

= Monarch @-@ class coastal defense ship =

The Monarch class was a class of three coastal defence ships , built by Austria @-@ Hungary at the end of the 19th century . The Monarchs were the first ships of their type to utilize turrets . The class comprised three ships : SMS Monarch , SMS Wien , and SMS Budapest , each armed with four 240 mm (9 in) L / 40 guns in two turrets and capable of 15 @. @ 5 knots (28 @. @ 7 km / h ; 17 @. @ 8 mph) at full speed . Budapest was fitted with slightly more modern and powerful engines , giving her a top speed of 17 @. @ 5 knots (32 @. @ 4 km / h ; 20 @. @ 1 mph) .

Monarch was launched on 9 May 1895 , Wien on 7 July 1895 , and Budapest just over a year later on 24 July 1896 . The ships saw very little service during World War I in the V Division of the Austro @-@ Hungarian fleet . Budapest and Wien took part in the bombardment of Italian positions along the Adriatic coast in 1915 and 1917 , but the three battleships went largely inactive for the remainder of war .

In 1917 , Wien was struck by Italian torpedoes and sank in her home port of Trieste . The remaining two ships were ceded to Great Britain following the end of the war and were scrapped between 1920 and 1922 .

= = Construction = =

In the 1890s the Austro @-@ Hungarian Navy consisted of two obsolescent ironclads , SMS Kronprinz Erzherzog Rudolf and SMS Kronprinzessin Erzherzogin Stephanie . By 1893 , sufficient funds were available to build three replacement ships , but the Hungarian and Austrian parliaments authorized only the construction of a smaller class of coastal defense ships , as Austro @-@ Hungarian naval policy at that time was primarily concerned with coastal defense . The three new ships ? Budapest , Wien , and Monarch ? weighed about 5 @, @ 600 tonnes (5 @, @ 512 long tons) , half the size of the battleships of other navies . Budapest was fitted with more powerful engines than her sister ships , giving her a higher top speed . Budapest and Wien were built in the Stabilimento Tecnico Triestino yards in Trieste , and Monarch was constructed at the Naval Arsenal in Pula .

The first ship of the class , Wien , was laid down on 16 February 1893 . She was launched on 7 July 1895 , about a month after Monarch . Despite this , Wien was the first ship of the new class to be commissioned into the Austro @-@ Hungarian Navy , on 13 May 1897 . The second ship of the class , Monarch , was laid down on 31 July 1893 , launched on 9 May 1895 , and was commissioned into the Austro @-@ Hungarian Navy on 11 May 1898 . Budapest was the third and final ship of the class . She was laid down on the same day as Wien , on 16 February 1893 , and launched from the Naval Arsenal in Pula on 24 July 1896 . She was commissioned on 12 May 1898 , a day after Monarch .

= = Design = =

= = = Armament and armor = = =

The members of the Monarch class displaced 5 @, @ 878 tonnes (5 @, @ 785 long tons) . Their armament consisted of four 240 mm (9 in) L / 40 guns with two guns in each of the two turrets , six 150 mm (6 in) L / 40 guns , 10 47 mm (1 @. @ 9 in) L / 44 guns , four 47 mm (1 @. @ 9 in) L / 33 guns , one 8 mm (0 @. @ 31 in) MG gun , and four torpedo tubes .

Ships of the Monarch class were fitted with Harvey armour throughout . Their belt armor was 270 mm (11 in) thick except for the turrets , which had 203 mm (8 @. @ 0 in) . The conning tower was protected by armor 220 mm (8 @. @ 7 in) thick , and the deck by 64 mm (2 @. @ 5 in) ; the redoubt and casemates had 76 mm (3 @. @ 0 in) of armor .

= = = Propulsion and crew = = =

Monarch class ships normally carried 300 tons of coal , but could hold up to 500 tons . Budapest was fitted with 12 coal fired Belleville boilers without economizers , giving an output of 9 , 180 hp (6 , 846 kW) . Wien and Monarch had coal fired cylindrical boilers and vertical triple expansion engines with an output of 8 , 500 hp (6 , 338 kW) . Wien and Monarch had a maximum speed of 15 . 5 knots (28 . 7 km / h ; 17 . 8 mph) , compared to Budapest 's top speed of 17 . 5 knots (32 . 4 km / h ; 20 . 1 mph) . Each ship was manned by 26 officers and 397 crewmen , a total of 423 personnel per ship .

= = Service history = =

= = = Peace time = = =

Upon being commissioned into the Austro - Hungarian Navy , the three ships of the Monarch class were used for a variety of purposes . All three ships of the Monarch class partook in a cruise around the Adriatic and Aegean in 1899 , to display the Austro - Hungarian flag in foreign waters . The Monarch class formed the I Battleship Division of the Austro - Hungarian Navy . The battleship Wien participated in the Diamond Jubilee of the crowning of Queen Victoria in 1897 , as well as the international blockade off Crete during the Greco - Turkish War of 1897 . However , less than five years after their completion , the Monarch class battleships were rendered obsolete by the newly commissioned Habsburg class . The newly completed SMS Habsburg conducted a training cruise with the three Monarch class battleships in January 1903 ; they were joined by SMS Árpád the following year . During the 1904 training exercises , the three Habsburg class battleships engaged the three Monarchs in simulated combat ; the maneuver marked the first time two homogeneous squadrons consisting of modern battleships operated in the Austro - Hungarian Navy . The three Habsburg class ships took over the position of the I Division while the Monarchs formed the newly created II Division . With other new classes of pre dreadnoughts being built such as the Erzherzog Karl class , and later the Radetzky class , the Monarchs were demoted even further , and ended up in the V Battleship Division . They were serving as coastal defense ships by the beginning of World War I .

= = = World War I = = =

At the outbreak of World War I in July 1914 , the three ships of the Monarch class were serving as the V Battleship Division , deployed as coastal defense ships . They also served as training ships , and were used to bombard coastal positions during the early years of the war . In August 1914 , Budapest was transferred from Pula to Cattaro to shell Mount Lovcen . On 9 August 1914 Monarch shelled the French radio station at Budva . She also bombarded the Montenegrin radio station off Bar on 17 August and another station off Volovica Point on 19 August where she attacked the local radio station and barracks . Following these operations , Monarch served as a harbor defense ship . On 28 - 29 December 1915 Budapest supported the cruisers and destroyers of the Austro - Hungarian Navy that were to raid Durazzo , but the detachment returned to port without having opened fire on the enemy . On 9 January 1916 , Budapest again bombarded the fortifications on Mount Lovcen , and helped to capture the enemy held mountain . In late 1917 Budapest and Wien were sent to Trieste , and participated in shelling Italian troops in the Gulf of Trieste . On 10 December 1917 , two Italian torpedo boats managed to penetrate the port of Trieste undetected , and fired torpedoes at the battleships Budapest and Wien . The torpedo fired at Budapest missed , but Wien was hit twice and sank in less than five minutes in the shallow water of the Trieste harbor . Forty - six men serving on Wien were killed in the attack . Budapest was subsequently given the task that Monarch had been performing for over three years , and was demoted to a floating barrack for German U boat crews . In June 1918 Budapest was renovated and had a 380 mm (15 in) L / 17 howitzer installed in her bow to use for coastal bombardment , but she never saw action with

the new gun in place . At the end of the war in 1918 , the remaining Monarch @-@ class battleships , Budapest and Monarch , were handed over to Great Britain as war reparations . In 1920 the two ships were sold for scrap to Italy , and were broken up between 1920 and 1922 .