

= C and D @-@ class destroyer =

The C and D class was a group of 14 destroyers built for the Royal Navy in the early 1930s . As in previous years , it was originally intended to order a complete flotilla comprising eight destroyers ? plus a flotilla leader as the ninth unit ? in each year . However , only four ships ? plus a leader ? were ordered under the 1929 ? 30 Programme as the C class . The other four ships planned for the C class were never ordered as an economy measure and disarmament gesture by the Labour government of Ramsay Macdonald . A complete flotilla ? the ' D ' class ? was ordered under the 1930 ? 31 Programme .

The five ships of the C class were assigned to Home Fleet upon their completion , although they reinforced the Mediterranean Fleet during the Italian invasion of Abyssinia of 1935 ? 36 and enforced the Non @-@ Intervention Agreement during the Spanish Civil War of 1936 ? 39 . They were transferred to the Royal Canadian Navy ( RCN ) in 1937 ? 39 and spent most of their time during World War II on convoy escort duties in the Atlantic Ocean . Crescent was sunk when she was accidentally rammed by the British cruiser HMS Calcutta in 1940 . Crusader was sunk by a German submarine in 1942 , though she had sunk an Italian submarine in 1940 . The other ships of the class sank three German submarines during the war . They were all worn out by the end of the war and were scrapped in 1946 ? 47 .

The D @-@ class destroyers were initially assigned to the Mediterranean Fleet upon commissioning , but were transferred to the China Station in 1935 . Like the C class , most were temporarily deployed in the Red Sea when the Italians invaded Abyssinia , but returned to the China Station when that was over . They were still there when the war began , but reinforced the Mediterranean Fleet shortly afterwards . Five ships were transferred to Home Fleet in December 1939 , but Duchess was sunk en route when she was accidentally rammed by the battleship HMS Barham , and Duncan was badly damaged when she collided with a merchant ship , requiring lengthy repairs . Daring was sunk by a German submarine in February 1940 . The other two participated in the Norwegian Campaign of April ? June , but Delight was sunk by German aircraft in July and Diana was transferred to the RCN as a replacement for the Crescent after she was sunk by the cruiser Calcutta . However , she too was rammed and sunk several months later by a freighter that she was escorting .

The four ships that remained with the Mediterranean Fleet sank three Italian submarines in 1940 while escorting Malta convoys and larger warships of the fleet . Several participated in the Battles of Calabria and Cape Spartivento that year . Duncan joined Force H at Gibraltar in October and escorted that group . Dainty was sunk by German bombers in February 1941 and Diamond in April while evacuating Allied personnel from Greece . Defender had to be scuttled in July when she was crippled by a German bomber when returning from escorting a convoy to Tobruk . Duncan and Decoy remained on escort duties for the rest of the year before being transferred to the Eastern Fleet in early 1942 . They returned to the UK late in the year to begin conversions to escort destroyers . Decoy was transferred to the RCN in early 1943 , but both became convoy escorts in the Atlantic . They sank two German submarines before being assigned to the UK to protect Allied shipping during Operation Overlord . They sank three more submarines before the end of the war and were paid off in 1945 . Duncan was scrapped 1945 ? 49 and Decoy during 1946 .

= = Design and description = =

These ships were based on the preceding B class , but were enlarged to increase their endurance and to allow for the inclusion of a QF 3 @-@ inch 20 cwt anti @-@ aircraft gun . This class introduced a director control tower for British destroyers . The ' C ' class were unique in having a split bridge , with the compass platform and wheelhouse separated from the chartroom and director tower . This unusual layout was not repeated . As per Admiralty policy in alternating Two @-@ Speed Destroyer Sweep ( TSDS ) minesweeping gear and ASDIC ( sonar ) capability between destroyer flotillas , the C class lacked ASDIC and were designed to carry only six depth charges . The D class were repeats of the C 's , except that the TSDS was replaced by storage for up to 30

depth charges and ASDIC .

The C and D class destroyers displaced 1,375 long tons ( 1,397 t ) at standard load and 1,865 long tons ( 1,895 t ) at deep load . The ships had an overall length of 329 feet ( 100 @. 3 m ) , a beam of 33 feet ( 10 @. 1 m ) and a draught of 12 feet 6 inches ( 3 @. 8 m ) . They were powered by Parsons geared steam turbines , driving two shafts , which developed a total of 36,000 shaft horsepower ( 27 @, 000 kW ) and gave a maximum speed of 36 knots ( 67 km / h ; 41 mph ) . Steam for the turbines was provided by three Admiralty 3 @-@ drum water @-@ tube boilers that operated at a pressure of 300 psi ( 2 @, 068 kPa ; 21 kgf / cm<sup>2</sup> ) and a temperature of 600 ° F ( 316 ° C ) . The destroyers carried a maximum of 473 long tons ( 481 t ) of fuel oil that gave them a range of 5 @, 500 nautical miles ( 10 @, 200 km ; 6 @, 300 mi ) at 15 knots ( 28 km / h ; 17 mph ) . Their complement was 145 officers and men .

Kempenfelt , leader of the C class , displaced 15 long tons ( 15 t ) more than her destroyers and carried an extra 30 personnel who formed the staff of the Captain ( D ) , commanding officer of the flotilla . Unique among the C and D @-@ class ships , she had three Yarrow water @-@ tube boilers that operated at a pressure of 310 psi ( 2 @, 137 kPa ; 22 kgf / cm<sup>2</sup> ) . Duncan , leader of the ' D ' class , displaced 25 long tons ( 25 t ) more than her destroyers and also carried an extra 30 personnel .

All of the ships of the class mounted four 45 @-@ calibre 4 @. 7 @-@ inch Mk IX guns in single mounts , designated ' A ' , ' B ' , ' X ' , and ' Y ' from front to rear . For anti @-@ aircraft ( AA ) defence , they had a single QF 3 @-@ inch 20 cwt AA gun between her funnels . The C @-@ class ships carried two 40 @-@ millimetre ( 1 @. 6 in ) QF 2 @-@ pounder Mk II AA guns mounted on the aft end of their forecastle deck . The D @-@ class destroyers had been intended to carry the new QF 0 @. 5 @-@ inch ( 12 @. 7 mm ) Mk III machine gun in quadruple mountings on the bridge wings , but these were not initially available , so the old 2 @-@ pounder guns were retained in Daring , Diana , Diamond and Defender . The 3 @-@ inch AA gun was removed in 1936 ? 37 , and the 2 @-@ pounders were relocated between the funnels on platforms . The ships were fitted with two above @-@ water quadruple mount for 21 @-@ inch ( 533 mm ) torpedoes .

The main guns were controlled by an Admiralty Fire Control Clock Mk I that used data derived from the director and the rangefinder . They had no capability for anti @-@ aircraft fire and the anti @-@ aircraft guns were aimed solely by eye .

When purchased by Canada in 1937 ? 38 , the four C @-@ class destroyers were refitted to meet Canadian specifications , including the installation of Type 124 ASDIC . It is not clear how much Kempenfelt had been modified when she was turned over in October 1939 , other than steam heating had yet been fitted .

= = = Wartime modifications = = =

Beginning in May 1940 , the after bank of torpedo tubes was removed and replaced with a QF 12 @-@ pounder Mk V anti @-@ aircraft gun , the after mast and funnel being cut down to improve the gun 's field of fire . Four to six QF 20 mm Oerlikon cannons were added to the surviving ships , usually replacing the 2 @-@ pounder or .50 @-@ calibre machine gun mounts between the funnels . One pair of these was added to the bridge wings and the other pair was mounted on the searchlight platform . Early in the war , depth charge stowage increased to 33 in the C class , while the D class carried 38 . ' Y ' gun on the quarterdeck was removed on many ships to allow for additional depth charge stowage as was the 12 @-@ pounder . On at least one ship , this latter gun replaced ' X ' gun . Most ships had either ' A ' or ' B ' gun replaced by a Hedgehog anti @-@ submarine spigot mortar , although Duncan retained both and received a split Hedgehog that was mounted on either side of ' A ' gun . Some ships that received the Hedgehog in ' B ' position also mounted two old QF 6 @-@ pounder Hotchkiss guns for use against U @-@ boats at very close range .

Most ships had their director @-@ control tower and rangefinder above the bridge removed in exchange for a Type 271 target @-@ indication radar . A Type 286 short @-@ range surface search radar , adapted from the Royal Air Force 's ASV radar , was also added . The early models ,

however , could only scan directly forward and had to be aimed by turning the entire ship . Some ships also received a Huff @-@ Duff radio direction finder on a short mainmast .

= = Ships = =

= = Service = =

All five of the C class were assigned to the 2nd Destroyer Flotilla of the Home Fleet upon commissioning during 1932 . Following the Italian invasion of Abyssinia , the entire flotilla was sent to the Red Sea in August 1935 to monitor Italian warship movements until April 1936 . Refitted upon their return , they were deployed to Spanish waters during the Spanish Civil War in 1936 ? 37 to intercept shipping carrying contraband goods to Spain and to protect British @-@ flagged ships . Crescent and Cygnet were sold to the Royal Canadian Navy in 1937 and Comet and Crusader in 1938 . Kempenfelt was bought in 1939 , but the Royal Navy did not turn her over until enough auxiliary anti @-@ submarine ships had been commissioned to replace her after World War II had started . All four ' C ' -class ships were stationed at Esquimalt in British Columbia when the war began , but only Fraser and St. Laurent were immediately recalled to begin convoy escort duties on the Atlantic Coast , the other two following in November . Assiniboine was sent to the Caribbean for local escort duties in December where she assisted in the capture of the blockade runner MV Hannover in March 1940 . Fraser , St. Laurent , and Restigouche were transferred to the UK in late May and helped to evacuate refugees from France . Fraser was sunk on 25 June 1940 in a collision with the anti @-@ aircraft cruiser HMS Calcutta in the Gironde estuary while the other two were assigned to the Western Approaches Command for escort duties .

The remaining ships spent most of the rest of the war escorting convoys in the North Atlantic , based in either Canada or the UK . Ottawa assisted the British destroyer Harvester in sinking the Italian submarine Comandante Faà di Bruno on 7 November 1940 . She was sunk by the German submarine U @-@ 91 on 14 September 1942 while escorting Convoy ON 127 . St. Laurent had her first victory on 27 December 1942 when she was credited with sinking U @-@ 356 while defending Convoy ON 154 . Together with the destroyer HMS Forester , and the frigates HMCS Owen Sound and HMCS Swansea , she sank U @-@ 845 . While escorting Convoy SC 94 on 3 August 1942 , Assiniboine rammed and sank U @-@ 210 . Restigouche never sank a submarine , but she and St. Laurent were transferred to the UK to protect the shipping mustering for Operation Overlord in May 1944 and Assiniboine followed in July . They saw some action against German patrol boats in the Bay of Biscay , but Restigouche and St. Laurent were in poor shape by this time and were sent back to Canada for lengthy refits in late 1944 . They remained in Canada after the completion of their refits in early 1945 , while Assiniboine remained in the UK until June . All three ships transported Canadian troops home after VE Day until they were decommissioned in late 1945 . All three were broken up in 1946 ? 47 .

Upon commissioning in 1932 ? 33 , the D class formed the 1st Destroyer Flotilla assigned to the Mediterranean Fleet . The flotilla toured the Persian Gulf and the Red Sea in September ? November 1933 . After refitting in the UK during 1934 , the flotilla was transferred to the China Station , arriving at Hong Kong in January 1935 and renumbered as the 8th Destroyer Flotilla . Most of the flotilla was sent to the Red Sea during the Italian invasion of Abyssinia in 1935 ? 36 . They returned to the Hong Kong in mid @-@ 1936 and remained there until World War II began . Diamond was in the midst of a refit that lasted until November , but the rest of the flotilla was immediately transferred to the Mediterranean Fleet . Daring was kept in the Red Sea for escort duties until November , but the rest of the flotilla was used on contraband patrol duties upon arrival . They all needed repairs which were made before the end of the year .

Duncan , Diana , Duchess , Delight and Daring were transferred to the Home Fleet in December 1939 , although Duchess was rammed and sunk on 10 December by the battleship Barham that she was escorting . Duncan was so badly damaged in a collision with a merchant ship in January 1940 that her repairs required six months to complete . Daring was sunk by the German submarine U

@-@ 23 on 18 February while escorting a convoy from Norway . Diana and Delight were assigned to convoy escort duties in early 1940 , before participating in the Norwegian Campaign in April ? June . While attempting to sail through the English Channel in daylight , contrary to orders , Delight was sunk by German aircraft on 29 July . After a brief refit in July ? August , Diana was transferred to the RCN to replace HMCS Fraser which had been sunk in a collision by a Royal Navy cruiser . Recommissioned on 6 September and renamed HMCS Margaree , the ship was assigned to convoy escort duties in the North Atlantic . On 22 October , she was sunk in a collision with the freighter MV Port Fairy .

The remaining four ships of the flotilla were briefly assigned to Freetown , West Africa in early 1940 to escort convoys passing through the area and to search for German commerce raiders . They were all recalled to the Mediterranean in April ? May in anticipation of Italian entry into the war . Decoy , Defender , and Dainty sank two Italian submarines , Dainty sinking one more with the destroyer Ilex in June , before they participated in the Battle of Calabria early the following month . Diamond joined her sisters in late July and all four ships escorted convoys and the ships of the Mediterranean Fleet for the rest of the year . Duncan joined Force H at Gibraltar in October and participated in the inconclusive Battle of Cape Spartivento together with Diamond and Defender in November . Decoy had been damaged by aircraft earlier that month and was under repair until February 1941 .

While patrolling the North African coast on 24 February with the destroyer Hasty , Dainty was sunk by German bombers . Duncan , Diamond and Defender continued to provide escorts as needed in early 1941 , although Duncan was transferred to Freetown in March . Decoy , Defender and Diamond evacuated Allied troops from Greece and Crete in April ? May , although Diamond was sunk by German aircraft on 27 April while doing so . After Defender participated in the invasion of Vichy French @-@ controlled Syria and Lebanon in June , she joined Decoy in escorting convoys to Tobruk and was badly damaged when returning from one of these missions . The ship was attacked by a single German Junkers Ju 88 bomber on 11 July and had to be scuttled by her consort , the Australian destroyer Vendetta . Duncan rejoined Force H that same month and she escorted several major convoys to Malta before returning to the UK in October for a lengthy refit . Decoy was damaged in a collision in December and was repaired at Malta until February 1942 .

Decoy was transferred to the Eastern Fleet in March and was escorting Force B when the Japanese carriers attacked Ceylon . The Japanese never spotted Force B , and the ship remained with the fleet until ordered home in September to convert to an escort destroyer . After Duncan 's refit was completed in January 1942 , she rejoined Force H and escorted several missions to fly off Royal Air Force fighters from aircraft carriers to Malta before she was transferred to the Eastern Fleet in April to support Operation Ironclad , the invasion of Diego Suarez , in early May . She , too , was recalled to the UK to be modified as an escort destroyer .

Decoy was transferred to the Royal Canadian Navy on 1 March 1943 during her conversion and was recommissioned on 12 April with the new name of HMCS Kootenay ( the ship was gifted to the Canadians on 15 June ) . After working up , she was assigned to Escort Group C5 for convoy escort duties in the North Atlantic . In April , Duncan joined Escort Group B @-@ 7 . While defending Convoy ON @-@ 207 on 23 October , Duncan , together with the destroyer Vidette and a Consolidated B @-@ 24 Liberator of No. 224 Squadron RAF , sank U @-@ 274 . Later the same month , on 29 October , Duncan shared the sinking of U @-@ 282 with Vidette and the corvette Sunflower while protecting Convoy ON @-@ 208 . Both ships remained on escort duty until May 1944 when they were transferred to the UK in preparation for Operation Overlord . Duncan was assigned to the Western Approaches Command , conducting anti @-@ submarine operations , for the rest of the war . Kootenay was tasked to protect Allied shipping in the English Channel and the Bay of Biscay and , together with other ships , she sank U @-@ 678 in the English Channel on 7 July 1944 , U @-@ 621 in the Bay of Biscay on 18 August , and , two days later , U @-@ 984 west of Brest .

After a lengthy refit in Canada from October 1944 to February 1945 , Kootenay returned to the UK and was assigned to the Western Approaches Command until the end of the war . She then transported returning troops in Canada until paid off in October . She was sold for scrap in 1946 .

Duncan was paid off in May and sold in July although she was not completely broken up until 1949 .

= = See Also = =

List of ships of the Second World War

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