

= Kolberg @-@ class cruiser =

The Kolberg class was a group of four light cruisers built for the German Imperial Navy and used during the First World War . The class comprised four vessels : SMS Kolberg , the lead ship , Mainz , Cöln , and Augsburg . The ships were built between 1908 and 1910 , and two , Kolberg and Augsburg , were modernized in 1916 ? 1917 . The ships were armed with a main battery of twelve 10 @. @ 5 cm SK L / 45 guns and had a design speed of 25 @. @ 5 knots (47 @. @ 2 km / h ; 29 @. @ 3 mph) . The first three ships were assigned to the reconnaissance forces of the High Seas Fleet ; Augsburg was instead used as a torpedo and gunnery training ship .

At the outbreak of war in August 1914 , Augsburg was deployed to the Baltic , while Kolberg , Mainz , and Cöln remained in the North Sea . The three ships were assigned to patrol duty in the Heligoland Bight ; on 28 August 1914 , they were attacked during the Battle of Heligoland Bight . Mainz and Cöln were both sunk in the battle . Kolberg saw action at the Battle of Dogger Bank in January 1915 , and joined Augsburg for the Battle of the Gulf of Riga in August 1915 . Both ships also saw service during Operation Albion in October 1917 . Both ships survived the war ; Kolberg was ceded to France , where she was renamed Colmar and served in the French Navy until 1927 . Augsburg was surrendered to Japan and was then sold for scrap .

= = Design = =

= = = General characteristics = = =

The ships of the Kolberg class were 130 meters (430 ft) long at the waterline and 130 @. @ 5 m (428 ft) long overall . They had a beam of 14 m (46 ft) and a draft of 5 @. @ 45 to 5 @. @ 73 m (17 @. @ 9 to 18 @. @ 8 ft) forward and 5 @. @ 27 to 5 @. @ 56 m (17 @. @ 3 to 18 @. @ 2 ft) aft . They displaced 4 @, @ 362 metric tons (4 @, @ 293 long tons ; 4 @, @ 808 short tons) at designed displacement . Kolberg displaced 4 @, @ 915 t (4 @, @ 837 long tons ; 5 @, @ 418 short tons) at full combat load ; Mainz displaced 4 @, @ 889 t (4 @, @ 812 long tons ; 5 @, @ 389 short tons) , Cöln displaced 4 @, @ 864 t (4 @, @ 787 long tons ; 5 @, @ 362 short tons) , and Augsburg displaced 4 @, @ 882 t (4 @, @ 805 long tons ; 5 @, @ 381 short tons) .

The ships were steel @-@ built ; their hulls were constructed with longitudinal and transverse steel frames . The hulls contained thirteen watertight compartments and a double bottom that extended for fifty percent of the length of the keel . The ships were good sea boats , although they suffered from severe rolling and were fairly stiff . They were not very maneuverable and had a large turning radius . Steering was controlled by a single rudder . Their transverse metacentric height was .83 m (2 ft 9 in) . The ships had a standard crew of 18 officers and 349 enlisted men and carried a number of smaller vessels , including one picket boat , one barge , one cutter , two yawls , and two dinghies .

= = = Machinery = = =

All four ships had slightly different propulsion systems in order to test engines from competing companies . Kolberg was equipped with two sets of Melms & Pfenniger steam turbines driving four three @-@ bladed propellers 2 @. @ 25 m (7 ft 5 in) in diameter . Mainz was powered by two AEG @-@ Curtiss turbines driving a pair of three @-@ bladed screws 3 @. @ 45 m (11 @. @ 3 ft) in diameter . Cöln initially had Zoelly turbines , though before sea trials , these were replaced with two sets of Germania turbines with four three @-@ bladed screws ; two were 2 @. @ 55 m (8 ft 4 in) in diameter , and two were 1 @. @ 78 m (5 ft 10 in) wide . Augsburg was equipped with two sets of Parsons turbines with four 3 @-@ bladed screws 2 @. @ 25 m in diameter . All four ships were equipped with fifteen Marine type water @-@ tube boilers , divided into four boiler rooms on the centerline . In 1916 , Kolberg and Augsburg were equipped with supplementary oil @-@ firing to increase the burn rate of the coal @-@ fired boilers ; Mainz and Cöln had been sunk by that time .

The ships' engines were designed to give 19 000 shaft horsepower (14 000 kW) , with the exception of Mainz's engines , which were rated at 20 000 shp (15 000 kW) . These were powered by fifteen coal-fired Marine water-tube boilers , which were trunked into three evenly spaced funnels . These gave the ships a top speed of 25.5 knots (47.2 km / h ; 29.3 mph) ; Mainz's more powerful engines gave her a half-knot speed advantage . All four ships exceeded these figures on speed trials , however , and all four cruisers reached speeds in excess of 26 knots (48 km / h ; 30 mph) . Kolberg carried 970 t (950 long tons ; 1 070 short tons) of coal , and after 1916 , 115 t (113 long tons ; 127 short tons) of oil . This gave her a maximum range of approximately 3 250 nautical miles (6 020 km ; 3 740 mi) at 14 knots (26 km / h ; 16 mph) . Mainz carried 1 010 t (990 long tons ; 1 110 short tons) of coal , which allowed her to steam for 3 630 nmi (6 720 km ; 4 180 mi) at the cruising speed . Cöln carried 960 t (940 long tons ; 1 060 short tons) of coal for a cruising radius of 3 500 nmi (6 000 km ; 4 000 mi) . Augsburg carried 940 t (930 long tons ; 1 040 short tons) , and had the same radius of action as Cöln .

== Armament and armor ==

The ships were armed with twelve 10.5 cm SK L / 45 guns in single pedestal mounts . Two were placed side by side forward on the forecastle , eight were located amidships , four on either side , and two were side by side aft . For Kolberg and Augsburg , the 10.5 cm guns were replaced in 1916 ? 1917 with six 15 cm SK L / 45 guns . They also carried four 5.2 cm SK L / 55 anti-aircraft guns , though these were replaced on the surviving ships with a pair of two 8.8 cm SK L / 45 anti-aircraft guns in 1918 . They were also equipped with a pair of 45 cm (17.7 in) torpedo tubes submerged in the hull . Two deck-mounted 50 cm (20 in) torpedo tube launchers were added to Kolberg and Augsburg in 1918 . All four ships could also carry 100 mines .

The ships were protected with a combination of normal steel and Krupp cemented steel ; the armor consisted of a layer of Krupp steel backed with two layers of steel . From stern to stem , the deck was covered with 20 mm (0.79 in) thick armor aft , 40 mm (1.6 in) thick armor plate over the machinery spaces , 20 mm thick armor forward of the machinery spaces , and 80 mm (3.1 in) on the bow . The coamings for the ships' funnels were 100 mm (3.9 in) thick . The conning tower had 100 mm thick sides and a 20 mm thick roof . The main battery guns were equipped with shields that were 50 mm (2.0 in) thick .

== Construction ==

Kolberg was ordered under the contract name Ersatz Greif and was laid down in early 1908 at the Schichau-Werke shipyard in Danzig under construction number 814 . She was launched on 14 November 1908 , after which fitting-out work commenced . She was commissioned into the High Seas Fleet on 21 June 1910 . For the modifications in 1916 ? 1917 , Kolberg went into drydock at the Kaiserliche Werft in Kiel . Mainz was ordered as Ersatz Jagd and was laid down in 1907 at the AG Vulcan shipyard in Stettin . Built under construction number 288 , she was launched on 23 January 1909 , and was commissioned into the fleet on 1 October 1909 .

Cöln was ordered under the contract name Ersatz Schwalbe and was laid down in 1908 at the Germaniawerft shipyard in Kiel . Her construction number was 191 . She was launched on 5 June 1909 , and after fitting-out was completed , she was commissioned into the fleet on 16 June 1911 . Augsburg was ordered as Ersatz Sperber from the Kaiserliche Werft shipyard in Kiel . Her keel was laid in 1908 under building number 34 . She was launched on 10 July 1909 and was commissioned into the fleet on 1 October 1910 . She returned to the Kaiserliche Werft shipyard in Kiel for her modernization in 1916 ? 1917 .

== Service history ==

After their commissioning , Kolberg , Mainz , and Cöln were assigned to the II Scouting Group , part of the reconnaissance forces of the High Seas Fleet . Augsburg was instead used as a training ship for torpedo crews and gunnery . Cöln was assigned as the flagship of Rear Admiral Leberecht Maass . At the outbreak of World War I in August 1914 , the II Scouting Group was deployed to a patrol line based on the island of Heligoland . Augsburg meanwhile was mobilized for active service and sent into the Baltic . There , she participated in an operation that saw the first shots of the war fired against the Russians , on 2 August .

On the morning of 28 August , the British Harwich Force , supported by the battlecruisers of Vice Admiral David Beatty 's 1st Battlecruiser Squadron , broke into the Heligoland Bight and attacked the II Scouting Group patrols . In the confused action , Mainz and Cöln were sunk , by light cruisers and battlecruisers , respectively . The majority of crewmen from Mainz were picked up by the British ships , but Cöln was lost with only one survivor . Kolberg was stationed in port during the attack , and steamed out to support the beleaguered German forces , but the British had departed by the time she reached the scene .

Kolberg continued to serve with the reconnaissance forces in the North Sea , including seeing action at the raid on Scarborough , Hartlepool and Whitby in December 1914 , where she laid a minefield off the British coast , and the Battle of Dogger Bank in January 1915 . At Dogger Bank , she fired the first shots ? and scored the first hits ? of the engagement , at the cruiser HMS Aurora . Augsburg was meanwhile heavily engaged in the Baltic ; in June 1915 , she participated in a minelaying operation in the Gulf of Finland that saw the loss of the minelayer SMS Albatross .

Kolberg then joined her sister in the Baltic during the Battle of the Gulf of Riga in August 1915 . During the operation , Kolberg and the battlecruiser Von der Tann bombarded Russian positions on Utö , while Augsburg steamed into the Gulf with the battleship Posen , where they sank a Russian gunboat and damaged another . By 19 August , the danger of British and Russian submarines in the Gulf prompted the Germans to withdraw . Augsburg participated in another , unsuccessful attempt to force the Gulf in late 1916 . Both ships were present for Operation Albion , another large @-@ scale assault on the Gulf of Riga , in October 1917 . The ships were involved in a variety of operations , including minesweeping , and screening for the battleships König and Kronprinz while they destroyed Russian opposition in the Gulf . Men from Kolberg also landed on one of the islands to destroy a Russian gun battery .

Both ships survived the war . As part of the Treaty of Versailles , which ended the war , the ships were awarded to the victorious powers as war prizes . Kolberg was allocated to France , where she was commissioned into the French Navy as Colmar . Augsburg was transferred to Japanese control ; having no use for her , they sold the ship for scrapping . Colmar saw one tour on colonial duty in Asia in 1924 , where she participated in a multinational operation to protect foreign nationals from Chinese unrest in Shanghai . She was subsequently stricken in 1927 and broken up for scrap in Brest , France .