

= SMS Hansa (1898) =

SMS Hansa was a protected cruiser of the Victoria Louise class , built for the German Imperial Navy (Kaiserliche Marine) in the 1890s , along with her sister ships Victoria Louise , Hertha , Vineta , and Freya . Hansa was laid down at the AG Vulcan shipyard in Stettin in 1896 , launched in March 1898 , and commissioned into the Navy in April 1899 . The ship was armed with a battery of two 21 cm guns and eight 15 cm guns and had a top speed of 19 knots (35 km / h ; 22 mph) .

Hansa served abroad in the German East Asia Squadron for the first six years of her career . She contributed a landing party to the force that captured the Taku Forts during the Boxer Rebellion in 1900 . In August 1904 , she participated in the internment of the Russian battleship Tsesarevich after the Battle of the Yellow Sea during the Russo - Japanese War . After returning to Germany in 1906 , she was modernized and used as a training ship in 1909 , following the completion of the refit . At the outbreak of World War I , Hansa was mobilized into the 5th Scouting Group , but served in front - line duty only briefly . She was used as a barracks ship after 1915 , and ultimately sold for scrapping in 1920 .

= = Design = =

Hansa was ordered under the contract name " N " and was laid down at the AG Vulcan shipyard in Stettin in 1896 . She was launched on 12 March 1898 , after which fitting out work commenced . She was commissioned into the German navy on 20 April 1899 . The ship was 110 m (360 ft) long overall and had a beam of 17 m (56 ft) and a draft of 6 m (20 ft) forward . She displaced 6 ,491 t (6 ,388 long tons ; 7 ,155 short tons) at full combat load . Her propulsion system consisted of three vertical 4 - cylinder triple expansion engines powered by twelve coal - fired Dürr boilers . Her engines provided a top speed of 19 kn (35 km / h ; 22 mph) and a range of approximately 3 ,412 nautical miles (6 ,319 km ; 3 ,926 mi) at 12 kn (22 km / h ; 14 mph) . She had a crew of 31 officers and 446 enlisted men .

The ship was armed with two 21 cm SK L / 40 guns in single turrets , one forward and one aft . The guns were supplied with 58 rounds of ammunition each . They had a range of 16 ,300 m (53 ,500 ft) . Hansa also carried eight 15 cm SK L / 40 guns . Four were mounted in turrets amidships and the other four were placed in casemates . These guns had a range of 13 ,700 m (44 ,900 ft) . She also carried ten 8 cm SK L / 35 guns . The gun armament was rounded out by machine guns . She was also equipped with three 45 cm (18 in) torpedo tubes with eight torpedoes , two launchers were mounted on the broadside and the third was in the bow , all below the waterline .

= = Service history = =

Following her commissioning in 1899 , Hansa was deployed to Germany 's overseas possessions . Hansa 's first commander on the China station was Hugo von Pohl , who went on to command the High Seas Fleet during World War I . As part of the East Asia Squadron during the Boxer Rebellion , the ship made a noteworthy contribution in the Battle of the Taku Forts . In June 1900 , Hansa , along with Hertha , Gefion , and Irene landed detachments of Seebataillone (marines) to seize the Taku Forts . The marines joined detachments sent from warships of several other countries . A total of around 450 German troops were contributed to the multi - national force , which totaled around 2 ,200 officers and men .

On 11 July 1903 , the ship steamed into the British naval base at Weihaiwei , along with the Chinese cruiser Hai Chi . Hansa left the port two days later . On 16 January 1904 , Hansa visited Mirs Bay outside of Hong Kong and departed after two days in the harbor . In February , the Russo - Japanese War broke out ; Hansa was sent from Chefoo for Port Arthur , which was under attack by Japanese forces . Hansa evacuated the German civilians in the port . In early March , she was again in Hong Kong , and was joined there by the flagship of the East Asia Squadron , Fürst

Bismarck on the 8th . In August , the badly damaged Russian battleship Tsesarevich and three destroyers sought refuge in the German naval base at Tsingtao following the Russian defeat in the Battle of the Yellow Sea . As Germany was neutral , the East Asia Squadron interned Tsesarevich and the destroyers . On 13 August , the Russian ships restocked their coal supplies from three British steamers , but Hansa and Fürst Bismarck cleared for action to prevent them from leaving the port . The two cruisers were joined by Hertha , Geier , and the gunboats Luchs and Tiger .

Hansa returned to Germany in 1906 . The following year , she went to dry dock at the Imperial Dockyard in Danzig for a refit , during which she was re @-@ boilered . Hertha originally had three stacks , and during the modernization they were trunked into two funnels . The refit was finished by 1909 , at which point Hansa became a cadet training ship . From 1911 to 1912 , Günther Lütjens served aboard Hansa as commander of the naval cadets that trained on the ship . Lütjens went on to command the task force composed of Bismarck and Prinz Eugen in World War II . In early January , Hansa cruised into the Atlantic and visited Bermuda .

Hansa had a short career during World War I. At the outbreak of hostilities , she was briefly mobilized into the 5th Scouting Group , which was tasked with training cadets in the Baltic Sea . By the end of 1914 , however , the ships were again removed from service . She was then put into service as a coastal defense ship . After 1915 , she was withdrawn from front @-@ line duty again and employed as a barracks ship for the Imperial Dockyard in Kiel . She was stricken from the naval register on 6 December 1919 and sold to ship @-@ breakers in Audorf @-@ Rendsburg . She was scrapped the following year .