

= SMS Heimdall =

SMS Heimdall was the fourth vessel of the six member Siegfried class of coastal defense ships (Küstenpanzerschiffe) built for the German Imperial Navy . Her sister ships were Siegfried , Beowulf , Frithjof , Hildebrand , and Hagen . Heimdall was built by the Kaiserliche Werft Wilhelmshaven shipyard between 1891 and 1894 , and was armed with a main battery of three 24 cm (9 1/2 in) guns . She served in the German fleet throughout the 1890s and was rebuilt in 1900 - 1902 . She served in the VI Battle Squadron after the outbreak of World War I in August 1914 , but saw no action . Heimdall was demobilized in 1915 and used as a barracks ship thereafter . She was ultimately broken up for scrap in 1921 .

= = Design = =

Heimdall was 79 meters (259 ft) long overall and had a beam of 14 m (49 ft) and a maximum draft of 5 m (18 1/2 ft) . She displaced 3 , 741 long tons (3 , 801 t) at full combat load . Her propulsion system consisted of two vertical 3 cylinder triple expansion engines . Steam for the engines was provided by four coal fired boilers . The ship 's propulsion system provided a top speed of 14 1/2 kn (27 1/2 km / h ; 16 1/2 mph) and a range of approximately 1 , 490 nautical miles (2 , 760 km ; 1 , 710 mi) at 10 kn (19 km / h ; 12 mph) . Heimdall had a crew of 20 officers and 256 enlisted men .

The ship was armed with three 24 cm K L / 35 guns mounted in three single gun turrets . Two were placed side by side forward , and the third was located aft of the main superstructure . They were supplied with a total of 204 rounds of ammunition . The ship was also equipped with eight 8 1/2 cm SK L / 30 guns in single mounts . Heimdall also carried four 35 cm (14 in) torpedo tubes , all in swivel mounts on the deck . One was at the bow , another at the stern , and two amidships . The ship was protected by an armored belt that was 240 mm (9 1/2 in) amidships , and an armored deck that was 30 mm (1 1/2 in) thick . The conning tower had 80 mm (3 1/4 in) thick sides . Heimdall 's armor consisted of new Krupp steel , a more effective type of armor than the compound steel the other members of the class received .

= = Service history = =

Heimdall was laid down in 1891 at the Kaiserliche Werft shipyard in Wilhelmshaven . She was launched on 27 July 1892 , and completed on 7 April 1894 . In 1897 , Heimdall participated in the annual summer maneuvers in the IV Division , along with Frithjof and Hagen . Her other three sisters were assigned to the III Division . Heimdall participated in the 1900 summer maneuvers , where she and Siegfried , Hildebrand , and Ägir simulated the hostile fleet . She served on active duty with the fleet until 1901 , when she was taken into drydock at the Kaiserliche Werft shipyard in Kiel for an extensive reconstruction . The ship was lengthened to 86 m (282 1/2 ft) , which increased displacement to 4 , 436 t (4 , 366 long tons ; 4 , 890 short tons) . Her old boilers were replaced with eight new Marine type boilers , and a second funnel was added . Her secondary battery was increased to ten 8 1/2 cm guns , and the 35 cm torpedo tubes were replaced with three 45 cm (18 in) tubes . Work was completed by 1902 .

After emerging from her modernization , she returned to service with the fleet , assigned to the II Squadron , alongside Hildebrand , Hagen , and Beowulf . She remained in the fleet until the outbreak of World War I in August 1914 , when she was mobilized into the VI Battle Squadron for coastal defense , along with her sister ships . On 31 August 1915 , the VI Battle Squadron was demobilized , and Heimdall 's crew was transferred to other warships . She was then used as a barracks ship in for U - boat crews , along with crews for the coastal defense flotillas stationed on the Ems river . On 17 June 1919 , she was stricken from the naval register . The navy planned to convert Heimdall into a salvage ship , but the plan fell through and she was instead sold and broken up for scrap in 1921 in Rönnebeck .