

= USS Conyngham (DD @-@ 58) =

USS Conyngham (Destroyer No. 58 / DD @-@ 58) was a Tucker @-@ class destroyer built for the United States Navy prior to the American entry into World War I. The ship was the first U.S. Navy vessel named for Gustavus Conyngham .

Conyngham was laid down by the William Cramp and Sons of Philadelphia , in July 1914 and launched in July of the following year . The ship was a little more than 315 feet (96 m) in length , just over 30 feet (9 @. @ 1 m) abeam , and had a standard displacement of 1 @, @ 090 long tons (1 @, @ 110 t) . She was armed with four 4 @-@ inch (10 cm) guns and had eight 21 @-@ inch (530 mm) torpedo tubes . Conyngham was powered by a pair of steam turbines that propelled her at up to 29 @. @ 5 knots (54 @. @ 6 km / h) .

After her January 1916 commissioning , Conyngham sailed in the Atlantic and the Caribbean . After the United States entered World War I in April 1917 , Conyngham was part of the first U.S. destroyer squadron sent overseas . Patrolling the Irish Sea out of Queenstown , Ireland , Conyngham made several rescues of passengers and crew from ships sunk by U @-@ boats . Conyngham 's commander was commended for actions related to what was thought at the time to be a " probable " kill of a German submarine .

Upon returning to the United State in December 1918 , Conyngham underwent repairs at the Boston Navy Yard . She remained there in reduced commission through 1921 , with only brief episodes of activity . After returning to active service for about a year , she was decommissioned in June 1922 . In June 1924 , Conyngham was transferred to the United States Coast Guard to help enforce Prohibition as a part of the " Rum Patrol " . She operated under the name USCGC Conyngham (CG @-@ 2) until 1933 , when she was returned to the Navy . Later that year , the ship was renamed DD @-@ 58 to free the name Conyngham for another destroyer . She was sold for scrap in August 1934 .

= = Design and construction = =

Conyngham was authorized in 1913 as the second ship of the Tucker class which , like the related O'Brien class , was an improved version of the Cassin @-@ class destroyers authorized in 1911 . Construction of the vessel was awarded to William Cramp and Sons of Philadelphia , which laid down her keel on 27 July 1914 . Twelve months later , on 8 July 1915 , Conyngham was launched by sponsor Miss A. C. Stevens , a great @-@ great @-@ granddaughter of the ship 's namesake , Gustavus Conyngham (1744 ? 1819) , a Continental Navy officer . As built , Conyngham was 315 feet 3 inches (96 @. @ 09 m) in length and 30 feet 6 inches (9 @. @ 30 m) abeam and drew 9 feet 4 inches (2 @. @ 84 m) . The ship had a standard displacement of 1 @, @ 090 long tons (1 @, @ 110 t) and displaced 1 @, @ 205 long tons (1 @, @ 224 t) when fully loaded .

Conyngham had two Curtis steam turbines that drove her two screw propellers , and an additional steam turbine geared to one of the propeller shafts for cruising purposes . The power plant could generate 18 @, @ 000 shaft horsepower (13 @, @ 000 kW) and move the ship at speeds up to 29 @. @ 5 knots (54 @. @ 6 km / h) .

Conyngham 's main battery consisted of four 4 @-@ inch (102 mm) / 50 Mark 9 guns , with each gun weighing in excess of 6 @, @ 100 pounds (2 @, @ 800 kg) . The guns fired 33 @-@ pound (15 kg) armor @-@ piercing projectiles at 2 @, @ 900 feet per second (880 m / s) . At an elevation of 20 ° , the guns had a range of 15 @, @ 920 yards (14 @, @ 560 m) .

Conyngham was also equipped with eight 21 @-@ inch (533 mm) torpedo tubes . The General Board of the United States Navy had called for two anti @-@ aircraft guns for the Tucker @-@ class ships , as well as provisions for laying up to 36 floating mines . From sources , it is unclear if these recommendations were followed for Conyngham or any of the other ships of the class .

= = Early career = =

USS Conyngham was commissioned into the United States Navy on 21 January 1916 under the

command of Lieutenant Commander A. W. Johnson . Following her commissioning , Conyngham joined in tactics and war maneuvers off the east coast in 1916 and in the beginning of 1917 sailed to the Caribbean for war games and fleet maneuvers . Returning to Norfolk , Virginia on 23 March , she joined 5th Naval District Patrol Force and with Wadsworth and Sampson patrolled the approaches to Chesapeake Bay .

= = World War I = =

On 24 April 1917 Conyngham sailed from Boston , Massachusetts with her division for Queenstown , Ireland , the first destroyers to join English forces for duty after the entry of the United States into World War I earlier that month . This force patrolled off the Irish coast and escorted convoys through the danger zone where German submarine operated .

The destroyers also providing rescue services for stricken ships . When the British ship Karina was torpedoed and sunk by German submarine UC @-@ 75 on 17 August 1917 , Conyngham sped to her assistance and rescued 39 survivors . A similar distress call from the British ship Hartland on 22 November ? torpedoed by German submarine U @-@ 97 ? resulted in the rescue of her 30 @-@ man crew by Conyngham .

The British Armed merchant cruiser Orama and ten destroyers , including Conyngham , were escorting an eastbound convoy of twenty steamers on 19 October , when German submarine U @-@ 62 surfaced in the midst of the group . The submarine launched its only remaining torpedo at Orama , sinking that vessel . Lookouts on Conyngham saw U @-@ 62 's periscope and quickly launched a depth charge attack on the spot where the U @-@ boat had submerged , bringing oil and debris to the surface . Conyngham 's commanding officer was commended for his prompt and effective action , and the British Admiralty awarded Conyngham a " probable " kill on the submarine . Unfortunately for Conyngham 's record , though , U @-@ 62 had survived the encounter .

= = Post @-@ war = =

After the hostilities had ended on 11 November 1918 with Germany signing the Armistice , Conyngham sailed from Queenstown on 14 December 1918 for Boston to have an overhaul . From February to April 1919 , the destroyer participated in fleet exercises and division maneuvers in the Caribbean . Returning to Boston , she was placed in reduced commission until 1921 .

In June 1921 , Conyngham accompanied a Cuban warship that was repatriating the remains of former Cuban President Jose Miguel Gómez to Havana . She returned to Newport , Rhode Island , for summer exercises with her squadron and , after wintering at Charleston , South Carolina , reported to Philadelphia Navy Yard in March 1922 for inactivation . She was decommissioned there on 23 June 1922 .

= = United States Coast Guard career = =

On 17 January 1920 , Prohibition was instituted by law in the United States . Soon , the smuggling of alcoholic beverages along the coastlines of the United States became widespread and blatant . The Treasury Department eventually determined that the United States Coast Guard simply did not have the ships to constitute a successful patrol . To cope with the problem , President Calvin Coolidge in 1924 authorized the transfer from the Navy to the Coast Guard of twenty old destroyers that were in reserve and out of commission . Conyngham was reactivated and transferred to the Treasury Department on 7 June 1924 for use by the Coast Guard . Designated CG @-@ 2 , Conyngham was commissioned on 8 March 1925 , and joined the " Rum Patrol " to aid in the attempt to enforce prohibition laws .

After the United States Congress proposed the Twenty @-@ first Amendment to end prohibition in February 1933 , plans were made for Conyngham to be returned to the Navy . On 27 May 1933 , Conyngham arrived at the Philadelphia Navy Yard , and was decommissioned nine days later , on 5 June . Conyngham was transferred back to the Navy on 30 June . Later in 1933 , the ship was

renamed DD 58 in order to free the name Conyngham for a new destroyer of the same name . DD 58 remained in noncommissioned status until struck from the Naval Vessel Register on 5 July 1934 . She was sold for scrap on 22 August in accordance with the London Naval Treaty .