

= SMS Kaiser Max (1862) =

SMS Kaiser Max was the lead ship of the Kaiser Max class of armored frigates built for the Austrian Navy in the 1860s . Her keel was laid in October 1861 at the Stabilimento Tecnico Triestino shipyard ; she was launched in March 1862 , and was completed in 1863 . She carried her main battery ? composed of sixteen 48 @-@ pounder guns and fifteen 24 @-@ pounders ? in a traditional broadside arrangement , protected by an armored belt that was 110 mm (4 @.@ 3 in) thick .

Kaiser Max saw action at the Battle of Lissa in July 1866 . She engaged the Italian coastal defense ship Palestro , which later exploded and sank after sustaining heavy Austrian fire . Kaiser Max emerged from the battle largely unscathed , save for minor damage to her funnel and rigging inflicted by the armored frigate Re d 'Italia . After the war , Kaiser Max was modernized slightly in 1867 to correct her poor seakeeping and improve her armament , but she was nevertheless rapidly outpaced by naval developments in the 1860s and 1870s . Obsolescent by 1873 , Kaiser Max was officially " rebuilt " , though in actuality she was broken up for scrap , with only her armor plate , parts of her machinery , and other miscellaneous parts being reused in the new Kaiser Max .

= = Design = =

Kaiser Max was 70 @.@ 78 meters (232 @.@ 2 ft) long between perpendiculars ; she had a beam of 10 m (33 ft) and an average draft of 6 @.@ 32 m (20 @.@ 7 ft) . She displaced 3 @,@ 588 metric tons (3 @,@ 531 long tons ; 3 @,@ 955 short tons) . She had a crew of 386 . Her propulsion system consisted of one single @-@ expansion steam engine that drove a single screw propeller . The number and type of her coal @-@ fired boilers have not survived . Her engine produced a top speed of 11 @.@ 4 knots (21 @.@ 1 km / h ; 13 @.@ 1 mph) from 1 @,@ 926 indicated horsepower (1 @,@ 436 kW) . She could steam for about 1 @,@ 200 nautical miles (2 @,@ 200 km ; 1 @,@ 400 mi) at a speed of 10 knots (19 km / h ; 12 mph) .

Kaiser Max was a broadside ironclad , and she was armed with a main battery of sixteen 48 @-@ pounder muzzle @-@ loading guns and fifteen 24 @-@ pounder 15 cm (5 @.@ 9 in) rifled muzzle @-@ loading guns . She also carried a single 12 @-@ pounder gun and a six @-@ pounder The ship 's hull was sheathed with wrought iron armor that was 110 mm (4 in) thick .

= = Service history = =

Kaiser Max was built by the Stabilimento Tecnico Triestino (STT) shipyard ; her keel was laid down in October 1861 , and her completed hull was launched on 14 March 1862 . Fitting @-@ out work was completed the following year , when she was commissioned into the Austrian fleet . She proved to be very wet forward owing to her open bow , and as a result , tended to handle poorly . In June 1866 , Italy declared war on Austria , as part of the Third Italian War of Independence , which was fought concurrently with the Austro @-@ Prussian War . Rear Admiral Wilhelm von Tegetthoff , the commander of the Austrian Fleet , immediately began to mobilize his fleet . As the ships became fully manned , they began to conduct training exercises in Fasana . Tegetthoff brought the Austrian fleet to Ancona on 27 June , in an attempt to draw out the Italians , but the Italian commander , Admiral Carlo Pellion di Persano , refused to engage Tegetthoff . Tegetthoff made another sortie on 6 July , but again could not bring the Italian fleet to battle .

= = = Battle of Lissa = = =

On 16 July , Persano took the Italian fleet , with twelve ironclads , out of Ancona , bound for the island of Lissa , where they arrived on the 18th . With them , they brought troop transports carrying 3 @,@ 000 soldiers . Persano then spent the next two days bombarding the Austrian defenses of the island and unsuccessfully attempting to force a landing . Tegetthoff received a series of telegrams between the 17 and 19 July notifying him of the Italian attack , which he initially believed to be a feint to draw the Austrian fleet away from its main base at Pola and Venice . By the morning of the 19th ,

however , he was convinced that Lissa was in fact the Italian objective , and so he requested permission to attack . As Tegetthoff 's fleet arrived off Lissa on the morning of 20 July , Persano 's fleet was arrayed for another landing attempt . The latter 's ships were divided into three groups , with only the first two able to concentrate in time to meet the Austrians . Tegetthoff had arranged his ironclad ships into a wedge @-@ shaped formation , with Kaiser Max on his left flank ; the wooden warships of the second and third divisions followed behind in the same formation .

While he was forming up his ships , Persano transferred from his flagship , Re d 'Italia to the turret ship Affondatore . This created a gap in the Italian line , and Tegetthoff seized the opportunity to divide the Italian fleet and create a melee . He made a pass through the gap , but failed to ram any of the Italian ships , forcing him to turn around and make another attempt . After the second pass , Kaiser Max engaged Re d 'Italia , with the latter damaging Kaiser Max 's rigging and funnel . After the Italian ship had been rammed and sunk by Erzherzog Ferdinand Max , Kaiser Max attempted to ram another Italian vessel without success . She then engaged the small coastal defense ship Palestro with fifteen broadsides . The Austrian ironclad then Juan de Austria became surrounded by Italian ships , prompting Kaiser Max to come to her rescue .

Around this time , Persano broke off the engagement , and though his ships still outnumbered the Austrians , he refused to counter @-@ attack with his badly demoralized forces . In addition , the fleet was low on coal and ammunition . The Italian fleet began to withdraw , followed by the Austrians ; Tegetthoff , having gotten the better of the action , kept his distance so as not to risk his success . As night began to fall , the opposing fleets disengaged completely , heading for Ancona and Pola , respectively . Kaiser Max had emerged from the battle essentially undamaged , the Italian shells having been unable to penetrate her armor .

= = = Later career = = =

After returning to Pola , Tegetthoff kept his fleet in the northern Adriatic , where it patrolled against a possible Italian attack . The Italian ships never came , and on 12 August , the two countries signed the Armistice of Cormons ; this ended the fighting and led to the Treaty of Vienna . Though Austria had defeated Italy at Lissa and on land at the Battle of Custoza , Italy 's ally Prussia had decisively defeated the Austrian army at the Battle of Königgrätz . As a result , Austria , which became Austria @-@ Hungary in the Ausgleich of 1867 , was forced to cede the city of Venice to Italy .

Kaiser Max was rebuilt in 1867 , particularly to correct her poor seakeeping . Her open bow was plated over and she was rearmed with twelve 7 @-@ inch (178 mm) muzzleloaders manufactured by Armstrong and two 3 @-@ inch (76 mm) 4 @-@ pounder guns . By 1873 , the ship was obsolescent and had a thoroughly rotted hull , so the Austro @-@ Hungarian Navy decided to replace the ship . Parliamentary objection to granting funds for new ships forced the navy to resort to subterfuge to replace the ship . Reconstruction projects were routinely approved by the parliament , so the navy officially " rebuilt " Kaiser Max and her sister ships . In reality , Kaiser Max was completely broken up at the STT shipyard starting in December 1873 , and only some parts of the engines , her armor plate , and other miscellaneous parts were salvaged for use in the new Kaiser Max , so @-@ named to conceal the fact that she was a new vessel .