

= SMS Hamburg =

SMS Hamburg (" His Majesty 's Ship Hamburg ") was the second of seven Bremen @-@ class cruisers of the Imperial German Navy , named after the city of Hamburg . She was begun by AG Vulcan Stettin in Stettin in 1902 , launched on 25 July 1903 and commissioned on 8 March 1904 . Throughout her over 40 @-@ year long career , she served with the Imperial Navy , the Reichsmarine , and the Kriegsmarine . Armed with a main battery of ten 10 @.@ 5 cm (4 @.@ 1 in) guns and two 45 cm (18 in) torpedo tubes , Hamburg was capable of a top speed of 22 knots (41 km / h ; 25 mph) .

Hamburg served with the High Seas Fleet for the first eight years on active duty . For the rest of her career , she served with U @-@ boat flotillas , first as a flagship for the I U @-@ boat Flotilla and later as a barracks ship for U @-@ boat crews during World War I. she returned to fleet duty with the Reichsmarine after the end of the war , but returned to barracks ship duties starting in 1936 , though 1944 . She was towed to her namesake city in early July 1944 for scrapping , but was sunk by British bombers toward the end of the month . The wreck was raised in 1949 and subsequently dismantled in 1956 .

= = Construction = =

Hamburg was ordered under the contract name " K " and was laid down at the AG Vulcan shipyard in Stettin in 1902 and launched on 25 July 1903 , after which fitting @-@ out work commenced . She was commissioned into the High Seas Fleet on 8 March 1904 . The ship was 111 @.@ 1 meters (365 ft) long overall and had a beam of 13 @.@ 3 m (44 ft) and a draft of 5 @.@ 28 m (17 @.@ 3 ft) forward . She displaced 3 @,@ 651 t (3 @,@ 593 long tons ; 4 @,@ 025 short tons) at full combat load . Her propulsion system consisted of two triple @-@ expansion engines , designed to give 10 @,@ 000 indicated horsepower (7 @,@ 500 kW) for a top speed of 22 knots (41 km / h ; 25 mph) . The engines were powered by ten coal @-@ fired Marine @-@ type water @-@ tube boilers . Hamburg carried up to 860 tonnes (850 long tons) of coal , which gave her a range of 4 @,@ 270 nautical miles (7 @,@ 910 km ; 4 @,@ 910 mi) at 12 knots (22 km / h ; 14 mph) . She had a crew of 14 officers and 274 ? 287 enlisted men .

The ship was armed with ten 10 @.@ 5 cm SK L / 40 guns in single mounts . Two were placed side by side forward on the forecastle , six were located amidships , three on either side , and two were placed side by side aft . The guns could engage targets out to 12 @,@ 200 m (40 @,@ 000 ft) . They were supplied with 1 @,@ 500 rounds of ammunition , for 150 shells per gun . She was also equipped with two 45 cm (17 @.@ 7 in) torpedo tubes with five torpedoes . They were submerged in the hull on the broadside . The ship was protected by an armored deck that was up to 80 mm (3 @.@ 1 in) thick . The conning tower had 100 mm (3 @.@ 9 in) thick sides , and the guns were protected by 50 mm (2 @.@ 0 in) thick shields .

= = Service history = =

After her commissioning , Hamburg served with the fleet . She was assigned to I Subdivision of the Cruiser Division of the Active Fleet . The unit consisted of the light cruisers Frauenlob and Arcona and the armored cruiser Friedrich Carl , the flagship . The ships were attached to the I Squadron of the Active Fleet . A second subdivision , composed of an armored cruiser and three light cruisers was attached to the II Squadron . In April 1909 , Hamburg was cruising in the Mediterranean . On 21 April , she was dispatched from Corfu to Mersin , where rioting threatened German interests . She was joined there the following day by several British and French warships , including the battleship HMS Swiftsure . By 1912 , she was withdrawn from front @-@ line service for use as the second command flagship for the I U @-@ boat Flotilla . After the outbreak of World War I , she rejoined the fleet , but continued in her role as the I Flotilla flagship . On 6 August , she and the cruiser Stettin escorted a flotilla of U @-@ boats into the North Sea in an attempt to draw out the British fleet , which could then be attacked by the U @-@ boats . The force returned to port on 11 August ,

without having encountered any British warships .

On 15 ? 16 December , Hamburg participated in the bombardment of Scarborough , Hartlepool and Whitby . She was assigned to the cruiser screen of the High Seas Fleet , which was providing distant cover to Rear Admiral Franz von Hipper 's battlecruisers while they were conducting the bombardment . Following reports of British destroyers from Hamburg and the armored cruiser Roon , Admiral von Ingenohl ordered the High Seas Fleet to turn to port and head for Germany . At 06 : 59 , Hamburg , Roon , and Stuttgart encountered Commander Jones ' destroyers . Jones shadowed the Germans until 07 : 40 , at which point Hamburg and Stuttgart were detached to sink their pursuers . At 08 : 02 , Roon signaled the two light cruisers and ordered them to abandon the pursuit and retreat along with the rest of the High Seas Fleet .

Hamburg was assigned to the IV Scouting Group during the Battle of Jutland on 31 May ? 1 June 1916 . The IV Scouting Group , under the command of Commodore Ludwig von Reuter , departed Wilhelmshaven at 03 : 30 on 31 May , along with the rest of the fleet . Tasked with screening for the fleet , Hamburg and the torpedo boat V73 were positioned on the port side of the fleet , abreast of the II Battle Squadron . Hamburg and the IV Scouting Group were not heavily engaged during the early phases of the battle , but around 21 : 30 , they encountered the British 3rd Light Cruiser Squadron (3rd LCS) . Reuter 's ships were leading the High Seas Fleet south , away from the deployed Grand Fleet . Due to the long range and poor visibility , only München and Stettin were able to engage the British cruisers . Hamburg only fired one salvo , since the haze rendered it impossible to spot the fall of shot . Reuter turned his ships hard to starboard , in order to draw the British closer to the capital ships of the German fleet , but the 3rd LCS refused to take the bait and disengaged .

Later in the war , Hamburg was reduced to a barracks ship for the U @-@ boat flotilla in Wilhelmshaven . During this period , among others , her commanding officer was Korvettenkapitän Friedrich Lützow , who commanded Hamburg from 16 March 1917 to 12 May 1918 . She was among the six light cruisers Germany was permitted to retain by the Treaty of Versailles . In the service of the newly reorganized Reichsmarine , Hamburg served in the active fleet starting in 1920 . In 1922 , Hamburg was assigned to the North Sea Squadron , with the old battleship Braunschweig and the cruiser Arcona . She remained in the fleet until 1923 , when she was withdrawn from active service for use as a training cruiser for naval cadets . She served in this capacity from 1924 to 1927 ; she remained in the Reichsmarine inventory until she was stricken from the naval register on 31 March 1931 . Promoted to Kapitän zur See , Lützow again served as her commander from 27 September 1924 to 2 May 1925 . She was again used as a barracks ship for submarine crews starting in 1936 by the Kriegsmarine , this time in Kiel . She continued in this duty until 1944 , when the Kriegsmarine decided to break her up for scrap . She was towed to her namesake city on 7 July 1944 for dismantling , where she was later sunk by British bombers on 27 July . The wreck was raised in 1949 and ultimately broken up in 1956 .