

= HMS Good Hope (1901) =

HMS Good Hope was one of four Drake class armoured cruisers built for the Royal Navy around 1900 ; she was originally named Africa , but was renamed before she was launched . She became flagship of the 1st Cruiser Squadron of the Atlantic Fleet in 1906 , and was the flagship of the 2nd Cruiser Squadron in 1908 . She was reduced to reserve in 1913 , but was recommissioned in mid 1914 .

When war was declared in August 1914 , Good Hope was ordered to reinforce the 4th Cruiser Squadron and became the flagship of Rear Admiral Christopher Cradock . Cradock moved the available ships of his squadron later that month to the coast of South America to search for German commerce raiders . He was then ordered further south to the Strait of Magellan to block any attempt of the German East Asia Squadron to penetrate into the South Atlantic . He found the German squadron on 1 November off the coast of Chile . The German squadron outnumbered Cradock 's force and were individually more powerful ; they sank Cradock 's two armoured cruisers in the Battle of Coronel . Good Hope was lost with all hands .

= = Design and description = =

Good Hope was designed to displace 14,150 long tons (14,380 t) . The ship had an overall length of 553 feet 6 inches (168 . 7 m) , a beam of 71 feet 4 inches (21 . 7 m) and a deep draught of 26 feet 9 inches (8 . 2 m) . She was powered by two 4 cylinder triple expansion steam engines , each driving one shaft , which produced a total of 30,000 indicated horsepower (22,000 kW) and gave a maximum speed of 23 knots (43 km / h ; 26 mph) . The engines were powered by 43 Belleville boilers . She carried a maximum of 2,500 long tons (2,500 t) of coal and her complement consisted of 900 officers and enlisted men .

Her main armament consisted of two breech loading (BL) 9 . 2 inch (234 mm) Mk X guns in single gun turrets , one each fore and aft of the superstructure . They fired 380 pound (170 kg) shells to a range of 15,500 yards (14,200 m) . Her secondary armament of sixteen BL 6 inch Mk VII guns was arranged in casemates amidships . Eight of these were mounted on the main deck and were only usable in calm weather . They had a maximum range of approximately 12,200 yards (11,200 m) with their 100 pound (45 . 4 kg) shells . A dozen quick firing (QF) 12 pounder 12 cwt guns were fitted for defence against torpedo boats . Two additional 12 pounder 8 cwt guns could be dismounted for service ashore . Good Hope also carried three 3 pounder Hotchkiss guns and two submerged 17 . 72 inch (450 mm) torpedo tubes .

The ship 's waterline armour belt had a maximum thickness of 6 inches (152 mm) and was closed off by 5 inch (127 mm) transverse bulkheads . The armour of the gun turrets and their barbettes was 6 inches thick while the casemate armour was 5 inches thick . The protective deck armour ranged in thickness from 1 ? 2 . 5 inches (25 ? 64 mm) and the conning tower was protected by 12 inches (305 mm) of armour .

= = Service = =

Good Hope , named after the British colony on the Cape of Good Hope , was laid down on 11 September 1899 with the name of Africa by Fairfield Shipbuilding & Engineering at their Govan shipyard . She was renamed Good Hope on 2 October and launched on 21 February 1901 . She arrived in Portsmouth to be completed and armed in late December 1901 . In 1906 she became the flagship of the 1st Cruiser Squadron , Atlantic Fleet and was the flagship of the 2nd Cruiser Squadron when she visited South Africa two years later . Good Hope was placed in reserve in 1913 .

Upon recommissioning in mid 1914 , she was briefly assigned to the 6th Cruiser Squadron in August before being assigned to the 4th Cruiser Squadron to reinforce Cradock 's forces . He transferred his flag to her because she was faster than his previous flagship . Cradock 's command

was transferred to the coast of South America later that month at his own suggestion to better hunt for the German ships preying upon British merchant ships . His ships were generally unsuccessful in this and he moved his squadron further south in late September to search for the East Asia Squadron , under the command of Vice Admiral Graf Maximilian von Spee , in the vicinity of Cape Horn and the Strait of Magellan in accordance to his orders from the Admiralty .

At the end of September , Cradock made his first fruitless search of the Tierra del Fuego area and later detached three of his ships to search up the Chilean coast , reaching Valparaiso on 15 October , while Good Hope returned to Port Stanley , in the Falkland Islands , to recoal and to reestablish communications with the Admiralty . He received word on 7 October that Spee 's ships were definitely bound for the Cape Horn region and waited for the elderly predreadnought battleship Canopus to reinforce his squadron . She was in poor mechanical condition when she arrived at Port Stanley and required time to make repairs . Good Hope sailed on 22 October without her , going around Cape Horn , while Canopus and three colliers departed the following day , taking the shorter route through the Strait of Magellan .

= = = Battle of Coronel = = =

Good Hope rendezvoused with the rest of the squadron at Vallenar Roads in the remote Chonos Archipelago of Chile on 27 October to recoal . They departed two days later , just as Canopus arrived , Cradock ordering the battleship to follow as soon as possible . He sent the light cruiser Glasgow to scout ahead and to enter Coronel , Chile to pick up any messages from the Admiralty and acquire intelligence regarding German activities . The cruiser began to pick up German radio signals from the light cruiser SMS Leipzig on the afternoon of 29 October , and delayed entering Coronel for two days with Cradock 's permission to avoid being trapped by the fast German ships . A German supply ship was already there and radioed Spee that Glasgow had entered the harbour around twilight . The cruiser departed on the morning of 1 November , but Spee had already made plans to catch her when informed of her presence the previous evening .

Glasgow departed Coronel at 09 : 15 after having picked up the squadron 's mail and rendezvoused with the rest of the squadron four hours later . Cradock ordered his ships to form line abreast with an interval of 15 nautical miles (28 km ; 17 mi) between ships to maximise visibility at 13 : 50 , and steered north at a speed of 10 knots (19 km / h ; 12 mph) . At 16 : 17 Leipzig spotted Glasgow , the easternmost British ship , to its west and she spotted Leipzig 's funnel smoke three minutes later . At 17 : 10 Cradock ordered his ships to head for Glasgow , the closest ship to the Germans . Once gathered together , he formed them into line astern , with Good Hope in the lead , steering southeasterly at 16 knots (30 km / h ; 18 mph) at 18 : 18 . As the sixteen 21 @-@ centimetre (8 @.@ 3 in) guns aboard the armoured cruisers Scharnhorst and Gneisenau were only matched by the two 9 @.@ 2 @-@ inch guns on his flagship , he needed to close the range to bring his more numerous 6 @-@ inch guns to bear . The Force 7 winds and high seas , however , prevented the use of half of those guns as they were too close to the water . He also wanted to use the setting sun to his advantage so that its light would blind the German gunners . Spee was well aware of the British advantages and refused to allow Cradock to close the range . His ships were faster than the British , slowed by the 16 @-@ knot maximum speed of the armed merchant cruiser Otranto , and he opened up the range to 18 @,@ 000 yards (16 @,@ 000 m) until conditions changed to suit him . The sun set at 18 : 50 , which silhouetted the British ships against the light sky while the German ships became indistinguishable from the shoreline behind them .

Spee immediately turned to close and signalled his ships to open fire at 19 : 04 when the range closed to 12 @,@ 300 yards (11 @,@ 200 m) . Spee 's flagship , Scharnhorst , engaged Good Hope while Gneisenau fired at Monmouth . Cradock 's flagship was hit on the Scharnhorst 's third salvo , when shells knocked out her forward 9 @.@ 2 @-@ inch turret and set her forecastle on fire . Cradock , knowing his only chance was to close the range , continued to do so despite the battering that Spee 's ships inflicted . By 19 : 23 the range was almost half of that when the battle began and the British ships bore onwards . Spee tried to open the range , fearing a torpedo attack , but the British were only 5 @,@ 500 yards (5 @,@ 000 m) away at 19 : 35 . Seven minutes later ,

Good Hope charged directly at the German ships , although they dodged out of her way . Spee ordered his armoured cruisers to concentrate their fire on the British flagship and she soon drifted to a halt with her topsides all aflame . At 19 : 50 her forward magazine exploded , severing the bow from the rest of the ship , and she later sank in the darkness . Spee estimated that his flagship had made 35 hits on Good Hope , suffering only two hits in return that did no significant damage and failed even to wound one crewman . Good Hope was sunk with all hands , a total of 919 officers and enlisted men . Four of the midshipmen aboard the ship were the first casualties of the newly formed Royal Canadian Navy .