# HMS Wild Swan (1876)

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**HMS** *Wild Swan* was an *Osprey*-class sloop built for the Royal Navy in the mid-1870s. She was launched in 1877 and became a base ship in 1904, being renamed *Clyde*. She was renamed *Columbine* in 1913 and was sold for breaking in 1920.

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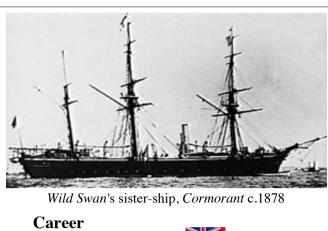
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### **Design and construction**

#### Main article: Osprey-class sloop

Wild Swan was an Osprey-class sloop-of-war, with a composite hull design.<sup>[1]</sup> The ship had a displacement of 1,130 tons, was 170 feet (52 m) long, had a beam of 36 feet (11 m), and a draught of 15 feet 9 inches (4.80 m).<sup>[2][1]</sup> An R & W Hawthorn two-cylinder horizontal returning-rod steam engine fed by three cylindrical boilers provided 797 indicated horsepower to the single 13 ft (4.0 m) propeller screw.<sup>[1]</sup> This gave Wild Swan a top speed of 10.3 knots (19.1 km/h; 11.9 mph), which failed to meet the required contract speed. After the first commission the engine was replaced by a Devonport Dockyard two-cylinder horizontal compoundexpansion steam engine. She had a maximum range of 1,480 nautical miles (2,740 km; 1,700 mi) at 10 kn (19 km/h; 12 mph).<sup>[1]</sup> In addition to the steam-driven propeller, the vessel was also barque rigged.<sup>[1]</sup> The standard ship's company was between 140 and 150.<sup>[1]</sup>

Armament consisted of two 7-inch (90cwt) muzzleloading rifled guns, four 64-pound guns, four machine guns, and one light gun.<sup>[1]</sup> *Wild Swan* and her sister-ship *Pelican* were re-armed later with two 6-inch (81cwt) BL



### (United Kingdom)



Nar	ne:	HMS Wild Swan
Nar	nesake:	Swan
Bui	lder:	Robert Napier & Sons, Govan,
		Glasgow
Cos	st:	Hull £39,643, machinery £11,853
Lai	d down:	14 September 1874
Lau	inched:	28 January 1876
Cor	npleted:	23 August 1876
Dec	commissioned:	Hulked, 1 May 1904
Ren	named:	HMS Clyde, 1 May 1904; HMS
		Columbine, July 1913
Fate	e:	Sold for scrap, 4 May 1920
General characteristics		
Cla	ss & type:	Osprey-class screw composite

Class & type:	Osprey-class screw composite
	sloop
Displacement:	1,130 long tons (1,150 t)
Length:	170 ft (51.8 m) (p/p)
Beam:	36 ft (11.0 m)
Draught:	15 ft 9 in (4.8 m)
Depth:	19 ft 6 in (5.9 m)
Installed power:	797 ihp (594 kW)
	(later c. 950 ihp (709kW))
Propulsion:	

• 1 × 2-cylinder horizontal

guns and six 5-inch (35cwt) BL guns.<sup>[1]</sup>

*Wild Swan* was built by Robert Napier and Sons, of Govan, Scotland. The vessel was laid down on 14 September 1874 as yard number 341.<sup>[1]</sup> She was launched on 28 January 1876, and commissioned into the Royal Navy on 23 August 1876.<sup>[1]</sup> Construction costs included £39,643 for the hull, and £11,853 for machinery and equipment.<sup>[1]</sup>

## Service history

*Wild Swan* was decommissioned and placed on the list of Admiralty vessels for sale in 1900. She was withdrawn from the list and re-fitted in late 1901 as a training ship in Kingstown Harbour for men of the Royal Navy Reserve and coastguards of the North of Ireland stations.<sup>[3]</sup> She also served as tender to HMS Melampus, coast guard ship at Kingstown.<sup>[4]</sup>

### Fate

*Wild Swan* became a base ship on 1 May 1904 and was renamed *Clyde*. She was renamed again in July 1913, becoming *Columbine*. She was sold for breaking to the Forth Shipbreaking company on 4 May 1920.<sup>[1]</sup>

### Notes

1. ^ The horizontal returning-rod steam engine by R & W Hawthorn failed to meet the contract speed and was replaced after the first commission by a Devonport Dockyard 2-cylinder horizontal compound-expansion steam engine<sup>[1]</sup>

### References

- 1. ^ *a b c d e f g h i j k l m* Winfield, pp.291-292
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- Ballard, G. A. (1939). "British Sloops of 1875: The Larger Ram-Bowed Type". *Mariner's Mirror* (Cambridge, UK: Society for Nautical Research) 25 (January): 35–49.
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- Winfield, Rif; Lyon, David (2004). The Sail and Steam Navy List: All the Ships of the Royal Navy 1815–1889. London: Chatham Publishing. ISBN 978-1-86176-032-6. OCLC 52620555

		returning-rod steam engine <sup>[Note 1]</sup> • 3 × cylindrical boilers • 1 × screw
Sail p	olan: B	arque rig
Speed	d: 1	0 knots (19 km/h; 12 mph)
Rang		,120 nmi (2,070 km; 1,290 mi) at 0 knots (19 km/h; 12 mph)
Com	plement: 1	40
Arma	ament: L	<ul> <li>2 × 7-inch rifled muzzle- loading guns</li> <li>4 × 6.3-inch 64-pounder rifled muzzle-loading guns</li> <li>4 × machine guns</li> <li>1 × light gun</li> </ul>
		<ul> <li>2 × 6-inch (81cwt) BL guns</li> <li>6 × 5-inch (35cwt) BL guns</li> <li>4 × machine guns</li> <li>1 × light gun</li> </ul>

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