

= HMS Cardiff ( D58 ) =

HMS Cardiff was a C @-@ class light cruiser built for the Royal Navy during World War I. She was one of the five ships of the Ceres sub @-@ class and spent most of her career as a flagship . Assigned to the Grand Fleet during the war , the ship participated in the Second Battle of Heligoland Bight in late 1917 . Cardiff was briefly deployed to the Baltic in late 1918 supporting anti @-@ Bolshevik forces during the British campaign in the Baltic during the Russian Civil War .

She was then transferred to the Mediterranean Fleet in early 1919 and spent most of the rest of the year in the Adriatic Sea . In early 1920 , the ship was in the Black Sea supporting the Whites against the Bolsheviks . Cardiff spent most of the rest of her time between the world wars overseas or in reserve . The ship played a minor role in World War II as she was initially assigned to the Northern Patrol , but became a training ship in late 1940 and continued in that role for the rest of the war . Cardiff was sold for scrap in early 1946 and subsequently broken up .

= = Design and description = =

The C @-@ class cruisers were intended to escort the fleet and defend it against enemy destroyers attempting to close within torpedo range . The Ceres sub @-@ class was a slightly larger and improved version of the preceding Caledon sub @-@ class . The ships were 450 feet 3 inches ( 137 @. @ 2 m ) long overall , with a beam of 43 feet 5 inches ( 13 @. @ 2 m ) and a mean draught of 14 feet 8 inches ( 4 @. @ 5 m ) . Displacement was 4 @, @ 190 long tons ( 4 @, @ 260 t ) at normal and 5 @, @ 020 long tons ( 5 @, @ 100 t ) at deep load . Cardiff was powered by two geared Parsons steam turbines , each driving one propeller shaft , which produced a total of 40 @, @ 000 shaft horsepower ( 30 @, @ 000 kW ) . The turbines used steam generated by six Yarrow boilers which gave her a speed of about 29 knots ( 54 km / h ; 33 mph ) . She carried 935 long tons ( 950 t ) tons of fuel oil . The ship had a crew of about 460 officers and other ranks .

The main armament of the Ceres @-@ class ships consisted of five BL 6 @-@ inch ( 152 mm ) Mk XII guns that were mounted on the centreline . While identical in number to the Caledons , the layout was considerably improved by moving the gun formerly between the bridge and fore funnel to a superfiring position over the forward gun with wider firing arc than in its old position , one was aft of the rear funnel , and the last two were in the stern , with one gun superfiring over the rearmost gun . The two QF 3 @-@ inch ( 76 mm ) 20 @-@ cwt anti @-@ aircraft ( AA ) guns were positioned abreast the fore funnel . The torpedo armament of the Ceres 's was identical to that of the Caledons , with eight 21 in ( 533 mm ) torpedo tubes in four twin mounts , two on each broadside . The Ceres class was protected by a waterline belt : 1 @. @ 5 ? 3 in ( 38 ? 76 mm ) thick and had a protective deck that was 1 in ( 25 mm ) thick over the steering gear . The walls of the conning tower had a thickness of 3 inches .

= = Construction and career = =

Cardiff , the second ship of her name to serve in the Royal Navy , was ordered in March ? April 1916 as part of the Repeat War Programme . The ship was laid down by Fairfield Shipbuilding and Engineering Company at their Govan shipyard on 22 July 1916 . She was launched on 12 April 1917 and completed on 25 June 1917 . She became flagship of the 6th Light Cruiser Squadron of the Grand Fleet the following month . Cardiff participated in the Second Battle of Heligoland Bight on 17 November 1917 . This was a successful attempt by the British to intercept German minesweeping forces that were clearing British minefields in the North Sea . The 6th LCS screened the two light Courageous @-@ class battlecruisers of the 1st Cruiser Squadron during the battle together with the 1st Light Cruiser Squadron . The British lost the German minesweepers in the smoke screen laid by the four German light cruisers and pursued the latter ships for most of the battle , although they inflicted little damage in the poor visibility caused by the German smoke . Cardiff fired the most of any ship in her squadron , but did not hit any German ships . She was , however , hit four or five times herself , killing seven crewmen and wounding thirteen , but was only

lightly damaged . Based at Scapa Flow and Rosyth during 1918 , the ship spent the remainder of the war escorting convoys and training in the northern portion of the North Sea . By 21 November 1918 the war was over , and Cardiff had the honour of leading the German High Seas Fleet to the Firth of Forth to be interned .

A few days later , the 6th LCS , under the command of Rear @-@ Admiral Edwyn Alexander @-@ Sinclair , was ordered to the Baltic Sea to support the Baltic States as they attempted to secure their independence from Russia . Together with her half @-@ sister Caradoc and five destroyers , the ship bombarded Bolshevik positions east of Reval ( Tallinn ) , Estonia , on 14 December and brought the Russian offensive to a halt after they destroyed the one bridge connecting them with Petrograd ( Saint Petersburg ) , Russia . The next day , her starboard AA gun was dismantled and given to the Estonians . The 6th LCS was recalled in early January 1919 and arrived back in Rosyth on 10 January .

Cardiff arrived at Portsmouth on 11 January to begin a refit that lasted until 27 February . Her conning tower may have been removed at this time and the bridge enlarged . On 10 March , she sailed for Malta to join her squadron , which had been renumbered as the 3rd Light Cruiser Squadron ( 3rd LCS ) and assigned to the Mediterranean Fleet while the ship was refitting , where she arrived on six days later . The squadron was assigned peacekeeping duties in the Adriatic for most of 1919 and Cardiff spent the time visiting various Adriatic ports or in Malta . She became the flagship of Rear @-@ Admiral George Hope on 1 September .

By 30 January 1920 , the ship was in Constantinople and Cardiff arrived at Odessa on 4 February and Admiral Hope concurred in the decision to evacuate the city in the face of the advancing Bolsheviks . The ship departed the city the next day , but returned on 11 February and Hope assumed command of all British forces in the city . By late March , the ship was stationed in the Crimea until the Whites were forced to evacuate in November . On 6 November , Cardiff picked up Charles I of Austria , the last Emperor of Austria and King of Hungary , and his wife , Zita at Sulina , Romania , and conveyed them to their exile in the Portuguese island of Madeira , where they arrived on 19 November . The ship was present during the Great Fire of Smyrna almost a year later in mid @-@ September 1922 , close to the end of the Greco @-@ Turkish War of 1919 ? 22 . She remained in the Mediterranean until 1929 when she went home for a lengthy refit . During Cardiff 's time in the Mediterranean , she was fitted with a pair of 2 @-@ pounder ( 40 mm ) Mk II " pom @-@ pom " AA guns in 1923 ? 24 and her original 9 @-@ foot ( 2 @-@ 7 m ) rangefinders was exchanged for 12 @-@ foot ( 3 @-@ 7 m ) models during the mid @-@ 1920s . From 1931 to May 1933 , she was assigned to the Africa Station as the flagship of the 6th Cruiser Squadron . The ship returned home that month and replaced her half @-@ sister Cambrian as flagship of the Nore Reserve in July . The following year , she was transferred to the Chatham Reserve as their flagship and participated in the Silver Jubilee Fleet review for King George V on 16 July 1935 . Cardiff was also present for the Coronation Fleet Review for King George VI on 20 May 1937 . The ship was considered for conversion into an anti @-@ aircraft cruiser in June 1938 , but programme delays caused the conversion to be pushed back . A month later , Cardiff was recommissioned for service with the 5th Cruiser Squadron on the China Station . The ship departed Hong Kong on 29 April 1939 for the UK where she was again placed in reserve .

= = = Second World War = = =

On the first day of the war on 3 September 1939 , Cardiff was assigned to the 12th Cruiser Squadron which was fruitlessly searching for returning German merchant ships in the North and Norwegian Seas . Several days later , she was assigned to patrol the gaps between the Shetland and Faeroe Islands and between the Faeroes and Iceland as part of the Northern Patrol . In late November , she fruitlessly searched for the German battleships Gneisenau and Scharnhorst after they sank the armed merchant cruiser , Rawalpindi , on the 23rd . On 12 June , Cardiff was tasked to suppress the German artillery batteries overlooking Saint @-@ Valery @-@ en @-@ Caux to prevent them from firing on British ships as they evacuated the troops there , but they were no longer visible from the sea when the ship arrived . The cruiser received six wounded men from the

coaster Cameo and returned to Portsmouth . Cardiff was converted for use as a gunnery training ship in October and served in that capacity for the rest of the war . The ship was fitted with six 20 @-@ millimeter ( 0 @.@ 8 in ) Oerlikon light AA guns and a Type 290 surface @-@ search radar by April 1942 . By late 1943 a Type 273 long @-@ range search radar had also been fitted . Cardiff was paid off on 3 September 1945 and sold for scrap to Arnott Young on 23 January 1946 . The ship was broken up in Dalmuir , Scotland , after she arrived there on 18 March .