

= Ersatz Monarch @-@ class battleship =

The Ersatz Monarch @-@ class (Replacement Monarch @-@ class) battleship was a projected new class of four battleships which were to be constructed for the Austro @-@ Hungarian Navy in 1914 ? 19 . Designed to replace the Monarch @-@ class battleships (which later became coastal defense ships) , each of the new battleships were to carry ten 35 cm (14 in) L / 45 guns as their primary armament , a slight improvement over her predecessors , the Tegetthoff class . The ships were 175 @. @ 2 metres (575 ft) and were designed to displace 24 @, @ 560 tonnes (24 @, @ 170 long tons ; 27 @, @ 070 short tons) .

The Austro @-@ Hungarian Navy intended to lay down the first vessel in July 1914 , but the outbreak of World War I that month caused the Navy to postpone construction until September . Ultimately , none of the vessels were laid down and they were formally cancelled in late 1917 . However , four of the 35 cm guns had been built and were transferred to the Austro @-@ Hungarian Army for use on the Italian Front .

= = History = =

The Austro @-@ Hungarian Navy ordered the construction of four new battleships to replace the aging Monarch class in May 1914 . As a result , the new class was known by the contract name for the first vessel , Ersatz Monarch . The ships were to cost 82 ? 83 million kronen each . The class was to be built in two separate shipyards : two battleships were to be built by Stabilimento Tecnico Triestino and two by Ganz & Co ? Danubius .

= = = Proposals = = =

The construction of the Tegetthoff @-@ class battleships had already begun in 1910 when Skodawerke A.G made the first of many attempts to obtain the approval for a new generation of " super " dreadnoughts to replace the aging Monarch @-@ class ships . The original proposal laid forth on 18 April 1911 consisted of 13 @. @ 5 @-@ inch (34 cm) 45 @-@ caliber guns with three guns in each of the two superimposed turrets .

The Austro @-@ Hungarian Naval Technical Committee later submitted three proposals by Austrian chief naval architect Franz Pitzinger on the general characteristics of the new class in December 1911 . The first of the three proposals called for a 22 @, @ 000 @-@ long @-@ ton (22 @, @ 000 t ; 25 @, @ 000 @-@ short @-@ ton) battleship with 12 @-@ inch (300 mm) guns . A later proposal had the new class weighing 23 @, @ 000 long tons (23 @, @ 000 t ; 26 @, @ 000 short tons) and equipped with 13 @. @ 6 @-@ inch (350 mm) guns . The last proposal had the battleship weighing as much as 24 @, @ 100 long tons (24 @, @ 500 t ; 27 @, @ 000 short tons) . Despite the first two proposals on the main guns ' caliber , the final decision for the caliber was to be a modified and slightly larger version of the original proposal by Skodawerke A.G , with the main turrets to be equipped with 13 @. @ 78 @-@ inch (350 @. @ 0 mm) to 13 @. @ 8 @-@ inch (350 @. @ 5 mm) guns . The final design for the main turrets ' caliber was influenced by the Imperial German Navy , which had incorporated this caliber on its new Mackensen @-@ class battlecruisers .

By January 1913 , the Naval Technical Committee delivered its first official proposal for the new Ersatz Monarch @-@ class battleships . The committee decided to choose the largest of the three initial proposals for the ship 's tonnage , with each ship weighing roughly 24 @, @ 100 tons . The battleships were to be equipped with a total of ten 13 @. @ 8 @-@ inch (350 mm) 45 @-@ caliber guns , eighteen 5 @. @ 9 @-@ inch (150 mm) 50 @-@ caliber guns , and twenty @-@ two 3 @. @ 5 @-@ inch (90 mm) 45 @-@ caliber guns . The main guns were to be between 13 @. @ 78 inches (350 @. @ 0 mm) and 13 @. @ 8 inches (350 @. @ 5 mm) . It took another year and a half for this final design to be formally approved in July 1914 . During this time , a further 12 designs were put forth .

= = Layout = =

= = = Armament and propulsion = = =

The standard weight for the class was to be 24 @, @ 100 long tons (24 @, @ 500 t ; 27 @, @ 000 short tons) per ship . The ships ' length would have been 574 feet (175 m) and the beam 93 @. @ 5 ft (28 @. @ 5 m) while the draft would have been 27 @. @ 6 ft (8 @. @ 41 m) . The four battleships of the Ersatz Monarch class would have been equipped with four @-@ shaft steam turbines that produced 31 @, @ 000 shaft horsepower (23 @, @ 000 kW) and contained 15 Yarrow water @-@ tube boilers (nine coal @-@ fired and six oil @-@ fired) . These engines would have enabled the four battleships to travel at 21 knots (38 @. @ 9 km / h) . Their total range would have been 5 @, @ 000 nautical miles (9 @, @ 000 km) while traveling at 10 knots (19 km / h) . Each battleship was to be manned by a crew of 1 @, @ 050 to 1 @, @ 100 officers and men . According to the approved gun designs from January 1913 , the members of the Ersatz Monarch class would have had 10 13 @. @ 8 @-@ inch (350 mm) guns , 14 6 @-@ inch (150 mm) guns , 20 3 @. @ 5 @-@ inch (90 mm) guns , two 1 @. @ 85 @-@ inch (47 mm) guns and six 21 @. @ 5 @-@ inch (550 mm) torpedo tubes .

= = = Armor = = =

The armor plating on the ships would have been 12 in (300 mm) thick around the belt , barbettes , turrets and the conning tower , while the deck would have had 2 @. @ 85 @-@ inch (72 mm) thick armor . The underwater defenses of the battleships were a drastic change from previous Austro @-@ Hungarian battleship designs . The new design was similar to recent French and Russian designs . A horizontal armor deck was built into the vessel inwards from the bottom edge of the armor belt , as far as the last vertical bulkheads . The new guns that were approved for the final design were modified to increase the effect of a broadside . However , in order to keep a stable balance between the ships ' protection , stability , and firepower , the battleships were to only be equipped with 10 guns . This new layout was unusual , having two turrets with three guns mounted on each of them being superimposed over two twin guns .

= = Construction and cancellation = =

With the final design in place , four ships from the class were ordered by the Austro @-@ Hungarian Navy in July 1914 . The Austro @-@ Hungarian Navy followed the traditional German custom of not naming the new ships until they were formally launched . As a result , the Navy only referred to them as " replacements " for the old Monarch @-@ class ships , hence the name " Ersatz " (replacement) . The four battleships themselves were simply referred to as " Battleships VIII @-@ XI " . Because several design sketches that all had slight differences were put forth , the exact final appearance of the ships are not known . However , they all would have been built with raised forecastles in order to give them better seaworthiness than their predecessors of the Tegetthoff class . The battleships would have been equipped with lattice towers that would hold searchlight platforms .

Each battleship would have cost about 83 million kronen . The first battleship would have been laid down in July 1914 , but this date was later pushed back to September due to the outbreak of World War I at the end of July . The first battleship , " Battleship VIII , " was scheduled to have been completed on 30 June 1917 . The second battleship , referred to as " Battleship IX , " would have been laid down on 1 January 1915 and launched on 31 December 1917 . The third and fourth battleships , " Battleship X " and " Battleship XI , " were scheduled to be laid down on 1 June 1916 and completed on 31 May 1919 .

The main guns were to be built by Skoda , and while the battleships themselves were never laid down , the guns for one battleship had been ordered prior to the beginning of World War I. These

were the only orders that the Austro-Hungarian Navy had placed for any part of the four battleships . It was assumed that following a victorious conclusion to the war in just two months , work on the battleships would resume . As the war continued , four of the main guns that were ordered from the Skoda works were handed over to the Austro-Hungarian Army for use on the Italian Front . The rest of the completed main guns were later taken by the French as a war prize following the end of the war . In late 1917 , the construction on all four vessels was canceled .