

= SMS Blitz =

SMS Blitz was an aviso of the Imperial German Navy , the lead ship of her class . She had one sister ship , SMS Pfeil . Blitz was built at the Norddeutscher Schiffbau dockyard ; she was laid down in 1881 , was launched in August 1882 , and was commissioned in March 1883 . The ship 's career was uneventful ; she served as a flotilla leader for torpedo boats until 1900 . In 1903 , she became a fleet tender . She was briefly mobilized at the outbreak of World War I in August 1914 , but she returned to fleet tender duties in 1915 , where she remained for the duration of the conflict . She was stricken from the naval register in March 1921 and was broken up for scrap later that year .

= = Design = =

Blitz was 78 @. @ 43 meters (257 @. @ 3 ft) long overall and had a beam of 9 @. @ 9 m (32 ft) and a maximum draft of 4 @. @ 07 m (13 @. @ 4 ft) forward . She displaced 1 @, @ 486 metric tons (1 @, @ 463 long tons ; 1 @, @ 638 short tons) at full combat load . Her propulsion system consisted of two horizontal 2 @- @ cylinder double expansion engines . Steam for the engines was provided by eight coal @- @ fired locomotive boilers . The ship 's propulsion system provided a top speed of 15 @. @ 7 kn (29 @. @ 1 km / h ; 18 @. @ 1 mph) and a range of approximately 2 @, @ 440 nautical miles (4 @, @ 520 km ; 2 @, @ 810 mi) at 9 kn (17 km / h ; 10 mph) . Blitz had a crew of 7 officers and 127 enlisted men .

As built , the ship was 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 ship was 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 ? 1892 , the ship was 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 .

= = 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 . Blitz served as the flotilla leader for I Torpedo Boat Flotilla after her commissioning . In the 1885 summer maneuvers in August and September , she led her torpedo boats with an armored warship division composed of Bayern , Friedrich Carl , and Hansa , and an unarmored division that comprised three old sail corvettes and Pfeil . At the time , Alfred von Tirpitz , the future architect of the High Seas Fleet , commanded Blitz and the torpedo boat flotilla . Starting in March 1886 , Tirpitz led the flotilla on training exercises that lasted until July . Thereafter , Blitz and her accompanying torpedo boats joined the annual fleet maneuvers as the III Division . In May , Blitz joined the Training Squadron as a torpedo boat leader during training exercises with the Maneuver Squadron in the Baltic .

In 1887 , Blitz , again with Tirpitz aboard , led the torpedo boat flotilla to Britain to participate in the Cowes Regatta ; the delegation was headed by Prince Heinrich . Then @- @ prince Wilhelm ? the future Kaiser Wilhelm II ? was also present for the cruise , aboard Blitz . The flotilla was back in German waters for the annual August ? September maneuvers , where it formed the IV Division . By 1888 , Blitz had been transferred to the III Flotilla . In July , Blitz joined a squadron of ships to take the newly crowned Kaiser Wilhelm II for a tour of Baltic ports , which included a visit to Tsar Alexander III of Russia . During the August ? September fleet maneuvers , she led the fourteen torpedo boats of the III Flotilla as part of a squadron defending Wilhelmshaven from a simulated hostile squadron . During the maneuvers , Blitz and the torpedo boats led a mock attack against the main fleet .

In the fleet maneuvers in late 1890 , Blitz and her flotilla were the only German force , and Blitz was given the task of defending Germany 's Baltic coast against a simulated Russian blockade . Blitz also took part in the 1891 and 1892 training exercises . During the 1894 maneuvers , which postulated a two @- @ front war against France and Russia , Blitz remained in the Baltic to defend

against the simulated Russian attack . She also participated in the summer 1897 exercises in the simulated hostile squadron , along with her sister Pfeil . In August ? September 1900 , she participated in the annual summer fleet maneuvers ; during the exercises , she was assigned to the simulated German squadron , tasked with defending against a simulated enemy fleet in the North Sea . After the conclusion of the maneuvers , Blitz was withdrawn from active service . In 1903 , she was used as a tender for the fleet .

In 1912 , she was assigned as the tender for the new dreadnought battleships of the I Battle Squadron . While in the II Squadron , she wore a white identification band on her funnel , to distinguish her from her sister Pfeil , which wore a yellow identification stripe . At the outbreak of World War I in August 1914 , she was mobilized as a coastal defense ship , though this duty lasted only until 1915 . That year , she returned to her fleet tender duties ; she served in this capacity for the remainder of the war . She was stricken from the naval register on 8 March 1921 , and sold for 520 @, @ 000 marks . She was broken up for scrap later that year in Wilhelmshaven .