

= Boadicea @-@ class cruiser =

The Boadicea @-@ class cruiser was a pair of scout cruisers built for the Royal Navy in the first decade of the 20th century . They were the first class of this type to be fitted with steam turbine machinery . Upon completion in 1909 ? 10 , the sister ships served as flotilla leaders for destroyer flotillas of the First Fleet until 1913 when they were assigned to battleship squadrons . When the First World War began in August 1914 , they remained with their squadrons as the First Fleet was incorporated into the Grand Fleet , although they changed squadrons over the course of the war . Both ships were present during the Battle of Jutland in mid @-@ 1916 , but neither fired a shot . They were converted into minelayers the following year and both ships laid minefields in early 1918 in addition to other missions . The sisters were reduced to reserve in 1919 and sold for scrap in 1921 and 1926 .

= = Design = =

Like the earlier scout cruisers , the Boadicea class was designed to provide destroyer flotillas with a command ship , theoretically offering the ability to scout ahead of the group and locate targets for the smaller ships to attack . They were enlarged and more powerfully armed versions of the earlier ships , fitted with steam turbines . Curiously , they were no faster than the older ships and equally unsuccessful in their intended role as they lacked the speed of the destroyers they were supposed to escort .

Displacing 3 @, @ 350 long tons (3 @, @ 400 t) , the ships had an overall length of 405 feet (123 @. @ 4 m) , a beam of 41 feet 6 inches (12 @. @ 6 m) and a deep draught of 14 feet (4 @. @ 3 m) . They were powered by two sets of Parsons steam turbines , each driving two shafts . The turbines produced a total of 18 @, @ 000 indicated horsepower (13 @, @ 000 kW) , using steam produced by 12 Yarrow boilers that burned both fuel oil and coal , and gave a maximum speed of 25 knots (46 km / h ; 29 mph) . They carried a maximum of 780 long tons (790 t) of coal and 189 long tons (192 t) of fuel oil that gave them a range of 4 @, @ 260 nautical miles (7 @, @ 890 km ; 4 @, @ 900 mi) at 10 knots (19 km / h ; 12 mph) . Her crew consisted of 317 officers and enlisted men .

The main armament of the Boadicea class consisted of six breech @-@ loading (BL) four @-@ inch (102 mm) Mk VII guns . The forward pair of guns were mounted side by side on a platform on the forecastle , the middle pair were amidships , one on each broadside , and the two remaining guns were on the centreline of the quarterdeck , one ahead of the other . The guns fired their 31 @-@ pound (14 kg) shells to a range of about 11 @, @ 400 yards (10 @, @ 400 m) . Her secondary armament was four quick @-@ firing (QF) three @-@ pounder (47 mm (1 @. @ 9 in)) Vickers Mk I guns and two submerged 21 @-@ inch (533 mm) torpedo tubes . During the war , four additional four @-@ inch guns were added amidships to increase her firepower . A QF three @-@ inch 20 cwt anti @-@ aircraft gun was also added . In 1918 it was replaced by a four @-@ inch gun .

As scout cruisers , the ships were only lightly protected to maximise their speed . They had a curved protective deck that was 1 inch (25 mm) thick on the slope and 0 @. @ 5 inches (13 mm) on the flat . Their conning tower was protected by 4 inches of armour .

= = Ships = =

= = Service = =

Both Boadicea and Bellona began their careers with destroyer flotillas of the First Fleet , Boadicea as senior officers ' ship for the 1st Destroyer Flotilla and Bellona with the 2nd Destroyer Flotilla . The former was transferred to the 3rd Destroyer Flotilla in mid @-@ 1912 and the sisters were transferred to the 2nd and the 1st Battle Squadrons , respectively , of the First Fleet in 1913 . Both

ships were assigned to positions at the rear of their squadrons and did not fire their guns during the Battle of Jutland on 31 May ? 1 June 1916 .

The sisters remained with their squadrons until 1917 when they were converted into minelayers , Bellona in May and Boadicea in October , Bellona replacing her sister in the 2nd Battle Squadron that month . After her conversion , Boadicea was assigned to the 4th Battle Squadron in January 1918 and neither ship was reassigned before the end of the war . They laid mines at the entrance to the Kattegat on the nights of 18 / 19 and 24 / 25 February 1918 and both made several other sorties to lay their mines before the end of the war . They were placed in reserve after the war and taken out of service in 1920 . Bellona was quickly sold for scrap in 1921 , but Boadicea was not sold until 1926 .