

= SMS Erzherzog Karl =

SMS Erzherzog Karl (German : " His Majesty 's ship Archduke Karl ") was a pre dreadnought battleship built by the Austro Hungarian navy in 1902 . The lead ship of the Erzherzog Karl class , she was launched on 3 October 1903 . They were assigned to the III Battleship Division .

For most of World War I , Erzherzog Karl remained in her home port of Pula , in present day Croatia , except for four engagements . In 1914 , she formed part of the Austro Hungarian flotilla sent to protect the escape of the German ships SMS Goeben and SMS Breslau from the British held Mediterranean ; she advanced as far as Brindisi before being recalled to her home port . Her sole combat engagement occurred in late May 1915 , when she participated in the bombardment of the Italian port city of Ancona . She also took part in suppressing a major mutiny among the crew members of several armored cruisers stationed in Cattaro between 1 ? 3 February 1918 . She also attempted to break through the Otranto Barrage in June of that year , but had to retreat when the dreadnought SMS Szent István was sunk . After the war , Erzherzog Karl was awarded to the French as a war prize , but ran aground at Bizerte . She was scrapped in Italy in 1921 .

= = Design = =

Erzherzog Karl displaced 10 ,@ 472 long tons (10 @ ,@ 640 t) . She was 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) . She was manned by 700 men . She and her sisters were the last and largest pre dreadnought class built by the Austro Hungarian Navy , surpassing the Habsburg class by approximately 2 @ ,@ 000 tonnes (1 @ ,@ 968 long tons) . 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 propelled the ship 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 .

Erzherzog Karl carried a primary armament of 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 British 24 cm / 40 (9 @ .@ 4 ") Krupp C / 94 , which was used on the Habsburgs . Her 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 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 , also manufactured by ?koda . Anti @ -@ aircraft and airship protection was covered by the four 37 @ -@ millimeter (1 @ .@ 5 in) Vickers anti @ -@ aircraft guns on the ship bought from Britain in 1910 and mounted onto Erzherzog Karl . Erzherzog Karl was also fitted with two above water 45 @ -@ centimeter (17 @ .@ 7 in) torpedo tubes , although they were rarely used .

= = Service history = =

At the outbreak of World War I , Erzherzog Karl was in the III division of the Austrian @ -@ Hungarian battle @ -@ fleet . She was mobilized on the eve of the war along with the remainder of the fleet 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 , Erzherzog Karl took part in the bombardment of Ancona on 24 May

1915 . There she and her sisters 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 Sankt Georg and 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 Erzherzog Karl and her sisters 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 guns of 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 that the element of surprise had been compromised , 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 Pula .

Following the end of World War I in November 1918 , Erzherzog Karl was first taken over by Yugoslavia in 1919 , but was then ceded as a war reparation to France . Erzherzog Karl ran aground at Bizerte on her voyage to Toulon and was eventually broken up in situ .