

= HMS Tabard (P342) =

HMS Tabard was a British submarine of the third group of the T class . She was built by Scotts , Greenock , and launched on 21 November 1945 . So far she has been the only boat of the Royal Navy to bear the name Tabard , after the item of clothing . Having been launched after the war , she was selected , along with a number of boats of her class , to try out new streamlining techniques based on the German Type XXIII submarine . In May 1963 , she was involved in a collision with HMAS Queenborough , and on 10 February 1964 she underwent exercises with HMAS Melbourne and HMAS Voyager in the hours before their collision . When she returned to the UK , she became the static training submarine at the shore establishment HMS Dolphin , until 1974 when she was sold and broken up .

= = Design and description = =

Tabard had been originally ordered from Vickers Armstrong , Barrow , but the orders were switched to Scotts Shipbuilding and Engineering Company , Greenock . Ordered as P. 342 , she was named Tabard in May 1943 after the Tabard , the official dress of a herald , and she is the only boat of the Royal Navy to bear the name . She was laid down on 6 September 1944 , and launched on 21 November 1945 before being completed on 25 June 1946 . It was one of fourteen boats ordered under the 1942 Programme , and was one of the five which were completed . Unlike some of the earlier boats of its class , it was not equipped with a 4 inch gun with a full shield , rather than a standard open gun mounting . Further aft , she had an Oerlikon 20 mm cannon mounting which was modified for boats by having holes cut in the pedestal for drainage . Being from the third group , she has an all ? welded hull , which increased her diving depth to 350 feet (110 m) .

Following post war tests by the British Navy on German Type XXIII submarines , it was decided by the Admiralty to modify eight T @-@ class submarines to enlarge the batteries , increase the power of the motors and streamline the hulls . In 1950 , Tarbard 's pressure hull was cut at the after end of the engine room and the submarine was lengthened by 20 feet (6 @.@ 1 m) . This gave enough room to add an additional battery compartment and a second pair of electric motors . The propulsion system was changed from direct to diesel ? electric transmission . Along with HMS Trump , Tabard was one of two boats which were further modified by incorporating their bridge into a streamlined fin . Other streamlining adjustments were made to the hull with all external fittings removed , including the external torpedo tubes and gun . The periscopes , radar masts , snort mast and wireless mast were all incorporated into the new bridge fin .

= = Service = =

Tabard was commissioned after the end of the Second World War , initially being sent for Mediterranean duties . In March 1949 , she was one of a number of ships to take part in Operation Two Step , a training exercise which combined the bulk of the Home Fleet with the Mediterranean Fleet to make up the biggest concentration of British ships since Operation Torch in November 1942 . On 17 January 1950 , along with HMS Chequers carrying Prince Philip , Duke of Edinburgh , she escorted HMS Surprise carrying Admiral Sir Arthur Power to meet with Ibn Saud of Saudi Arabia for talks at Jeddah . While being refitted in Malta during June 1950 , she was damaged by electrical cables being installed by a disgruntled workman . Reports in the British media arose a little over a month later , mistakenly attributing the damage to HMS Teredo . On 18 December 1950 , she rescued Roi Wilson , later captain of the Old Royal Naval College , after he and his observer James Hawker had downed their Fairey Firefly .

In 1960 , Tabard along with Taciturn and Trump , joined the 4th Submarine Squadron in Sydney , Australia . She underwent a refit at Cockatoo Island in Sydney between 9 January 1961 and 26 March 1962 , becoming the submarine to be refitted there . There , they operated with units of the Far East Fleet , the Royal Australian Navy , and the Royal New Zealand Navy . In April 1963 she collided with a wharf when docking in Brisbane , damaging her ASDIC sonar equipment . On 8 May ,

Tabard was involved in a further minor collision with Royal Australian Navy frigate HMAS Queenborough , following a week of anti @-@ submarine training exercises . Tabard was at periscope depth when Queenborough passed above her , bending the submarine 's fin and the frigate 's keel and port propeller . Both vessels were able to safely return to Sydney , where they docked at naval base HMAS Kuttabul for repairs .

On 10 February 1964 , she participated in anti ? submarine exercises with the aircraft carrier HMAS Melbourne and the destroyer HMAS Voyager , finishing at 1800 hours that day . Less than three hours later , Voyager sailed under Melbourne 's bow and was cut in two and sunk , killing 82 of her crew in what was to become known as the Voyager Incident . Later that year in June , she participated in the NEWS EX anti ? submarine exercise in the Hauraki Gulf off the coast of New Zealand .

She underwent a second refit at Cockatoo Island between 9 October 1964 and 10 December 1965 , due to the extensive repairs required to her fin , casings and salt water systems . Following the establishment of the 1st Australian Submarine Squadron in 1967 , the 4th Submarine Squadron returned to the UK , however Tabard along with Trump remained behind on loan to the Royal Australian Navy . Tabard returned to the United Kingdom in March 1968 . She was permanently moored as a static training submarine at the HMS Dolphin shore @-@ establishment from 1969 until 1974 , when she was replaced by HMS Alliance .

Tabard was the last T @-@ class boat in service with Royal Navy , albeit non @-@ operationally . She was finally sold for scrap on 2 January 1974 , arriving at the breakers on 14 March 1974 . During her service , she spent two years in the Mediterranean and eight years in Australia , covering 253 @,@ 349 miles .