize , and was subsequently broken up for scrap in 1922 .

= Design =

Augsburg was ordered as a replacement for SMS Sperber under the contract name Ersatz Sperber and was laid down in 1908 at the Kaiserliche Werft shipyard in Kiel . She was launched on 10 July 1909 , after which fitting out work commenced . She was commissioned into the High Seas Fleet on 1 October 1910 . The ship was 130 meters ( 428 ft 2 in ) long overall and had a beam of 14 m ( 45 ft 11 in ) and a draft of 5 m ( 17 ft 11 in ) forward . She displaced 4 ,915 t ( 4 ,837 long tons ) at full combat load . Her propulsion system consisted of two sets of Parsons steam turbines driving four 25 meter ( 7 ft 5 in ) propellers . They were designed to give 19 ,000 metric horsepower ( 13 ,974 kW ; 18 ,740 shp ) . These were powered by fifteen coal fired Marine water tube boilers . These gave the ship a top speed of 25 knots ( 47 km / h ; 29 mph ) . Augsburg carried 940 t ( 930 long tons ; 1 ,040 short tons ) of coal that gave her a range of approximately 3 ,500 nautical miles ( 6 ,500 km ; 4 ,000 mi ) at 14 knots ( 26 km / h ; 16 mph ) . Augsburg had a crew of 18 officers and 349 enlisted men .

The ship was armed with twelve 10 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 were side by side aft . These were replaced in 1916 ? 1917 with six 15 cm SK L / 45 guns . She also carried four 5 cm ( 2 in ) SK L / 55 anti aircraft guns , though these were replaced with a pair of two 8 cm ( 3 in ) SK L / 45 anti aircraft guns in 1918 . She was also equipped with a pair of 45 cm ( 17 in ) torpedo tubes submerged in the hull . Two deck mounted 50 cm ( 20 in ) torpedo tube launchers were added in 1918 She could also carry 100 mines . The conning tower had 100 mm ( 3 in ) thick sides , and the deck was covered with up to 40 mm ( 1 in ) thick armor plate .

= Service history =

After her commissioning , Augsburg was used as a torpedo test ship . In 1912 , she was transferred to gunnery training . On the 20th of May 1914 she visited Dundee on a courtesy visit . Captain Fischer and his crew were welcomed by the Lord Provost and " the greatest friendliness was displayed " . Following the outbreak of World War I in August 1914 , she was assigned to the Baltic Sea , under the command of Rear Admiral Robert Mischke . On 2 August , Augsburg laid a minefield outside the Russian harbor of Libau , while Magdeburg shelled the port . The Russians had in fact already left Libau , which was seized by the German Army . The minefield laid by Augsburg was poorly marked and hindered German operations more than Russian efforts . Augsburg and the rest of the Baltic light forces then conducted a series of bombardments of Russian positions . On 17

August , Augsburg , Magdeburg , three destroyers , and the minelayer Deutschland encountered a pair of powerful Russian armored cruisers , Admiral Makarov and Gromoboi . The Russian commander , under the mistaken assumption that the German armored cruisers Roon and Prinz Heinrich were present , did not attack and both forces withdrew .

In September , the light forces in the Baltic were reinforced with the IV Battle Squadron , composed of the older Braunschweig and Wittelsbach @-@ class battleships , and the large armored cruiser Blücher . Starting on 3 September , the combined German force conducted a sweep into the Baltic . During the operation , Augsburg spotted the Russian cruisers Pallada and Bayan . She attempted to draw them closer to Blücher , but the Russians refused to take the bait and withdrew . On 7 September , Augsburg and the torpedo boat V25 steamed into the Gulf of Bothnia and sank a Russian steamer off Raumo . By the 9th , the German fleet had returned to port . On the night of 24 ? 25 January , Augsburg ran into a Russian minefield off Bornholm and struck a mine . The crew kept the ship afloat , and she was towed back to port for repairs .

Augsburg was back in service by April 1915 , ready for a major operation against Libau . The German Army planned to seize the port as a distraction from the main Austro @-@ German effort at Gorlice ? Tarnów . They requested naval support , and so the Navy organized a force comprising the coastal defense ship Beowulf , three armored cruisers , three light cruisers , including Augsburg , and a large number of torpedo boats and minesweepers . In addition , the IV Scouting Group , consisting of four light cruisers and twenty @-@ one torpedo boats , was sent from the North Sea to reinforce the operation . The German Army captured Libau in May , and it was subsequently turned into an advance base for the German Navy . Later that month , the Navy assigned a mine @-@ laying operation to Augsburg and Lübeck ; they were to lay a minefield near the entrance to the Gulf of Finland . A submarine attack on the cruiser Thetis , however , prompted the German naval command to cancel the operation .

On 1 June , Augsburg , Roon , Lübeck , and seven torpedo boats escorted the minelaying cruiser SMS Albatross while she laid a field off Bogskär . Augsburg served as the flagship of Commodore Johannes von Karpf , the commander of the operation . After finishing laying the minefield , Karpf sent a wireless transmission informing headquarters he had accomplished the mission , and was returning to port . This message was intercepted by the Russians , allowing them to intercept the Germans . Four Russian armored cruisers , with the powerful armored cruiser Rurik steaming in support , attempted to ambush the German squadron . Karpf dispersed his force shortly before encountering the Russians ; Augsburg , Albatross , and three torpedo boats steamed to Rixhöft while the remainder went to Libau . Shortly after 06 : 30 on 2 June , lookouts on Augsburg spotted the Russian force ; Karpf ordered the slower Albatross to seek refuge in neutral Swedish waters , while Augsburg and the torpedo boats used their high speed to escape the Russians . In the engagement that followed , Albatross was badly damaged and ran aground in Swedish waters . The Russians then turned to engage the second German force , but were low on ammunition after the engagement with Augsburg and Albatross and broke off the engagement .

The Russian Kasatka @-@ class submarine Okun fired two torpedoes at Augsburg on the night of 28 June , though both missed . Augsburg was assigned to the forces that took part in the Battle of the Gulf of Riga in August 1915 . A significant detachment from the High Seas Fleet , including eight dreadnoughts and three battlecruisers , went into the Baltic to clear the Gulf of Riga of Russian naval forces . Augsburg participated in the second attack on 16 August , led by the dreadnoughts Nassau and Posen . On the night of 19 August , Augsburg encountered a pair of Russian gunboats ? Sivutch and Korietz ; Augsburg and Posen sank Sivutch , though Korietz managed to escape . The Russian surface forces had by this time withdrawn to Moon Sound , and the threat of Russian submarines and mines still in the Gulf prompted the Germans to retreat . On 13 October , an unknown submarine fired a torpedo at Augsburg , though it did not hit her . In September 1916 , Augsburg participated in an attempt to force the Irben Strait into the Gulf of Riga in September 1916 . Heavy Russian resistance , primarily from the old battleship Slava , forced the Germans to retreat from the Gulf .

In November 1917 , Augsburg participated in another attack on the Gulf of Riga , Operation Albion . By this point , she had been assigned to the VI Scouting Group along with Strassburg and her sister

Kolberg . At 06 : 00 on 14 October 1917 , the three ships left Libau to escort minesweeping operations in the Gulf of Riga . They were attacked by Russian 12 @-@ inch ( 300 mm ) coastal guns on their approach and were temporarily forced to turn away . By 08 : 45 , however , they had anchored off the Mikailovsk Bank and the minesweepers began to clear a path in the minefields . Two days later , Augsburg joined the dreadnoughts König and Kronprinz for a sweep of the Gulf of Riga . While the battleships engaged the Russian naval forces , Augsburg was tasked with supervising the occupation of Arensburg .

According to the Armistice that ended the war , Augsburg and the rest of the German fleet not interned in Scapa Flow were to be returned to the main German ports and disarmed . In the subsequent Treaty of Versailles that formally ended the conflict , Augsburg was listed as a warship to be surrendered to the Allied powers ; she was to be disarmed in accordance with the terms of the Armistice , but her guns were to remain on board . After the end of World War I , Augsburg was surrendered to Japan as a war prize on 3 September 1920 , under the name " Y " . The Japanese had no use for the ship , and so she was broken up in Dordrecht in 1922 .