

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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Design and construction

Main article: Osprey-class sloop

Wild Swan was an *Osprey*-class sloop-of-war, with a composite hull design.^[1] 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).^{[2][1]} 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.^[1] 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 compound-expansion 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).^[1] In addition to the steam-driven propeller, the vessel was also barque rigged.^[1] The standard ship's company was between 140 and 150.^[1]

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



Wild Swan's sister-ship, *Cormorant* c.1878

Career (United Kingdom)



Name:	HMS <i>Wild Swan</i>
Namesake:	Swan
Builder:	Robert Napier & Sons, Govan, Glasgow
Cost:	Hull £39,643, machinery £11,853
Laid down:	14 September 1874
Launched:	28 January 1876
Completed:	23 August 1876
Decommissioned:	Hulked, 1 May 1904
Renamed:	HMS <i>Clyde</i> , 1 May 1904; HMS <i>Columbine</i> , July 1913
Fate:	Sold for scrap, 4 May 1920

General characteristics

Class & type:	<i>Osprey</i> -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:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">1 × 2-cylinder horizontal

guns and six 5-inch (35cwt) BL guns.^[1]

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.^[1] She was launched on 28 January 1876, and commissioned into the Royal Navy on 23 August 1876.^[1] Construction costs included £39,643 for the hull, and £11,853 for machinery and equipment.^[1]

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.^[3] She also served as tender to HMS *Melampus*, coast guard ship at Kingstown.^[4]

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.^[1]

Notes

- ↑ 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^[1]

References

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returning-rod steam engine^[Note 1]

- 3 × cylindrical boilers
- 1 × screw

Sail plan: Barque rig

Speed: 10 knots (19 km/h; 12 mph)

Range: 1,120 nmi (2,070 km; 1,290 mi) at 10 knots (19 km/h; 12 mph)

Complement: 140

Armament:

- 2 × 7-inch rifled muzzle-loading guns
- 4 × 6.3-inch 64-pounder rifled muzzle-loading guns
- 4 × machine guns
- 1 × light gun

Later re-armed:

- 2 × 6-inch (81cwt) BL guns
- 6 × 5-inch (35cwt) BL guns
- 4 × machine guns
- 1 × light gun

(//www.worldcat.org/oclc/52620555).

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