

= HMS Anne (1915) =

HMS Anne was a seaplane carrier of the Royal Navy used during World War I. Converted from the captured German freighter Aenne Rickmers , the ship 's two aircraft conducted aerial reconnaissance , observation and bombing missions in the Eastern Mediterranean and Red Sea during 1915 ? 17 even though the ship was not commissioned into the Royal Navy until mid @-@ 1915 . She was decommissioned in late 1917 and became a Merchant Navy collier for the last year of the war . Anne was sold off in 1922 and had a succession of owners and names until she was scrapped in 1958 .

= = Description = =

Anne was 367 feet 1 inch (111 @.@ 89 m) long , had a beam of 47 feet 7 inches (14 @.@ 5 m) , and a draught of 27 feet 3 inches (8 @.@ 31 m) . She was rated at 4 @,@ 083 gross register tons (GRT) . The ship had one propeller shaft powered by one triple @-@ expansion steam engine that used steam generated by an unknown number of coal @-@ fired boilers . Anne had a maximum speed of 11 knots (20 km / h ; 13 mph) .

= = Career = =

The merchant ship SS Aenne Rickmers was built by Rickmers of Bremerhaven in 1911 . On the outbreak of war in August 1914 , she was seized whilst in Port Said , Egypt and was requisitioned for service under the Red Ensign of the British Merchant Marine in January 1915 to operate seaplanes . No special modifications were made to the ship ; the aircraft were stowed on the aft hatch covers and handled with her cargo booms . Aenne Rickmers operated two French Nieuport floatplanes that had been off @-@ loaded by the French seaplane carrier Foudre ; they were flown by French pilots with British observers .

For the first two months of 1915 , the ship and her aircraft supported Allied operations in Syria , Palestine and the Sinai Peninsula . Aside from reconnaissance duties , they delivered and recovered Allied agents as well as observed for ships performing coastal bombardments . On 4 March , Aenne Rickmers was ordered to join several Allied ships that were going to bombard Smyrna , Turkey . A week later , she was torpedoed by the Turkish torpedo boat Demir Hisar . The ship was hit by one torpedo in the Number 1 cargo hold ; this was full of timber which limited water ingress and saved her from sinking . Aenne Rickmers arrived at Mudros the following day to begin repairs , but the repair crew was withdrawn a week later to work on the damaged battlecruiser HMS Inflexible . The seaplane carrier HMS Raven II (another merchant conversion) arrived on 20 March to load her aircraft and crew , leaving only a five @-@ person skeleton crew behind . During a storm on 6 April , the ship dragged her anchors and ran aground on a sandy beach . She was temporarily repaired there and refloated on 12 May , sailing to Alexandria , Egypt two days later for permanent repairs and to off @-@ load her cargo . This was completed by 18 June , but the ship lay idle until the end of the month when she was provided with an Arab crew and sailed to Port Said .

Aenne Rickmers rendezvoused with the French armoured cruiser Jeanne d 'Arc on 18 July at Scarpanto and the carrier searched the Turkish coast for U @-@ boat bases and observed while the French ship bombarded coastal installations . The ship then returned to Port Said where she was fitted with a 12 @-@ pounder gun . Aenne Rickmers was commissioned into the Royal Navy on 5 August 1915 and renamed HMS Anne the same day . She rendezvoused with Jeanne d 'Arc and the French pre @-@ dreadnought battleship Jauréguiberry around 13 August and observed while they bombarded Turkish installations in Haifa . On 17 August , aircraft from both Anne and Raven II spotted for Jeanne d 'Arc as she bombarded Tarsus and then assisted Jeanne d 'Arc and Jauréguiberry on 30 August as they captured Ruad Island .

In early September , the ship assisted the French as they evacuated Armenian troops and civilians from Alexandretta and the surrounding area and then resumed her earlier work of reconnaissance and espionage . Anne lost her first aircraft when it suffered an engine failure whilst on a

reconnaissance mission over Beersheba on 9 October . The ship had her bottom cleaned in Alexandria during November and lost another aircraft , again over Beersheba , on 22 December . In January 1916 , she was assigned to the East Indies and Egypt Seaplane Squadron together with the carriers Empress , Ben @-@ my @-@ Chree and Raven II . The squadron was under the command of the General Officer Commanding , Egypt and its primary duty was to watch Turkish positions and movements in southern Palestine and the Sinai in early 1916 . Around 17 April , Anne was attacked by two German aircraft , but was not damaged . A few days later , she discovered a U @-@ boat base at Makry , whilst operating near Kastellorizo . The ship loaded aboard the French seaplane contingent in Egypt at the end of the month , and delivered it to Malta on 9 May for transfer , including her own Nieuports , to the French seaplane carrier Campinas . Her aircraft had made a total of 118 flights since she began operating them in January 1915 and only two had been lost .

Later that month , Anne exchanged her existing 12 @-@ pounder for an anti @-@ aircraft gun of the same calibre and was back at Port Said by 21 May . She lay idle there until mid @-@ June when she began transporting military supplies between Port Said and several ports in the Red Sea . This lasted until 2 August when she embarked British seaplanes , including Short Type 184 , Sopwith Schneider and Baby floatplanes , and she observed for the French cruiser Pothuau on 10 August as the latter ship bombarded Mersina . The East Indies and Egypt Squadron reassembled in late August with Raven II , Anne and Ben @-@ my @-@ Chree and the aircraft from the three carriers attacked the Turkish supply dump at El Afule for thirty minutes . The squadron then steamed south along the Palestinian coast where they encountered two Turkish supply dhows . One was sunk by the escorting French destroyer Arbalete while the other was captured . The squadron flew off seven aircraft that attacked an encampment at Bureir and a nearby railroad viaduct . One of Anne 's seaplanes was lost during this mission and the pilot was captured . Despite the loss , her aircraft bombed Turkish installations at Tull Keram , Nablus , Ludd and Ramleh before returning to Port Said on 27 August .

A few days later , Anne replaced Raven II , after that ship had been damaged by an air attack on 1 September , on an expedition into the Red Sea to support the Arab Revolt against the Turks . She rendezvoused with the elderly cruiser HMS Fox and Dufferin of the Royal Indian Marine (RIM) and they arrived at Rabigh on 9 September . The ship briefly ran aground off Yenbo , but got off and was able to observe for Fox and Hardinge of the RIM as they shelled Turkish positions near Wejh on 13 September . Aside one brief visit to Suez to recoal , Anne remained in the area while her aircraft flew bombing and reconnaissance missions until she was relieved by Raven II on 26 October . The ship was idle at Port Said for the rest of the year other than one trip to Cyprus transporting coal . In January 1917 , Anne returned to the Red Sea and joined Hardinge and the Armed boarding steamer Suva . Together with some 500 Arabs , the crews of the three ships made an amphibious landing and captured Wejh . The ship returned to Suez on 27 January and seems to have been used only as a collier until she was paid off on 8 August .

= = = Commercial service = = =

Anne served as a collier under the Red Ensign from 29 January 1918 until the end of the war under the management of F. C. Strick and Co . She was sold in 1922 to S.N. Vlassopoulos of Greece and was renamed Ithaki . The ship was sold to a Romanian company in 1939 and renamed Moldova ; she was then transferred to Panamanian registry in 1942 with the same name . Moldova was sold in 1949 to Wallem & Co. and renamed Jagharat in 1954 . She resumed her former name of Moldova in 1955 and arrived at Hong Kong to be scrapped on 8 November 1958 .