

= HMS Andromeda ( 1897 ) =

HMS Andromeda was one of eight Diadem class protected cruisers built for the Royal Navy in the 1890s . Upon completion in 1899 , the ship was assigned to the Mediterranean Fleet where she helped to escort a royal yacht during its cruise through the Mediterranean Sea . After a refit , she was assigned to the China Station in 1904 and returned home three years later to be reduced to reserve . Andromeda was converted into a training ship in 1913 and remained in that role under various names until 1956 . That year she was sold for scrap and broken up in Belgium , the last Pembroke class built ship still afloat .

= = Design and description = =

The Diadem class was designed to protect British merchant shipping from fast cruisers like the Russian Rurik and were smaller versions of the Powerful class . The ships had a length between perpendiculars of 435 feet ( 132 m ) , a beam of 69 feet ( 21 m ) and a draught of 25 feet 6 inches ( 7 m 8 in ) . They displaced 11 000 long tons ( 11 000 t ) . The first batch of Diadems were powered by a pair of four cylinder triple expansion steam engines , each driving one shaft , which were designed to produce a total of 16 500 indicated horsepower ( 12 300 kW ) and a maximum speed of 20 5 knots ( 38 0 km / h ; 23 6 mph ) using steam provided by 30 Belleville boilers . They carried a maximum of 1 900 long tons ( 1 930 t ) of coal and their hulls were sheathed with copper to reduce biofouling . Their complement numbered 677 officers and ratings .

The main armament of the Diadem class ships consisted of 16 quick firing ( QF ) QF 6 inch ( 152 mm ) guns . Four of these were on the forecastle and in the stern , all protected by gun shields . The remaining dozen guns were in armoured casemates on each broadside . The ships carried 200 rounds per gun . Protection against torpedo boats was provided by a dozen QF 12 pounder 3 in ( 76 mm ) , 12 cwt guns , for which 300 rounds per gun was provided , and 3 QF 3 pounder ( 1 9 in ( 47 mm ) ) Hotchkiss guns . In addition , the ships carried a pair of Ordnance QF 12 pounder 8 cwt landing guns for use ashore . The ships were also armed with a pair of submerged 18 inch ( 450 mm ) torpedo tubes .

The sloped armoured deck ranged in thickness from 2 5 to 4 inches ( 64 to 102 mm ) on the flat and slopes , respectively . The casemates were protected by 6 inches of Harvey armour while the gun shields had 2 to 4 5 inches ( 51 to 114 mm ) of armour . The conning towers were protected by 12 inch ( 305 mm ) walls and their roofs were 2 inches thick . The tubes protecting the ammunition hoists were also 2 inches thick .

= = Construction and career = =

Andromeda was the fifth ship of her name to serve in the Royal Navy and was laid down on 2 December 1895 by Pembroke Dockyard . The ship was launched on 30 April 1897 by Lady Scourfield , wife of Sir Owen Scourfield Bt . She was fitted out at Pembroke Dock until 5 September 1898 and sailed later that month to Portsmouth Dockyard for completion .

Upon completion on 5 September 1899 , she was assigned to the Mediterranean Fleet under the command of Captain John Burr , who was relieved on 12 March 1901 by Captain Francis Foley . That month the ship was one of two cruisers tasked to escort the ocean liner HMS Ophir , commissioned as a royal yacht for the world tour of the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and York ( later King George and Queen Mary ) , from Gibraltar to Malta , and then to Port Said . Captain Christopher Cradock was appointed in command on 24 March 1902 , and from 11 June that year Andromeda served as flagship to Rear Admiral Sir Baldwin Wake Walker , commander of the Cruiser Division of the Mediterranean Fleet . In May 1902 she visited Palermo to attend festivities in connection with the opening of an Agricultural Exhibition by King Victor Emmanuel , and the following month the ship was in Gibraltar for a coronation fête .

Andromeda returned home later that year and began a lengthy refit . She was assigned to the

China Station in 1904 and returned home three years later . The ship was reduced to reserve at Chatham Dockyard upon her return , but transferred to Devonport Dockyard shortly afterwards . Andromeda was assigned to the 9th Cruiser Squadron of the new reserve Third Fleet in 1912 . The following year the ship was converted to a boys ' training ship and renamed Powerful II on 23 September 1913 . She was later renamed Impregnable II in November 1919 and finally , HMS Defiance on 20 January 1931 , when she became part of the torpedo school . The ship was sold for scrap in 1956 and arrived at Burgt , Belgium , on 14 August to begin demolition .