

= HMS Euryalus (1901) =

HMS Euryalus was a Cressy class armoured cruiser built for the Royal Navy around 1900 . Badly damaged by multiple accidents while fitting out , she was not completed until 1904 . She became flagship of the Australia Station that year and was reduced to reserve upon her return in 1905 . Recommissioned in 1906 , she became a training ship for the North America and West Indies Station before being placed in reserve with the Third Fleet in 1909 .

Recommissioned at the start of World War I , Euryalus was assigned to the 7th Cruiser Squadron . She became flagship of the Southern Force defending the eastern end of the English Channel from any German attack , shortly after the war began . She was present at the Battle of Heligoland Bight a few weeks after the war began , but saw no combat . She was transferred to convoy escort duties in the Bay of Biscay in late 1914 , before being sent to Egypt in early 1915 . Euryalus was then assigned to support British troops during the Gallipoli Campaign by providing naval gunfire . She covered the landing at Cape Helles in April as well as providing fire support during one subsequent British offensive . She became the flagship of the East Indies Station in January 1916 , until relieved in July 1917 . Later that year she began a conversion into a minelayer at Hong Kong , but this was still incomplete when the war ended . Euryalus returned home in 1919 and was sold for scrap the following year .

= = Design and description = =

Euryalus was designed to displace 12 000 long tons (12 193 t) . The ship had an overall length of 472 feet (143 .9 m) , a beam of 69 feet 9 inches (21 .3 m) and a deep draught of 26 feet 9 inches (8 .2 m) . She was powered by two 4 cylinder triple expansion steam engines , each driving one shaft , which produced a total of 21 000 indicated horsepower (15 660 kW) and gave a maximum speed of 21 knots (39 km / h ; 24 mph) . The engines were powered by 30 Belleville boilers . On their sea trials all of the Cressy class cruisers , except the lead ship , exceeded their designed speed . She carried a maximum of 1 600 long tons (1 626 t) of coal and her complement ranged from 725 to 760 officers and enlisted men .

Her main armament consisted of two breech loading (BL) 9 .2 inch (234 mm) Mk X guns in single gun turrets , one each fore and aft of the superstructure . They fired 380 pound (170 kg) shells to a range of 15 500 yards (14 200 m) . Her secondary armament of twelve BL 6 inch Mk VII guns was arranged in casemates amidships . Eight of these were mounted on the main deck and were only usable in calm weather . They had a maximum range of approximately 12 200 yards (11 200 m) with their 100 pound (45 kg) shells . A dozen quick firing (QF) 12 pounder 12 cwt guns were fitted for defence against torpedo boats , eight on casemates on the upper deck and four in the superstructure . Euryalus also carried three 3 pounder Hotchkiss guns and two submerged 18 inch torpedo tubes .

The ship 's waterline armour belt had a maximum thickness of 6 inches (152 mm) and was closed off by 5 inch (127 mm) transverse bulkheads . The armour of the gun turrets and their barbettes was 6 inches thick while the casemate armour was 5 inches thick . The protective deck armour ranged in thickness from 1 ? 3 inches (25 ? 76 mm) and the conning tower was protected by 12 inches (305 mm) of armour .

= = Construction and service = =

Euryalus , named after the Greek hero Euryalus , was laid down on 18 July 1899 by Vickers , Sons & Maxim at their Barrow in Furness shipyard . She was launched 20 May 1901 in front of 30 000 spectators , and christened by Mrs. Douglas Vickers , wife of one of the directors of the company . On 11 June 1901 , the south side of the Ramsden dock at Barrow caught fire , and was practically destroyed before the flames could be extinguished . The recently launched Euryalus

was laying alongside this wharf , and the fire set ablaze the teak wood sheathing of the cruiser . Considerable damage was done to the ship before she was hauled from the pier into the middle of the dock , and her completion was severely delayed . Towed to Cammell Laird at Birkenhead for repairs , the ship slipped off the blocks supporting her in drydock and was severely damaged . While on sea trials , she collided with the auxiliary vessel Traveller on 27 June 1903 at Devonport . Euryalus was finally completed on 5 January 1904 , nearly two years after her sister ships .

Upon commissioning she became flagship of the Australia Station before returning home in 1905 . Reduced to reserve upon her arrival , she was sent to the North America and West Indies Station in 1906 , where she served as a boys ' training ship attached to the 4th Cruiser Squadron for the next three years . Euryalus was assigned to the reserve Third Fleet when she returned home in 1909 . At the outbreak of the war in August 1914 , she was assigned to the 7th Cruiser Squadron , tasked with patrolling the Broad Fourteens of the North Sea in support of a force of destroyers and submarines based at Harwich , which protected the eastern end of the English Channel from German warships attempting to attack the supply route between England and France . On 10 August , she became the flagship of Rear @-@ Admiral Arthur Christian , commander of the Southern Force , formed to command all of the forces defending the eastern end of the Channel . During the Battle of Heligoland Bight on 28 August , the ship was in reserve off the Dutch coast , and saw no action .

On 20 September 1914 , Euryalus and her sisters Aboukir , Cressy and Hogue were on patrol in the Broad Fourteen . Euryalus had to return to port that morning to recoal . Two days later the three remaining cruisers were sunk by the SM U @-@ 9 and Christian was subsequently relieved of his command . As a result of these losses , she , and her sister Bacchante , were transferred to the 12th Cruiser Squadron to escort ships between England and Gibraltar in early October .

Euryalus and Bacchante were transferred to Egypt in late January 1915 to reinforce the defences of the Suez Canal , although the Turkish raid on the Suez Canal had already been repulsed by the time that they arrived in February . Upon arrival Rear @-@ Admiral Richard Peirse , commander of the East Indies Station , hoisted his flag in Euryalus . By this time the preliminary bombardments of the Turkish defences of the Dardanelles had already occurred , and the sisters were transferred north in March as the Turks east of the Canal proved to be reasonably quiet .

Euryalus became the flagship of Rear Admiral Rosslyn Wemyss in April , after he was put in charge of the main landings at Gallipoli . During the landings at Cape Helles on the morning of 25 April , Euryalus transported three companies of the 1st Battalion of the Lancashire Fusiliers and a platoon of the Royal Naval Division , and then provided fire support to the landing after the soldiers were transferred to their boats for the actual landing on Beach ' W ' . She also bombarded Turkish positions during the Second Battle of Krithia on 6 May . A month later , Wemyss hauled down his flag and resumed his original commanding of the Allied base at Mudros . Euryalus received a brief refit at Malta from 30 December 1915 to 20 January 1916 before proceeding to Egypt to reinforce the defences there .

On 15 January 1916 Wemyss , the new Commander @-@ in @-@ Chief , East Indies , hoisted his flag aboard Euryalus . From 3 January 1917 through 24 April , she was refitted at Bombay . On 29 June she bombarded the barracks in the Yemeni town of Hodeida together with the troopship RIM Northbrook of the Royal Indian Marine . Rear Admiral Ernest Gaunt relieved Wemyss as commander @-@ in @-@ chief on 20 July 1917 and transferred his flag to Northbrook on 29 August . In early November , the ship dismantled four 6 @-@ inch and four 12 @-@ pounder guns at Bombay before proceeding to Hong Kong . She was paid off there on 20 December to complete her conversion into a minelayer . This was not finished when the war ended , and she returned to Britain to be laid up at the Nore in April 1919 . Euryalus was sold for scrap on 1 July 1920 and broken up in Germany beginning in September 1922 .