

= SMS Prinz Eugen (1862) =

SMS Prinz Eugen was the second member of the Kaiser Max class 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 June 1862 , and was completed in March 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 .

Prinz Eugen saw action at the Battle of Lissa in July 1866 . There she engaged the Italian ironclad fleet ; she did not inflict any serious damage , though she emerged from the battle similarly unscathed . After the war , Prinz Eugen 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 , Prinz Eugen 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 Prinz Eugen .

= = Design = =

Prinz Eugen 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 knots (20 km / h ; 13 mph) from 1 @, @ 900 indicated horsepower (1 @, @ 400 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) .

Prinz Eugen 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 = =

The keel for Prinz Eugen was laid down at the Stabilimento Tecnico Triestino shipyard in October 1861 . She was launched on 14 June 1862 , and after fitting @-@ out work was completed in March 1863 , she was commissioned into the Austrian fleet . Owing to her open bow , she took on water excessively 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 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 .

= = = Battle of Lissa = = =

On 16 July , Persano took the Italian fleet out of Ancona and steamed to the island of Lissa , where they arrived on the 18th . With the main fleet of twelve ironclads , 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 bases 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 Prinz Eugen on his right 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 . During the first approach , Prinz Eugen opened fire with her bow guns but did not score any hits . As soon as her main battery could be brought to bear , she fired concentrated broadsides at unidentified Italian vessels . Affondatore passed close to Prinz Eugen but failed to ram her or score any hits on the Austrian vessel .

By this time , Re d 'Italia had been rammed and sunk and the coastal defense ship Palestro was burning badly , soon to be destroyed by a magazine explosion . 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 . The Italians had failed to inflict serious damage on any of the Austrian ironclads , including Prinz Eugen .

= = = 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 , the Austrian army was decisively defeated by Prussia 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 .

Prinz Eugen was rebuilt in 1867 , particularly to correct her poor sea @-@ keeping . 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 " Prinz Eugen and her sister ships . In reality , only some parts of the engines , armor plate , and other miscellaneous parts were salvaged from the ships , with work beginning at the Pola Navy Yard in November 1873 . The new vessels were given the same names of the old vessels in an attempt to conceal their origin .