

= SMS Lübeck =

SMS Lübeck (" His Majesty 's Ship Lübeck ") was the fourth of seven Bremen @-@ class cruisers of the Imperial German Navy , named after the city of Lübeck . She was begun by AG Vulcan Stettin in Stettin in 1903 , launched in March 1904 and commissioned in April 1905 . Armed with a main battery of ten 10 @. @ 5 cm (4 @. @ 1 in) guns and two 45 cm (18 in) torpedo tubes , Lübeck was capable of a top speed of 22 @. @ 5 knots (41 @. @ 7 km / h ; 25 @. @ 9 mph) .

Lübeck served with the High Seas Fleet for the first decade of her career , and after the outbreak of World War I in August 1914 , she was transferred to the Baltic Sea to defend Germany 's coast from potential Russian attacks . She saw extensive service in the first three years of the war , during which time she participated in the seizure of Libau and was attacked by Allied submarines on two occasions . She struck a mine in 1916 but was repaired ; in 1917 , she was withdrawn for secondary duties . She survived the war , and was ceded to the British as a war prize in 1920 , and subsequently broken up for scrap .

= = Construction = =

Lübeck was ordered under the contract name Ersatz Mercur and was laid down at the AG Vulcan shipyard in Stettin in 1903 and launched on 26 March 1904 , after which fitting @-@ out work commenced . She was commissioned into the High Seas Fleet on 26 April 1905 . The ship was 111 @. @ 1 meters (365 ft) long overall and had a beam of 13 @. @ 3 m (44 ft) and a draft of 5 @. @ 4 m (18 ft) forward . She displaced 3 @, @ 661 t (3 @, @ 603 long tons ; 4 @, @ 036 short tons) at full combat load . Her propulsion system consisted of two Parsons steam turbines , designed to give 11 @, @ 500 shaft horsepower (8 @, @ 600 kW) for a top speed of 22 @. @ 5 knots (41 @. @ 7 km / h ; 25 @. @ 9 mph) . She was the first warship in the German Navy to be equipped with turbine propulsion . The engines were powered by ten coal @-@ fired Marine @-@ type water @-@ tube boilers . Lübeck carried up to 860 tonnes (850 long tons) of coal , which gave her a range of 3 @, @ 800 nautical miles (7 @, @ 000 km ; 4 @, @ 400 mi) at 12 knots (22 km / h ; 14 mph) , a shorter range than her sisters , due to her less efficient turbines . She had a crew of 14 officers and 274 ? 287 enlisted men .

The ship was armed with ten 10 @. @ 5 cm SK L / 40 guns in single mounts . Two were placed side by side forward on the forecastle , six were located amidships , three on either side , and two were placed side by side aft . The guns could engage targets out to 12 @, @ 200 m (40 @, @ 000 ft) . They were supplied with 1 @, @ 500 rounds of ammunition , for 150 shells per gun . She was also equipped with two 50 cm (19 @. @ 7 in) torpedo tubes with four torpedoes , mounted on the deck . She was also fitted to carry fifty naval mines . The ship was protected by an armored deck that was up to 80 mm (3 @. @ 1 in) thick . The conning tower had 100 mm (3 @. @ 9 in) thick sides , and the guns were protected by 50 mm (2 @. @ 0 in) thick shields .

= = Service history = =

After her commissioning , Lübeck was assigned to the High Seas Fleet . She served with the fleet until 1914 and the outbreak of World War I. She was then relegated to service as a coastal defense vessel in the Baltic . As the Central Powers prepared to launch the Gorlice ? Tarnów Offensive in early May 1915 , the extreme left flank of the German Army was ordered to launch a diversionary attack on 27 April . Lübeck was assigned to the naval support for the attack ; on the first day of the attack , she and the cruiser Thetis shelled the port of Libau . Ten days later , the Army was poised to seize Libau , and so requested naval support for the attack . Lübeck and several other cruisers and torpedo boats covered the assault on the city and patrolled to ensure no Russian naval forces attempted to intervene .

Rear Admiral Hopman , the commander of the reconnaissance forces in the Baltic , conducted a major assault on Libau , in conjunction with an attempt by the German Army to seize the city . The attack took place on 7 May . Lübeck joined the armored cruisers Prinz Heinrich , Roon , and Prinz

Adalbert , the elderly coast defense ship Beowulf , and the light cruisers Augsburg and Thetis . They were escorted by a number of destroyers , torpedo boats , and minesweepers . The IV Scouting Group of the High Seas Fleet was detached from the North Sea to provide cover for the operation . The bombardment went as planned , though the destroyer V107 struck a mine in Libau 's harbor , which blew off her bow and destroyed the ship . German ground forces were successful in their assault however , and took the city . A week later , on 14 May , Lübeck was to lay a minefield off the Gulf of Finland with Augsburg , but Russian submarines in the area convinced the Germans to cancel the operation .

On 1 July , the minelayer SMS Albatross , escorted by the cruisers Lübeck , Roon , and Augsburg and seven destroyers , laid a minefield north of Bogskär . While returning to port , the flotilla separated into two sections ; Augsburg , Albatross , and three destroyers made for Rixhöft while the remainder of the unit went to Libau . Augsburg and Albatross were intercepted by a powerful Russian squadron commanded by Rear Admiral Bakhirev , consisting of three armored and two light cruisers . Commodore Johannes von Karpf , the flotilla commander , ordered the slower Albatross to steam for neutral Swedish waters and recalled Roon and Lübeck . Albatross was grounded off Gotland and Augsburg escaped , and the Russian squadron briefly engaged Roon before both sides broke contact . Upon being informed of the situation , Hopman sortied with Prinz Heinrich and Prinz Adalbert to support von Karpf . While en route , the cruisers encountered the British submarine E9 , which scored a hit on Prinz Adalbert . Hopman broke off the operation and returned to port with the damaged cruiser .

On 9 August , Lübeck was attacked by the Russian submarine Gepard outside the Irben Strait at the entrance to the Gulf of Riga . Gepard fired a spread of five torpedoes at a range of 1 @, @ 200 m (3 @, @ 900 ft) , but Lübeck successfully evaded them . On 6 November , Lübeck again came under attack from an Allied submarine ; on this occasion , it was the British HMS E8 . Again , Lübeck managed to evade the torpedoes and escape undamaged . The Allies finally had success against the ship on 13 January 1916 , when a Russian mine damaged Lübeck ; she nevertheless returned to port and was repaired . At the same time , she and her sister Bremen were rearmed with two 15 cm SK L / 45 and six 10 @. @ 5 cm SK L / 45 guns . A new bow was fitted and her funnels were replaced with new models .

In 1917 , she was withdrawn from front @-@ line service and employed as a training ship , as well as a target ship . Lübeck served in this capacity until the end of the war in November 1918 . Under the terms of the Treaty of Versailles , the ship was surrendered to the British as a war prize . She was formally ceded on 3 September 1920 under the name P ; the British in turn sold her for scrapping in 1922 , and she was dismantled in Germany over the following year .