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 (4.8 m).[2] 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...
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 She was withdrawn from the list and re-fitted in late 1901 as a training ship in Kingstown Harbour for men of the Royal Navy Reserve and coastguards of the North of Ireland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

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.[1]

### References

1. ^ a b c d e f g h i j k l m Winfield, pp.291-292

Categories: Osprey-class sloops | Clyde-built ships | 1876 ships
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