

= SMS Wiesbaden =

SMS Wiesbaden was a light cruiser of the Wiesbaden class built for the Imperial German Navy (Kaiserliche Marine) . She had one sister ship , SMS Frankfurt ; the ships were very similar to the previous Karlsruhe @-@ class cruisers . The ship was laid down in 1913 , launched in January 1915 , and completed by August 1915 . Armed with eight 15 cm SK L / 45 guns , Wiesbaden had a top speed of 27 @. @ 5 knots (50 @. @ 9 km / h ; 31 @. @ 6 mph) and displaced 6 @, @ 601 t (6 @, @ 497 long tons ; 7 @, @ 276 short tons) at full load .

Wiesbaden saw only one major action , the Battle of Jutland on 31 May ? 1 June 1916 . The ship was badly damaged by gunfire from the battlecruiser HMS Invincible . Immobilized between the two battle fleets , Wiesbaden became the center of a hard @-@ fought action that saw the destruction of two British armored cruisers . Heavy fire from the British fleet prevented evacuation of the ship 's crew . Wiesbaden remained afloat until the early hours of 1 June and sank sometime between 01 : 45 and 02 : 45 . Only one crew member survived the sinking ; the wreck was located by German Navy divers in 1983 .

= = Design = =

Wiesbaden was ordered under the contract name " Ersatz Gefion " and was laid down at the AG Vulcan shipyard in Stettin in 1913 and launched on 20 January 1915 , after which fitting @-@ out work commenced . She was commissioned into the High Seas Fleet on 23 August 1915 , after being rushed through trials . The ship was 145 @. @ 30 meters (476 ft 8 in) long overall and had a beam of 13 @. @ 90 m (45 ft 7 in) and a draft of 5 @. @ 76 m (18 ft 11 in) forward . She displaced 6 @, @ 601 t (6 @, @ 497 long tons ; 7 @, @ 276 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 31 @, @ 000 shaft horsepower (23 @, @ 000 kW) . These were powered by twelve 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) . Wiesbaden carried 1 @, @ 280 tonnes (1 @, @ 260 long tons) of coal , and an additional 470 tonnes (460 long tons) of oil that gave her a range of 4 @, @ 800 nautical miles (8 @, @ 900 km ; 5 @, @ 500 mi) at 12 knots (22 km / h ; 14 mph) . Wiesbaden had a crew of 17 officers and 457 enlisted men .

The ship was armed with eight 15 cm SK L / 45 guns in single pedestal mounts . Two were placed side by side forward on the forecastle , four were located amidships , two on either side , and two were placed in a superfiring pair aft . The guns could engage targets out to 17 @, @ 600 m (57 @, @ 700 ft) . They were supplied with 1 @, @ 024 rounds of ammunition , for 128 shells per gun . The ship 's antiaircraft armament initially consisted of four 5 @. @ 2 cm (2 @. @ 0 in) L / 44 guns , though these were replaced with a pair of 8 @. @ 8 cm SK L / 45 anti @-@ aircraft guns . She was also equipped with four 50 cm (19 @. @ 7 in) torpedo tubes with eight torpedoes . Two were submerged in the hull on the broadside and two were mounted on the deck amidships . 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 = =

Commanded by Captain Fritz Reiss , Wiesbaden was assigned to the II Scouting Group of light cruisers under Konteradmiral Friedrich Boedicker , which took part in the Battle of Jutland on 30 May and 1 June 1916 . Wiesbaden 's sister ship Frankfurt served as Boedicker 's flagship . The unit was assigned to screen for the battlecruisers of Vizeadmiral Franz von Hipper 's I Scouting Group . At the start of the battle , Wiesbaden was cruising to starboard , which placed her on the disengaged side when Elbing , Pillau , and Frankfurt first engaged the British cruiser screen .

At around 18 : 30 , Wiesbaden and the rest of the II Scouting Group encountered the cruiser HMS

Chester ; they opened fire and scored several hits on the ship . As both sides ' cruisers disengaged , Rear Admiral Horace Hood 's three battlecruisers intervened . His flagship HMS Invincible scored a hit on Wiesbaden that exploded in her engine room and disabled the ship . Konteradmiral Paul Behncke , the commander of the leading element of the German battle line , ordered his dreadnoughts to cover the stricken Wiesbaden . Simultaneously , the light cruisers of the British 3rd and 4th Light Cruiser Squadrons attempted to make a torpedo attack on the German line ; while steaming into range , they battered Wiesbaden with their main guns . The destroyer HMS Onslow steamed to within 2 @, @ 000 yards (1 @, @ 800 m) of Wiesbaden and fired a single torpedo at the crippled cruiser . It hit directly below the conning tower , but the ship remained afloat . In the ensuing melee , the armored cruiser HMS Defence blew up and HMS Warrior was fatally damaged . Wiesbaden launched her torpedoes while she remained immobilized , but with no success .

Shortly after 20 : 00 , the III Flotilla of torpedo boats attempted to rescue Wiesbaden 's crew , but heavy fire from the British battle line drove them off . Another attempt to reach the ship was made , but the torpedo boat crews lost sight of the cruiser and were unable to locate her . The ship finally sank sometime between 01 : 45 and 02 : 45 . Only one crew member survived the sinking ; he was picked up by a Norwegian steamer the following day . Among the 589 killed was the well @-@ known writer of poetry and fiction dealing with the life of fishermen and sailors , Johann Kinau , known under his pseudonym of Gorch Fock , who has since then been honored by having two training windjammers of the Kriegsmarine and the German Navy , respectively , named after him . The wreck of Wiesbaden was found in 1983 by divers of the German Navy , who removed both of the ship 's screws . The ship lies on the sea floor upside down , and was the last German cruiser sunk at Jutland to be located .