

= SMS Medusa =

SMS Medusa was the seventh member of the ten ship Gazelle class , built by the Imperial German Navy . She was built by the AG Weser dockyard in Bremen , laid down in early 1900 , launched in December 1900 , and commissioned into the High Seas Fleet in July 1901 . Armed with a main battery of ten 10 cm (4 in) guns and two 45 cm (18 in) torpedo tubes , Medusa was capable of a top speed of 21 knots (39 km / h ; 24 mph) .

Medusa served in all three German navies over the span of over forty years . She served as a fleet scout in the period before World War I , and during the first two years of the conflict , she was used as a coastal defense ship . She was one of six cruisers Germany was allowed to keep by the Treaty of Versailles , and she served in the early 1920s in the Reichsmarine . She was withdrawn from service in 1924 and used in secondary duties , but in 1940 , the Kriegsmarine converted Medusa into a floating anti aircraft battery . She defended the port of Wilhelmshaven until the closing days of the war , when she was scuttled by her crew . The wreck was ultimately broken up for scrap in 1948 ? 1950 .

= = Construction = =

Medusa was ordered under the contract name " E " and was laid down at the AG Weser shipyard in Bremen in early 1900 and launched on 5 December 1900 , after which fitting out work commenced . She was commissioned into the High Seas Fleet on 26 July 1901 . The ship was 104 meters (344 ft) long overall and had a beam of 12 m (40 ft) and a draft of 4 m (15 ft) forward . She displaced 2,972 t (2,925 long tons ; 3,276 short tons) at full combat load . Her propulsion system consisted of two triple expansion engines . They were designed to give 8,000 shaft horsepower (6,000 kW) , for a top speed of 21 knots (39 km / h ; 24 mph) . The engines were powered by ten coal fired Marine type water tube boilers . Medusa carried 560 tonnes (550 long tons) of coal , which gave her a range of 3,560 nautical miles (6,590 km ; 4,100 mi) at 10 knots (19 km / h ; 12 mph) . She had a crew of 14 officers and 243 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 12,000 m (40,000 ft) . They were supplied with 1,000 rounds of ammunition , for 100 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 . The ship was protected by an armored deck that was 20 to 25 mm (0.79 to 0.98 in) thick . The conning tower had 80 mm (3 in) thick sides , and the guns were protected by 50 mm (2 in) thick shields .

= = Service history = =

After her commissioning , Medusa was assigned to the fleet reconnaissance forces . In 1905 , she was assigned to the Cruiser Division , alongside her sisters Ariadne and Amazone and the armored cruiser Prinz Heinrich . She served in the fleet scout role up to the outbreak of World War I in August 1914 , at which point she was employed as a coastal defense vessel . In 1917 , she had four of her guns removed , and she was used as an auxiliary ship for the old ironclad König Wilhelm , which was being used as a training ship for naval cadets .

Medusa survived the war and was one of six light cruisers Germany was permitted to keep in service by the Treaty of Versailles . The ship served in the Reichsmarine from 1920 to 1924 ; in 1922 , Medusa was assigned to the Active Squadron in the Baltic Station , alongside the battleship Hannover . In 1924 she was withdrawn from service . On 29 March 1929 , she was stricken from the naval register and thereafter used as a barracks ship in Wilhelmshaven . In July 1940 , during World War II , Medusa was converted into a floating anti aircraft battery in Wilhelmshaven . Her armament at that point consisted of one 10 cm SK C / 32 gun , four 10 cm SK C / 33

guns , two 3 @. @ 7 cm SK C / 30 guns , and four 2 cm guns . She was then assigned to Naval Anti @-@ aircraft Group 222 , and remained in the harbor at Wilhelmshaven for the duration of the war . Her crews scuttled the ship on 3 May 1945 , days before the end of the war in Europe . The wreck was ultimately salvaged in 1948 ? 1950 and broken up for scrap .