

= SMS Friedrich der Grosse (1874) =

For the battleship of the same name , see SMS Friedrich der Grosse (1911) .

SMS Friedrich der Grosse (or Große) was an armored frigate of the German Kaiserliche Marine . She was the second of three Preussen @-@ class ironclads , in addition to her two sister @-@ ships Preussen and Grosser Kurfürst . Named for Frederick the Great , she was laid down at the Imperial Dockyard in Kiel in 1871 and completed in 1877 . Her main battery of four 26 cm (10 in) guns was mounted pair of twin gun turrets amidships .

Friedrich der Grosse served with the fleet from her commissioning until 1896 , though she was frequently placed in reserve throughout her career . The ship was a regular participant in the annual fleet training maneuvers conducted with the exception of the mid @-@ 1880s , when she was temporarily replaced by newer vessels . She participated in several cruises in the Baltic and Mediterranean Seas , often escorting Kaiser Wilhelm II on official state visits . The ship was removed from active service in 1896 , after which she was used in secondary roles until 1919 , when she was stricken from the naval register and sold to a scrapyard . Friedrich der Grosse was broken up for scrap the following year .

= = Construction = =

Friedrich der Grosse was ordered by the Imperial Navy from the Imperial Dockyard in Kiel ; her keel was laid in 1871 under construction number 1 . The ship was launched on 20 September 1874 and commissioned into the German fleet on 22 November 1877 . Although laid down a year before her sister Preussen , Friedrich der Grosse was not completed until a year after ; this was because she was built at a newly established and inexperienced Imperial Dockyard , while Preussen was built by AG Vulcan , an experienced private shipbuilder . The ship cost the German government 7 @, @ 303 @, @ 000 gold marks .

The ship was 96 @. @ 59 meters (316 @. @ 9 ft) long overall and had a beam of 16 @. @ 30 m (53 @. @ 5 ft) and a draft of 7 @. @ 12 m (23 @. @ 4 ft) forward . Friedrich der Grosse was powered by one 3 @-@ cylinder single expansion steam engine , which was supplied with steam by six coal @-@ fired transverse trunk boilers . The ship 's top speed was 14 knots (26 km / h ; 16 mph) , at 4 @, @ 998 indicated horsepower (3 @, @ 727 kW) . She was also equipped with a full ship rig . Her standard complement consisted of 46 officers and 454 enlisted men .

She was armed with four 26 cm (10 @. @ 2 in) L / 22 guns mounted in a pair of gun turrets placed amidships . As built , the ship was also equipped with two 17 cm (6 @. @ 7 in) L / 25 chase guns . After being rebuilt in 1888 ? 1890 , her armament was increased by six and later ten 8 @. @ 8 cm (3 @. @ 5 in) L / 30 quick @-@ firing guns , a pair of machine guns , and five 35 cm (14 in) torpedo tubes , all placed in the ship 's hull below the waterline . Preussen 's armor was made of wrought iron and backed with teak . The armored belt was arrayed in two strakes . The upper strake was 203 mm (8 @. @ 0 in) thick ; the lower strake ranged in thickness from 102 to 229 mm (4 @. @ 0 to 9 @. @ 0 in) . Both were backed with 234 to 260 mm (9 @. @ 2 to 10 @. @ 2 in) of teak . The gun turrets were protected by 203 to 254 mm (8 @. @ 0 to 10 @. @ 0 in) armor on the sides , backed by 260 mm of teak .

= = Service history = =

After her commissioning in November 1877 , Friedrich der Grosse served with the fleet . In April 1878 , Friedrich der Grosse was reactivated to participate in the annual summer fleet maneuvers , under the command of Rear Admiral Carl Ferdinand Batsch . Her newly commissioned sister @-@ ship , Grosser Kurfürst , joined the squadron shortly before maneuvers were scheduled to begin . At the time , Friedrich der Grosse suffered from mechanical problems , and on 22 May , she ran aground off Nyborg while steaming from Kiel to Wilhelmshaven . The ship suffered serious damage to her hull , which , coupled with her chronic engine problems , forced her to miss the fleet maneuvers . While the squadron steamed in the English Channel on 31 May , the armored frigate

König Wilhelm accidentally rammed Grosser Kurfürst ; the latter quickly sank with the loss of 276 men .

In the aftermath of the loss of Grosser Kurfürst , the Navy canceled the summer 1878 maneuvers . Apart from the small ironclad Hansa , all armored warships were put in reserve until the following year . In May 1879 , the armored squadron was reactivated , under the command of Rear Admiral Franz Kinderling . Friedrich der Grosse and Preussen were joined by the older ironclads Friedrich Carl and Kronprinz ; the squadron remained in the Baltic for the majority of the training period . Kinderling took his four ships out into the North Sea in June for a visit to Norway . The four ships returned to Kiel in September , when the squadron was disbanded for the winter .

In the spring of 1880 , the squadron was again reestablished . The new armored corvette Sachsen replaced Kronprinz in the squadron that year . Wilhelm von Wickede , a former Austrian naval officer , replaced Kinderling as the squadron commander . In June , the Italian frigate Cristoforo Colombo visited the armored squadron in Kiel . Again , the squadron remained in the Baltic for the summer cruise , with the exception of a short visit to Wilhelmshaven and Cuxhaven in August . The summer cruise in 1881 followed the same pattern as the year previous , though Kronprinz returned in place of Sachsen , which was plagued with engine problems . Wickede again served as the commander . In July , the ships hosted a visit by the British reserve squadron , which by this time included the first British ironclad , HMS Warrior . Preussen and the rest of the squadron visited Danzig in September during a meeting between Kaiser Wilhelm I and the Russian Tsar Alexander III .

The 1882 summer cruise included the same four ironclads from the previous year , and was again commanded by Wickede , who had by then been promoted to Rear Admiral . Friedrich der Grosse was kept in reserve during the annual summer maneuvers starting in 1883 , as new ships , including the rest of the Sachsen @-@ class ironclads entered service . The ship was reactivated in July 1888 to participate in a tour of the Baltic for the newly enthroned Kaiser Wilhelm II . The voyage included visits to St. Petersburg , Stockholm , and Copenhagen . They met Tsar Alexander III and the Swedish King Oscar II , who inspected the German warships and conferred decorations on the senior officers .

In August 1889 , Friedrich der Grosse participated in Kaiser Wilhelm II 's visit to Great Britain . The ship was assigned to the II Division , along with her sister Preussen and the central battery ironclads Kaiser and Deutschland , under command of Rear Admiral Friedrich Hollmann . The fleet then conducted maneuvers in the North Sea before returning to Germany . Friedrich der Grosse and the rest of the II Division became the training squadron for the fleet in 1889 ? 1890 , the first year the Kaiserliche Marine maintained a year @-@ round ironclad force . The squadron escorted Wilhelm II 's imperial yacht to the Mediterranean ; the voyage included state visits to Italy and the Ottoman Empire . The squadron remained in the Mediterranean until April 1890 , when it returned to Germany .

Friedrich der Grosse participated in the ceremonial transfer of the island of Helgoland from British to German control in the summer of 1890 . She was present during the fleet maneuvers in September , where the entire eight @-@ ship armored squadron simulated a Russian fleet blockading Kiel . The II Division , including Friedrich der Grosse , served as the training squadron in the winter of 1890 ? 1891 . The squadron again cruised the Mediterranean , under the command of Rear Admiral Wilhelm Schröder . Friedrich der Grosse again saw service in the II Division in the winter of 1891 ? 1892 and the 1892 maneuvers , under the command of Rear Admiral Hans Koester .

The ship participated in the 1893 maneuvers , which included a simulation of a French naval attack in the North Sea . The following year , Friedrich der Grosse , König Wilhelm , and Deutschland joined the new battleship Brandenburg as re @-@ designated II Division of the Maneuver Squadron , under the command of Rear Admiral Otto von Diederichs . The ships simulated a Russian attack on Germany 's Baltic coast in the 1894 maneuvers . She was reduced to a harbor ship on 16 November 1896 . The ship was stricken from the active register on 21 May 1906 , after which she was used as a coal hulk for torpedo boats . Friedrich der Grosse served in this capacity until after the end of World War I ; she was removed from the naval register on 27 January 1919 . She was sold to shipbreakers and broken up for scrap the following year in Rönnebeck .