

= SMS Ägir =

SMS Ägir was the second and final member of the Odin class of coastal defense ships ( Küstenpanzerschiffe ) built for the Imperial German Navy . She had one sister ship , Odin . Ägir was named for the Norse god , and was built by the Kaiserliche Werft Danzig shipyard between 1893 and 1896 . She was armed with a main battery of three 24 @-@ centimeter ( 9 @.@ 4 in ) guns . She served in the German fleet throughout the 1890s and was rebuilt in 1901 ? 1903 . She served in the VI Battle Squadron after the outbreak of World War I in August 1914 , but saw no action . Ägir was demobilized in 1915 and used as a tender thereafter . After the war , she was rebuilt as a merchant ship and served in this capacity until December 1929 , when she was wrecked on the island of Gotland .

= = Design = =

Ägir was 79 meters ( 259 ft 2 in ) long overall and had a beam of 15 @.@ 20 m ( 49 ft 10 in ) and a maximum draft of 5 @.@ 61 m ( 18 ft 5 in ) . She displaced 3 @.@ 754 tonnes ( 3 @.@ 695 long tons ) at full combat load . Her propulsion system consisted of two vertical 3 @-@ cylinder triple expansion engines . Steam for the engines was provided by eight coal @-@ fired Thornycroft boilers . The ship 's propulsion system provided a top speed of 15 @.@ 1 knots ( 28 @.@ 0 km / h ; 17 @.@ 4 mph ) . She carried 370 t ( 360 long tons ; 410 short tons ) of coal , which gave her a range of approximately 1 @.@ 490 nautical miles ( 2 @.@ 760 km ; 1 @.@ 710 mi ) at 10 knots ( 19 km / h ; 12 mph ) . Because she had twice the number of electrical generators as her sister , Ägir was nicknamed " Elektrische Anna " ( Electric Anna ) . The ship had a crew of 20 officers and 256 enlisted men .

The ship was armed with three 24 cm K L / 35 guns mounted in three single gun turrets . Two were placed side by side forward , and the third was located aft of the main superstructure . They were supplied with a total of 204 rounds of ammunition . The ship was also equipped with ten 8 @.@ 8 cm SK L / 30 guns in single mounts . Ägir also carried three 45 cm ( 18 in ) torpedo tubes , two in swivel mounts on the deck amidships and one in the bow , submerged below the waterline . The ship was protected by an armored belt that was 240 mm ( 9 @.@ 4 in ) thick amidships , and an armored deck that was 70 mm ( 2 @.@ 8 in ) thick . The conning tower had 120 mm ( 4 @.@ 7 in ) thick sides .

= = Service history = =

Ägir was laid down at the Kaiserliche Werft shipyard in Kiel in 1892 . She was launched on 3 April 1895 and completed on 15 January 1896 , after which she underwent a somewhat lengthy period of sea trials . The ship was commissioned into the German fleet on 15 October 1896 , where she served on active duty for the entirety of her peacetime career . During the 1900 summer maneuvers , Ägir served in the simulated hostile squadron , alongside Heimdall , Hildebrand , and Siegfried . The maneuvers lasted from 15 August to 15 September .

In 1901 , Ägir was taken in hand at the Kaiserliche Werft in Danzig for an extensive reconstruction . Her old boilers were replaced with eight new Marine type boilers and her length was increased to 86 @.@ 15 m ( 282 @.@ 6 ft ) . This increased her displacement to 4 @.@ 376 t ( 4 @.@ 307 long tons ; 4 @.@ 824 short tons ) at full load . The lengthened hull , which improved her hydrodynamic shape , and the improved boilers increased her speed by a full knot , to 15 @.@ 5 knots ( 28 @.@ 7 km / h ; 17 @.@ 8 mph ) . Her coal storage was increased to 580 t ( 570 long tons ; 640 short tons ) , which allowed her to steam for an additional 800 nmi ( 1 @.@ 500 km ; 920 mi ) . The modernization work was completed by 1903 , at which point she returned to active service .

At the outbreak of World War I in August 1914 , Ägir was assigned to the VI Battle Squadron , along with her sister Odin and the six Siegfried @-@ class coastal defense ships . The Squadron was disbanded on 31 August 1915 to free up the ships ' crews for more important tasks . Ägir was thereafter used as a barracks ship in Wilhelmshaven through to the end of the war . She was

stricken from the naval register on 17 June 1919 and sold . In 1922 , she was rebuilt as a merchant ship at the Deutsche Werke shipyard in Rüstringen . She was operated by A. Bernstein Co . , out of Hamburg . She continued in this role until she was wrecked on the island of Gotland off the Karlsö lighthouse on 8 December 1929 . Her bow ornament is preserved at the Laboe Naval Memorial .