

= SMS Victoria Louise =

SMS Victoria Louise was the lead ship of her class of protected cruisers , built for the German Imperial Navy (Kaiserliche Marine) in the late 1890s . She was laid down at the AG Weser shipyard in 1895 , launched in March 1897 , and commissioned into the German fleet in February 1899 . She was named after Princess Victoria Louise , the daughter of Kaiser Wilhelm II . The ship was armed with a battery of two 21 cm guns and eight 15 cm guns and had a top speed of 19 @. @ 2 knots (35 @. @ 6 km / h ; 22 @. @ 1 mph) .

Victoria Louise served with the fleet for the first seven years of her career . During this time , she represented Germany during the funeral of Queen Victoria in 1901 . In 1906 , she was modernized and after 1908 , used as a training ship for naval cadets . In 1909 , she visited the United States , and at the outbreak of World War I , was mobilized into the 5th Scouting Group . She was attacked unsuccessfully by the British submarine HMS E1 in October 1914 , and at the end of the year she was withdrawn from service . She was used as a minelayer and barracks ship based in Danzig for the rest of the war . Victoria Louise was sold in 1919 and converted into a freighter the following year , though she served in this capacity until 1923 , when she was broken up for scrap .

= = Design = =

Victoria Louise was ordered under the contract name " L " and was laid down at the AG Weser shipyard in Bremen in 1895 . She was launched on 29 March 1897 , after which fitting @- @ out work commenced . She was commissioned into the German navy on 20 February 1899 . The ship was 110 @. @ 60 meters (362 ft 10 in) long overall and had a beam of 17 @. @ 40 m (57 ft 1 in) and a draft of 6 @. @ 58 m (21 ft 7 in) forward . She displaced 6 @, @ 491 t (6 @, @ 388 long tons) at full combat load . Her propulsion system consisted of three vertical 4 @- @ cylinder triple expansion engines powered by twelve coal @- @ fired Dürr boilers . Her engines provided a top speed of 19 @. @ 2 knots (35 @. @ 6 km / h ; 22 @. @ 1 mph) and a range of approximately 3 @, @ 412 nautical miles (6 @, @ 319 km ; 3 @, @ 926 mi) at 12 knots (22 km / h ; 14 mph) . She had a crew of 31 officers and 446 enlisted men .

The ship was armed with two 21 cm SK L / 40 guns in single turrets , one forward and one aft . The guns were supplied with 58 rounds of ammunition each . They had a range of 16 @, @ 300 m (53 @, @ 500 ft) . Victoria Louise also carried eight 15 cm SK L / 40 guns . Four were mounted in turrets amidships and the other four were placed in casemates . These guns had a range of 13 @, @ 700 m (44 @, @ 900 ft) . She also carried ten 8 @. @ 8 cm SK L / 35 guns . The gun armament was rounded out by machine guns . She was also equipped with three 45 cm (18 in) torpedo tubes with eight torpedoes , two launchers were mounted on the broadside and the third was in the bow , all below the waterline .

= = Service history = =

Victoria Louise joined the squadron , commanded by Prince Heinrich , that went to Britain to participate in the funeral of Queen Victoria in 1901 . Along with Victoria Louise , Baden , Hagen , and Nympe represented Germany at Spithead . In 1902 , Victoria Louise was assigned to the Cruiser Division of the I Squadron of the German home fleet . The Division consisted of the armored cruiser Prinz Heinrich , the flagship , Freya , and the light cruisers Hela , Amazone , and Niobe . The Division participated in the summer fleet maneuvers of August ? September 1902 . In 1906 , the ship went into dock for modernization in the Imperial Dockyard in Kiel . After emerging from the drydock in 1908 , Victoria Louise served as a training ship for naval cadets and cabin boys . In September ? October 1909 , Victoria Louise , Hertha , Dresden , and Bremen traveled to the United States to represent Germany during the Hudson @- @ Fulton Celebration . In 1912 , Theodor Krancke served aboard the ship as a cadet ; he would go on to command the heavy cruiser Admiral Scheer in World War II .

She served as a school ship until the outbreak of World War I in August 1914 . She was briefly

mobilized into the 5th Scouting Group , which was tasked with training cadets in the Baltic Sea . Shortly after 0900 on 17 October , the British submarine HMS E1 , commanded by Noel Laurence , attempted to torpedo Victoria Louise at a range of 460 m (1 @, @ 510 ft) . The torpedo ran too deep , however , and missed . By the end of 1914 , however , the ships were again removed from service . She was put into service as a coastal defense ship . After 1915 , she was withdrawn from front @-@ line duty again and employed as a minelayer and barracks ship in Danzig . In 1916 , Victoria Louise was disarmed . She remained in service in Danzig until 1 October 1919 , when she was stricken from the naval register . She was sold to the Norddeutscher Tiefbau company and rebuilt in 1920 into a freighter . She was renamed Flora Sommerfeld and operated by Danziger Hoch- und Tiefbau GmbH . She served in this capacity only briefly ; she was broken up for scrap in 1923 in Danzig .