

= SMS Condor =

SMS Condor (" His Majesty 's Ship Condor ") was an unprotected cruiser of the Imperial German Navy . She was the fourth member of the Bussard class , which included five other vessels . The cruiser 's keel was laid down in Hamburg in 1891 , she was launched in February 1892 , and was commissioned in December of that year . Intended for overseas duty , Condor was armed with a main battery of eight 10 @. @ 5 @- @ centimeter (4 @. @ 1 in) guns , and could steam at a speed of 15 @. @ 5 knots (28 @. @ 7 km / h ; 17 @. @ 8 mph) .

Condor served abroad for the majority of her career , first in German East Africa in the 1890s , followed by a stint in the South Seas Station in the Pacific Ocean in the 1900s . She was present in East Africa amid rising tensions with Britain during the Second Boer War in 1899 , and frequently suppressed uprisings in Germany 's Pacific island holdings in the decade before the outbreak of World War I. Badly worn out , she returned to Germany in March 1914 and was removed from service . In 1916 , she was converted into a storage hulk for mines . After the end of World War I , she was discarded and broken up for scrap in 1921 .

= = Design = =

Condor was 83 @. @ 9 meters (275 ft) long overall , with a beam of 12 @. @ 7 m (42 ft) and a draft of 4 @. @ 42 m (14 @. @ 5 ft) forward . She displaced 1 @, @ 864 t (1 @, @ 835 long tons ; 2 @, @ 055 short tons) at full combat load . Her propulsion system consisted of two horizontal 3 @- @ cylinder triple @- @ expansion steam engines powered by four coal @- @ fired cylindrical boilers . These provided a top speed of 15 @. @ 5 kn (28 @. @ 7 km / h ; 17 @. @ 8 mph) and a range of approximately 2 @, @ 950 nautical miles (5 @, @ 460 km ; 3 @, @ 390 mi) at 9 kn (17 km / h ; 10 mph) . She had a crew of 9 officers and 152 enlisted men .

The ship was armed with eight 10 @. @ 5 cm SK L / 35 quick @- @ firing (QF) guns in single pedestal mounts , supplied with 800 rounds of ammunition in total . They had a range of 10 @, @ 800 m (35 @, @ 400 ft) . Two guns were placed side by side forward , two on each broadside , and two side by side aft . The gun armament was rounded out by five revolver cannon . She was also equipped with two 35 cm (14 in) torpedo tubes with five torpedoes , both of which were mounted on the deck .

= = Service history = =

Condor was ordered as a replacement for the gunboat SMS Eber , which had been sunk by the hurricane that hit Apia in 1889 . She was laid down at the Blohm & Voss shipyard in Hamburg in 1891 . An outbreak of Cholera in Hamburg made work on the ship difficult , but the completed hull was nevertheless ready for launching as scheduled , on 23 February 1892 . Vizeadmiral (Vice Admiral) Wilhelm Schröder , the Chief of the Baltic Station , gave the speech at her launching , and she was christened by Kapitän zur See (Captain at Sea) von Bodenhausen , the director of the Kaiserliche Werft (Imperial Dockyard) in Wilhelmshaven . The ship accidentally launched itself due to the tide coming earlier than expected . She was completed on 9 December of that year , when she was commissioned into the Imperial German Navy ; precautions against cholera delayed the beginning of sea trials until 15 December .

= = = East Africa Station = = =

On 2 October 1894 , Condor was deployed to German East Africa , based in Dar es Salaam to replace the gunboat Möwe . One of the major reasons Condor was sent to the East African Station was the pressure Britain was placing on the Boer republics ? the Transvaal and the Orange Free State ? which Germany held to be in its interest . While in East Africa , Condor would have been able to rapidly respond to British actions in the region . And so while stationed here , Condor frequently moved back and forth between German East Africa and the eastern coast of South Africa

until 1899 , when the Second Boer War broke out . From 15 December 1894 to 1 January 1895 , Condor was anchored in Lourenço Marques , the capital of Portuguese Mozambique . On 27 June , she joined her sister Cormoran in Delagoa Bay . Despite the tensions between Germany and Britain , Condor went to Durban for her annual overhaul , which lasted from 3 August to 16 November . She thereafter returned to German East Africa and replaced her sister Seeadler there .

In late December 1895 , the British launched the so @-@ called Jameson Raid into the Transvaal ; this prompted the German Navy to send Condor back to Lourenço Marques in January 1896 . From 14 to 16 June , she was sent to Mahé in the Seychelles to rest her crew . She was called back early to return to East Africa . From 26 August to 25 November , she lay off Cape Town , but protests against the German consul , Count von Pfeil , led to moving the cruiser back to Lourenço Marques , where she remained from 11 December to 2 February 1897 . A delegation from the cruiser was sent to the opening ceremonies for the Pretoria ? Lourenço Marques rail line , which had been built with German funding . During this period , she served with the cruiser Schwalbe . On 3 January 1901 , Condor departed Africa , bound for Germany . While en route in the North Sea , she responded to the distress signal from the German steamer Mawska .

= = = South @-@ Seas Station = = =

While in Germany , she underwent repairs to her hull and propulsion system . Two years later , she was sent to the Pacific to replace Cormoran on the South @-@ Seas Station . On 26 June 1903 , she arrived in Singapore . In 1904 , Condor served with her sister Seeadler and the old gunboat Möwe , which had by that time been converted to a survey ship . Condor helped suppress minor unrest in German Samoa between July and September 1904 . In April ? May 1905 , she went to Sydney , Australia for basic repairs . She thereafter carried the Imperial governor of German Samoa , Wilhelm Solf , on a visit to Hawaii ; the trip lasted from 30 August to 14 September . Annual overhauls in Sydney took place during the periods 9 March ? 16 May 1907 and 10 March ? 18 May 1908 . In October 1907 , Condor was sent to the southern Ralik Chain to conduct gunnery training . The gunfire was intended as a show of force to prevent the local tribal chief from rebelling against the German authorities .

In concert with the gunboat Jaguar , Condor participated in the suppression of unrest in the Marshall Islands in September and October 1908 . During this operation , she carried a contingent of Melanesian infantry to the island of Pohnpei to suppress tensions between rival factions on the island . In early 1909 , unrest broke out in Apia ; because Condor was absent , the light cruisers Leipzig and Arcona and Jaguar were sent to suppress the uprising . In August , Condor searched unsuccessfully for the lost government steamer Seestern , which had been sailing to Brisbane . Condor met the armored cruiser Scharnhorst and the light cruisers Nürnberg and Emden from the East Asia Squadron in Apia in July 1910 . In January 1911 , she went to Pohnpei again to suppress the Sokehs Rebellion , along with Leipzig and Cormoran .

From 20 May 1911 to 1 October 1911 , she underwent basic repairs at the Kaiserliche Werft at Tsingtau . During the Agadir Crisis in November , she went to Yap in order to be able to quickly receive news from the recently constructed wireless station there . Further maintenance was effected at Sydney from 1 March to 18 April 1912 . That year , her survey staff was enlarged to allow for greater coastal survey work in the German protectorates . On 3 December she left Simpsonhafen in Rabaul , by request of the governor of German New Guinea , to get in touch with a German scientific expedition . From 11 to 13 December the ship anchored in the Empress Augusta river (Sepik) , Kaiser @-@ Wilhelmsland , 246 nmi (456 km ; 283 mi) upstream . At the times the base camp of the German Empress Augusta river expedition (1912 @-@ 1913) was situated here . She returned to Simpsonhafen on 18 December . On 8 January 1913 , Condor was reclassified as a gunboat . During basic repairs in Tsingtao in May , her hull was found to be in very bad condition . The order to return to Germany came while she was stationed in Apia in November . While en route , she had to protect the German steamer Zanzibar from hostile Moroccans , which had run aground off the Moroccan coast .

=== Fate ===

Condor arrived in Danzig on 30 March 1914 , where she was placed out of service . Starting in 1916 , she was reduced to a hulk for storing naval mines off Friedrichsort in Kiel . She served in this capacity throughout World War I , and she was discarded in the post @-@ war reduction in the strength of the German navy . She was stricken on 18 November 1920 and sold for scrapping on 8 April 1921 . She was broken up that year in Hamburg .