

= HMS Cyclops (1871) =

HMS Cyclops was the lead ship of the Cyclops class breastwork monitors built for the Royal Navy during the 1870s . The ships were ordered to satisfy demands for local defence during the war scare of 1870 , but the pace of construction slowed down tremendously as the perceived threat of war declined . The ship spent most of her career in reserve ; her only sustained period in commission was four months in Portland Harbour , during the Russo - Turkish War in 1878 when the British were trying to force the Russians to end the war without allowing them to seize Constantinople . Cyclops was sold for scrap in 1903 .

= = Design and description = =

The Cyclops class ships were modified versions of the Cerberus class . The ships had a length between perpendiculars of 225 feet (68 . 6 m) , a beam of 45 feet (13 . 7 m) , and a draught of 16 feet 3 inches (4 . 95 m) at deep load . They displaced 3 , 480 long tons (3 , 540 t) . Their crew consisted of 156 officers and men . The ships had two 4 - cylinder inverted compound steam engines , each driving a single propeller shaft . The engines produced a total of 1 , 528 indicated horsepower (1 , 139 kW) on 30 December 1871 during the ship 's sea trials which gave her a maximum speed of 10 . 79 knots (19 . 98 km / h ; 12 . 42 mph) . Cyclops carried 250 long tons (250 t) of coal , enough to steam 3 , 000 nautical miles (5 , 600 km ; 3 , 500 mi) at 10 knots (19 km / h ; 12 mph) .

The ships mounted four 10 - inch rifled muzzle loading guns in twin gun turrets fore and aft of the superstructure . The guns could fire both solid shot and explosive shells . They were mounted on carriages that used hydraulic jacks to elevate and depress the guns .

The Cyclops class had a complete waterline belt of wrought iron that was 8 inches (203 mm) thick amidships and thinned to 6 inches (152 mm) at the ends . The superstructure and conning tower was fully armoured , the reason it was called a breastwork , with 8 ? 9 inches (203 ? 229 mm) of wrought iron . The gun turrets had 10 inches on their faces and 9 inches on the sides and rear . All of the vertical armour was backed by 9 ? 11 inches (229 ? 279 mm) of teak . The decks were 1 . 5 inches (38 . 1 mm) thick .

= = Construction = =

HMS Cyclops was laid down on 10 September 1870 by the Thames Ironworks in London . She was launched on 18 July 1871 and commissioned in January 1872 . The ship was towed to Devonport that same month for what proved to be a very lengthy fitting out period that was not completed until 4 May 1877 . Cyclops cost £ 156 , 782 to build .

= = = Refit = = =

Although a recommendation had been made while the ships were still under construction to extend the superstructure out to the sides of the ship to improve their stability and habitability , this was not acted upon until they were refitted during the 1880s . This refit also strengthened the breastwork and upper decks , added another watertight bulkhead as well as a false keel . Four quick firing 3 - pounder Hotchkiss guns were added on the breastwork for torpedo boat defence as well as five machine guns and several searchlights . This increased their crew to approximately 191 men and added 80 long tons (81 t) to their displacement .

= = Service = =

HMS Cyclops was the third ship to be completed , although she was the lead ship of the class . She was placed in 1st Class Reserve after her completion . The ship , along with her sisters , was commissioned between April and August 1878 during the Russo - Turkish War for service with

Admiral Sir Cooper Key 's Particular Service Squadron in Portland Harbour . Cyclops was paid off at Chatham in August 1878 and refitted in 1887 ? 89 . All four ships of the class participated in the annual fleet manoeuvres in 1887 , 1889 ? 90 and 1892 ; in between times they were in Fleet Reserve . HMS Cyclops , like all of her sisters , was placed on the non @-@ effective list in January 1902 , transferred to the E Division of the Dockyard Reserve at Sheerness in May 1902 , and sold on 7 July 1903 for £ 8 @,@ 400 .