

= HMS Shannon ( 1906 ) =

HMS Shannon was a Minotaur class armoured cruiser built for the Royal Navy in the mid 1900s . Before the First World War , she served with the Home Fleet , generally as the flagship of a cruiser squadron . The ship remained with the Grand Fleet , as the Home Fleet was renamed when the war began , for the entire war , but only participated in a single battle , the Battle of Jutland in May 1916 . Shannon spent most of the war unsuccessfully patrolling the North Sea for German warships and commerce raiders . She was paid off in 1919 and sold for scrap in 1922 .

= = Description = =

Shannon displaced 14,600 long tons ( 14,800 t ) as built and 16,630 long tons ( 16,900 t ) at deep load . The ship had an overall length of 519 feet ( 158 m ) , a beam of 75 feet 6 inches ( 23 m ) and a mean draught of 26 feet ( 7.9 m ) . Her beam was 1 foot ( 0.3 m ) wider and her draught one foot less than her sisters in the belief that she would prove to be the fastest ship in the class . Shannon was powered by a pair of four cylinder triple expansion steam engines , each driving one shaft , using steam provided by 24 Yarrow water tube boilers . The engines were designed to reach a total of 27,000 indicated horsepower ( 20,000 kW ) and were intended to give a maximum speed of 23 knots ( 43 km / h ; 26 mph ) . Shannon proved to be the slowest ship in the class ; during her sea trials on 3 December 1907 her engines reached 29,644 indicated horsepower ( 22,106 kW ) , but she only reached a speed of 22.592 knots ( 41.8 km / h ; 26.0 mph ) The ship carried a maximum of 2,060 long tons ( 2,090 t ) of coal and an additional 750 long tons ( 760 t ) of fuel oil that was sprayed on the coal to increase its burn rate . At full capacity , she could steam for 8,150 nautical miles ( 15,090 km ; 9,380 mi ) at a speed of 10 knots ( 19 km / h ; 12 mph ) . Shannon was designed to carry 779 officers and enlisted men , but had a complement of 819 in 1908 and 842 in 1912 .

The ship 's main armament consisted of four BL 9.2 inch Mark X guns in two twin gun turrets , one each fore and aft . Her secondary armament of ten BL 7.5 inch Mark II guns were mounted amidships in single turrets . Anti torpedo boat defence was provided by sixteen QF 12 pounder ( 3 inch ) 18 cwt guns . Shannon also mounted five submerged 17.7 inch torpedo tubes , one of which was mounted in the stern .

The waterline armour belt consisted of 6 inches ( 152 mm ) of Krupp cemented armour roughly between the fore and aft 7.5 inch gun turrets , but was reduced in steps to three inches to the ends of the ship . The gun turrets and barbettes were protected by 6-8 inches ( 152-203 mm ) of armour . The thickness of the lower deck was 1.5-2 inches ( 38-51 mm ) . The armour of the conning tower was 10 inches ( 254 mm ) thick .

= = Construction and career = =

Shannon was ordered as part of the 1904-05 naval construction programme as one of the three Minotaur class armoured cruisers . She was laid down on 2 January 1905 at Chatham Dockyard . The ship was christened on 27 April 1907 by Lady Carrington and commissioned on 19 March 1908 at the cost of £ 1,415,135 . While fitting out in Portsmouth , Shannon was accidentally struck on 5 December 1907 by the battleship Prince George which had broken loose from her anchorage ; both ships were only lightly damaged .

Upon commissioning , the ship became the flagship of the 5th Cruiser Squadron of Home Fleet and was later transferred to the 2nd Cruiser Squadron as a private ship when the fleet reorganized in April 1909 . She became the flagship of her squadron on 1 March 1910 and made a port visit to Torbay in January 1911 . Shannon was relieved as flagship by the battlecruiser Indomitable on 5 March 1912 and was transferred to the 3rd Cruiser Squadron as that squadron 's flagship . In January 1914 , she relieved Indomitable as flagship of the 2nd Cruiser Squadron during exercises off the northwest coast of Spain . The following month , Shannon , together with the 1st Battlecruiser

Squadron and the rest of the 2nd Cruiser Squadron , made a port visit to Brest , France .

In October 1914 , the ship was patrolling off the coast of Norway and almost intercepted the armed merchant cruiser SS Berlin on several occasions . During a sweep into the Heligoland Bight on 26 November , she was unsuccessfully bombed by a German aircraft . She began a refit shortly afterwards that lasted until 24 January 1915 . Shannon was present in Cromarty Firth when the armoured cruiser Natal 's magazine exploded on 30 December 1915 and her crew attempted to rescue survivors from Natal . The ship received a QF 12 @-@ pounder ( three @-@ inch ) 12 @-@ cwt anti @-@ aircraft ( AA ) gun and a QF 3 @-@ pounder ( 47 mm ) AA gun in 1915 ? 16 . The 12 @-@ pounder gun was mounted on the aft superstructure and the 3 @-@ pounder on the quarterdeck at the extreme rear . Sometime afterwards , a fire @-@ control system was installed with a director mounted on a platform fitted to the foremast .

During the Battle of Jutland on 31 May 1916 , she was on the unengaged side of the fleet and did not fire her 9 @.@ 2 or 7 @.@ 5 @-@ inch guns at all during the battle . The ship spent several days after the battle searching for survivors from her sister Defence and other sunken ships . Before the end of the war the 12 @-@ pounder AA gun mounted on the aft superstructure was moved to the roof of the forward 9 @.@ 2 @-@ inch gun turret . Shannon was paid off on 2 May 1919 and became an accommodation ship until sold for breaking up on 12 December 1922 .