



Former Commanding Officers

Lt Cdr D Cartlidge RN	25/08/83
Lt Cdr T Hildesley RN	15/01/85
Lt Cdr J Paton RN	03/06/86
Lt Cdr J D Oakley RN	15/11/88
Lt Cdr C Welborn RN	15/11/89
Lt Cdr K Harvey RN	05/11/91
Lt Cdr P T Morgan DSC RN	10/08/93
Lt Cdr S J N Kings RN	14/02/95
Lt Cdr J D Morley RN	30/06/97
Lt D P Swigciski RN	20/05/99
Lt T G Sharpe RN	06/12/00
Lt Cdr S G Capes RN	20/05/02
Lt Cdr P Laughton MBE RN	08/07/03
Lt L R Havashi RN	04/03/05



History

The First HMS DULVERTON

HMS DULVERTON was a type II "Hunt" - class escort destroyer ordered from Stephen & Sons Ltd of Govan on the outbreak of war. Laid down on 16 July 1940, she was launched less than a year later, on 1 April 1941 and completed on 27 September.



After a three-week workup at Scapa Flow, she was allocated to the Mediterranean Fleet and left the Clyde on 12 November 1941, as part of the escort of a troop convoy bound for Suez. DULVERTON required docking on arrival at Durban and it was not until 4 January 1942 that she arrived at Suez and joined the 5th Destroyer Flotilla. In mid-February she took part in a Malta convoy operation and a month later was with the close escort of the convoy during the 2nd Battle of Sirte, when, on 22 March 1942, the Mediterranean Fleet light cruisers prevented the Italian Fleet from engaging the convoy. In June 1942, she was part of the escort of a Malta convoy which was forced to turn back in the face of heavy air attack. In July and September, she took part in operations intended to ease the pressure on the Eighth Army by disrupting enemy seaborne supplies; in August, she took part in four bombardments of the port of Mersa Matruh

and on 14 September she was fortunate to escape undamaged from the air attacks which followed the unsuccessful Commando raid on Tobruk.

Between these major operations, DULVERTON was employed on local escort and patrol duties in the Levant and on 30 October she shared in the destruction of the submarine U559 with three other destroyers and RAF aircraft, the hunt lasting no less than 17 hours.

Between 16 and 20 November 1942, DULVERTON escorted the first convoy to arrive in Malta from the Eastern Mediterranean since March, its arrival marking the end of the siege of the island. Malta convoy escort was her main employment thereafter, until mid-1943, when she was allocated to the forces intended for the invasion of Sicily. From 10 July 1943, she was with the Eastern Taskforce, protecting the transport anchorage from all forms of attack, leaving over a week later with the second returning convoy. Two months later, she was the Senior Officer's ship in the escort of one of the assault ship convoys bound for Salerno but was not required for gunfire support on D-Day, 9 September, or the following day, when she retired with the empty transports.

In October 1943, DULVERTON was allocated to the forces intended to seize and support the islands of Kos and Leros and between 20 October and 4 November, she made three round trips to Leros with personnel and stores, bombarding Levitha Island while returning from the first of these missions. On 12 November she returned to the area with two other destroyers to support the garrison on

Leros, which had been invaded that morning, In the early hours of 13 November, while five miles off Kos, the three ships were attacked by German aircraft which released guided missiles - "glider-bombs" - one of which struck DULVERTON abreast the bridge, inflicting serious damage and starting extensive fires. The destroyer sustained heavy casualties, but her consorts took off six officers and 114 ratings before she was scuttled two hours later by HMS BELVOIR. Three officers, including Captain (D) of the 5th Destroyer Flotilla, and 75 ratings were lost with DULVERTON.

The Second HMS DULVERTON

HMS DULVERTON is one of three Hunt Class Mine Counter Measures Vessels tasked as patrol ships in Northern Ireland.

The Hunt class of ships are the largest vessels in the world to be built of Glass Reinforced Plastic (GRP) The Hunt class is also unique in the Royal Navy for its dual functions of sweeping and hunting mines in a single hull. The Hunt can destroy mines by sweeping them with a towed wire or by hunting them with a high definition sonar. DULVERTON was launched in 1983 by Mrs Jaffray, the wife to the then Permanent Under-Secretary for Defence. Following her acceptance into Royal Naval Service she served as a Mine Countermeasures vessel in the waters around the United Kingdom.

Though busy with such mine-hunting operations early in her career, she was able to cross the Atlantic to visit the United States Eastern Sea Board and take part in various

exercises with the United States Navy. Such operations continued until 1988 when she began her first deployment to the Persian Gulf. DULVERTON was a constant presence in the Gulf for eight months, including training with the foreign navies and other Royal Naval units. On return to the UK she continued in her role as a coastal mine-sweeper, taking part in numerous exercises throughout British waters. 1989 saw DULVERTON carrying out diving operations at Scapa Flow, where the scuttled remains of a number of German warships remain from the end of World War One. DULVERTON then had her first docking period for defect rectification and refit.



Passed back into Royal Naval service the next year, she began her second deployment to the Persian Gulf. On this occasion DULVERTON was involved in live mine-hunting operations off the coast of Iraq and Kuwait as support to the campaign to expel the Iraqi army from Kuwait. DULVERTON remained in the area until April that year before returning to the UK. The next change for

DULVERTON was the shift from mine-hunting to being involved in the Fishery Protection operations used to safeguard stocks of fish in the waters throughout the UK. Fishery Protection patrols continued until DULVERTON underwent a major refit in 1997.

A year later DULVERTON emerged as a different type of ship. All of her mine-sweeping and hunting equipment had been removed to be replaced by two large davits and space for three powerful RIBs. Along with her sister ships BRECON and COTTESMORE, DULVERTON had been converted to undertake a new role considered vital by the Royal Navy, the patrols around the coasts of Northern Ireland. All three ships provided 365 day cover in the waters surrounding Northern Ireland, carrying out boardings and searches of numerous Merchant Vessels and occasionally uncovering contraband being smuggled into the Province. The ship's company was augmented by a small detachment of Royal Marines and an Army sniffer dog and its handler.

Northern Ireland patrols continued until March 2005, when the final decision was made for the patrols to cease and for the three Northern Ireland Squadron ships to begin a decommissioning programme, leading to their withdrawal from Naval Service in October 2005.

Throughout her career DULVERTON has kept up a number of affiliations with her home town in Somerset and everyone will be sad to see her leaving Royal Naval Service.



Battle Honours

Libya	1942
Sirte	1942
Mediterranean	1942
Malta Convoys	1942
Sicily	1943
Salerno	1943
Aegean	1943
Kuwait	1991

An Abridged History

Oct 1983 - May 1984	Commissioning, Acceptance and work-up	Jul 1989	Diving Operations in Scapa Flow
May -Jun 1984	Visits to Nykobing and Halmstad	Sep 1989	Docking Period Begins
Jun -Aug 1984	Exercises around Scottish Coast	May-Jul 1990	Acceptance, Trials and Work-up
Aug 1984	First Home Town Visit	Aug - Dec 1990	Exercises and Operations throughout the UK
Aug 1984 - Mar 1985	Exercises and Operations throughout the UK	Dec 1990 - May 1991	Deployment to Persian Gulf with Operation Granby, live mine-hunting operations
Mar - Jun 1985	Visit to Eastern United States including Norfolk, Charleston, Washington D.C, Bermuda and the Azores	May 1991 - Aug 1992	Exercises and Operations throughout the UK
Jun - Oct 1985	Exercises and Operations throughout the UK	Aug - Nov 1992	Baltic Deployment including Tallinn, Visby, Riga, Oslo, Copenhagen, Klaipida, Liepaja, Warnemunde, Neustadt and Amsterdam
Oct 1985	Home Town Visit	Nov 1992 -Jun 1993	Exercises and Operations throughout the UK
Oct 1985 - Apr 1986	Exercises and Operations throughout the UK	May 1993	Home Town Visit
Apr - May 1986	Visits along French Coast including Lorient, St Nazaire and La Rochelle	Jun 1993	Docking Period
May 1986 -Jan 1988	Exercises and Operations throughout the UK	Sep 1993	Acceptance and Trials
Oct 1986	Home Town Visit	Sep 1993 -Jul 1995	Exercises and Operations throughout the UK
Jan - Sep 1988	Gulf deployment including Dubai, Djibouti, Wudam, Jebel Ali, Gibraltar and Muscat	Jul 1995 -Jun 1997	Fishery Protection Duties
Sep 1988 - Sep 1989	Exercises and Operations throughout the UK	May 1997	Liberation Day Celebrations, Guernsey
Jun 1989	Home Town Visit	Jun 1997	Begin Northern Ireland Refit
		Mar - May 1998	Acceptance and Trials
		Jun 1998 - Mar 2005	Northern Ireland Duties
		Apr 2005	Beatty's Medical Instruments

Apr 2005 (cont.)	embarked for Passage to Portsmouth
Apr 2005	Visit by Head of Iraqi Navy
May 2005	Liberation Day Celebrations, Guernsey
May 2005	Brest
May 2005	Oban
May 2005	Oban, Ceremony at Taynuilt
Jun 2005	Security Operations for International Fleet Review
Jul 2005	Security Operations for G8 summit
Jul 2005	Decommissioning Ceremony
Jul 2005	Leith, visit by HRH Princess Royal
Sep 2005	Visits to Dartmouth, Caen
28 Sep 2005	Final Entry into Portsmouth
30 Sep 2005	Fleet Non-Operational Date.





  

*The Commanding Officers, Officers and Ships' Companies of
HM Ships BRECON, COTTESMORE and DULVERTON
request the pleasure of the company of*

.....

*at their combined Decommissioning Ceremony
on Thursday 14th July 2005 commencing at 1000 hours
alongside HM Naval Base Clyde, Faslane*

*Days: Civilian - Informal
Military - Full Service Dress (L.A.)*

*K.A.V.P.
The Decommissioning Officer
JOSH BRECON 8/P90 210*





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