SMS Arcona

SMS Arcona was the ninth member of the ten @-@ ship Gazelle class , built by the Imperial German Navy , and named after Cape Arkona on the German island of Rügen . She was built by the AG Weser dockyard in Bremen , laid down in 1901 , launched in April 1902 , and commissioned into the High Seas Fleet in May 1903 . Armed with a main battery of ten 10 @.@ 5 cm (4 @.@ 1 in) guns and two 45 cm (18 in) torpedo tubes , Arcona was capable of a top speed of 21 @.@ 5 knots (39 @.@ 8 km / h ; 24 @.@ 7 mph) .

Arcona served in all three German navies in the first half of the 20th century . She served both with the fleet and abroad during her career in the Imperial Navy in the early 1900s . In World War I , she was used as a coastal defense ship and then as a support vessel for the U @-@ boat campaign in the Atlantic . After the war , she served briefly in the Reichsmarine before being withdrawn and used for secondary duties . After the German Navy became the Kriegsmarine in 1935 , it rebuilt Arcona as a floating anti @-@ aircraft battery and used her to defend several German ports during World War II . She was scuttled in the final days of the war , and broken up for scrap in 1948 ? 1949 .

Construction

Arcona was ordered under the contract name " H " and was laid down at the AG Weser shipyard in Bremen in 1901 and launched on 22 April 1902 , after which fitting @-@ out work commenced . She was commissioned into the High Seas Fleet on 12 May 1903 . The ship was 105 meters (344 ft) long overall and had a beam of 12 @.@ 4 m (41 ft) and a draft of 4 @.@ 99 m (16 @.@ 4 ft) forward . She displaced 3 @,@ 180 t (3 @,@ 130 long tons ; 3 @,@ 510 short tons) at full combat load . Her propulsion system consisted of two triple @-@ expansion engines manufactured by AG Weser . They were designed to give 8 @,@ 000 shaft horsepower (6 @,@ 000 kW) , for a top speed of 21 @.@ 5 knots (39 @.@ 8 km / h ; 24 @.@ 7 mph) . The engines were powered by eight coal @-@ fired Marine @-@ type water @-@ tube boilers . Arcona carried 700 tonnes (690 long tons) of coal , which gave her a range of 4 @,@ 400 nautical miles (8 @,@ 100 km ; 5 @,@ 100 mi) at 12 knots (22 km / h ; 14 mph) . She had a crew of 14 officers and 256 enlisted men .

The ship was armed with ten 10 @.@ 5 cm SK L / 40 guns in single mounts . Two were placed side by side forward on the forecastle , six were located amidships , three on either side , and two were placed side by side aft . The guns could engage targets out to 12 @,@ 200 m (40 @,@ 000 ft) . They were supplied with 1 @,@ 500 rounds of ammunition , for 150 shells per gun . She was also equipped with two 45 cm (17 @.@ 7 in) torpedo tubes with five torpedoes . They were submerged in the hull on the broadside . The ship was protected by an armored deck that was 20 to 25 mm (0 @.@ 79 to 0 @.@ 98 in) thick . The conning tower had 80 mm (3 @.@ 1 in) thick sides , and the guns were protected by 50 mm (2 @.@ 0 in) thick shields .

Service history

After her commissioning , Arcona was assigned to the fleet reconnaissance forces . In 1905 , she was assigned to the Cruiser Division , alongside her sister Frauenlob and the cruisers Hamburg and Friedrich Carl . Arcona was assigned to overseas duty in 1907 , which lasted for three years . In 1909 , Arcona cruised the Pacific coast on the United States , including a stop in Honolulu . While there , on 10 December , she assisted the British merchant ship Celtic Chief , which had run aground on a reef outside Honolulu . After the ship had been lightened by removing its cargo , Arcona pulled the merchantman free from the reef .

Arcona returned to Germany in 1910 and resumed service with the fleet . She was modernized in the Imperial Dockyard in Wilhelmshaven in 1911 ? 1912 . Two of the ship 's 10 @.@ 5 cm guns were removed , and two 50 cm (20 in) deck @-@ mounted torpedo tubes were installed , along with provisions to carry 200 naval mines . After returning to duty in 1913 , the ship was withdrawn from front @-@ line service for use as a mine warfare test ship . The two guns removed in 1912 were reinstalled in 1914 . After the outbreak of World War I in August 1914 , Arcona was employed

as a coastal defense vessel . Later in the war , Arcona was transferred to the Ems estuary , where she coordinated radio communications with the U @-@ boats attacking British merchant shipping .

 After the end of the war , Germany was charged with sweeping all naval mines in the North Sea by the Treaty of Versailles . Arcona was used as a depot ship for the minesweepers engaged in this duty , from 1919 to 1920 . She was thereafter commissioned into the newly reorganized Reichsmarine in 1921 and served until 1923 , when she was withdrawn from service . She was stricken on 15 January 1930 and used as a barracks ship initially in Wilhelmshaven , after 1936 , in Swinemünde by the newly renamed Kriegsmarine , and in Kiel after 1938 , where she remained until the outbreak of World War II in September 1939 .

 In May 1940 , Arcona was converted into a floating anti @-@ aircraft battery in Swinemünde , where she was stationed initially . Her armament now consisted of one 10 @.@ 5 cm SK C / 32 gun , four 10 @.@ 5 cm SK C / 33 guns , two 3 @.@ 7 cm SK C / 30 guns , and four 2 cm guns . She was later moved to Wilhelmshaven , where she was assigned to Naval Anti @-@ Aircraft Group 233 , and she was transferred to Brunsbüttel later in the war . In closing days of the war in Europe , her crew scuttled the ship to prevent her from being captured , on 3 May 1945 . Nevertheless , the Royal Navy took control of the naval installation at Brunsbüttel on 7 May , after the German surrender . Arcona was among the warships that were seized , including four U @-@ boats and the badly damaged destroyer Z31 . Their German crews unloaded ammunition and removed weapons from the ships under British supervision . She was subsequently broken up for scrap in 1948 ? 1949 .