

= SMS Frauenlob =

SMS Frauenlob ( " His Majesty 's Ship Frauenlob " ) was the eighth member of the ten @-@ ship Gazelle class , built by the Imperial German Navy . She was built by the AG Weser dockyard in Bremen , laid down in 1901 , launched in March 1902 , and commissioned into the High Seas Fleet in February 1903 . Armed with a main battery of ten 10 @.@ 5 cm ( 4 @.@ 1 in ) guns and two 45 cm ( 18 in ) torpedo tubes , Frauenlob was capable of a top speed of 21 @.@ 5 knots ( 39 @.@ 8 km / h ; 24 @.@ 7 mph ) .

Frauenlob spent her entire career in the reconnaissance forces of the High Seas Fleet . She saw action during World War I at the Battle of Heligoland Bight in August 1914 , where she badly damaged the British cruiser HMS Arethusa , and at the Battle of Jutland on 31 May 1916 . There , in a chaotic night engagement , Frauenlob was hit by a torpedo launched by HMS Southampton , which caused the ship to capsize and sink with the vast majority of her crew . The wreck was discovered in 2000 , and is in remarkably good condition , sitting upright on the ocean floor .

= = Construction = =

Frauenlob was 105 meters ( 344 ft ) long overall and had a beam of 12 @.@ 4 m ( 41 ft ) and a draft of 4 @.@ 99 m ( 16 @.@ 4 ft ) forward . She displaced 3 @,@ 158 t ( 3 @,@ 108 long tons ; 3 @,@ 481 short tons ) at full combat load . Her propulsion system consisted of two triple @-@ expansion engines manufactured by AG Weser . They were designed to give 8 @,@ 000 shaft horsepower ( 6 @,@ 000 kW ) , for a top speed of 21 @.@ 5 knots ( 39 @.@ 8 km / h ; 24 @.@ 7 mph ) . The engines were powered by eight coal @-@ fired Marine @-@ type water @-@ tube boilers . Frauenlob carried 700 tonnes ( 690 long tons ) of coal , which gave her a range of 4 @,@ 400 nautical miles ( 8 @,@ 100 km ; 5 @,@ 100 mi ) at 12 knots ( 22 km / h ; 14 mph ) . She had a crew of 14 officers and 256 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 20 to 25 mm ( 0 @.@ 79 to 0 @.@ 98 in ) thick . The conning tower had 80 mm ( 3 @.@ 1 in ) thick sides , and the guns were protected by 50 mm ( 2 @.@ 0 in ) thick shields .

= = History = =

Frauenlob was ordered under the contract name " G " and was laid down at the AG Weser shipyard in Bremen in 1901 and launched on 22 March 1902 , after which fitting @-@ out work commenced . She was commissioned into the High Seas Fleet on 17 February 1903 . She was named for the schooner Frauenlob , launched in 1853 , that had been paid for in part by the donations of women from the German lands ; the name means " praise women . " After her commissioning , Frauenlob was assigned to the fleet reconnaissance forces , where she served for the duration of her career . In 1905 , she was assigned to the Cruiser Division , alongside her sister Arcona and the cruisers Hamburg and Friedrich Carl .

Frauenlob was recommissioned into the fleet on 2 August 1914 , as a result of the outbreak of World War I . On 28 August 1914 , Frauenlob saw her first action in the Battle of Heligoland Bight . The British Harwich Force , composed of two light cruisers and 33 destroyers under Commodore Reginald Tyrwhitt , raided the German picket line in the Heligoland Bight . Frauenlob was stationed to the southwest of the island of Heligoland in support of the picket line . At about 09 : 00 , Frauenlob and the light cruiser Stettin were sent out to reinforce the beleaguered German patrols .

Frauenlob shortly thereafter encountered the British cruiser HMS Arethusa and opened fire at 09 : 09 . She quickly found the range and hit the British ship an estimated 25 ? 35 times , disabling all

but one of her guns and inflicting serious damage . One shell detonated a cordite charge and set Arethusa on fire . The ship 's engine room flooded and her speed fell to 10 kn ( 19 km / h ; 12 mph ) . She turned away to starboard in order to escape from the punishing fire , but Frauenlob kept up with the badly damaged British cruiser until she disappeared in the fog . In return , Frauenlob was hit ten times , but was not seriously damaged ; in all , five men were killed and another thirty @-@ two were wounded . After the engagement ended , Frauenlob took the badly damaged minesweeper T33 under tow and returned her to Heligoland , before proceeding to Wilhelmshaven .

By the Battle of Jutland , on 31 May ? 1 June 1916 , Frauenlob was assigned to the IV Scouting Group , under the command of Commodore Ludwig von Reuter , which was tasked with screening for the High Seas Fleet . She was not actively engaged in the battle until later on the evening of 31 May ; at around 9 : 15 , the IV Scouting Group encountered the British 3rd Light Cruiser Squadron and briefly engaged them , but due to the poor visibility , only Stettin and München fired for long , and to no effect .

Later , during the chaotic night fighting , the battlecruisers Seydlitz and Moltke passed too closely in front of Stettin , which forced the entire Scouting Group to fall out of line , inadvertently bringing them into contact with the 2nd Light Cruiser Squadron . A ferocious firefight ensued , at a range of only 730 meters ( 2 @,@ 400 ft ) . Frauenlob opened fire on HMS Southampton and HMS Dublin , as did the rest of the IV Scouting Group . In return , Southampton launched a torpedo that struck Frauenlob at around 22 : 35 , which cut her power and caused serious flooding . British 6 @-@ inch ( 150 mm ) shellfire set the deck alight , and the stricken cruiser quickly capsized and sank , taking twelve officers and 308 men down with her . Only 9 men from her crew survived .

= = Wreck = =

In 2000 , the wreck was located by Danish divers . The British marine archeologist Innes McCartney led a subsequent dive and confirmed that the wreck sits upright on the sea floor and is largely intact . Skeletal remains from the ship 's crew are scattered around the sunken cruiser . The wreck was positively identified when McCartney 's team recovered the ship 's bell in 2001 , which they donated to the Laboe Naval Memorial near Kiel , where the bell is currently on display .