

= SMS Regensburg =

SMS Regensburg was a light cruiser of the Graudenz class built by the German Kaiserliche Marine (Imperial Navy) . She had one sister ship , SMS Graudenz . The ship was built by the AG Weser shipyard in Bremen , laid down in 1912 , launched in April 1914 , and commissioned into the High Seas Fleet in January 1915 . She was named for the German town of Regensburg . The ship was armed with a main battery of twelve 10 @. @ 5 cm SK L / 45 guns and had a top speed of 27 @. @ 5 knots (50 @. @ 9 km / h ; 31 @. @ 6 mph) , though in 1917 she was rearmed with seven 15 cm SK L / 45 guns .

Regensburg served in the reconnaissance forces of the High Seas Fleet during World War I. She saw significant action at the Battle of Jutland on 31 May ? 1 June 1916 , where she served as the leader of the torpedo boat flotillas that screened for the I Scouting Group battlecruisers . After the end of the war , she was ceded to France in 1920 and renamed Strasbourg . In 1928 she took part in the Arctic rescue operations searching for the Airship Italia . Removed from service in 1936 , she was used as a barracks ship in Lorient until 1944 , when she was seized by the Germans and scuttled in the harbor to protect the U @-@ boat pens there .

= = Design = =

Regensburg was ordered under the contract name " Ersatz Irene " and was laid down at the AG Weser shipyard in Bremen in 1912 and was launched on 25 April 1914 ; the mayor of Regensburg , Hofrat Josef Bleyer , christened the ship . She was commissioned into the High Seas Fleet on 3 January 1915 . The ship was 142 @. @ 7 meters (468 ft) long overall and had a beam of 13 @. @ 8 m (45 ft) and a draft of 5 @. @ 75 m (18 @. @ 9 ft) forward . She displaced 6 @, @ 382 t (6 @, @ 281 long tons ; 7 @, @ 035 short tons) at full combat load . Her propulsion system consisted of two sets of Marine steam turbines driving two 3 @. @ 5 @-@ meter (11 ft) propellers . They were designed to give 26 @, @ 000 shaft horsepower (19 @, @ 000 kW) . These were powered by ten coal @-@ fired Marine @-@ type water @-@ tube boilers and two oil @-@ fired double @-@ ended boilers . These gave the ship a top speed of 27 @. @ 5 knots (50 @. @ 9 km / h ; 31 @. @ 6 mph) . Regensburg carried 1 @, @ 280 t (1 @, @ 260 long tons) of coal , and an additional 375 t (369 long tons) of oil that gave her a range of approximately 5 @, @ 500 nautical miles (10 @, @ 200 km ; 6 @, @ 300 mi) at 12 knots (22 km / h ; 14 mph) . She had a crew of 21 officers and 364 enlisted men .

The ship was armed with twelve 10 @. @ 5 cm SK L / 45 guns in single pedestal mounts . Two were placed side by side forward on the forecastle , eight were located amidships , four on either side , and two in a superfiring pair aft . The guns had a maximum elevation of 30 degrees , which allowed them to engage targets out to 12 @, @ 700 m (41 @, @ 700 ft) . These were later replaced with seven 15 cm SK L / 45 guns and two 8 @. @ 8 cm SK L / 45 anti @-@ aircraft guns . She was also equipped with a pair of 50 cm (19 @. @ 7 in) torpedo tubes with five torpedoes submerged in the hull on the broadside . Four deck @-@ mounted launchers were added when the gun armament was upgraded , and the submerged tubes were removed . She could also carry 120 mines . The ship was protected by a waterline armored belt that was 60 mm (2 @. @ 4 in) thick amidships . The conning tower had 100 mm (3 @. @ 9 in) thick sides , and the deck was covered with up to 60 mm thick armor plate .

= = Service history = =

Regensburg completed her trials on 10 March 1915 , and was then assigned to the II Scouting Group . Eleven days later , she bombarded Russian positions near Polangen and Papensee ; the operation lasted until the 24th . Captain Hans Zenker proposed that Regensburg and the liner Cap Polonio ? which was to be armed with 15 cm guns ? should be sent out into the Atlantic to replace the commerce raiding cruisers that had been destroyed in the early months of the war . The fleet commander , Admiral Friedrich von Ingenohl , argued the ships would eventually be sunk as well ,

and that any possible successes for the raiders would not equal the loss of a modern light cruiser or a large passenger liner . The suggested plan was therefore abandoned . On 17 ? 18 May , Regensburg took part in a mine @-@ laying operation in the area of the Dogger Bank . On 25 August , she went into the Baltic to bombard Russian positions again , this time on the island of Dagö , including the lighthouse in St. Andreasberg and the signal station on Cap Ristna . On 11 ? 12 May , Regensburg participated in another mine @-@ laying operation , this time off Texel . In September , she took part in anti @-@ shipping sweeps in the Skagerrak and the Kattegat . In early 1916 , she continued supporting mine @-@ laying operations and reconnaissance sweeps into the North Sea . On 23 ? 24 April , she participated in the bombardment of Yarmouth and Lowestoft , conducted by the battlecruisers of Rear Admiral Franz von Hipper 's I Scouting Group .

= = = Battle of Jutland = = =

In May 1916 , Admiral Reinhard Scheer , the fleet commander , planned to lure a portion of the British fleet away from its bases and destroy it with the entire High Seas Fleet . For the planned operation , Regensburg , commanded by Commodore Paul Heinrich , was assigned to serve as the leader of the torpedo boat flotillas that screened for the battlecruisers of the I Scouting Group . The squadron left the Jade roadstead at 02 : 00 on 31 May , bound for the waters of the Skagerrak . The main body of the fleet followed an hour and a half later . At around 15 : 30 , the cruiser screens of the I Scouting Group and the British 1st Battlecruiser Squadron engaged ; Regensburg was on the disengaged side of the German formation , but steamed to reach the head of the line of battle . As she was moving into position , the opposing battlecruisers opened fire ; Regensburg was some 2 @, @ 200 yd (2 @, @ 000 m) from the German battlecruisers , still on the disengaged side . Her crew noted that the British shells were falling well over their targets , which placed Regensburg in greater danger than the battlecruisers at which the British were aiming . By 17 : 10 , Regensburg had reached the head of the line , and the battlecruiser HMS Tiger fired several salvos at her , mistaking her for a battlecruiser .

As the battlecruiser squadrons closed on each other , Regensburg ordered the torpedo boats to make a general attack on the British formation . The British had similarly ordered an attack with their destroyers , which led to a hard @-@ fought battle at close range between the opposing destroyer forces , supported by light cruisers and the battlecruisers ' secondary guns . Shortly after 19 : 00 , Regensburg led an attack with several torpedo boats on the cruiser Canterbury and four destroyers . She disabled the destroyer Shark and then shifted fire to Canterbury , which turned away into the mist . By 20 : 15 , the British and German main fleets had engaged , and Scheer sought a withdrawal ; he therefore ordered the I Scouting Group to charge the British line while the rest of the fleet turned away . This was in turn covered by a massed torpedo boat attack , which forced the British to turn away as well . Regensburg and her torpedo boats were ordered to join the attack , but the I Scouting Group had passed in front of his ships , and he realized the British had turned away , which put them out of range of his torpedoes .

Having successfully disengaged , Scheer ordered Regensburg to organize three torpedo boat flotillas to make attacks on the British fleet during the night . At 21 : 10 , Heinrich dispatched the II Flotilla and XII Half @-@ Flotilla from the rear of the German line to attack the British formation . In the night , the High Seas Fleet successfully passed behind the British fleet and reached Horns Reef by 04 : 00 on 1 June . At 09 : 45 , Regensburg and three torpedo boats turned around to rendezvous with the torpedo boats carrying the crew of the scuttled battlecruiser Lützow . In the course of the battle , Regensburg had fired 372 rounds of 10 @. @ 5 cm ammunition and emerged completely unscathed .

= = = Subsequent operations = = =

By 1917 , Regensburg had been assigned to the IV Scouting Group , along with Stralsund and Pillau . In late October 1917 , the IV Scouting Group steamed to Pillau , arriving on the 30th . They were tasked with replacing the heavy units of the fleet that had just completed Operation Albion , the

conquest of the islands in the Gulf of Riga , along with the battleships of the I Battle Squadron . The risk of mines that had come loose in a recent storm , however , prompted the naval command to cancel the mission , and Regensburg and the rest of the IV Scouting Group was ordered to return to the North Sea on 31 October .

By October 1918 , Regensburg was serving as the flagship of Commodore Johannes von Karpf , commander of the IV Scouting Group . The unit was to participate in a final , climactic attack by the High Seas Fleet . Admirals Reinhard Scheer and Hipper intended to inflict as much damage as possible on the British navy , in order to secure a better bargaining position for Germany , whatever the cost to the fleet . On the morning of 27 October , days before the operation was scheduled to begin , Karpf ordered Regensburg 's crew to take on a full load of coal and oil . One division of sailors refused to work and a watch from the engine room personnel changed into their shore @-@ going uniforms and refused to work as well . The ship 's First Lieutenant arrested the ringleader of the strike , after which the crew returned to work . On the morning of 29 October 1918 , the order was given to sail from Wilhelmshaven the following day . Starting on the night of 29 October , sailors on the battleship Thüringen and then on several other battleships mutinied . The unrest ultimately forced Hipper and Scheer to cancel the operation .

As the mutinies spread , Regensburg was sent to Swinemünde , arriving on 7 November . That night , false reports of torpedo boats manned by Communist revolutionaries had sailed to attack his ships reached Karpf . He ordered his ships to be laid up ; the confidential materials carried aboard were destroyed and their ammunition magazines were flooded . When the fleet command learned of the incident , they replaced Karpf with Commodore Rohardt , who set about restoring the ships to seagoing condition . During this process , the IV Scouting Group moved to Stettin . The abdication of Kaiser Wilhelm II on 9 November , however , which indicated to Rohardt that his ships could no longer fly the Imperial ensign . He therefore placed Regensburg and Brummer out of commission . A new officer arrived in Stettin to serve as Regensburg 's commander , but he had few officers and no crew . In December 1918 , Regensburg escorted the British battleship HMS Hercules , which was carrying the Allied Armistice Commission , to Kiel .

= = = French service = = =

Regensburg served in the newly reorganized Reichsmarine after the end of the war , through 1919 . She was stricken from the naval register on 10 March 1920 and placed out of service . On 4 June 1920 , the ship was surrendered to the Allies in the port of Cherbourg , France and transferred under the name " J " to the French Navy . She was renamed Strasbourg and served with the French fleet . She was initially home @-@ ported in Brest , until she was transferred to Toulon in 1923 , where she remained for the next three years . In 1925 , she underwent a major overhaul , after which she made 26 kn (48 km / h ; 30 mph) on speed trials . Strasbourg participated in the Rif War in the mid 1920s ; on 7 September 1925 , she and the battleship Paris and the cruiser Metz supported a landing of French troops in North Africa . The three ships provided heavy gunfire support to the landing troops . In early 1928 , a major earthquake struck Corinth , Greece ; Strassbourg was among the vessels sent to aid in the relief effort . The international effort provided assistance to 15 @, @ 000 people .

Also in 1928 , she assisted in the search effort for the wrecked airship Italia , which had crashed on the polar ice northeast of Svalbard . In addition , Roald Amundsen , who had also joined the search effort , went missing himself . Strassbourg arrived in Tromsø , Norway , on 19 June , to search for both Italia and Amundsen 's aircraft . The ship 's bow was not designed to operate in an Arctic environment , and so the crew had to continually fix wood planks to the hull to protect it from the ice . While refueling from the tanker Durance , Strassbourg took on two FBA 17 seaplanes to assist in the search effort . On 30 August , Strassbourg located one of the floats from Amundsen 's aircraft , confirming the loss of the plane . The search effort was called off on 17 September , and Strassbourg returned to Brest by way of Reykjavík , arriving back in France by mid October .

She remained in service until 14 June 1936 , when she was placed in reserve . Her name was reused for the new battleship Strasbourg , so the old cruiser was renamed Strassbourg II . The

cruiser was subsequently used as a barracks ship in Lorient until 1944 , when she was seized by the Germans and scuttled in the harbor to protect the U @-@ boat pens in the harbor from torpedo attack . Barrage balloons and anti @-@ torpedo nets were attached to the ship to strengthen the defenses of the U @-@ boat pens . Her wreck remains in the harbor , and is visible at low tide .