

= SMS Monarch =

SMS Monarch (" His Majesty 's Ship Monarch ") was the lead ship of the Monarch @-@ class coastal defense ships built for the Austro @-@ Hungarian Navy in the 1890s . After their commissioning , Monarch and the two other Monarch @-@ class ships made several training cruises in the Mediterranean Sea in the early 1900s . Monarch and her sisters formed the 1st Capital Ship Division of the Austro @-@ Hungarian Navy until they were replaced by the newly commissioned Habsburg @-@ class predreadnought battleships at the turn of the century . In 1906 the three Monarchs were placed in reserve and only recommissioned during the annual summer training exercises . After the start of World War I , Budapest was recommissioned and assigned to 5th Division together with her sisters .

The division was sent to Cattaro in August 1914 to attack Montenegrin and French artillery that was bombarding the port , and Monarch remained there for the rest of the war . The ship was decommissioned in early 1918 and became an accommodation ship . She was awarded to Great Britain by the Paris Peace Conference in 1920 . The British sold her for scrap and she was broken up in Italy beginning in 1921 .

= = Description and construction = =

At only 5 @, @ 785 tonnes (5 @, @ 694 long tons) maximum displacement , the Monarch class was less than half the size of the battleships of other major navies at the time , and were officially designated as coast defense ships . Austria @-@ Hungary 's only coastline was on the Adriatic Sea , and the Austro @-@ Hungarian government believed that the role of its navy was solely to defend the nation 's coast .

Monarch had an overall length of 99 @. @ 22 meters (325 ft 6 in) , a beam of 17 meters (55 ft 9 in) and a draft of 6 @. @ 4 meters (21 ft 0 in) . Her two 4 @-@ cylinder vertical triple @-@ expansion steam engines produced a total of 8 @, @ 500 indicated horsepower (6 @, @ 300 kW) using steam from five cylindrical boilers . These gave the ship a maximum speed of 17 @. @ 8 knots (33 @. @ 0 km / h ; 20 @. @ 5 mph) . Monarch 's maximum load of 500 metric tons (490 LT) of coal gave her a range of 3 @, @ 500 nautical miles (6 @, @ 500 km ; 4 @, @ 000 mi) at a speed of 9 knots (17 km / h ; 10 mph) . She was manned by 26 officers and 397 enlisted men , a total of 423 personnel .

The armament of the Monarch class consisted of four 240 @-@ millimeter (9 @. @ 4 in) Krupp K / 94 guns mounted in two twin @-@ gun turrets , one each fore and aft of the superstructure . The ships carried 80 rounds for each gun . Their secondary armament was six 150 @-@ millimeter (6 in) ?koda guns located in casemates in the superstructure . Defense against torpedo boats was provided by ten quick @-@ firing (QF) 47 @-@ millimeter (1 @. @ 9 in) ?koda guns and four 47 @-@ millimeter QF Hotchkiss guns . The ships also mounted two 450 @-@ millimeter (18 in) torpedo tubes , one on each broadside . Each torpedo tube was provided with two torpedoes .

The ship 's nickel @-@ steel waterline armor belt was 120 ? 270 millimeters (4 @. @ 7 ? 10 @. @ 6 in) thick and the gun turrets were protected by 250 millimeters (9 @. @ 8 in) of armor . The casemates had 80 millimeters (3 @. @ 1 in) thick sides while the conning tower had 220 millimeters (8 @. @ 7 in) of armor . Monarch 's deck armor was 40 millimeters (1 @. @ 6 in) thick .

The Monarch @-@ class ships were ordered in May 1892 , with Monarch to be built at the Pola Naval Arsenal (Seearsenal) . The ship was laid down on 31 July 1893 , and she was launched on 9 May 1895 by Archduchess Maria Theresa , wife of Archduke Karl Ludwig . She was commissioned on 11 May 1898 .

= = Service history = =

Monarch and her sisters formed the Navy 's 1st Capital Ship Division (I. Schwere Division) in 1899 , and the division made a training cruise to the Eastern Mediterranean where they made port visits in Greece , Lebanon , Turkey and Malta later that year . In early 1902 , they made another training cruise to the Western Mediterranean with port visits in Algeria , Spain , France , Italy , Corfu , and

Albania . The ship was fitted with a Siemens @-@ Braun radio early the following year . The ships of the division were inspected by Archduke Franz Ferdinand , the heir to the throne , in March 1903 at Gravosa . In 1904 , the Monarch @-@ class ships formed the 2nd Capital Ship Division , and they took part in the 1904 cruise of the Adriatic and Mediterranean Seas as well as training exercises in which the three Habsburg @-@ class battleships engaged the Budapest and her sisters in simulated combat . Those maneuvers marked the first time two homogeneous squadrons consisting of modern battleships operated in the Austro @-@ Hungarian Navy . In the summer of 1905 , Wien ran aground during a night exercise off Meleda Island ; it took two tries by Budapest and Habsburg to pull her off .

The Monarchs were relegated to the newly formed Reserve Squadron on 1 January 1906 , and were only recommissioned for the annual summer exercises . They participated in a fleet review by Archduke Franz Ferdinand , conducted in the Kološepski Channel near Šibenik , in September . The ships were briefly recommissioned at the beginning of 1913 , as the 4th Division after the start of the Second Balkan War , but were decommissioned again on 10 March . In early 1914 , Monarch made a cruise in the Levant with the dreadnoughts Viribus Unitis , Tegetthoff and the predreadnought Zrínyi . Two of the ship 's crew came down with smallpox and cerebrospinal meningitis in Egypt and caused the ship to be quarantined for several weeks in Pola .

= = = World War I = = =

With the beginning of World War I the three Monarchs were recommissioned as the 5th Division . They were sent down to the Bay of Kotor in August 1914 , to attack Montenegrin artillery batteries on Mount Lovćen bombarding the Austro @-@ Hungarian naval base at Cattaro and the fortifications defending it . Monarch and her sisters arrived on 13 August , but their guns could not elevate enough to engage all of the enemy artillery , which was reinforced by eight French guns on 19 October . The battleship Radetzky was summoned to deal with the guns two days later , and she managed to knock out several French guns and forced the others to withdraw by 27 October . Monarch remained at Cattaro for the rest of the war to deter any further attacks . The ship 's crew joined in the Cattaro Mutiny in early February 1918 . Six weeks later she became an accommodation ship for the submarine crews based at nearby Gjenovik . Monarch was handed over to Great Britain as war reparations in January 1920 and broken up for scrap in Italy in 1921 .