

= SMS Berlin =

SMS Berlin (" His Majesty 's Ship Berlin ") was the third member of the seven Bremen class , built by the Imperial German Navy . Throughout her over 40 year long career , she served with the Imperial Navy , the Reichsmarine , and the Kriegsmarine . She was built by the Imperial Dockyard in Danzig , laid down in 1902 , launched in September 1903 , and commissioned into the High Seas Fleet in April 1905 . Armed with a main battery of ten 10 cm (4 in) guns and two 45 cm (18 in) torpedo tubes , Berlin was capable of a top speed of 22 knots (41 km / h ; 25 mph) .

Berlin served in the reconnaissance forces of the High Seas Fleet from her commissioning to 1911 , when she was sent abroad for overseas duties . She returned to the scouting forces the following year , where she remained through the first two years of World War I. She spent 1916 as a minelayer , and was disarmed in 1917 . She was one of six cruisers permitted to Germany by the Treaty of Versailles , and she remained in service with the new Reichsmarine through the 1920s as a training ship . She was withdrawn from active duty in 1929 , and later used as a barracks ship by the Kriegsmarine , a role she filled through World War II . After the end of the war , she was loaded with chemical weapons and scuttled in the Skagerrak .

= = Construction = =

Berlin was ordered under the contract name Ersatz Zieten and was laid down at the Imperial Dockyard in Danzig in 1902 and launched on 22 September 1903 , after which fitting out work commenced . She was commissioned into the High Seas Fleet on 4 April 1905 . The ship was 111 meters (365 ft) long overall and had a beam of 13 m (44 ft) and a draft of 5 m (18 ft) forward . She displaced 3 , 792 t (3 , 732 long tons ; 4 , 180 short tons) at full combat load . Her propulsion system consisted of two triple expansion engines , designed to give 10 , 000 indicated horsepower (7 , 500 kW) for a top speed of 22 knots (41 km / h ; 25 mph) . The engines were powered by ten coal fired Marine type water tube boilers . Berlin carried up to 860 tonnes (850 long tons) of coal , which gave her a range of 4 , 270 nautical miles (7 , 910 km ; 4 , 910 mi) at 12 knots (22 km / h ; 14 mph) . She had a crew of 14 officers and 274 ? 287 enlisted men .

The ship was armed with ten 10 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 in) torpedo tubes with five torpedoes . They were submerged in the hull on the broadside . In 1915 , Berlin was modified to carry 80 naval mines . The ship was protected by an armored deck that was up to 80 mm (3 in) thick . The conning tower had 100 mm (3 in) thick sides , and the guns were protected by 50 mm (2 in) thick shields .

= = Service history = =

After her commissioning , Berlin was assigned to the reconnaissance forces of the High Seas Fleet . In 1911 , she was deployed abroad for service on foreign stations . She returned to Germany the following year , and rejoined the fleet cruiser squadron . In October 1913 , the ship left Germany again bound for Veracruz , to relieve Hertha in the Caribbean . In 1915 , the ship was retrofitted to carry 80 mines . She was in drydock in May 1916 , and so she was unavailable for the Battle of Jutland on the last day of the month . In October 1916 , the British submarine HMS E38 attacked Berlin , but its torpedoes missed . After the end of the year , Berlin was disarmed . She was thereafter used as a coastal defense ship , a role she performed through to the end of the war in 1918 .

Berlin was among the six light cruisers Germany was permitted to retain by the Treaty of Versailles

. In the service of the newly reorganized Reichsmarine , Berlin served as a training cruiser , starting in 1922 . That year , Wilhelm Canaris was assigned to the ship , which went to Norway in November 1923 . In January 1924 , Berlin departed German waters for an extended overseas cruise , which was the first time a German warship had done so since the end of World War I. While on the cruise , Canaris met a naval cadet by the name of Reinhard Heydrich , who went on to become a close friend and eventual architect of The Holocaust . In 1928 , Berlin conducted a training cruise around the world , which included a stop in Fremantle . Training duties lasted until 1929 , when she was withdrawn from service . Starting in 1935 , the Kriegsmarine used Berlin as a barracks ship in Kiel . There , she survived World War II ; in the aftermath of the war , she was loaded with chemical weapons and scuttled in the Skagerrak to dispose of them , on 31 May 1947 .