

= SMS Seeadler =

SMS Seeadler (" His Majesty 's Ship Seeadler ? Sea Eagle ") was an unprotected cruiser of the Bussard class , the third member of a class of six ships built by the German Kaiserliche Marine (Imperial Navy) . Her sister ships included Bussard , the lead ship , along with Falke , Condor , Cormoran , and Geier . Seeadler was built at the Kaiserliche Werft (Imperial Shipyard) in Danzig in late 1890 , launched in February 1892 , and commissioned in August of that year . Intended for colonial service , Seeadler was armed with a main battery of eight 10 @. @ 5 @- @ centimeter (4 @. @ 1 in) guns and had a top speed of 15 @. @ 5 knots (28 @. @ 7 km / h ; 17 @. @ 8 mph) .

Seeadler spent almost her entire career abroad . Following her commissioning , she joined the protected cruiser Kaiserin Augusta on a visit to the United States for the 400th anniversary of Christopher Columbus 's discovery of the Americas . She thereafter went to German East Africa , where she was stationed until 1898 . She returned to Germany briefly for a modernization in 1898 ? 1899 , before being assigned to the South Seas Station in German New Guinea . During her tour in the Pacific , she participated in the suppression of the Boxer Rebellion in Qing China in 1900 . Her assignment in the Pacific was interrupted by the 1905 Maji @- @ Maji Rebellion in German East Africa , which prompted the German Navy to send Seeadler there .

Seeadler remained in East Africa for the next nine years , returning to Germany finally in January 1914 . She had spent over thirteen years abroad since her 1899 modernization , the longest period of continuous overseas service of any major German warship . After arriving in Germany , she was decommissioned . She was not mobilized after the outbreak of World War I in August 1914 , being too old to be of any fighting value . She was instead used as a mine storage hulk outside Wilhelmshaven . On 19 April 1917 , her cargo of mines exploded and destroyed the ship , though there were no casualties . Her wreck was never raised for scrapping .

= = Design = =

Seeadler was 83 @. @ 9 meters (275 ft) long overall and had a beam of 12 @. @ 7 m (42 ft) and a draft of 4 @. @ 4.2 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 = =

Seeadler , named for the sea eagle , was laid down at the Kaiserliche Werft (Imperial Shipyard) in Danzig in late 1890 . She was launched on 2 February 1892 , originally named Kaiseradler . The shipyard director , Kapitän zur See Aschmann gave the launching speech . She was completed by 27 June 1892 , when she was commissioned into the Imperial German Navy . The ship was renamed on 17 August when she was commissioned , since Kaiser Wilhelm II decided to rename his first yacht Kaiseradler instead . Seeadler began her sea trials the same day . On 25 October , she was accidentally rammed by the armored corvette Bayern in Kiel , but she suffered only light damage . Her trials lasted until 17 November ; she formally entered service with the fleet on 15 March 1893 .

After her commissioning , Seeadler was slated to replace Schwalbe in the East African Station in

German East Africa . But first , Seeadler and the protected cruiser Kaiserin Augusta conducted a good @-@ will visit to the United States , a belated celebration of the 400th anniversary of Columbus 's first voyage across the Atlantic . The ships left Kiel on 25 March , but due to a mistaken estimate for the amount of coal that would be necessary to cross the Atlantic , Seeadler ran out of fuel while en route . Kaiserin Augusta took the cruiser under tow to Halifax , where she refilled her coal bunkers . The two cruisers reached Hampton Roads on 18 April . Ships from nine other navies , including the US Navy , arrived for a major celebration in New York harbor that was reviewed by Grover Cleveland , the President of the United States . Seeadler attracted particular attention due to her yacht @-@ like appearance .

= = = Deployment to East Africa = = =

After the conclusion of the festivities in the United States , Seeadler steamed back across the Atlantic , first to the Azores , before proceeding into the Mediterranean Sea and then into the Red Sea . There , she met Schwalbe at Aden on 20 June . Seeadler proceeded to Bombay , India for a period of routine maintenance that lasted from 3 July to 21 August . The cruiser finally arrived on station on 2 September when she dropped anchor in Zanzibar , where she met the survey ship Möwe , the other vessel on the East Africa Station . On 9 September both ships went to Kilwa ; a group of slave traders had attacked the small detachment of Polizeitruppe (police force) stationed there . The colonial army , the Schutztruppe (protection force) was unavailable to reinforce the police troops , and so Seeadler and Möwe bombarded the slavers and neutralize the threat .

Seeadler thereafter proceeded to Lourenço Marques in Portuguese Moçambique . A rebellion in the Portuguese colony threatened German nationals residing in the city ; Seeadler evacuated the civilians and took them to Zanzibar , where they arrived on 15 November . During this period , Möwe was transferred to German New Guinea , and Seeadler 's sister ships Condor and Cormoran arrived in German East Africa . Condor was to reinforce Seeadler and Cormoran was to continue on to the Pacific , but the latter remained in the area temporarily to strengthen the German naval force in the region . This was done both to observe the damage to German economic interests in Moçambique and as a show of force to prevent British encroachment on Delagoa Bay , which was the only supply port for the independent Transvaal . In January 1895 , Condor took over Seeadler 's role on the East African coast .

On 10 January , Seeadler departed for Bombay , where her boilers were repaired in a major overhaul . Workers from the Kaiserliche Werft in Kiel were sent to do the work . Seeadler was back in service by May , and on 18 May she departed Bombay , arriving in East Africa on 31 May . Cormoran was meanwhile detached from East Africa and allowed to continue to the Pacific . The rest of the year was uneventful for Seeadler , though she became briefly involved in political developments in East Africa . The British Jameson Raid into the Transvaal in December 1895 threatened some 15 @,@ 000 German nationals in the Transvaal , along with the investment of 500 million gold marks in the country . The German governor considered ordering Seeadler to contribute a landing force to protect the German consul in Pretoria , the capital of the Transvaal , but the defeat of the Jameson Raid rendered the plan redundant . Seeadler nevertheless remained in East Africa while tensions cooled . In mid @-@ February 1896 , she went to Cape Town for her yearly overhaul .

After completing her repairs , Seeadler was ordered to German South @-@ West Africa on 28 April to assist the Schutztruppe in suppressing a local rebellion . The ship was tasked with interrupting the shipment of weapons from British arms dealers to the rebels . Seeadler thereafter proceeded to Swakopmund on 5 May ; she was joined there by the gunboat Hyäne . The two ships sent forces ashore to defend the city . At the end of the month , Seeadler returned to East Africa . On 2 October , she steamed to Zanzibar to take the deposed Sultan Khalid bin Barghash to Dar es Salaam following the brief Anglo @-@ Zanzibar War . On 20 December , Seeadler was again called to Lourenço Marques after the German consul there , Graf von Pfeil was attacked by Portuguese colonial police . Condor joined her there on 2 January 1897 to strengthen the show of force . Seeadler thereafter proceeded to Cape Town for her yearly overhaul .

The following two years proceeded uneventfully . In January 1898 , Seeadler again returned to Cape Town for an overhaul before being ordered to return to Germany on 3 May . She left Dar es Salaam three days later and arrived in Aden on 31 May . There she met Schwalbe , which was replacing her in East Africa . Seeadler returned to Kiel on 26 June , and she was placed out of service on 9 July for a major overhaul in Danzig . The work was done at the Kaiserliche Werft , and the changes included removing the main mast and cutting down her rigging to a topsail schooner rig . On 3 October 1899 , Seeadler was recommissioned and was ordered to replace her sister Falke on the South Seas Station in German New Guinea . She departed Kiel on 19 October and stopped in Tangiers on 27 ? 28 October to force restitution from the Moroccan government for German financial damages . Seeadler then proceeded to Germany 's south @-@ Pacific colonies , arriving on 15 November .

= = = Deployment to the Pacific = = =

Following her arrival in the Pacific , Seeadler first went to the Admiralty Islands on 18 January 1900 in response to the murder of European businessmen by natives there . Starting on 30 January , she took a cruise to tour the German holdings in the area that lasted for several weeks . Stops included the Caroline Islands and the Mariana Islands , both of which had been recently purchased from Spain . In May , a cruise to German Samoa followed ; there she met Cormoran . The two ships then toured the islands with the governor of German Samoa , Wilhelm Solf , and the Samoan chief , Mata 'afa Iosefo aboard Seeadler . In July 1900 , following the outbreak of the Boxer Rebellion in Qing China the previous year , Seeadler was sent from the South Seas Station to assist in the Western suppression of the Boxers . She arrived in Tsingtau in the Kiautschou Bay concession and joined the ships of the East Asia Squadron . She spent the following months off Chinese harbors with the armored cruiser Fürst Bismarck and the protected cruiser Hertha .

On 24 April 1901 , Seeadler was ordered to steam to the island of Yap in the Carolines to assist the stranded Norddeutscher Lloyd postal steamer SS München . A pair of tugboats had managed to pull the steamer free by the time Seeadler arrived on 3 May , though the cruiser 's crew assisted with repairs to the ship 's damaged hull . Seeadler thereafter returned to East Asia and resumed her patrols of Chinese harbors , though during this period she also visited Japanese harbors as well . These duties lasted until the end of 1902 . During Seeadler 's operations in China , her crew suffered only one casualty from enemy action . On 2 January 1903 , her sister Bussard arrived to take her place in East Asian waters , allowing Seeadler to return to the South Seas Station . Seeadler underwent a periodic overhaul in Uraga , outside Tokyo , Japan from 3 August to 14 September .

Following the outbreak of the Russo @-@ Japanese War in February 1904 , Seeadler was recalled to Tsingtau to be prepared for any possible hostilities involving Germany . During this period , Cormoran was replaced by Condor ; the two cruisers were joined by Seeadler 's old consort from East Africa , the survey vessel Möwe . In early 1905 , Seeadler conducted goodwill visits to the Philippines and the Dutch East Indies (now Indonesia) , before returning to Tsingtau in April . On 28 June , with the Russo @-@ Japanese War winding down following the decisive Japanese victory at the Battle of Tsushima , Seeadler was detached from the East Asia Squadron , permitting her return to the South Seas Station . While en route to her station area , Seeadler received an order to return to Africa during a stop at Ponape on 20 August . Her presence was necessary there to help put down a major uprising , the Maji Maji Rebellion , that had broken out in July . Seeadler ran aground twice , at Labuan and Singapore on her way to East Africa , but both incidents caused no damage . She arrived in Dar es Salaam on 1 October .

= = = Return to East Africa = = =

In mid @-@ October , Seeadler sent a landing party ashore at Samanga to protect the coastal telegraph line there . By mid @-@ December , she had returned to Dar es Salaam , before proceeding to Kilwa on 17 January 1906 . The cruiser was back in Dar es Salaam on 24 January .

Another overhaul at Cape Town followed from 10 February to 16 March . By this time , the situation in East Africa had calmed , and the light cruiser Thetis , which had also been sent to suppress the Maji @-@ Maji uprising , was sent back to Germany . Seeadler nevertheless remained in the region , and was formally assigned to the East Africa Station in early 1907 . In October 1907 , then @-@ Korvettenkapitän (Corvette Captain) Hugo Meurer served as the ship 's commanding officer . He would hold the position until June 1909

In 1908 , Seeadler was joined by Bussard on the East Africa Station . From 18 February to 18 March , Seeadler underwent another overhaul at Cape Town . She thereafter proceeded to German South @-@ West Africa , stopping in Walvis Bay and Swakopmund . There , she cruised with the gunboat Panther in March and early April . On 18 April , she was back in Dar es Salaam . Another period of dockyard repairs followed from 12 to 26 September , this time in Bombay . The rest of 1908 continued uneventfully for Seeadler , as did the next few years . The only significant event came in early November 1911 , when Seeadler pulled the Hamburg @-@ Bremen @-@ Afrika Linie steamer SS Irmgard free after she ran aground off Quelimane . In 1913 , the mayor of Cape Town hosted delegations from Seeadler and the British protected cruiser HMS Hermes . And at the end of December , the princes Leopold and Georg of Bavaria visited Seeadler in Dar es Salaam while on an overseas tour .

= = = Later service = = =

On 9 January 1914 , Seeadler departed East Africa for the last time , bound for Germany . She had spent nearly thirteen and a half years abroad , the longest uninterrupted period of overseas service of any major German warship . Her replacement , her sister Geier , had not yet arrived but was en route . Seeadler stopped in Aden on 22 January , and arrived in Kiel on 18 March . She was then moved to Danzig and decommissioned . On 6 May 1914 , she was reclassified as a gunboat . After the outbreak of World War I in August 1914 , she was reduced to a hulk for storing naval mines since she was no longer fit for active service . She was towed to Wilhelmshaven and anchored in the outer roadstead . On 19 April 1917 , her cargo exploded while she was moored in the Jade outside Wilhelmshaven . The explosion destroyed the ship , but there were no casualties ; her wreck was never raised .