

= SMS Deutschland ( 1874 ) =

SMS Deutschland was the second and final ship of the Kaiser class ironclads ; SMS Kaiser was her sister ship . Named for Germany ( Deutschland in German ) , the ship was laid down in the Samuda Brothers shipyard in London in 1872 . The ship was launched in September 1874 and commissioned into the German fleet in July 1875 . Deutschland mounted a main battery of eight 26 cm ( 10 in ) guns in a central battery amidships . She was the last capital ship built for the German Navy by a foreign ship builder ; all subsequent ships were built in Germany .

Deutschland served with the fleet from her commissioning until 1896 , though she was frequently placed in reserve throughout her career . The ship was a regular participant in the annual fleet training maneuvers conducted with the exception of the mid 1880s , when she was temporarily replaced by newer vessels . She participated in several cruises in the Baltic and Mediterranean , often escorting Kaiser Wilhelm II on official state visits . Deutschland was rebuilt in the early 1890s as an armored cruiser , though she was too slow to perform satisfactorily in this role . Nevertheless , she spent three years in the East Asia Squadron before returning to Germany in 1900 . She was used in secondary roles after 1904 , until 1908 when she was sold and broken up for scrap .

= = Construction = =

Deutschland was ordered by the Imperial Navy from the Samuda Brothers shipyard in London , UK ; her keel was laid in 1872 . Deutschland and her sister Kaiser were ordered shortly after the end of the Franco Prussian War , under the assumption that the French would quickly attempt a war of revenge . The ship was launched on 12 September 1874 and commissioned into the German fleet on 20 July 1875 . Deutschland cost the German government 8 240 000 gold marks . She was the last German capital ship built by a foreign shipbuilder .

The ship was 89 34 meters ( 293 1 ft ) long overall and had a beam of 19 10 m ( 62 7 ft ) and a draft of 7 39 m ( 24 2 ft ) forward . Deutschland was powered by one 2 cylinder single expansion engine , which was supplied with steam by eight coal fired trunk boilers . The ship 's top speed was 14 6 knots ( 27 0 km / h ; 16 8 mph ) , at 5 779 indicated horsepower ( 4 309 kW ) . She was also equipped with a full ship rig . Her standard complement consisted of 32 officers and 568 enlisted men .

She was armed with eight 26 cm ( 10 in ) L / 20 guns mounted in a central battery amidships . As built , the ship was also equipped with a single 21 cm ( 8 3 in ) L / 22 gun . After being rebuilt in 1891 ? 1895 , her armament was increased by six 8 8 cm ( 3 5 in ) L / 22 and one 8 8 cm L / 30 guns , four and later twelve 3 7 cm ( 1 5 in ) auto cannons , and five 35 cm ( 14 in ) torpedo tubes , all mounted in the ship 's hull . Deutschland 's armor was made of wrought iron and backed with teak . The armored belt was 127 to 254 mm ( 5 0 to 10 0 in ) thick ; this was backed with 90 to 226 mm ( 3 5 to 8 9 in ) of teak .

= = Service history = =

Following her commissioning in July 1875 , a German crew sailed Deutschland to Germany . She arrived too late , however , to participate in the annual summer training maneuvers . The ship was ready for the 1876 maneuvers ; the squadron consisted of Deutschland , her sister Kaiser , and the older ironclads Friedrich Carl and Kronprinz , commanded by Rear Admiral Carl Ferdinand Batsch . At around the time Batsch 's squadron was working up for the summer cruise , the German consul in Salonika , then in the Ottoman Empire , was murdered . Further attacks on German citizens living in the area were feared , and so Batsch was ordered to sail to the Mediterranean Sea to stage a naval demonstration in June 1876 . After arriving with the four ironclads , he was reinforced by three unarmored vessels . After the threat of violence subsided in August , Batsch departed with Kaiser and Deutschland ; the other two ironclads remained in the Mediterranean for the rest of the summer .

For the 1877 maneuvers , the new turret ironclad Preussen replaced Kronprinz . The squadron was

again sent to the Mediterranean , in response to unrest in the Ottoman Empire related to the Russo @-@ Turkish War ; the violence threatened German citizens living there . The squadron , again under the command of Batsch , steamed to the ports of Haifa and Jaffa in July 1877 , but found no significant tensions ashore . Batsch then departed and cruised the Mediterranean for the remainder of the summer , returning to Germany in October . The newly commissioned Friedrich der Grosse and Grosser Kurfürst , sister ships of Preussen , replaced Deutschland and Kaiser in the 1878 maneuvers , during which Grosser Kurfürst was accidentally rammed and sank with great loss of life . Deutschland and her sister Kaiser remained in reserve for the next six years . They were reactivated in the spring of 1883 for the summer maneuvers under the command of Wilhelm von Wickede . Due to their long period out of service , their engines proved troublesome during the training cruise . Indeed , the maneuvers were temporarily put on hold when the steam plants in Deutschland , Kaiser , and Kronprinz broke down . Regardless , the 1883 cruise was the first year the German navy completely abandoned the use of sails on its large ironclads . Deutschland went into reserve during the 1884 maneuvers , which were conducted by a homogenous squadron composed of the four Sachsen @-@ class ironclads .

The ship did not see active duty again until the summer of 1889 , when Deutschland joined the fleet that steamed to Great Britain to celebrate the coronation of Kaiser Wilhelm II ; the ship joined her sister Kaiser and the turret ships Preussen and Friedrich der Grosse in the II Division . The fleet then held training maneuvers in the North Sea under command of Rear Admiral Friedrich Hollmann . Deutschland and the rest of the II Division became the training squadron for the fleet in 1889 ? 1890 , the first year the Kaiserliche Marine maintained a year @-@ round ironclad force . The squadron escorted Wilhelm II 's imperial yacht to the Mediterranean ; the voyage included state visits to Italy and the Ottoman Empire . The squadron remained in the Mediterranean until April 1890 , when it returned to Germany . Deutschland participated in the ceremonial transfer of the island of Helgoland from British to German control in the summer of 1890 . She was present during the fleet maneuvers in September , where the entire eight @-@ ship armored squadron simulated a Russian fleet blockading Kiel . The II Division , including Deutschland , served as the training squadron in the winter of 1890 ? 1891 . The squadron again cruised the Mediterranean , under the command of Rear Admiral Wilhelm Schröder .

During the winter of 1892 ? 1893 , Deutschland participated in a training squadron alongside the old ironclad König Wilhelm and the new coastal defense ships Siegfried and Beowulf . The squadron carried over for the fleet maneuvers during the summer of 1893 , when they were joined by the four Sachsen @-@ class vessels . In November 1893 , the Deutschland , König Wilhelm , and Friedrich der Grosse were joined by the brand @-@ new pre @-@ dreadnought battleship Brandenburg , under the command of Otto von Diederichs . The squadron participated in the fall maneuvers in 1894 , which simulated a two @-@ front war against France and Russia ; Deutschland 's squadron acted as the Russian fleet during the exercises . Between 1894 and 1897 , Deutschland was rebuilt in the Imperial Dockyard in Wilhelmshaven . The ship was converted into an armored cruiser ; her heavy guns were removed and replaced with lighter weapons , including eight 15 cm ( 5 @.@ 9 in ) and eight 8 @.@ 8 cm ( 3 @.@ 5 in ) guns . Her entire rigging equipment was removed and two heavy military masts were installed in place of the rigging . Despite the modernization , she remained quite slow . Kaiser and the old ironclad König Wilhelm were similarly converted . Deutschland rejoined the fleet on 25 January 1897 .

Following Diederichs 's seizure of Kiautschou Bay in November 1897 , Deutschland , the protected cruiser Kaiserin Augusta , and the light cruisers Gefion and Cormoran reinforced the East Asia Cruiser Division . The arrival of the four ships allowed the division to be expanded to the East Asia Squadron . Prince Heinrich , with his flag aboard Deutschland , departed Germany in December 1897 with Gefion ; the two ships arrived in Hong Kong in March 1898 . Prince Heinrich took the two ships on a tour of Asia , culminating in a state visit to Peking in April . While most of the Squadron went to the Philippines to safeguard German interests during the Spanish ? American War in the summer of 1898 , Deutschland , Gefion , and Irene remained in Chinese waters . On 14 April 1899 , Diederichs left the East Asia Squadron ; command passed to Prince Henry and Deutschland became the Squadron flagship .

Deutschland remained on the East Asia station until 1900 . After returning to Germany , Deutschland was used as a harbor ship , starting on 3 May 1904 . She was renamed Jupiter on 22 November of that year . On 21 May 1906 , the ship was stricken from the naval register and used briefly as a target ship in 1907 . The Kaiserliche Marine sold the ship in 1908 for 120 000 marks ; she was broken up for scrap the following year in Hamburg .