

= SMS Stettin =

SMS Stettin (" His Majesty 's Ship Stettin ") was a Königsberg @-@ class light cruiser of the Kaiserliche Marine . She had three sister ships : Königsberg , Nürnberg , and Stuttgart . Laid down at AG Vulcan Stettin shipyard in 1906 , Stettin was launched in March 1907 and commissioned into the High Seas Fleet seven months later in October . Like her sisters , Stettin was armed with a main battery of ten 10 @.@ 5 cm (4 @.@ 1 in) guns and a pair of 45 cm (18 in) torpedo tubes , and was capable of a top speed in excess of 25 knots (46 km / h ; 29 mph) .

In 1912 , Stettin joined the battlecruiser Moltke and cruiser Bremen for a goodwill visit to the United States . After the outbreak of World War I , Stettin served in the reconnaissance forces of the German fleet . She saw heavy service for the first three years of the war , including at the Battle of Heligoland Bight in August 1914 and the Battle of Jutland in May ? June 1916 , along with other smaller operations in the North and Baltic Seas . In 1917 , she was withdrawn from frontline service and used as a training ship until the end of the war . In the aftermath of Germany 's defeat , Stettin was surrendered to the Allies and broke up for scrap in 1921 ? 1923 .

= = Construction = =

Stettin was ordered under the contract name " Ersatz Wacht " and was laid down at the AG Vulcan shipyard in her namesake city in 1906 . She was launched on 7 March 1907 , after which fitting @-@ out work commenced . She was commissioned into the High Seas Fleet on 29 October 1907 . The ship was 115 @.@ 3 meters (378 ft) long overall and had a beam of 13 @.@ 2 m (43 ft) and a draft of 5 @.@ 29 m (17 @.@ 4 ft) forward . She displaced 3 @, @ 814 t (3 @, @ 754 long tons ; 4 @, @ 204 short tons) at full combat load . Her propulsion system consisted of two 3 @-@ cylinder triple expansion engines powered by eleven coal @-@ fired Marine @-@ type boilers . These provided a top speed of 25 @.@ 2 knots (46 @.@ 7 km / h ; 29 @.@ 0 mph) and a range of approximately 5 @, @ 750 nautical miles (10 @, @ 650 km ; 6 @, @ 620 mi) at 12 knots (22 km / h ; 14 mph) . Stettin had a crew of 14 officers and 308 enlisted men .

The ship was armed with ten 10 @.@ 5 cm SK L / 45 guns in single pedestal mounts . Two were placed side @-@ by @-@ side forward on the forecastle , six were located amidships , three on either side , and two were side by side aft . The guns had a maximum elevation of 30 degrees , which allowed them to engage targets out to 12 @, @ 700 m (41 @, @ 700 ft) . They were supplied with 1 @, @ 500 rounds of ammunition , amounting to 150 shells per gun . The ship was also equipped with eight 5 @.@ 2 cm SK L / 55 guns with 4 @, @ 000 rounds of ammunition . She was also equipped with a pair of 45 cm (18 in) torpedo tubes with five torpedoes submerged in the hull on the broadside . The ship was protected by an armored deck that was 80 mm (3 @.@ 1 in) thick amidships . The conning tower had 100 mm (3 @.@ 9 in) thick sides .

= = Service history = =

After her commissioning , Stettin served with the High Seas Fleet in German waters . In early 1912 , Stettin was assigned to a goodwill cruise to the United States , along with the battlecruiser Moltke , the only German capital ship to ever visit the US , and the light cruiser Bremen . On 11 May 1912 the ships left Kiel and arrived off Hampton Roads , Virginia , on 30 May . There , they met the US Atlantic Fleet and were greeted by then @-@ President William Howard Taft aboard the presidential yacht USS Mayflower . After touring the East Coast for two weeks , they returned to Kiel on 24 June .

= = = Actions in the North Sea = = =

At the outbreak of World War I in August 1914 , Stettin was serving in the North Sea with the High Seas Fleet . On 6 August , she and the cruiser Hamburg escorted a flotilla of U @-@ boats into the North Sea in an attempt to draw out the British fleet , which could then be attacked by the U @-@

boats . The force returned to port on 11 August , without having encountered any British warships . Some two weeks later , on 28 August , Stettin was involved in the Battle of Heligoland Bight . At the start of the engagement , Stettin , Frauenlob , and Hela stood in support of the line of torpedo boats patrolling the Heligoland Bight ; Stettin was at anchor to the northeast of Heligoland island , and the other two ships were on either side . The German screen was under the command of Rear Admiral Franz von Hipper , the commander of reconnaissance forces for the High Seas Fleet .

When the British first attacked the German torpedo boats , Hipper immediately dispatched Stettin and Frauenlob , and several other cruisers that were in distant support , to come to their aid . At 08 : 32 , Stettin received the report of German torpedo boats in contact with the British , and immediately weighed anchor and steamed off to support them . Twenty @-@ six minutes later , she encountered the British destroyers and opened fire , at a range of 8 @.@ 5 km (5 @.@ 3 mi) . The attack forced the British ships to break off and turn back west . During the engagement , lookouts aboard Stettin spotted a British cruiser in the distance , but it did not join the battle . By 9 : 10 , the British had withdrawn out of range , and Stettin fell back to get steam in all of her boilers . During this portion of the battle , the ship was hit once , on the starboard No. 4 gun , which killed two men and badly injured another . Her intervention prevented the British from sinking the torpedo boats V1 and S13 .

By 10 : 00 , Stettin had steam in all of her boilers , and was capable of her top speed . She therefore returned to the battle , and at 10 : 06 , she encountered eight British destroyers and immediately attacked them , opening fire at 10 : 08 . Several hits were observed in the British formation , which dispersed and fled . By 10 : 13 , the visibility had decreased , and Stettin could no longer see the fleeing destroyers , and so broke off the chase . The ship had been hit several times in return , without causing significant damage , but killing another two and wounding another four men . At around 13 : 40 , Stettin reached with the cruiser Ariadne , which was just coming under attack from several British battlecruisers . Stettin 's crew could see the large muzzle flashes in the haze , which after having disabled Ariadne , turned on Stettin at 14 : 05 . The haze saved the ship , which was able to escape after ten salvos missed her . At 14 : 20 , she encountered Danzig . The German battlecruisers Von der Tann and Moltke reached the scene by 15 : 25 , by which time the British had already disengaged and withdrawn . Hipper , in Seydlitz , followed closely behind , and ordered the light cruisers to fall back on his ships . After conducting a short reconnaissance further west , the Germans returned to port , arriving in Wilhelmshaven by 21 : 30 .

On 15 December , the battlecruisers of the I Scouting Group , led by Hipper , conducted a bombardment of Scarborough , Hartlepool , and Whitby on the English coast . The main body of the High Seas Fleet , commanded by Admiral Friedrich von Ingenohl , stood by in distant support ; Stettin and two flotillas of torpedo boats screened the rear of the formation . That evening , the German battle fleet of some twelve dreadnoughts and eight pre @-@ dreadnoughts came to within 10 nmi (19 km ; 12 mi) of an isolated squadron of six British battleships . However , skirmishes between the rival screens in the darkness convinced Ingenohl that he was faced with the entire Grand Fleet . Under orders from Kaiser Wilhelm II to avoid risking the fleet unnecessarily , Ingenohl broke off the engagement and turned the battle fleet back toward Germany .

== = Operations in the Baltic == =

On 7 May 1915 , the IV Scouting Group , which by then consisted of Stettin , Stuttgart , München , and Danzig , and twenty @-@ one torpedo boats was sent into the Baltic Sea to support a major operation against Russian positions at Libau . The operation was commanded by Rear Admiral Hopman , the commander of the reconnaissance forces in the Baltic . The IV Scouting Group was tasked with screening to the north to prevent any Russian naval forces from moving out of the Gulf of Finland undetected , while several armored cruisers and other warships bombarded the port . The Russians did attempt to intervene with a force of four cruisers : Admiral Makarov , Bayan , Oleg , and Bogatyr . The Russian ships briefly engaged München , but both sides were unsure of the others ' strength , and so both disengaged . Shortly after the bombardment , Libau was captured by the advancing German army , and Stettin and the rest of the IV Scouting Group were recalled to the High Seas Fleet .

== = Battle of Jutland = = =

In May 1916 , the German fleet commander , Admiral Reinhard Scheer , planned a major operation to cut off and destroy an isolated squadron of the British fleet . The operation resulted in the battle of Jutland on 31 May ? 1 June 1916 . During the battle , Stettin served as the flagship of Commodore Ludwig von Reuter , the commander of the IV Scouting Group . The IV Scouting Group was tasked with screening for the main German battlefleet . As the German fleet approached the scene of the unfolding engagement between the British and German battlecruiser squadrons , Stettin steamed ahead of the leading German battleship , König , with the rest of the Group dispersed to screen for submarines . Stettin and the IV Scouting Group were not heavily engaged during the early phases of the battle , but around 21 : 30 , they encountered the British cruiser HMS Falmouth . Stettin and München briefly fired on the British ship , but poor visibility forced the ships to cease fire . Reuter turned his ships 90 degrees away and disappeared in the haze .

During the withdrawal from the battle on the night of 31 May at around 23 : 30 , the battlecruisers Moltke and Seydlitz passed ahead of Stettin too closely , forcing her to slow down . The rest of the IV Scouting Group did not notice the reduction in speed , and so the ships became disorganized . Shortly thereafter , the British 2nd Light Cruiser Squadron came upon the German cruisers , which were joined by Hamburg , Elbing , and Rostock . A ferocious firefight at very close range ensued ; Stettin was hit twice early in the engagement and was set on fire . A shell fragment punctured the steam pipe for the ship 's siren , and the escaping steam impaired visibility and forced the ship to abandon an attempt to launch torpedoes . In the melee , HMS Southampton was hit by approximately eighteen 10 @. @ 5 cm shells , including some from Stettin . In the meantime , the German cruiser Frauenlob was set on fire and sunk ; as the German cruisers turned to avoid colliding with the sinking wreck , the IV Scouting Group became dispersed . Only München remained with Stettin . The two ships accidentally attacked the German destroyers G11 , V1 , and V3 at 23 : 55 .

By 04 : 00 on 1 June , the German fleet had evaded the British fleet and reached Horns Reef ; the Germans then returned to port . In the course of the battle , Stettin had suffered eight men killed and another 28 wounded . She had fired a total of 81 rounds of ammunition from her 10 @. @ 5 cm guns .

== = Fate = = =

In 1917 , Stettin was withdrawn from front line service and used as a training ship with the U @-@ boat school . She served in this capacity until the end of the war . Under Article 185 of the Treaty of Versailles , which ended the war after the Armistice that ceased fighting on 11 November 1918 , Stettin was listed among the warships still in German service that were to be surrendered to the Allied powers , and accordingly she was stricken on 5 November 1919 . She was surrendered to Great Britain as a war prize on 15 September 1920 , under the transfer name " T " . She was then sold to shipbreakers in Copenhagen and dismantled for scrap in 1921 ? 1923 .