

= HMS Agincourt (1865) =

HMS Agincourt was a Minotaur @-@ class armoured frigate built for the Royal Navy during the 1860s . She spent most of her career as the flagship of the Channel Fleet 's second @-@ in @-@ command . During the Russo @-@ Turkish War of 1877 ? 78 , she was one of the ironclads sent to Constantinople to forestall a Russian occupation of the Ottoman capital . Agincourt participated in Queen Victoria 's Golden Jubilee Fleet Review in 1887 . The ship was placed in reserve two years later and served as a training ship from 1893 to 1909 . That year she was converted into a coal hulk and renamed as C.109. Agincourt served at Sheerness until sold for scrap in 1960 .

= = Design and description = =

The three Minotaur @-@ class armoured frigates were essentially enlarged versions of the ironclad HMS Achilles with heavier armament , armour , and more powerful engines . They retained the broadside ironclad layout of their predecessor , but their sides were fully armoured to protect the 50 guns they were designed to carry . Their plough @-@ shaped ram was also more prominent than that of Achilles .

The ships were 400 feet (121 @.@ 9 m) long between perpendiculars and 407 feet (124 @.@ 1 m) long overall . They had a beam of 58 feet 6 inches (17 @.@ 8 m) and a draft of 26 feet 10 inches (8 @.@ 2 m) . The Minotaur @-@ class ships displaced 10 @, @ 627 long tons (10 @, @ 798 t) . Their hull was subdivided by 15 watertight transverse bulkheads and had a double bottom underneath the engine and boiler rooms .

Agincourt was considered " an excellent sea @-@ boat and a steady gun platform , but unhandy under steam and practically unmanageable under sail " as built . The ship 's steadiness was partially a result of her metacentric height of 3 @.@ 87 feet (1 @.@ 2 m) .

= = = Propulsion = = =

Agincourt had one 2 @-@ cylinder horizontal return connecting rod @-@ steam engine , made by Maudslay , driving a single propeller using steam provided by 10 rectangular fire @-@ tube boilers . It produced a total of 4 @, @ 426 indicated horsepower (3 @, @ 300 kW) during the ship 's sea trials on 12 December 1865 and Agincourt had a maximum speed of 13 @.@ 55 knots (25 @.@ 09 km / h ; 15 @.@ 59 mph) . The ship carried 750 long tons (760 t) of coal , enough to steam 1 @, @ 500 nautical miles (2 @, @ 800 km ; 1 @, @ 700 mi) at 7 @.@ 5 knots (13 @.@ 9 km / h ; 8 @.@ 6 mph) .

Agincourt had five masts and a sail area of 32 @, @ 377 square feet (3 @, @ 008 m²) . Agincourt only made 9 @.@ 5 knots (17 @.@ 6 km / h ; 10 @.@ 9 mph) under sail mainly because the ship 's propeller could only be disconnected and not hoisted up into the stern of the ship to reduce drag . Both funnels were semi @-@ retractable to reduce wind resistance while under sail . Admiral George A. Ballard described Agincourt and her sisters as " the dullest performers under canvas of the whole masted fleet of their day , and no ships ever carried so much dress to so little purpose . " In 1893 ? 4 , after her withdrawal from active service , Agincourt had two masts removed and was re @-@ rigged as a barque .

= = = Armament = = =

The armament of the Minotaur @-@ class ships was intended to be 40 rifled 110 @-@ pounder breech @-@ loading guns on the main deck and 10 more on the upper deck on pivot mounts . The gun was a new design from Armstrong , but proved a failure a few years after its introduction . The gun was withdrawn before any were received by any of the Minotaur @-@ class ships . They were armed , instead , with a mix of seven @-@ inch (178 mm) and nine @-@ inch (229 mm) rifled muzzle @-@ loading guns . All 4 nine @-@ inch and 20 seven @-@ inch guns were mounted on the main deck while 4 seven @-@ inch guns were fitted on the upper deck as chase guns . The ship

also received eight brass howitzers for use as saluting guns . The gun ports were 30 inches (0 @. @ 8 m) wide which allowed each gun to fire 30 ° fore and aft of the beam .

The shell of the nine @-@ inch gun weighed 254 pounds (115 @. @ 2 kg) while the gun itself weighed 12 long tons (12 t) . It had a muzzle velocity of 1 @, @ 420 ft / s (430 m / s) and was credited with the ability to penetrate a 11 @. @ 3 inches (287 mm) of wrought iron armour at the muzzle . The seven @-@ inch gun weighed 6 @. @ 5 long tons (6 @. @ 6 t) and fired a 112 @-@ pound (50 @. @ 8 kg) shell . It was credited with the ability to penetrate 7 @. @ 7 @-@ inch (196 mm) armour .

Agincourt was rearmed in 1875 with a uniform armament of 17 nine @-@ inch guns , 14 on the main deck , 2 forward chase guns and 1 rear chase gun . The gun ports had to be enlarged to accommodate the larger guns by hand , at a cost of £ 250 each . About 1883 two six inches (152 mm) breech @-@ loading guns replaced 2 nine @-@ inch muzzle @-@ loading guns . Four quick @-@ firing (QF) 4 @. @ 7 @-@ inch (120 @-@ mm) guns , eight QF 3 @-@ pounder Hotchkiss guns , eight machine guns and two torpedo tubes were installed in 1891 ? 2 .

= = = Armour = = =

The entire side of the Minotaur @-@ class ships was protected by wrought iron armour that tapered from 4 @. @ 5 inches (114 mm) at the ends to 5 @. @ 5 inches (140 mm) amidships , except for a section of the bow between the upper and main decks . The armour extended 5 feet 9 inches (1 @. @ 8 m) below the waterline . A single 5 @. @ 5 @-@ inch transverse bulkhead protected the forward chase guns on the upper deck . The armour was backed by 10 inches (254 mm) of teak .

= = Construction and service = =

HMS Agincourt , named after the victory at the Battle of Agincourt in 1415 , was originally ordered on 2 September 1861 as HMS Captain , but her name was changed during construction . She was laid down on 30 October 1861 by Laird 's at its shipyard in Birkenhead . The ship was launched on 27 March 1865 , commissioned in June 1868 for sea trials and completed on 19 December . The lengthy delay in completion was due to frequent changes in design details , and experiments with her armament and with her sailing rig . The ship cost a total of £ 483 @, @ 003 .

Agincourt 's first assignment , together with her half @-@ sister Northumberland , was to tow a floating drydock from England to Madeira where it would be picked up by Warrior and Black Prince and taken to Bermuda . The ships departed the Nore on 23 June 1869 , loaded down with 500 long tons (510 t) of coal stowed in bags on their gun decks , and transferred the floating dock 11 days later after an uneventful voyage . Agincourt was assigned to the Channel Fleet upon her return and she became the flagship of the second @-@ in @-@ command of the fleet until she began a refit in 1873 .

= = = 1871 grounding on Pearl Rock = = =

It was during this assignment that she suffered a near @-@ catastrophe when she ran aground on Pearl Rock , near Gibraltar in 1871 and nearly sank . Agincourt was leading the inshore column of ships , contrary to normal practice where the senior flagship lead the inshore column , and gently ran aground sideways when the senior flagship 's navigator failed to compensate for the set of the tide . Warrior , immediately following her , nearly collided with her , but managed to sheer off in time .

Agincourt was stuck fast and had to be lightened ; her guns were removed and much of her coal was tossed overboard before she was towed off by Hercules , commanded by Lord Gilford , four days later . Heavy weather set in the night after Agincourt was freed and it would have wrecked her if she had still been aground . Both the fleet commander and his deputy were relieved of their commands as a result of the incident . The ship was repaired in Devonport and Captain J.O. Hopkins assumed command in September with Commander Charles Penrose @-@ Fitzgerald as

his executive officer . Hopkins later commented : " We turned the Agincourt from the noisiest and the worst disciplined ship in the squadron into the quietest and the smartest ; and a few months after we commissioned we went out to the Mediterranean for the Lord Clyde court @-@ martial , and beat the whole Mediterranean fleet in their drills and exercises , which was a great triumph . "

In 1873 , Vice Admiral Sir Geoffrey Hornby , commander of the Channel Fleet , transferred his flag to Agincourt as her sister Minotaur , his former flagship , was taken in hand for a refit that lasted until 1875 . That year Agincourt was paid off in turn for a refit and re @-@ armament that lasted until 1877 . During the Russo @-@ Turkish War of 1877 ? 78 , the government became concerned that the Russians might advance on the Ottoman capital of Constantinople and ordered Hornby to form a Particular Service Squadron to show the flag at Constantinople and deter any Russian threat . Agincourt served as the flagship for his second @-@ in @-@ command and the squadron sailed up the Dardanelles in a blinding snowstorm in February 1878 . After those tensions faded , the ship returned to the Channel , where she served as second flag until 1889 including during Queen Victoria 's Golden Jubilee Fleet Review in 1887 . Over her active career , she served as flagship to no less than 15 admirals . That year she was again paid off and was subsequently held in reserve at Portsmouth until 1893 , when she was transferred to Portland for use as a training ship .

Agincourt served twelve years at Portland , as a depot ship for boys . She was renamed Boscawen III in March , 1904 . In 1905 she was moved to Harwich and renamed as Ganges II . After four years at Harwich , Ganges II made her final journey , to Sheerness , in 1909 . After her arrival the old ship was converted into a coal hulk known simply as C.109. After five ignominious decades as what naval historian Oscar Parkes called " a grimy , dilapidated and incredibly shrunken relic " of her former self , she was scrapped beginning on 21 October 1960 .