

= SMS Baden (1880) =

SMS Baden was one of four Sachsen class armored frigates of the German Imperial Navy . Her sister ships were Sachsen , Bayern , and Württemberg . Baden was built in the Imperial Dockyard in Kiel from 1876 to 1883 . The ship was commissioned into the Imperial Navy in September 1883 . She was armed with a main battery of six 26 cm (10 in) guns in two open barbettes .

After her commissioning , Baden served with the fleet on numerous training exercises and cruises in the 1880s and 1890s , during which she frequently simulated hostile naval forces . She participated in several cruises escorting Kaiser Wilhelm II on state visits to Great Britain and to various countries in the Baltic Sea in the late 1880s and early 1890s . During 1896 ? 1897 , the ship was extensively rebuilt at the Germaniawerft dockyard in Kiel . She was removed from active duty in 1910 and thereafter served in a number of secondary roles , finally serving as a target hulk in the 1920s and 1930s . She was sold in April 1938 and broken up in 1939 ? 1940 in Kiel .

= = Construction = =

Baden was ordered by the Imperial Navy under the contract name " C , " which denoted that the vessel was a new addition to the fleet . She was built at the Imperial Dockyard in Kiel ; her keel was laid in 1876 under construction number 4 . The ship was launched on 28 July 1880 and commissioned into the German fleet on 24 September 1883 . Along with her three sisters , Baden was the first large , armored warship built for the German navy that relied entirely on engines for propulsion .

The ship was 98 @. @ 20 meters (322 @. @ 2 ft) long overall and had a beam of 18 @. @ 40 m (60 @. @ 4 ft) and a draft of 6 @. @ 32 m (20 @. @ 7 ft) forward . Baden was powered by two 3 @- @ cylinder triple expansion engines , which were supplied with steam by eight coal @- @ fired Dürr boilers . The ship 's top speed was 13 knots (24 km / h ; 15 mph) , at 5 @, @ 600 indicated horsepower (4 @, @ 200 kW) Her standard complement consisted of 32 officers and 285 enlisted men , though while serving as a squadron flagship this was augmented by another 7 officers and 34 men .

She was armed with six 26 cm (10 in) guns , two of which were single @- @ mounted in an open barbette forward of the conning tower and the remaining four mounted amidships , also on single mounts in an open barbette . As built , the ship was also equipped with six 8 @. @ 7 cm (3 @. @ 4 in) L / 24 guns and eight 3 @. @ 7 cm (1 @. @ 5 in) Hotchkiss revolver cannons . Baden 's armor was made of wrought iron , and was concentrated in an armored citadel amidships . The armor ranged from 203 to 254 mm (8 @. @ 0 to 10 @. @ 0 in) on the armored citadel , and between 50 ? 75 mm (2 @. @ 0 ? 3 @. @ 0 in) on the deck . The barbette armor was 254 mm of wrought iron backed by 250 mm of teak .

= = Service history = =

Commissioned in September 1883 , Baden joined the fleet too late to participate in the fleet maneuvers that year . Baden served as the flagship for Rear Admiral Alexander von Monts during the 1884 fleet maneuvers ; she was assigned to the I Division alongside her three sisters . The ship was placed in reserve in 1885 , but returned to active duty the following year for training exercises with the fleet . In June 1887 , Germany dedicated the Kaiser Wilhelm Canal ; Baden was among the ships present during the celebrations .

In 1888 , Baden returned to active duty to take part in a naval tour of the Baltic by the newly crowned Kaiser Wilhelm II . Rear Admiral Eduard Knorr , the commander of the fleet , raised his flag aboard Baden during the voyage . The fleet stopped in St. Petersburg , Stockholm , and Copenhagen on the seventeen @- @ day cruise . Baden ran aground in the harbors of both Stockholm and Copenhagen , but was not seriously damaged in either incident . Baden also participated in the visit to Great Britain in August 1889 , where Wilhelm II took part in the Cowes

Regatta . Baden and the rest of the fleet joined the Royal Navy in a fleet review for Queen Victoria .

During the fleet maneuvers of 1890 , Baden and the rest of the capital ships of the I and II Divisions simulated a Russian attack on Kiel . The exercises were held in conjunction with IX Corps of the German Army , several divisions of which acted as a simulated amphibious invasion . Baden remained in the I Division in 1891 , when she was joined by the new coastal defense ship Siegfried . During the 1891 maneuvers , the I Division generally " fought " on the German side , against either Franco @-@ Russian or Danish @-@ Russian alliances . Baden was present for all of the fleet exercises in 1892 and 1893 . The maneuvers of the early 1890s were generally disappointments , as the " hostile " forces were judged to be the victors in the majority of the scenarios .

By the winter of 1894 ? 1895 , the last of the four Brandenburg @-@ class battleships had been commissioned ; these ships were assigned to the I Division , which displaced Baden and her three sisters to the II Division . The eight ships conducted training cruises over the winter and spring before conducting the annual autumn fleet exercises . On 21 June 1895 , the Kaiser Wilhelm Canal was opened for traffic , eight years after work had begun . Baden and her three sisters , along with dozens of other warships , attended the ceremonies . The major naval powers sent fleets to join the fleet review . The Autumn 1895 maneuvers simulated a high @-@ seas battle between the I and II Divisions in the North Sea , followed by combined maneuvers with the rest of the fleet in the Baltic .

In 1896 , Baden went into drydock in the Germaniawerft dockyard in Kiel for an extensive modernization . The ship 's old wrought iron and teak armor was replaced with new Krupp nickel @-@ steel armor . The four funnels were trunked into a single large funnel and new engines were also installed , which increased the ship 's speed to 14 @.@ 9 kn (27 @.@ 6 km / h ; 17 @.@ 1 mph) . The ship 's 8 @.@ 7 cm guns were replaced with quick @-@ firing 8 @.@ 8 cm (3 @.@ 5 in) SK L / 30 guns and four 3 @.@ 7 cm (1 @.@ 5 in) autocannons . Work was completed in 1897 . Baden remained with the fleet until 1910 , at which point she was removed from active duty . She then served as a blockade and defense hulk after 1912 . In 1920 , she was converted into a target hulk and stationed off Stollergrund . The ship was finally sold on 23 April 1938 and broken up for scrap in 1939 ? 1940 in Kiel .