

= SMS Frithjof =

SMS Frithjof was the third vessel of the six member Siegfried class of coastal defense ships (Küstenpanzerschiffe) built for the German Imperial Navy . Her sister ships were Siegfried , Beowulf , Heimdall , Hildebrand , and Hagen . Frithjof was built by the AG Weser shipyard between 1890 and 1893 , and was armed with a main battery of three 24 centimeter (9 in) guns . She served in the German fleet throughout the 1890s and was rebuilt in 1900 - 1902 . She served in the VI Battle Squadron after the outbreak of World War I in August 1914 , but saw no action . Frithjof was demobilized in 1915 and used as a barracks ship thereafter . She was rebuilt as a merchant ship in 1923 and served in this capacity until she was broken up for scrap in 1930 .

= = Design = =

Frithjof was 79 meters (259 ft) long overall and had a beam of 14 m (48 ft) and a maximum draft of 5 m (18 ft) . She displaced 3 , 741 long tons (3 , 801 t) at full combat load . Her propulsion system consisted of two vertical 3 cylinder triple expansion engines . Steam for the engines was provided by four coal fired boilers . The ship 's propulsion system provided a top speed of 15 knots (28 km / h ; 17 mph) and a range of approximately 1 , 490 nautical miles (2 , 760 km ; 1 , 710 mi) at 10 knots (19 km / h ; 12 mph) . Frithjof had a crew of 20 officers and 256 enlisted men .

The ship was armed with three 24 cm K L / 35 guns mounted in three single gun turrets . Two were placed side by side forward , and the third was located aft of the main superstructure . They were supplied with a total of 204 rounds of ammunition . The ship was also equipped with eight 8 cm SK L / 30 guns in single mounts . Frithjof also carried four 35 cm (14 in) torpedo tubes , all in swivel mounts on the deck . One was at the bow , another at the stern , and two amidships . The ship was protected by an armored belt that was 240 mm (9 in) amidships , and an armored deck that was 30 mm (1 in) thick . The conning tower had 80 mm (3 in) thick sides .

= = Service history = =

Frithjof was laid down in 1890 at the AG Weser shipyard in Bremen . She was launched on 21 July 1891 , and completed on 23 February 1893 . Following her commissioning , Frithjof joined the 1893 annual training exercises , alongside her sister ship Beowulf . On the first set of maneuvers , Frithjof and the other capital ships performed as the hostile French fleet , which was " attacked " by torpedo boats in the North Sea . The second set of maneuvers took place in the Baltic Sea , and Beowulf and the ironclads again simulated a French fleet . In 1897 , Frithjof again participated in the annual summer maneuvers , now in the IV Division , along with Heimdall and Hagen . Her other three sisters were assigned to the III Division . During the 1900 summer maneuvers , Frithjof served in the squadron that simulated the German navy , alongside the new battleship Kaiser Friedrich III and the coastal defense ship Odin .

Frithjof served on active duty with the fleet until 1902 , when she was taken into drydock at the Kaiserliche Werft shipyard in Kiel for an extensive reconstruction . The ship was lengthened to 86 m (282 ft) , which increased displacement to 4 , 367 t (4 , 298 long tons ; 4 , 814 short tons) . Her old boilers were replaced with eight new Marine type boilers , and a second funnel was added . Her secondary battery was increased to ten 8 cm guns , and the 35 cm torpedo tubes were replaced with three 45 cm (18 in) tubes . Work was completed by 1903 .

She then returned to service with the fleet . In 1905 - 1906 , Erich Raeder served aboard the ship as her navigation officer . By 1908 , she was assigned to the gunnery training squadron and tasked with training the fleet 's gunners . She remained with the fleet until the outbreak of World War I in August 1914 , when she was mobilized into the VI Battle Squadron for coastal defense , along with her sister ships . On 31 August 1915 , the VI Battle Squadron was demobilized , and Frithjof 's crew

was transferred to other warships . She was then used as a barracks ship in Danzig . On 17 June 1919 , she was stricken from the naval register . She was sold to A. Bernstein in Hamburg . Frithjof was rebuilt as a merchant ship in 1923 at Deutsche Werke ; she only served in this capacity for seven years , and was dismantled for scrap in Danzig in 1930 .