

= Erzherzog Karl @-@ class battleship =

The Erzherzog Karl class was a class of pre @-@ dreadnought battleships of the Austro @-@ Hungarian Navy built before World War I. All of the battleships of the Erzherzog Karl @-@ class were built in the Stabilimento Tecnico Triestino shipyards in Trieste . The first battleship , Erzherzog Karl was laid down in 1902 . Construction on the remaining two battleships , Erzherzog Ferdinand Max and Erzherzog Friedrich continued up to 1905 . Erzherzog Karl was commissioned in 1906 , while Erzherzog Ferdinand Max and Erzherzog Friedrich were commissioned in 1907 . The three Erzherzog Karl @-@ class battleships were considered relatively modern by the time they were commissioned . However , small docking space and budget restraints resulted in the class being fairly compact . Nevertheless , they were well designed and properly protected . The Erzherzog Karl class were the last and largest pre @-@ dreadnoughts built by the Austrian Navy . They were named after members of the Austrian Royal family .

Despite these qualities , the Erzherzog Karl @-@ class battleships were inferior to the more modern Dreadnought type battleships ? with their " all big gun " armament and turbine propulsion . As a result , they only played a limited role during World War I. At the beginning of the war , the members of the Erzherzog Karl class formed the III division of the Austrian @-@ Hungarian battle @-@ fleet . Despite their largely inactive involvement in the conflict , the battleships of the Erzherzog Karl class did participate in the flight of SMS Goeben and SMS Breslau during the opening days of the war , as well as the bombardment of Ancona on 23 May 1915 . The ships also took part in suppressing a major mutiny among the crew members of several armored cruisers stationed in Cattaro between 1 ? 3 February 1918 . Following Austria @-@ Hungary 's defeat in World War I , Erzherzog Karl and Erzherzog Friedrich were handed over to France . The remaining battleship , Erzherzog Ferdinand Max , was given to Great Britain . Erzherzog Karl ran aground at Bizerte and was broken up there in 1921 . The remaining two battleships were scrapped in 1921 in Italy .

= = Design = =

= = = General characteristics = = =

The Erzherzog Karl class displaced 10 @, @ 472 long tons ( 10 @, @ 640 t ) . They were 414 feet 2 inches ( 126 @. @ 2 m ) long , had a beam of 71 feet 5 inches ( 21 @. @ 8 m ) and a draft of 24 feet 7 inches ( 7 @. @ 5 m ) . They were manned by 700 men .

= = = Propulsion = = =

The ships were propelled by two two @-@ shaft , four cylinder vertical triple expansion steam engines . On trials , they developed 18 @, @ 000 ihp ( 13 @, @ 423 kW ) , which could move the ship along at a speed of 20 @. @ 5 knots ( 38 @. @ 0 km / h ; 23 @. @ 6 mph ) . On trials , Erzherzog Karl 's engines managed to produce a knot more speed than was originally planned .

= = = Armament = = =

As with the Ersatz Monarch @-@ class battleship that was planned to be built 13 years later , the Erzherzog Karl class carried a primary armament made by ?koda Works . On each ship , there were four 24 @-@ centimeter ( 9 @. @ 4 in ) / 40 caliber guns in two twin turrets on the centerline . These guns were an Austro @-@ Hungarian replica of the 24 cm / 40 ( 9 @. @ 4 " ) Krupp C / 94 , which was used on the Habsburgs . The guns could be depressed to ? 5 ° and elevated to 30 ° . The arc of fire of the guns was 300 ° , or 150 ° in each direction . Each gun required a crew of twenty men . At maximum elevation , the gun could fire a 140 @-@ kilogram ( 310 lb ) shell 16 @, @ 900 metres ( 18 @, @ 500 yd ) . They could fire three to four armor @-@ piercing shells per minute at a muzzle

velocity of 690 metres per second ( 2 @, @ 300 ft / s ) . Each of the guns weighed at least 24 @, @ 040 kilograms ( 53 @, @ 000 lb ) .

Their secondary armament consisted of twelve 19 @-@ centimeter ( 7 @. @ 5 in ) / 42 caliber guns , also made by ?koda , mounted in eight single casemates on either wing of the ship and two single midships turrets on the either wing of the ship . They could be depressed to ? 3 ° and elevated to 20 ° . They could fire a 97 kilograms ( 214 lb ) armor @-@ piercing shell 20 @, @ 000 metres ( 22 @, @ 000 yd ) at maximum elevation with a muzzle velocity of 800 metres per second ( 2 @, @ 600 ft / s ) . The gun weighed 12 @. @ 1 tons and could fire three rounds per minute .

The ships had a tertiary armament for protection against torpedo boats in the form of the 6 @. @ 6 centimetres ( 2 @. @ 6 in ) / 45 caliber gun , too manufactured by ?koda . They could be depressed to ? 10 ° and elevated to 20 , and had an arc of fire of 360 ° , meaning that they could fire at any target within their range of fire . The guns could fire about ten to fifteen rounds per minute . At their maximum elevation , the guns could fire a 4 @. @ 5 kilograms ( 9 @. @ 9 lb ) high @-@ explosive charge 9 @, @ 140 metres ( 10 @, @ 000 yd ) at a muzzle velocity of 880 metres per second ( 2 @, @ 900 ft / s ) .

Anti @-@ aircraft and airship protection was covered by the four 37 @-@ millimeter ( 1 @. @ 5 in ) Vickers anti @-@ aircraft guns on the ship . They could be depressed to ? 5 ° and elevated to 80 ° . They had an arc of fire of 360 ° , which meant that they also could engage any target within their range . Manually operated by only one crewman , they could fire a 0 @. @ 7 kilograms ( 1 @. @ 5 lb ) shell 1 @, @ 830 metres ( 2 @, @ 000 yd ) at maximum elevation with a muzzle velocity of 640 metres per second ( 2 @, @ 100 ft / s ) . Designed in 1910 , each of the guns weighed 57 kilograms ( 126 lb ) . The Erzherzog Karl class was also fitted with two above water 45 @-@ centimeter ( 17 @. @ 7 in ) torpedo tubes , although they were rarely used .

= = = Armor = = =

The armor plating of the battleships around the waterline belt , one of the more vulnerable areas of a ship , was 210 mm ( 8 @. @ 3 in ) , while their deck armor was 55 mm ( 2 @. @ 2 in ) . The turrets and casemates had 240 mm ( 9 @. @ 4 in ) and 150 mm ( 5 @. @ 9 in ) armor respectively . This was done in order to protect the battleships against a possible shell landing on the turrets and the imminent explosion resulting from such a hit . The conning tower of the ships had 220 mm ( 8 @. @ 7 in ) of armor plating , while the bulkheads inside the battleship that separated different compartments were 200 mm ( 7 @. @ 9 in ) thick .

= = Construction = =

The Erzherzog Karl class , like the Habsburg class before them and the Radetzky class after them were named after archdukes of the Austro @-@ Hungarian Royal Family , specifically Archduke Charles , Duke of Teschen , Maximilian I of Mexico and Archduke Friedrich , Duke of Teschen . The ships were all laid down at the Stabilimento Tecnico Triestino in Trieste . The first ship of the class , SMS Erzherzog Karl was laid down on 24 July 1902 . Following 15 months of construction she was launched on 4 October 1903 and finally commissioned into the Austro @-@ Hungarian Navy on 17 June 1906 . The next ship of the class was SMS Erzherzog Friedrich . She was laid down on 4 October 1902 and launched on 30 April 1904 . Erzherzog Friedrich was finally commissioned into the Austro @-@ Hungarian Navy on 31 January 1907 . The third and final ship of the Erzherzog Karl class was SMS Erzherzog Ferdinand Max . She was laid down on 9 March 1904 and later launched on 21 May 1905 . She was commissioned into the navy on 21 December 1907 .

= = Service history = =

At the outbreak of World War I the three ships formed the III division of the Austrian @-@ Hungarian battle @-@ fleet and spent most of the war based at Pola . The members of the Erzherzog Karl class were mobilized on the eve of the war to support the flight of SMS Goeben and

SMS Breslau . The two German ships were attempting to break out of Messina , which was surrounded by British troops , and make their way to Turkey . The breakout succeeded . When the flotilla had advanced as far south as Brindisi in south eastern Italy , the Austro @-@ Hungarian ships were recalled . In company with other units of the Austro Hungarian Navy the class took part in the bombardment of Ancona on May 24 , 1915 . There they expended 24 rounds of 240 mm armor @-@ piercing shells at signal and semaphore stations as well as 74 rounds of 190 mm shells aimed at Italian gun @-@ batteries and other port installations .

A major mutiny among crews of the armored cruisers stationed in Cattaro , including SMS Sankt Georg and SMS Kaiser Karl VI , began on 1 February 1918 . Two days later , the three Erzherzog Karl @-@ class ships arrived in the port and assisted with the suppression of the mutiny . Following the restoration of order in the naval base , the armored cruisers Sankt Georg and Kaiser Karl VI were decommissioned and the three Erzherzog Karl @-@ class battleships were stationed in Cattaro in their place . For the morning of 11 June , Admiral Miklos Horthy planned a major assault on the Otranto Barrage ; the three Erzherzog Karls and the four Tegetthoff @-@ class battleships were to provide support for the Novara @-@ class cruisers . The plan was intended to replicate the success of the raid conducted one year earlier . Horthy 's plan was to destroy the blockading fleet by luring Allied ships to the cruisers and lighter ships , which were protected from the heavier guns of the battleships , including the Erzherzog Karl class . However , on the morning of 10 June , the dreadnought Szent István was torpedoed and sunk by an Italian torpedo boat . Horthy felt surprise had been lost and therefore called off the operation . This was to be the last military action the Erzherzog Karl @-@ class ships were to take part in and they spent the rest of their career at port in Pola .

Following the end of World War I in November 1918 , the members of the Erzherzog Karl class were first taken over by Yugoslavia in 1919 , but Erzherzog Karl and Erzherzog Friedrich were then ceded as war reparations to France . The remaining battleship , Erzherzog Ferdinand Max , was ceded to the United Kingdom . However , Erzherzog Karl ran aground at Bizerte on her voyage to Toulon and was eventually broken up in situ . The remaining two battleships were scrapped in 1921 .