

= SMS Wacht =

SMS Wacht was an aviso of the Imperial German Navy , the lead ship of her class . She had one sister ship , Jagd . Wacht was built by the AG Weser shipyard ; she was laid down in 1886 , launched in August 1887 , and commissioned in August 1888 . She served in the active fleet through the 1890s and participated in numerous training exercises . Her career was cut short on 4 September 1901 , when she collided with the old ironclad SMS Sachsen . The latter 's ram bow holed Wacht under the waterline and caused her to rapidly sink . Her crew was safely rescued , however , and there were no casualties .

= = Design = =

Wacht was 85 @. @ 5 meters (281 ft) long overall and had a beam of 9 @. @ 6 m (31 @. @ 7 ft) and a maximum draft of 3 @. @ 74 m (12 @. @ 3 ft) forward . She displaced 1 @, @ 499 metric tons (1 @, @ 475 long tons ; 1 @, @ 652 short tons) at full combat load . Her propulsion system consisted of two angled 3 @- @ cylinder triple expansion engines . Steam for the engines was provided by four coal @- @ fired locomotive boilers . The ship 's propulsion system provided a top speed of 19 kn (35 km / h ; 22 mph) and a range of approximately 2 @, @ 860 nautical miles (5 @, @ 300 km ; 3 @, @ 290 mi) at 10 kn (19 km / h ; 12 mph) . Wacht had a crew of 7 officers and 134 enlisted men .

As built , the ship was armed with three 10 @. @ 5 cm (4 @. @ 1 in) K L / 35 guns placed in single pivot mounts . The guns were supplied with a total of 180 rounds of ammunition . Wacht also carried three 35 cm (14 in) torpedo tubes , one mounted submerged in the bow and the other two in deck @- @ mounted launchers on the broadside . In 1891 , four 8 @. @ 8 cm SK L / 30 guns in single mounts were added . The ship was the first German aviso to carry armor : a 10 mm (0 @. @ 39 in) thick deck , along with 25 mm (0 @. @ 98 in) of armor plating for the conning tower .

= = Service history = =

Wacht was laid down in 1886 at the AG Weser shipyard in Bremen . She was launched on 27 August 1887 and commissioned into the German fleet on 9 August 1888 . In 1889 , Franz von Hipper served aboard the ship as her watch officer . In early 1889 , Wacht was assigned to the Maneuver Squadron , which at the time consisted of the old ironclads Baden , Bayern , and Oldenburg and the protected cruiser Irene . The Squadron was commanded by Prince Heinrich . In May , the Maneuver Squadron conducted mock combat exercises with the Training Squadron in the Baltic Sea .

In late 1889 , Wacht joined a squadron of four old ironclads ? Kaiser , Deutschland , Friedrich der Grosse , and Preussen ? that cruised the Mediterranean Sea along with Kaiser Wilhelm II 's yacht Hohenzollern and the protected cruiser Irene , which carried Prince Heinrich . The squadron visited numerous ports in the Mediterranean , including state visits to Italy and the Ottoman Empire . Wilhelm II also stopped in Greece , where he attended the wedding of his sister Sophie to the Greek crown prince Constantine . The squadron remained in the Mediterranean until April 1890 , when it returned to Germany . Wacht , meanwhile , was forced to remain in Trieste for six months due to a serious problem with her boiler tubes , which required lengthy repairs . The ship led the torpedo boat flotilla in the Maneuver Squadron in 1893 . In early 1894 , Wacht was assigned to the II Division of the Maneuver Squadron as the divisional dispatch vessel . The division was commanded by Rear Admiral Otto von Diederichs . During the 1896 annual maneuvers , Wacht was assigned to the I Division .

On 4 September 1901 , Wacht collided with the ironclad Sachsen while on extensive training maneuvers with the rest of the fleet . Wacht was sunk , but the crew was safely evacuated and neither ship suffered casualties . During the maneuvers , Wacht attempted to pass between Sachsen and Württemberg . However , Wacht 's helmsman misjudged the distance and passed too closely in front of Sachsen . Sachsen immediately attempted to reverse course to avoid ramming the

ship , but the two vessels collided . Sachsen 's ram bow tore a large hole in Wacht , which began to slowly sink . The battleship Weissenburg attempted to tow Wacht to shallow water , but several of Wacht 's internal bulkheads collapsed under the strain and the ship quickly sank . Nevertheless , her crew was taken off safely ; neither ship suffered any casualties .