

= SMS Erzherzog Ferdinand Max =

For the ironclad present at the Battle of Lissa of the same name , see SMS Erzherzog Ferdinand Max (1865) .

SMS Erzherzog Ferdinand Max (German : " His Majesty 's ship Archduke Ferdinand Max ") was a pre - dreadnought battleship built by the Austro - Hungarian Navy in 1902 . The second ship of the Erzherzog Karl class , she was launched on 3 October 1903 . She was assigned to the III Battleship Division .

For most of World War I , Erzherzog Ferdinand Max remained in her home port of Pola , in present - day Croatia , except for four engagements . In 1914 , she formed part of the Austro - Hungarian flotilla sent to protect the escape of the German ships SMS Goeben and SMS Breslau from the British - held Mediterranean ; she advanced as far as Brindisi before being recalled to her home port . Her sole combat engagement occurred in late May 1915 , when she participated in the bombardment of the Italian port city of Ancona . She also took part in suppressing a major mutiny among the crew members of several armored cruisers stationed in Cattaro between 1 ? 3 February 1918 . She also attempted to break through the Otranto Barrage in June of that year , but had to retreat when the dreadnought SMS Szent István was sunk . After the war , Erzherzog Ferdinand Max was awarded to the United Kingdom as a war prize in 1920 .

= = Design = =

Erzherzog Ferdinand Max displaced 10 , 472 long tons (10 , 640 t) . She was 414 feet 2 inches (126 . 2 m) long , had a beam of 71 feet 5 inches (21 . 8 m) and a draft of 24 feet 7 inches (7 . 5 m) . She was manned by 700 men . She and her sisters were the last and largest pre - dreadnought class built by the Austro - Hungarian Navy , surpassing the Habsburg class by approximately 2 , 000 tonnes (1 , 968 long tons) . She was propelled by two two - shaft , four cylinder vertical triple expansion steam engines . On trials , they developed 18 , 000 ihp (13 , 423 kW) , which propelled the ship at a speed of 20 . 5 knots (38 . 0 km / h ; 23 . 6 mph) .

Erzherzog Ferdinand Max carried a primary armament of four 24 - centimeter (9 . 4 in) / 40 caliber guns in two twin turrets on the centerline . These guns were an Austro - Hungarian replica of the British 24 cm / 40 (9 . 4 ") Krupp C / 94 , which was used on the Habsburgs . Her secondary armament consisted of twelve 19 - centimeter (7 . 5 in) / 42 caliber guns , also made by Škoda , mounted in eight single casemates on either wing of the ship and two twin turrets on the centerline . shell 20 , 000 metres (22 , 000 yd) at maximum elevation with a muzzle velocity of 800 metres per second (2 , 600 ft / s) . The gun weighed 12 . 1 tons and could fire three rounds per minute . The ships had a tertiary armament for protection against torpedo boats in the form of the 6 . 6 centimetres (2 . 6 in) / 45 caliber gun , also manufactured by Škoda . Anti - aircraft and airship protection was covered by the four 37 - millimeter (1 . 5 in) Vickers anti - aircraft guns on the ship bought from Britain in 1910 and mounted onto Erzherzog Karl . Erzherzog Ferdinand Max was also fitted with two above water 45 - centimeter (17 . 7 in) torpedo tubes , although rarely used .

= = Service history = =

At the outbreak of World War I , Erzherzog Ferdinand Max was in the III division of the Austro - Hungarian battle - fleet . She was mobilized on the eve of the war along with the remainder of the fleet to support the flight of SMS Goeben and SMS Breslau . The two German ships were attempting to break out of Messina , which was surrounded by British troops , and make their way to Turkey . The breakout succeeded . When the flotilla had advanced as far south as Brindisi in south eastern Italy , the Austro - Hungarian ships were recalled . In company with other units of the Austro - Hungarian navy , Erzherzog Ferdinand Max took a minor part in the bombardment of Ancona on 24 May 1915 . There she and her sisters expended 24 rounds of 240

mm armor @-@ piercing shells at signal and semaphore stations as well as 74 rounds of 190 mm shells aimed at Italian gun @-@ batteries and other port installations .

A major mutiny among crews of the armored cruisers stationed in Cattaro , including Sankt Georg and Kaiser Karl VI , began on 1 February 1918 . Two days later , Erzherzog Ferdinand Max and her sisters arrived in the port and assisted with the suppression of the mutiny . Following the restoration of order in the naval base , the armored cruisers Sankt Georg and Kaiser Karl VI were decommissioned and Erzherzog Ferdinand Max and her sisters were stationed in Cattaro in their place . On the morning of 11 June , Admiral Miklos Horthy planned a major assault on the Otranto Barrage ; the three Erzherzog Karls and the four Tegetthoff @-@ class battleships were to provide support for the Novara @-@ class cruisers on an assault on the Allied defenses at the Strait of Otranto . The plan was intended to replicate the success of the raid conducted one year earlier . Horthy 's plan was to destroy the blockading fleet by luring Allied ships to the cruisers and lighter ships , which were protected from the heavier guns of the battleships , including the guns of the Erzherzog Karl class . However , on the morning of 10 June , the dreadnought Szent István was torpedoed and sunk by an Italian torpedo boat . Horthy felt that the element of surprise had been compromised , and therefore called off the operation . This was to be the last military action Erzherzog Ferdinand Max was to take part in , and she and her sisters spent the rest of their career in port .

Near the end of World War I , the Erzherzog Karl @-@ class battleships were handed over to the newly formed State of Slovenes , Croats and Serbs but Erzherzog Ferdinand Max was later transferred to Great Britain as a war reparation . She was later broken up for scrap in 1921 .