

= HMS Hogue ( 1900 ) =

HMS Hogue was a Cressy class armoured cruiser built for the Royal Navy around 1900 . Upon completion she was assigned to the Channel Fleet and the China Station . In 1906 she became a training ship for the North America and West Indies Station before being placed in reserve in 1908 . Recommissioned at the start of World War I , she played a minor role in the Battle of Heligoland Bight a few weeks after the beginning of the war . Hogue was sunk by the German submarine U 9 , together with two of her sister ships , on 22 September 1914 . Unlike her sisters , only 48 of her crew were killed in the attack .

= = Design and description = =

Hogue was designed to displace 12 000 long tons ( 12 000 t ) . The ship had an overall length of 472 feet ( 143.9 m ) , a beam of 69 feet 6 inches ( 21.2 m ) and a deep draught of 26 feet 9 inches ( 8.2 m ) . She was powered by two 4 cylinder triple expansion steam engines , each driving one shaft , which produced a total of 21 000 indicated horsepower ( 15 660 kW ) using steam provided by 30 Belleville boilers . The engines were designed to give a maximum speed of 21 knots ( 39 km / h ; 24 mph ) , although Hogue reached 22.06 knots ( 40.86 km / h ; 25.39 mph ) with 21 432 indicated horsepower ( 15 982 kW ) on her sea trials . She carried a maximum of 1 600 long tons ( 1 600 t ) of coal and her complement ranged from 725 to 760 officers and enlisted men .

Her main armament consisted of two breech loading ( BL ) 9.2 inch ( 234 mm ) Mk X guns in single gun turrets , one each fore and aft of the superstructure . They fired 380 pound ( 170 kg ) shells to a range of 15 500 yards ( 14 200 m ) . Her secondary armament of twelve BL 6 inch Mk VII guns was arranged in casemates amidships . Eight of these were mounted on the main deck and were only usable in calm weather . They had a maximum range of approximately 12 200 yards ( 11 200 m ) with their 100 pound ( 45 kg ) shells . A dozen quick firing ( QF ) 12 pounder 12 cwt guns were fitted for defence against torpedo boats , eight on casemates on the upper deck and four in the superstructure . The ship also carried three 3 pounder Hotchkiss guns and two submerged 18 inch torpedo tubes .

The ship 's waterline armour belt had a maximum thickness of 6 inches ( 152 mm ) and was closed off by 5 inch ( 127 mm ) transverse bulkheads . The armour of the gun turrets and their barbettes was 6 inches thick while the casemate armour was 5 inches thick . The protective deck armour ranged in thickness from 1 ? 3 inches ( 25 ? 76 mm ) and the conning tower was protected by 12 inches ( 305 mm ) of armour .

= = Construction and service = =

Hogue , named after the 1692 Battle of La Hogue , was laid down on 14 July 1898 by Vickers , Sons & Maxim at their Barrow in Furness shipyard and launched on 13 August 1900 . She arrived at Plymouth to begin fitting out in September 1901 , and commenced her sea trials in early December . Hogue was completed on 19 November 1902 and assigned to the Channel Fleet until 1904 . On 11 March she collided with the merchant ship SS Meurthe off Europa Point . Later that year she was transferred to the China Station after a refit .

Two years later Hogue became the boys ' training ship for the 4th Cruiser Squadron on the North America and West Indies Station . She was reduced to reserve at Devonport in 1908 and then assigned to the reserve Third Fleet at the Nore the next year . On 26 November 1909 a coal bunker explosion killed two crewmen . The ship received a lengthy refit at Chatham Dockyard in 1912 ? 13 and was assigned to the 7th Cruiser Squadron shortly after the outbreak of World War I in August 1914 .

The squadron was tasked with patrolling the Broad Fourteens of the North Sea in support of a force of destroyers and submarines based at Harwich which protected the eastern end of the English

Channel from German warships attempting to attack the supply route between England and France . During the Battle of Heligoland Bight on 28 August , the ship was part of Cruiser Force ' C ' , in reserve off the Dutch coast , and saw no action . Hogue did , however , tow the heavily damaged light cruiser Arethusa , flagship of the commander of the Harwich Force , Commodore Reginald Tyrwhitt , back to port after the battle was over .

= = = Fate = = =

On the morning of 22 September , Hogue and her sisters , Aboukir and Cressy , were on patrol without any escorting destroyers as they had been forced to seek shelter from bad weather . The three sisters were in line abreast , about 2 @, @ 000 yards ( 1 @, @ 800 m ) apart , at a speed of 10 knots ( 19 km / h ; 12 mph ) . They were not expecting submarine attack , but they had lookouts posted and had one gun manned on each side to attack any submarines sighted . The weather had moderated earlier that morning and Tyrwhitt was en route to reinforce the cruisers with eight destroyers .

U @-@ 9 , commanded by Kapitänleutnant Otto Weddigen , had been ordered to attack British transports at Ostend , but had been forced to dive and take shelter from the storm . On surfacing , she spotted the British ships and moved to attack . She fired one torpedo at 06 : 20 at Aboukir that struck her on the starboard side ; the ship 's captain thought he had struck a mine and ordered the other two ships to close to transfer his wounded men . Aboukir quickly began listing and capsized around 06 : 55 . As Hogue approached her sinking sister , Captain Wilmot Nicholson realized that it had been a submarine attack and signalled Cressy to look for a periscope although his ship continued to close on Aboukir as her crew threw overboard anything that would float to aid the survivors in the water . Having stopped and lowered all her boats , Hogue was struck by two torpedoes around 06 : 55 . The sudden weight loss of the two torpedoes caused U @-@ 9 to broach the surface and Hogue 's gunners opened fire without effect before the submarine could submerge again . The cruiser capsized about ten minutes after being torpedoed as all of her watertight doors had been open and sank at 07 : 15 .

Cressy attempted to ram the submarine , but did not hit anything and resumed her rescue efforts until she too was torpedoed at 07 : 20 . She too took on a heavy list and then capsized before sinking at 07 : 55 . Several Dutch ships began rescuing survivors at 08 : 30 and were joined by British fishing trawlers before Tyrwhitt and his ships arrived at 10 : 45 . The combined total from all three ships was 837 men rescued and 62 officers and 1 @, @ 397 enlisted men lost . Of these , Hogue lost a total of 48 men .

In 1954 the British government sold the salvage rights to all three ships to a German company and they were subsequently sold again to a Dutch salvage company which began salvaging the wrecks ' metal in 2011 .