



Tender ship - Elbe Class (type 404)

GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS

Tender ship : ELBE Class (type 404)

Length: 100.6 m

Beam: 15.8 m

Draft: 3.8 m

Displacement : 3.263 t

Speed : 15 kts

Propulsive power: 2.452 (3.300 HP)

Source: German Navy
www.marine.de

OVERVIEW

The tender "Werra" is the fourth ship out of a series of 6 units of the class 404, in accordance with the name of the type-ship also called "Elbe"-class. She was built at the FSG-shipyard in Flensburg, where the keel was laid down on December 29, 1992. The hull was launched on June 17, 1993 and simultaneously the ship was baptized. After completion of sea trials the new tender was commissioned on December 09, 1993. The "Werra" is the second naval ship with the same name. Until the late 1980-years the German Navy already had a tender called "Werra", belonging as supply unit to a Fast Patrol Boat Squadron. The tender has been named after the Werra, a river in the middle of Germany. The crest of the ship at the same time is the crest of Eschwege, a town being placed on the river Werra. This town has taken a godparenthood to ship and crew, which was already existing when the first tender "Werra" was in service. So Mrs. Margret Zick, the wife of the Mayor of Eschwege, was named as godmother for the christening ceremony. Originally the "Werra" belonged to the 3rd Minesweeping-Squadron and was home based in Olpenitz in the Western Baltic. Since 2006 her new home port has been Kiel, the capital of the state of Schleswig-Holstein. After a re-structuring she now belongs to the 5th Minesweeping-Squadron. The tenders are supply units. Their main task is logistic support for Fast Patrol Boats and Minesweepers. Basically they are delivering fuel, water, food and ammunition to the boats. Additionally they provide technical assistance. Therefore up to 24 standard 20-feet-containers with workshops, laboratories, spare parts and other material can be embarked. For any kind of support the boats are coming alongside, either underway or at anchor. For heavy loads a crane is available and for helicopter operations the ships are fitted with a flight deck. The 404 class tenders were designed and built on merchant ship standards. The propulsion system consists of a single Diesel engine driving a single shaft and single propeller. A propulsion power of 2.450 kilowatt (or 3.300 HP) enables the ship with a displacement of roughly 3.200 tons to sail with a maximum speed of 15 knots. For self defence the ships are equipped with two 27mm-super rapid firing naval light guns, anti-air-missiles STINGER (man pads) and several machine guns.

The crew of the tender consists of 66 male and female soldiers. Other personnel can be embarked additionally, as for example technicians for assistance of Fast Patrol Boats or Minesweepers. Apart from that the tenders are designed as command ships for boat squadrons. So they additionally can embark a Task Group Commander or Squadron Commander and his staff element. When the ship is completely manned there will be up to 103 crewmembers aboard. The unit participated in several international missions and exercises. She was flagship in one of the Standing NATO Mine Countermeasures Groups and she was deployed to the United Nations Mission UNIFIL off the coast of Lebanon already 4 times.

Werra has already taken part to EUNAVFOR MED operation SOPHIA from 30 June to 14 October 2015.

The tender "Werra" looks back on a very successful lifetime history of more than 20 years.



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