

= SMS Oldenburg (1884) =

SMS Oldenburg was an armored warship of the German Imperial Navy . Laid down at the AG Vulcan shipyard in Stettin in 1883 , the ship was launched in December 1884 and commissioned into the Navy in April 1886 . Oldenburg was intended to have been a fifth member of the Sachsen class of sortie corvettes , but budgetary limitations and dissatisfaction with the Sachsen class prompted a redesign that bore little resemblance to the earlier vessels . Oldenburg mounted her main battery of eight 24 cm (9 @. 4 in) guns amidships , six in a central casemate on the main deck and two directly above them on the broadside . She was the first German capital ship constructed entirely from German @-@ made steel .

Oldenburg did not see significant service with the German Navy . She participated in fleet training maneuvers in the late @-@ 1880s and early 1890s , but she spent the majority of the 1890s in reserve . Her only major deployment came in 1897 ? 1898 when she joined an international naval demonstration to protest the Greek annexation of Crete . In 1900 , she was withdrawn from active duty and used as a harbor defense ship . From 1912 to 1919 , she was used by the High Seas Fleet as a target ship ; she was sold for scrapping in 1919 and broken up that year .

= = Design = =

Oldenburg was intended to be a fifth member of the Sachsen class of sortie corvettes . The design for the ship was radically altered , between 1879 and 1881 , for a variety of reasons . The German Navy was largely dissatisfied with the Sachsen class ships , and a number of design faults required correction . Budgetary constraints also limited the design of the ship , forcing the design staff to work within a displacement some 2 @, @ 000 t (2 @, @ 000 long tons ; 2 @, @ 200 short tons) lower than that of the Sachsen .

Assessment of the design is mixed ; naval historian Erich Gröner states that Oldenburg was an " experimental design , of no real value in combat . " Conway 's All the World 's Fighting Ships concurs , stating that Oldenburg was " considered to be of little fighting value by the time she was completed . " The 1889 edition of the Brassey 's Naval Annual reported a contradictory opinion , however , stating that " The majority of German naval critics are dissatisfied to a greater or less extent with all of these vessels , the König Wilhelm , Kaiser , Deutschland , and Oldenburg excepted . "

= = = General characteristics = = =

Oldenburg was 78 @. @ 40 m (257 @. @ 2 ft) long at the waterline and 79 @. @ 80 m (261 @. @ 8 ft) long overall . She had a beam of 18 m (59 ft) and a draft of 6 @. @ 28 m (20 @. @ 6 ft) forward and 6 @. @ 30 m (20 @. @ 7 ft) aft . At the designed displacement , the vessel displaced 5 @, @ 249 metric tons (5 @, @ 166 long tons ; 5 @, @ 786 short tons) . When the ship was fully loaded , she displaced 5 @, @ 743 t (5 @, @ 652 long tons ; 6 @, @ 331 short tons) . Her hull was built with transverse and longitudinal steel frames ; iron was used for the stem and stern . The ship had twelve watertight compartments and a double bottom that ran for 60 percent of the length of the hull . Oldenburg was the first German capital ship built entirely from German @-@ made steel .

The German navy regarded Oldenburg as an adequate sea boat , though she suffered from significant pitching . As a result of her tendency to pitch severely , a 60 t (59 long tons ; 66 short tons) ballast was permanently installed in the bow . She also lost a great deal of speed in heavy seas ; at conditions above Beaufort sea state 6 , this could be up to a 25 percent loss of speed . The ship could not operate under severe weather conditions . Her transverse metacentric height was .63 m (2 ft 1 in) . Her standard complement consisted of 34 officers and 355 enlisted men , though her crew was later reorganized to 32 officers and 40 enlisted sailors . She carried a number of smaller boats , including one picket boat , one launch , two pinnaces , two cutters , two yawls , and one dinghy .

== Machinery ==

Oldenburg was powered by two horizontal 4-cylinder double expansion steam engines in separate engine rooms ; the two engines each drove a three-bladed screw 4.50 m (14 @ 8 ft) in diameter . Steam was provided to the engines by eight transverse cylinder boilers , divided into two boiler rooms . Each boiler was equipped with three fireboxes , for a total of 24 , which operated at up to 5 standard atmospheres (510 kPa) forced . The engines were designed to operate at 3 @ 900 indicated horsepower (2 @ 900 kW) for a top speed of 14 knots (26 km / h ; 16 mph) . On speed trials , her engines slightly exceeded the designed horsepower , at 3 @ 942 ihp (2 @ 940 kW) , though Oldenburg made only 13 @ 8 knots (25 @ 6 km / h ; 15 @ 9 mph) .

The ship was designed to store 348 t (343 long tons ; 384 short tons) of coal , though she could accommodate up to 450 t (440 long tons ; 500 short tons) . An additional 120 t (120 long tons ; 130 short tons) of coal could be stored on her deck . At a cruising speed of 9 knots (17 km / h ; 10 mph) , Oldenburg could steam for 1 @ 770 nautical miles (3 @ 280 km ; 2 @ 040 mi) . Increasing her speed by one knot reduced her range to 1 @ 370 nmi (2 @ 540 km ; 1 @ 580 mi) , and at 12 knots (22 km / h ; 14 mph) , she could cruise for only 980 nmi (1 @ 810 km ; 1 @ 130 mi) . Steering was controlled by a single rudder . She was equipped with three electrical generators with a total output of 29 kilowatts at 65 volts .

== Armament and armor ==

Oldenburg carried eight 24 cm (9 @ 4 in) L / 30 hooped guns in an unusual configuration : six guns on the main deck , one on each broadside , four in embrasures at each corner of the central battery to give a measure of end-on fire , and two on the upper deck firing broadside . These guns were supplied with 494 rounds of ammunition , and could depress to 5 ° and elevate to 8 ° . This enabled a maximum range of 5 @ 700 to 8 @ 800 m (6 @ 200 to 9 @ 600 yd) . She was also equipped with four 15 cm (5 @ 9 in) L / 22 guns and two 8 @ 7 cm (3 @ 4 in) L / 24 guns . Four 35 cm (14 in) torpedo tubes rounded out her armament . One was mounted in the bow , submerged , two were placed on the broadside above water , and the fourth was located in the stern , also above water . She carried ten torpedoes .

Oldenburg 's armor consisted of compound steel backed with teak ; the steel was fabricated by the Dillinger Works . The main armored belt was composed of two strakes ; the steel upper strake was 300 mm (12 in) thick amidships , where it protected the ship 's vitals . The belt was reduced on either end of the central portion to 200 mm (7 @ 9 in) . The lower strake was 250 mm (9 @ 8 in) thick in the central section and 180 mm (7 @ 1 in) on either end . The entire belt was backed with 250 mm of teak amidships and 300 mm of teak on either end . The sides of the armored casemates for the main battery were 150 mm (5 @ 9 in) thick . The ship 's deck was 30 mm (1 @ 2 in) thick . Her forward conning tower had 50 mm (2 @ 0 in) thick sides and a 25 mm (0 @ 98 in) thick roof . The rear conning tower was given only splinter protection , with 15 mm (0 @ 59 in) thick sides and a 12 mm (0 @ 47 in) thick roof .

== Service history ==

Oldenburg was laid down in 1883 at the AG Vulcan shipyard in Stettin , under construction number 132 . She was launched on 20 December 1884 , after which fitting-out work commenced . She was completed by April 1886 and commissioned into the German Navy on 8 April . She immediately joined the I Division of the fleet , alongside Sachsen , Bayern , and Württemberg , for the annual fleet maneuvers . Bayern and Württemberg suffered from engine troubles throughout the exercises , but Oldenburg performed satisfactorily .

In June 1887 , Germany dedicated the Kaiser Wilhelm Canal ; Oldenburg was among the ships present during the celebrations . Oldenburg was assigned to the training squadron for the maneuvers in August-September 1887 , along with König Wilhelm and Kaiser . The majority of the

exercises were focused in the Baltic , but the fleet did conduct maneuvers in the North Sea for eight days in September . Oldenburg also participated in the visit to Great Britain in August 1889 , where Wilhelm II took part in the Cowes Regatta . The ship was assigned to the I Division with Sachsen , Baden , and the new cruiser Irene . Oldenburg and the rest of the fleet joined the Royal Navy in a fleet review for Queen Victoria .

Oldenburg participated in the ceremonial transfer of the island of Helgoland from British to German control in the summer of 1890 . She was present during the fleet maneuvers in September , where the entire eight @-@ ship armored squadron simulated a Russian fleet blockading Kiel . She remained with the I Division in 1891 ; the year 's maneuvers simulated a two @-@ front war against Russia and either France or Denmark . In 1892 , however , Württemberg replaced Oldenburg in the I Division , and the latter went into reserve . The ship remained out of service for the next five years . She returned to active duty in 1897 to join an international naval demonstration off the island of Crete , which had been annexed by Greece . The ship remained in the demonstration until March 1898 , when Germany and Austria @-@ Hungary withdrew their naval contingents in a show of dissatisfaction over the compromise solution , which left Crete under Ottoman control , but with a Greek prince .

In 1900 , Oldenburg was reduced to serve as a harbor guard ship . She was later used as a depot ship before being stricken from the naval register on 13 January 1912 . The vessel was then used as a target ship by the High Seas Fleet until after the German defeat in World War I. Oldenburg was sold to Hattinger Company , a ship @-@ breaking firm , on 5 May 1919 . The ship was dismantled for scrap in Wilhelmshaven that year .