

= SMS Vineta ( 1897 ) =

SMS Vineta was a protected cruiser of the Victoria Louise class , built for the German Imperial Navy ( Kaiserliche Marine ) in the 1890s . Vineta was laid down at the AG Vulcan shipyard in 1895 , launched in April 1897 , and commissioned into the Navy in July 1898 . The ship , named for the semi @-@ legendary medieval town of Vineta , was armed with a battery of two 21 cm guns and eight 15 cm guns and had a top speed of 19 knots ( 35 km / h ; 22 mph ) .

Vineta served abroad in the American Station for the first several years of her career . While on station in the Americas , she participated in the Venezuela Crisis of 1902 ? 1903 and bombarded several Venezuelan fortresses . She returned to Germany in 1905 and was used as a torpedo training ship in 1908 . She was modernized in 1909 ? 1911 , after which she was used as a school ship for naval cadets . In November 1912 , she participated in an international naval protest of the First Balkan War . At the outbreak of World War I , Vineta was mobilized into the 5th Scouting Group , but served in front @-@ line duty only briefly . She was used as a barracks ship after 1915 , and ultimately sold for scrapping in 1920 .

= = Design = =

Vineta was ordered under the contract name " M " and was laid down at the Imperial Dockyard in Danzig in 1896 . She was launched on 9 December 1897 , after which fitting @-@ out work commenced . She was commissioned into the German navy on 13 September 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 Belleville boilers . Her engines provided a top speed of 19 knots ( 35 km / h ; 22 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 ) . Vineta 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 = =

Following her commissioning in 1899 , Vineta was sent overseas . Her commander was Kapitän zur See ( Captain at Sea ) Da Fonseca @-@ Wollheim . The ship was assigned to the American Station , along with the small cruiser Geier and the gunboat Luchs . In May 1900 , Vineta inspected Margarita Island for its potential as a naval base , but the Germans determined the port was insufficient for their purposes . In late 1901 , Vineta and the small cruiser Falke were sent to Venezuela in a show of force to compel the Venezuelan government to make reparations for grievances related to internal conflicts in the 1890s . Starting in December 1902 , Vineta participated in the German naval contingent in the Venezuela Crisis of 1902 ? 1903 . A British merchant ship had been boarded and its crew arrested by Venezuelan forces on 13 December ; in response , British forces bombarded the forts at Puerto Cabello , and enlisted Vineta in the attack . Vineta was tasked with shelling the fortresses Libertador and Vigia . In January 1903 , the gunboat Panther attacked Fort San Carlos in Maracaibo , but was repulsed . Vineta therefore was sent to silence the guns on 21 January . During the bombardment of the fort , Vineta set it afire and destroyed the fortress

In 1903 , one of Vineta 's 15 cm ammunition magazines exploded , but did not cause major damage to the ship . The accident had significant long @-@ term consequences , however , as it exposed the volatility of German propellant charges . The Germans therefore reworked the composition of the propellant , which was in service by 1914 . This new , more stable propellant saved several German battlecruisers from destruction when their magazines were penetrated by British shells during World War I. In January 1904 , the ship visited New Orleans with the rest of the American Squadron , which at that time included Falke , Panther , and Gazelle . Vineta was detached from the American Squadron and returned to Germany in 1905 . She was used as a torpedo training ship starting in 1908 . In 1909 , she went to dry dock at the Imperial Dockyard in Danzig for a refit , during which she was re @-@ boilered . Vineta originally had three stacks , and during the modernization they were trunked into two funnels . The refit was finished by 1911 , at which point Vineta became a cadet training ship .

The ship cruised in the western Mediterranean in the autumn of 1912 , along with her sister Hertha . The old cruiser Geier was also in the region . As the Bulgarian army was poised to march on Constantinople during the First Balkan War , the Great Powers deployed a naval force to ensure the safety of foreign nationals in the Ottoman Empire . Vineta and the battlecruiser Goeben were sent to Constantinople as part of this force . The international fleet sent ashore a force of around 3 @,@ 000 officers and men . The force was withdrawn to Crete after a ceasefire seemed imminent , but by February fighting again broke out , and the island was seized by Greece . On 23 January 1914 , Vineta was in Haiti , when Michel Oreste abdicated from the presidency . He sought refuge aboard the ship , which landed marines along with the American cruiser USS Montana in Port @-@ au @-@ Prince to prevent rioting in the capital .

Vineta had a short career during World War I. At the outbreak of hostilities , she was briefly mobilized into the 5th Scouting Group , which was tasked with training cadets in the Baltic Sea . By the end of 1914 , however , the ships were again removed from service . She was then put into service as a coastal defense ship . After 1915 , she was withdrawn from front @-@ line duty again and employed as a barracks ship at the Imperial Dockyard in Kiel . She was stricken from the naval register on 6 December 1919 and sold to ship @-@ breakers in Harburg . She was scrapped the following year .