

= Blitz @-@ class aviso =

The Blitz class was a pair of avisos built by the Imperial German Navy (Kaiserliche Marine) in the 1880s . The ships , Blitz and Pfeil , were the first steel @-@ hulled ships of any kind built by the German Navy , and the progenitors of the later light cruisers of the Gazelle type . They were armed with a 12 @. @ 5 cm (4 @. @ 9 in) gun and one 35 cm (14 in) torpedo tube as their principal armament , and were capable of a top speed in excess of 15 knots (28 km / h ; 17 mph) .

Blitz and Pfeil served extensively in various roles , including as flotilla leaders for torpedo boats . Pfeil was deployed to German East Africa in 1889 to suppress an anti @-@ colonial revolt , and after 1899 , was used for fishery protection . They were both reduced to tenders by 1912 . Blitz was briefly used as a coastal patrol vessel early in World War I before returning to tender duties by 1915 . Both ships survived the war , and were sold for scrap in the early 1920s .

= = Design = =

The Blitz class avisos were the first step toward creating the modern , steel @-@ hulled light cruiser , which would ultimately come to fruition in the Gazelle class , built a decade later . The Blitz @-@ class ships were also the first steel @-@ hulled ships of any type built by the German Navy . At the time of their completion , they were among the earliest torpedo cruisers in the world .

= = = General characteristics = = =

The Blitz @-@ class ships were 75 @. @ 30 meters (247 ft 1 in) long at the waterline and 78 @. @ 43 m (257 ft 4 in) long overall . They had a beam of 9 @. @ 90 m (32 ft 6 in) and a maximum draft of 4 @. @ 07 m (13 @. @ 4 ft) forward . The ships displaced 1 @, @ 381 metric tons (1 @, @ 359 long tons) as designed and up to 1 @, @ 486 t (1 @, @ 463 long tons) at full combat load . The ships ' hulls were constructed with transverse and longitudinal steel frames , and contained eleven watertight compartments . A double bottom was located beneath the ships ' engine rooms .

Blitz and Pfeil had a crew of 7 officers and 127 enlisted men , though this number was later revised to 6 officers and 135 sailors . When serving as torpedo boat flotilla leaders , the ships had an additional 3 officers and 16 enlisted men . The ships carried several smaller boats , including one picket boat , one yawl , and one dinghy . Later in their careers , a cutter , another yawl , and another dinghy were added .

= = = Machinery = = =

The ships ' propulsion system consisted of two horizontal 2 @-@ cylinder double expansion engines in a single engine room . The engines drove a pair of 3 @-@ bladed screws . Steam for the engines was provided by eight coal @-@ fired locomotive boilers . After refits in the early 1890s , the ships ' boilers were replaced with newer , more efficient models ; Blitz received eight transverse cylindrical boilers , while Pfeil had eight cylindrical boilers installed . The ships were supplied with electrical power with a single 10 @-@ kilowatt (13 hp) generator that operated at 67 volts . As built , the ships were fitted with a schooner rig with a sail area of 591 square meters (6 @, @ 360 sq ft) to supplement her steam engines , but this was later reduced to a rig of auxiliary sails with an area of 282 m² (3 @, @ 040 sq ft) , and the sails were removed entirely by 1900 .

The propulsion system was rated at 2 @, @ 700 indicated horsepower (2 @, @ 000 kW) , for a top speed of 16 knots (30 km / h ; 18 mph) . Neither ship reached this speed on trials ; Blitz managed 15 @. @ 7 knots (29 @. @ 1 km / h ; 18 @. @ 1 mph) , and Pfeil made 15 @. @ 6 knots (28 @. @ 9 km / h ; 18 @. @ 0 mph) . The ships carried up to 220 t (220 long tons ; 240 short tons) of coal , which allowed them to steam for approximately 2 @, @ 440 nautical miles (4 @, @ 520 km ; 2 @, @ 810 mi) at a cruising speed of 9 knots (17 km / h ; 10 mph) . Steering was controlled with one rudder .

=== Armament ===

As built , the Blitz @-@ class avisos were armed with one 12 @.@ 5 cm (4 @.@ 9 in) K L / 23 gun placed in a pivot mount . The gun was supplied with 100 rounds of ammunition . The ships were also equipped with four 8 @.@ 7 cm K L / 23 guns in single mounts and one 35 cm (14 in) torpedo tube mounted in the bow . In 1891 and 1892 , the ships were rearmed with six 8 @.@ 8 cm SK L / 30 guns in single mounts and three 35 cm torpedo tubes , one in the bow and one on each broadside , all submerged in the hull . The ships did not carry any armor protection .

== Service history ==

Blitz was laid down at the Norddeutscher Schiffbau in Kiel in 1881 . She was launched on 26 August 1882 and commissioned into the German fleet on 28 March 1883 . Pfeil was built by the Kaiserliche Werft shipyard in Wilhelmshaven . Her keel was laid down in 1881 , she was launched on 16 September 1882 , and commissioned into the German fleet on 25 November 1884 . Both ships served in the fleet following their commissioning . Blitz was assigned as the flagship of the I Torpedo @-@ boat Flotilla , while Pfeil initially served as a tender for the fleet .

Blitz participated in extensive training and experimentation in the Torpedo School , under the command of Alfred von Tirpitz , the future architect of the High Seas Fleet . In 1889 , Pfeil was sent to German East Africa to participate in the suppression of a local revolt against German colonial rule . By 1899 , both ships were withdrawn from front line service ; Pfeil was used for fishery protection , and Blitz became a fleet tender . In 1912 , both Blitz and Pfeil were serving as tenders to the I Battle Squadron and the II Battle Squadron , respectively . At the outbreak of World War I in August 1914 , Blitz was mobilized as a coastal patrol ship , while Pfeil remained a tender . Blitz returned to her tender duties in 1915 . Both ships were sold for scrapping in the early 1920s .