

= HMS Renown (1895) =

HMS Renown was a second @-@ class predreadnought battleship built for the Royal Navy in the early 1890s . Intended to command cruiser squadrons operating on foreign stations , the ship served as the flagship of the North America and West Indies Station and the Mediterranean Fleet early in her career . Becoming obsolete as cruiser speeds increased , Renown became a royal yacht and had all of her secondary armament removed to make her more suitable for such duties . She became a stoker 's training ship in 1909 and was listed for disposal in 1913 . The ship was sold for scrap in early 1914 .

= = Design and description = =

Production of a new 12 @-@ inch gun was behind schedule and the three battleships planned for the 1892 Naval Programme that were intended to use the new gun had to be delayed . In their stead , an improved Centurion @-@ class battleship design was chosen to keep the workers at Pembroke Dockyard fully employed . No formal requirement for a second @-@ class battleship suitable for use as the flagship on foreign stations or to reinforce cruiser squadrons existed at the time , but the decision to build the ship was strongly influenced by the views of the Controller of the Navy , Rear Admiral John A. " Jacky " Fisher and the Director of Naval Intelligence , Captain Cyprian Bridge who favoured smaller ships with a smaller main armament and large secondary armament . They pressed for additional ships of this type as substitutes for the two other battleships originally programmed , but this was rejected by the Admiralty as there was no demand for additional second @-@ class battleships .

The Director of Naval Construction , William Henry White , submitted three designs in early April 1892 and the smallest one was chosen on 11 April . The design was quite innovative in several different ways . It was the first battleship to use Harvey armour , which allowed the secondary casemates to be armoured , the first to use a sloping armour deck and the first to provide armoured shields over the main armament .

= = = General characteristics = = =

Renown had an overall length of 412 feet 3 inches (125 @. @ 7 m) , a beam of 72 feet 4 inches (22 @. @ 0 m) , and a draught of 27 feet 3 inches (8 @. @ 3 m) at deep load . She displaced 11 @, @ 690 long tons (11 @, @ 880 t) at normal load and 12 @, @ 865 long tons (13 @, @ 071 t) at deep load . The ship had a metacentric height of 3 @. @ 75 feet (1 @. @ 1 m) at deep load .

In 1903 , the crew numbered between 651 and 674 officers and enlisted men . She was considered to handle well by her captains and was a good sea @-@ boat . In view of her intended duties abroad , her bottom was coppered to reduce biofouling .

= = = Propulsion = = =

Renown was powered by two three @-@ cylinder vertical triple @-@ expansion steam engines , each driving a single propeller . Steam for the engines was provided by eight cylindrical boilers at a working pressure of 155 psi (1 @, @ 069 kPa ; 11 kgf / cm²) . The engines were designed to produce a total of 10 @, @ 000 indicated horsepower (7 @, @ 500 kW) which was intended to allow her to reach a speed of 17 knots (31 km / h ; 20 mph) . The engines proved to be more powerful than anticipated and Renown reached 18 @. @ 75 knots (34 @. @ 73 km / h ; 21 @. @ 58 mph) during sea trials under forced draught . The ship carried a maximum of 1 @, @ 890 long tons (1 @, @ 920 t) of coal , enough to steam 6 @, @ 400 nautical miles (11 @, @ 900 km ; 7 @, @ 400 mi) at 10 knots (19 km / h ; 12 mph) .

= = = Armament = = =

She was armed with four 40 @-@ calibre , breech @-@ loading 10 @-@ inch Mk III guns in two twin @-@ gun barbettes , one forward and one aft . Each gun was provided with 105 shells per gun . Her secondary armament consisted of ten QF (quick @-@ firing) 6 @-@ inch Mk II guns . Half a dozen of these guns were mounted in casemates on the sides of the hull and the remaining guns were mounted on the upper deck in casemates in the superstructure . Defence against torpedo boats was provided by a dozen QF 12 @-@ pounder 12 @-@ cwt guns . Eight of these were mounted on the upper deck amidships . They fired 3 @-@ inch (76 mm) , 12 @-@ 5 @-@ pound (5 @-@ 7 kg) shells at a muzzle velocity of 2 @-@ 548 ft / s (777 m / s) . 200 rounds per gun were carried by each ship . Renown also carried eight QF 3 @-@ pounder Hotchkiss guns . Each gun was provided with 500 rounds of ammunition . She had five 18 @-@ inch torpedo tubes , one in the stern above water and two on each broadside underwater .

== = Armour == =

The ship 's armour was generally composed of Harvey steel and her waterline main belt was 6 ? 8 inches (152 ? 203 mm) thick . It was 210 feet (64 @-@ 0 m) long amidships and 7 @-@ 5 feet (2 @-@ 3 m) high of which 5 feet (1 @-@ 5 m) was below the waterline at normal load . Fore and aft oblique bulkheads , 10 inches (254 @-@ 0 mm) and 6 inches (152 mm)] thick , connected the belt armour to the barbettes . The upper strake of six @-@ inch armour was 180 feet (54 @-@ 9 m) long and 6 @-@ 75 feet (2 @-@ 1 m) high . It covered the ship 's side between the rear of the barbettes up to the level of the main deck . Oblique bulkheads six inches thick connected the upper armour to the barbettes .

Renown was the first British battleship to be built with a sloped armoured deck behind the main belt as was commonly used on British protected cruisers . The top of the protective deck was even with the top of the main armoured belt and sloped down at 45 ° angle to meet the bottom of the belt . It was 2 inches (51 mm) thick on the flat and 3 inches (76 mm) on the slope and ran between the barbettes . Outside the barbettes , the lower deck was three inches thick and ran towards the ends of the ship .

The barbettes were protected by 10 @-@ inch (254 mm) armour plates . The gun turrets that protected the main armament were six inches thick on their face , with three @-@ inch sides and a 1 @-@ inch (25 mm) roof . They were initially built without a rear plate because of weight distribution problems with the turrets . The upper deck casemates were protected by 4 @-@ inch (102 mm) plates on the front and sides , but the main deck casemates had six @-@ inch faces and sides . The stern torpedo tube was protected by a mantlet three to six inches thick . The sides of the forward conning tower were 9 inches (229 mm) thick while those of the rear conning tower were only three inches in thickness .

== Construction and career ==

Renown was laid down at Pembroke Dockyard on 1 February 1893 and launched on 8 May 1895 . She was completed in January 1897 at a cost of £ 751 @-@ 206 , but then underwent lengthy sea trials that included the changing of her propeller blades that lasted until June . The ship commissioned on 8 June 1897 and served as flagship for the Commander @-@ in @-@ Chief , Vice Admiral Sir Nowell Salmon , VC , on 26 June , at the Fleet Review at Spithead for the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria , with the Prince of Wales aboard . She was briefly attached to the 1st Division , of the Channel Squadron , from 7 to 12 July for manoeuvres off the south coast of Ireland . On 24 August , Renown became Fisher 's flagship , relieving the protected cruiser Crescent as flagship of the North America and West Indies Station . The ship continued as such until beginning a refit in May 1899 .

Upon completion of her refit in July , she transferred to the Mediterranean Fleet , once again becoming Fisher 's flagship . A strong proponent of the design of Renown , Fisher also found her highly desirable for the hosting of the social events required of a flagship in peacetime . Captain Hugh Tyrwhitt was appointed in command on 19 March 1900 . Renown also underwent a special

refit at Malta from February to May 1900 to meet Fisher 's requirements for her . This included the transfer of the main deck 12 @-@ pounders to the superstructure . The ship recommissioned on 19 November 1900 , and served as flagship until Fisher ended his tour as Commander @-@ in @-@ Chief on 4 June 1902 , after which she continued to serve in the Mediterranean Fleet as a private ship under a new captain , Arthur Murray Farquhar . Renown participated in combined manoeuvres off Cephalonia and Morea between 29 September and 6 October 1902 .

After the manoeuvres ended , she was detached from the Mediterranean Fleet and returned to the United Kingdom to be specially fitted out at Portsmouth to carry the Duke and Duchess of Connaught on a royal tour of India . These modifications included removal of the main deck six @-@ inch guns . After the modifications , she was nicknamed the " Battleship Yacht . " Renown carried the Duke and Duchess on their royal tour of India from November 1902 to March 1903 . The ship rejoined the Mediterranean Fleet in April . In August , she relieved Venerable as flagship of the fleet so that the latter ship could undergo a refit . From 5 to 9 August 1903 , Renown participated in manoeuvres off the coast of Portugal .

Renown was placed into reserve at Devon on 15 May 1904 , although she participated in manoeuvres the following month . On 21 February 1905 , the ship began a special refit at Portsmouth to configure her as a royal yacht . During the refit , the remainder of her secondary armament was removed to increase her accommodations . On 8 October , Renown left Portsmouth bound for Genoa , Italy . At Genoa , the Prince and Princess of Wales ? the future King George V and Queen Mary ? embarked for a royal tour of India . The first @-@ class protected cruiser Terrible escorted the ship during the tour . At the conclusion of the tour , Renown departed Karachi on 23 March 1906 and arrived at Portsmouth on 7 May . She was placed into reserve on 31 May .

In May 1907 , Renown was attached to the Home Fleet as a " subsidiary yacht " . Between October and December 1907 , Renown carried King Alfonso XIII and Queen Victoria Eugenia of Spain on an official trip to and from the United Kingdom . The ship was transferred to the 4th Division , Home Fleet , at Portsmouth on 1 April 1909 . Five months later , 25 September , she began a refit in Portsmouth Dockyard to convert her for use as a stoker 's training ship .

Renown briefly served as a tender to HMS Victory in October before her refit was completed in November . During the Coronation Review at Spithead on 24 June 1911 for King George V , the ship was used as an accommodation ship . She was slightly damaged when water tanker Aid rammed her on 26 November 1911 . Renown was offered for sale on 31 January 1913 and partially dismantled . In December 1913 , she was moored at the Motherbank , awaiting disposal , and on 2 April 1914 she was sold for scrap at a price of £ 39 @, @ 000 . She was broken up at Blyth .