



HMS ARGYLL

Type 23 Frigate



HMS ARGYLL TYPE 23 FRIGATE

TODAY'S ROYAL NAVY

The modern Royal Navy is a versatile Maritime Force with the capability to project power wherever the nation requires it, either on our own, as part of the Joint Rapid Reaction Force working alongside our Army and RAF colleagues, or with coalition partners in NATO and beyond. Our people are adaptable, resilient and well trained with the ability to meet the complex challenges of today's world.

THE SHIP

HMS ARGYLL is the second of sixteen Type 23, Duke Class frigates and is the oldest Type 23 still in service for the Royal Navy. The frigate is the mainstay of the surface fleet in the modern Royal Navy. Historically, the frigate was a fast, manoeuvrable craft used to scout ahead of the main fleet. It was, invariably, lightly armed. Today's modern frigate is capable of this and much more. Importantly, the Type 23 is, in comparison with similar sized ships serving in other navies, heavily armed.

As an Island nation, our prosperity and security is totally dependent on our ability to access the sea. The UK is reliant on a stable global market for the raw materials, energy and manufactured goods which underpin our way of life and, in a globalised world, we must have the ability to respond to any event that threatens our economy or national interests. That is why the Royal Navy is globally deployed and has a range of versatile ships, submarines and aircraft operated by highly professional Sailors, Aviators and Royal Marine Commandos. The Royal Navy continues to police the use of the sea in partnership with allies and retains the unique ability to influence events at sea, on land and in the air providing real flexibility of choice to both military and political leaders.

HISTORY

ARGYLL was built on the Clyde by Yarrow Shipbuilders Ltd. and was launched by Lady Wendy Levene on 8 April 1989. She was commissioned into the Royal Navy on 30 May 1991.



She is the sixth Royal Navy ship to bear the name. The first ARGYLL was a 50-gun Fourth Rate, launched at Chatham in 1711. She has quite a mysterious past with doubts over her exact origins. What is known is that she saw action against Spain at the Battle of Cape Passero. This is the Ship's only battle honour.

ARMAMENT

ARGYLL is fitted with the vertical launch Seawolf system; this is the Ship's first line of defence against aircraft and incoming missile attack. The Harpoon missile system is relied upon for long range surface to surface targets. Both of these systems are given target information by the ship's new state-of-the-art 997 Surveillance Radar.

She is capable of defending against underwater threats with her Magazine Torpedo Launch System (MTLS). This system is primarily for the Ship's own protection from sub surface contacts at close range. To attack at a greater distance, the hull mounted sonar is used to guide the Ship's helicopter in to attack the submarine. The Ship operates the Lynx Helicopter which, as well as having the ability to drop torpedoes, it can carry depth charges, Sea Skua anti-ship missiles, and a Heavy Machine Gun. The helicopter enables targets to be engaged whilst the Ship remains at a safe distance. The 4.5" Mk8 Gun is used to provide naval gunfire support, .30mm guns, 5 barrel



Miniguns and General Purpose Machine Guns provide the ship with close range gunnery for point defence.

POWER & STEALTH

With anti-submarine operations it is necessary to operate as quietly as possible. This led to the development of Combined Diesel, Electric and Gas Turbine Engines (CODLAG). The four Diesel Generators (DGs) can be used via two electric motors for cruising and allow silent running. Sprint speeds in excess of 28 knots are obtained by running all four DGs and two Gas Turbines simultaneously. The four DGs also provide the 5.2MW of power needed to run all the Ship's services and weapons systems. To help enable stealth operations the Ship's engines have been placed above the water line, making it harder for submarines to hear. The hull has been built with rounded edges to reduce radar reflections and all vertical surfaces have a 7° slope – this makes the ship appear as little more than the size of fishing vessels on enemy radar.

SHIP'S COMPANY

The Type 23's complement of 185 is divided amongst the four main departments - Operations, Logistics, Weapons Engineering and Marine Engineering. Every individual has to be an expert in their own field and in modern, complex warships such as these; the emphasis is increasingly placed on technical skills.

Living conditions on board are good. Most Officers have single cabins; Senior Ratings live in four or six berth cabins and have separate communal areas. Junior Ratings live in messdecks, each of which has its own recreational area with TV, DVD and Hi-Fi. Comfortable dining halls are situated adjacent to the galley and a well stocked NAAFI canteen is open daily. A comprehensive reference and lending library is maintained and there are options for the crew to study for examinations and additional qualifications. To maintain fitness a physical training specialist is carried and sport is organised both on board and ashore whenever possible.



FACTS & FIGURES

Type 23 Duke Class Frigates

F78	HMS KENT
F79	HMS PORTLAND
F81	HMS SUTHERLAND
F82	HMS SOMERSET
F83	HMS ST ALBANS
F229	HMS LANCASTER
F231	HMS ARGYLL
F234	HMS IRON DUKE
F235	HMS MONMOUTH
F236	HMS MONTROSE
F237	HMS WESTMINSTER
F238	HMS NORTHUMBERLAND
F239	HMS RICHMOND

Dimensions

Displacement	4500 tonnes
Length	133 m
Beam	16.2 m
Draught	7 m
Complement	185

Weapons

- 32 x Seawolf Vertical Launch Missiles
- 8 x Harpoon Launcher
- 1 x 4.5" Mk 8 MOD1 Gun
- 2 x 30mm ASCG
- 4 x NATO Seagnat decoy launchers
- 4 x Magazine Torpedo Launch System

Sensors

- 1 x Type 1007 and 1008 Navigational Radar
- 1 x Type 997 Surveillance Radar
- 2 x Type 911 Seawolf Tracking System
- 1 x Type 1018/1019 IFF Radar
- UAT Electronic Surveillance System
- Type 2050 Active Sonar

Communications

- ICS (Integrated Communications System)
- SCOT (Satellite Communications System)

Propulsion

- 4 x Paxman Valenta 1.3MW Diesel Generator
- 2 x Rolls Royce Spey SM1A Gas Turbine Engines 12.75MW
- 2 x GEC Propulsion Motors 1.68MW DC
- Speed 28 kts

Aircraft

- 1 x Lynx Mk 8 helicopter fitted with:
 - Sea Skua anti-ship missiles
 - Stingray torpedoes
 - Depth charges
 - Machine guns

Battle Honours

Passero 1718

Ship Sponsor

Lady Heather Brigstocke

Affiliations

- His Grace The Duke of Argyll
- Argyll and Bute District Council
- The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders
- 47th Sqn RAF
- HMS Vivid RNR
- Worshipful Company of Pavors
- Royal Naval Club, Argyll
- Stirling RNA
- TS Argyll Irvine & District Sea Cadets
- City of London Sea Cadets
- Kelly College
- Dollar Academy
- High School of Glasgow
- Plymouth Argyle FC
- Argyll Ward, Derriford Hospital
- Caledonian Club, London

