

= SMS Württemberg (1878) =

SMS Württemberg was one of four Sachsen @-@ class armored frigates of the German Imperial Navy . Her sister ships were Sachsen , Bayern , and Baden . Württemberg was built in the AG Vulcan shipyard in Stettin from 1876 to 1881 . The ship was commissioned into the Imperial Navy in August 1881 . She was armed with a main battery of six 26 cm (10 in) guns in two open barbettes .

After her commissioning , Württemberg served with the fleet on numerous training exercises and cruises . She participated in several cruises escorting Kaiser Wilhelm II on state visits to Great Britain and to various cities in the Baltic Sea in the late 1880s and early 1890s . During 1898 ? 1899 , the ship was modernized at the Imperial Dockyard in Kiel ; she served for another seven years with the fleet before being withdrawn from active service in 1906 . She was subsequently used in a variety of secondary roles , until she was sold in 1920 and broken up for scrap .

= = Construction = =

Württemberg was ordered by the Imperial Navy under the contract name " D , " which denoted that the vessel was a new addition to the fleet . She was built at the AG Vulcan shipyard in Stettin ; her keel was laid in 1876 under construction number 78 . The ship was launched on 9 November 1878 and commissioned into the German fleet on 9 May 1881 . Along with her three sisters , Württemberg 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 . Württemberg 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 . Württemberg '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 = =

After her commissioning in May 1881 , Württemberg was placed in reserve . She was not activated for service with the fleet until 1884 ; this in part had to do with the poor performance of her sister Sachsen in the fleet maneuvers of 1880 . Among the problems associated with the Sachsen @-@ class ships was a tendency to roll dangerously due to their flat bottoms , which greatly reduced the accuracy of their guns . The ships were also poorly armored , compared to their contemporaries . In addition , they were slow and suffered from poor maneuverability . Nevertheless , Württemberg and her three sisters served as the I Division in the 1884 fleet maneuvers , under the command of Rear Admiral Alexander von Monts . The ship was again placed in reserve in 1885 , but returned to fleet service in 1886 alongside Sachsen , Baden , and the new ironclad Oldenburg . During the annual fleet maneuvers , Württemberg 's engines proved troublesome .

Following the 1886 maneuvers , Württemberg and her three sisters were removed from active duty to serve as the Baltic reserve division . In June 1887 , Germany dedicated the Kaiser Wilhelm Canal ; Württemberg was among the ships present during the celebrations . The ship returned to active

service with the fleet in 1890 when she joined the I Division during the annual maneuvers . Württemberg was commanded by Captain Alfred von Tirpitz during the exercises . The eight ships of the I and II Divisions simulated a Russian fleet blockading Kiel , which was defended by torpedo boat flotillas . Württemberg was in reserve during the 1891 maneuvers , but returned to the I Division in 1892 , 1893 , and 1894 . 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 Württemberg 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 . Württemberg 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 . Württemberg again served during the 1896 and 1897 maneuvers , though Sachsen was her only sister to join the exercises . Baden and Bayern were out of service for extensive modernization .

After the conclusion of the 1897 maneuvers , Württemberg was taken into drydock at the Imperial Dockyard in Kiel for reconstruction . 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 15 @.@ 4 knots (28 @.@ 5 km / h ; 17 @.@ 7 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 1898 . Württemberg remained with the fleet until 1906 ; her replacement in the fleet organization plan , the new dreadnought battleship Rheinland , was ordered that year . Württemberg was then used as a torpedo training and test ship until February 1919 , when she was reduced to an escort for F @-@ type minesweepers . The ship was stricken from the naval register on 20 October 1920 and sold to Hattinger Co . Württemberg was ultimately broken up for scrap in Wilhelmshaven .