

= SMS Brummer =

SMS Brummer was a minelaying light cruiser of the German Kaiserliche Marine ; she was the lead ship of her class . Her sister ship was Bremse . Brummer was laid down at AG Vulcan 's shipyard in Stettin in 1915 and launched on 11 December 1915 and completed on 2 April 1916 . Armed with a main battery of four 15 @-@ centimeter (5 @.@ 9 in) guns in single mounts , she carried 400 mines .

Despite being designed as a minelayer , the German Navy never operated her as such . She and her sister were used to raid a British convoy to Norway in October 1917 . The two cruisers sank two escorting destroyers and nine of the twelve merchant ships of the convoy . The Kaiserliche Marine considered sending the two ships to attack convoys in the Atlantic Ocean , but the difficulties associated with refueling at sea convinced the Germans to abandon the plan . Brummer was included in the list of ships interned at Scapa Flow following the Armistice . On 21 June 1919 , the commander of the interned fleet , Rear Admiral Ludwig von Reuter , ordered the scuttling of the fleet . Brummer was successfully scuttled , and unlike most of the other wrecks , she was never raised for scrapping .

= = Construction = =

Brummer was ordered under the contract name " C " and was laid down at the AG Vulcan shipyard in Stettin in 1915 . She was launched on 11 December 1915 , after which fitting @-@ out work commenced . Completed in less than four months , she was commissioned into the High Seas Fleet on 2 April 1916 . The ship was 140 @.@ 4 meters (461 ft) long overall and had a beam of 13 @.@ 2 m (43 ft) and a draft of 6 m (20 ft) forward . She displaced 5 @,@ 856 t (5 @,@ 764 long tons ; 6 @,@ 455 short tons) at full combat load . Her propulsion system consisted of two sets of 33 @,@ 000 @-@ shaft @-@ horsepower (25 @,@ 000 kW) steam turbines powered by two coal @-@ fired and four oil @-@ fired Marine @-@ type boilers . These provided a top speed of 28 kn (52 km / h ; 32 mph) and a range of 5 @,@ 800 nautical miles (10 @,@ 700 km ; 6 @,@ 700 mi) at 12 kn (22 km / h ; 14 mph) . In service however , the ship reached 34 kn (63 km / h ; 39 mph) .

The ship was armed with four 15 cm SK L / 45 guns in single pedestal mounts ; two were arranged side by side forward and two were placed in a superfiring pair aft . These guns fired a 45 @.@ 3 @-@ pound (20 @.@ 5 kg) shell at a muzzle velocity of 840 meters per second (2 @,@ 800 ft / s) . The guns had a maximum elevation of 30 degrees , which allowed them to engage targets out to 17 @,@ 600 m (57 @,@ 700 ft) . They were supplied with 600 rounds of ammunition , for 150 shells per gun . Brummer also carried two 8 @.@ 8 cm (3 @.@ 5 in) L / 45 anti @-@ aircraft guns mounted on the centerline astern of the funnels . She was also equipped with a pair of 50 cm (19 @.@ 7 in) torpedo tubes with four torpedoes in a swivel mount amidships . Designed as a minelayer , she carried 400 mines . The ship was protected by a waterline armored belt that was 40 mm (1 @.@ 6 in) thick amidships . The conning tower had 100 mm (3 @.@ 9 in) thick sides , and the deck was covered with 15 mm (0 @.@ 59 in) thick armor plate .

= = Service = =

Brummer was ready for service with the fleet by May 1916 , though she did not steam with the rest of the High Seas Fleet for the Battle of Jutland at the end of the month . Despite the fact that they had been built as minelaying cruisers , Brummer and Bremse were never used in this capacity . In the autumn of 1917 , Admiral Reinhard Scheer , the chief of the Admiralstab , decided to supplement the U @-@ boat campaign with surface raiders to attack the British convoys to Scandinavia . In addition to damaging British shipping , Scheer sought to divert escorts from the Atlantic theater , where his U @-@ boats were concentrated . Brummer , commanded by Fregattenkapitän Leonhardi , and Bremse , commanded by Fregattenkapitän Westerkamp , were selected for the first such operation . Their high speed and large radius of action , coupled with their resemblance to British light cruisers , made them suited to the task . In preparation for the raid , their

crews painted the ships dark gray to further camouflage them as British vessels .

Half an hour after dawn on the morning of 17 October , Brummer and Bremse attacked a westbound convoy about 70 nautical miles (130 km ; 81 mi) east of Lerwick . The convoy consisted of twelve merchantmen and was escorted by the destroyers HMS Strongbow and Mary Rose and a pair of armed trawlers . The German ruse worked , and the British destroyers initially thought they were friendly ships . They flashed recognition signals until the Germans opened fire at a range of 2 @, @ 700 m (8 @, @ 900 ft) . Strongbow was quickly destroyed , and as Mary Rose rushed to engage , she too was sunk . The Germans then quickly sank nine of the merchant vessels ; the two trawlers and three merchant ships managed to escape . The British Admiralty was not informed of the attack until Brummer and Bremse were on the return leg of the voyage . Kaiser Wilhelm II celebrated the results of the attack with champagne . The success of the two ships and the commitment of heavier British convoy escorts led Scheer to attempt to attack one of the heavily defended convoys with the entire High Seas Fleet in April 1918 , though this ended without success .

Late in the war , the Admiralstab considered sending Brummer and Bremse on a commerce raiding mission into the Atlantic . They were to operate off the Azores in concert with an oiler . The central Atlantic was out of the normal range of the U @-@ boats , and convoys were therefore lightly defended in the area . The Admiralstab canceled the plan , however , after it was determined that refueling at sea would be too difficult . Another problem was the tendency of the two ships to emit clouds of red sparks when steaming at speeds over 20 kn (37 km / h ; 23 mph) ; this would hamper evading Allied ships at night . Brummer was to have been part of the final sortie of the High Seas Fleet in October 1918 , but this operation was cancelled due to the mutiny of the High Seas Fleet in Wilhelmshaven , after which Brummer was moved to Sassnitz .

Along with the most modern units of the High Seas Fleet , Brummer and Bremse were included in the ships specified for internment at Scapa Flow by the victorious Allied powers . The ships steamed out of Germany on 21 November 1918 in single file , commanded by Rear Admiral Ludwig von Reuter . They were met at sea by a combined fleet of 370 British , American , and French warships . The fleet arrived in the Firth of Forth later that day , and between 25 and 27 November , they were escorted to Scapa Flow . Upon arrival , all wireless equipment was removed from the ships and the breech blocks of their heavy guns were removed to prevent their use . Crews were reduced to minimum levels .

The fleet remained in captivity during the negotiations that ultimately produced the Treaty of Versailles . Reuter believed that the British intended to seize the German ships on 21 June 1919 , which was the deadline for Germany to have signed the peace treaty . Unaware that the deadline had been extended to the 23rd , Reuter ordered the ships to be sunk at the next opportunity . On the morning of 21 June , the British fleet left Scapa Flow to conduct training maneuvers , and at 11 : 20 Reuter transmitted the order to his ships . Brummer sank at 13 : 05 ; she was never raised for scrapping and remains on the bottom of Scapa Flow .