

HMS Astrea – Sgt FW Hemmings

(from Wikipedia)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HMS_Astraea_\(1893\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HMS_Astraea_(1893))

see also http://www.naval-history.net/OWShips-WW1-05-HMS_Astraea.htm

HMS Astrea was serving off East Africa at Zanzibar when the First World War broke out, and the squadron was initially assigned to protect British Empire shipping travelling on the trade routes around the African coast. On 8 August 1914 *Astraea* bombarded Dar-es-Salaam, part of the German colony of German East Africa. *Astraea*'s guns destroyed a radio station, and fearing an imminent landing, the German authorities scuttled their floating dock to block the harbour. This had the subsequent effect of preventing the German commerce raider SMS *Königsberg* from being able to return to the port. *Astraea* was later one of the ships assigned to hunt and blockade *Königsberg* in the Rufiji Delta.

In May 1915 *Astraea* became the ship of the senior naval officer assigned to support the invasion of Kamarun, replacing the cruiser *Challenger* in the role.

