

= SMS Hildebrand =

SMS Hildebrand was the fifth vessel of the six member Siegfried class of coastal defense ships (Küstenpanzerschiffe) built for the German Imperial Navy . Her sister ships were Siegfried , Beowulf , Frithjof , Heimdall , and Hagen . Hildebrand was built by the Kaiserliche Werft Kiel shipyard between 1890 and 1893 , and was armed with a main battery of three 24 centimeter (9 4 in) guns . She served in the German fleet throughout the 1890s and was rebuilt in 1900 ? 1902 . She served in the VI Battle Squadron after the outbreak of World War I in August 1914 , but saw no action . Hildebrand was demobilized in 1915 and used as a barracks ship thereafter . She ran aground while en route to the Netherlands for scrapping in 1919 , and was eventually broken up in situ in 1933 .

= = Design = =

Hildebrand was 79 meters (259 ft) long overall and had a beam of 14 .9 m (49 ft) and a maximum draft of 5 .74 m (18 .8 ft) . She displaced 3 ,741 long tons (3 ,801 t) at full combat load . Her propulsion system consisted of two vertical 3 cylinder triple expansion engines . Steam for the engines was provided by four coal fired boilers . The ship 's propulsion system provided a top speed of 14 .8 kn (27 .4 km / h ; 17 .0 mph) and a range of approximately 1 ,490 nautical miles (2 ,760 km ; 1 ,710 mi) at 10 kn (19 km / h ; 12 mph) . Hildebrand had a crew of 20 officers and 256 enlisted men .

The ship was armed with three 24 cm K L / 35 guns mounted in three single gun turrets . Two were placed side by side forward , and the third was located aft of the main superstructure . They were supplied with a total of 204 rounds of ammunition . The ship was also equipped with eight 8 .8 cm SK L / 30 guns in single mounts . Hildebrand also carried four 35 cm (14 in) torpedo tubes , all in swivel mounts on the deck . One was at the bow , another at the stern , and two amidships . The ship was protected by an armored belt that was 240 mm (9 .4 in) amidships , and an armored deck that was 30 mm (1 .2 in) thick . The conning tower had 80 mm (3 .1 in) thick sides .

= = Service history = =

Hildebrand was laid down in 1890 at the Kaiserliche Werft shipyard in Kiel . She was launched on 6 August 1892 , and completed on 28 October 1893 . Hildebrand participated in the fleet maneuvers in 1894 , alongside two of her sister ships in the IV Division of the fleet . The Division was based in Danzig with some torpedo boats and operated as the German fleet in mock engagements with the I Division , which simulated the Russian Baltic Fleet . In 1897 , Hildebrand again participated in the annual summer maneuvers in the III Division , along with Siegfried and Beowulf . Her other three sisters were assigned to the IV Division . Hildebrand , Siegfried , Heimdall , and Ägir simulated the hostile fleet during the 1900 summer exercises .

Hildebrand served on active duty with the fleet until 1901 , when she was taken into drydock at the Kaiserliche Werft shipyard in Danzig for an extensive reconstruction . The ship was lengthened to 86 .13 m (282 .6 ft) , which increased displacement to 4 ,236 t (4 ,169 long tons ; 4 ,669 short tons) . Her old boilers were replaced with eight new Marine type boilers , and a second funnel was added . Her secondary battery was increased to ten 8 .8 cm guns , and the 35 cm torpedo tubes were replaced with three 45 cm (18 in) tubes . Work was completed by 1902 .

Hildebrand returned to the fleet after her modernization was completed , assigned to the II Squadron , alongside Heimdall , Hagen , and Beowulf . She remained in the fleet where she remained until the outbreak of World War I in August 1914 , when she was mobilized into the VI Battle Squadron for coastal defense , along with her sister ships . On 31 August 1915 , the VI Battle Squadron was demobilized , and Hildebrand 's crew was transferred to other warships . She was then used as a barracks ship in Windau . On 17 June 1919 , she was stricken from the naval

register . She was sold to the Netherlands for scrapping , but ran aground while en route to the breakers . In 1933 , her wreck was blown up and subsequently broken up in situ .