UK Destroyers

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 699 | 1943 | Destroyer | Stord | 13 |
| 700 | 1942 | Destroyer | Saumarez | 14 |
| 701 | 1942 | Destroyer | Savage | 12 |
| 706 | 1937 | Destroyer | Cossack | 19 |
| 737 | 1939 | Destroyer | Kimberley - F50 | 11 |
| 738 | 1941 | Destroyer | Laforey - G99 | 18 |
| 739 | 1940 | Destroyer | Lookout - G32 | 17 |
| 741 | 1919 | Destroyer | Wivern | 15 |
| 742 | 1919 | Destroyer | Wolverine | 16 |
| 745 | 1936 | Destroyer | Hyperion | 21 |
| 755 | 1932 | Destroyer | Duncan | 23 |
| 756 | 1934 | Destroyer | Faulkner | 22 |
| 757 | 1936 | Destroyer | Hardy | 20 |
| 762 | 1986 | Destroyer | Sheffield | 25 |
| 763 | 1975 | Destroyer | Sheffield | 29 |
| 854 | 2012 | Destroyer | Dragon | 24 |
| 884 | 1987 | Frigate | Norfolk | 32 |
| 885 | 1990 | Frigate | Chatham | 30 |
| 886 | 1981 | Destroyer | Liverpool | 31 |
| 909 | 1970 | Destroyer | Bristol | 26 |
| 912 | 1976 | Destroyer | Broadsword | 28 |
| 992 | 2016 | Destroyer | Plymouth | 27 |
| 1691 | 1903 | Destroyer | Eden | 9 |
| 1692 | 1906 | Torpedo Boat | TB1 | 10 |
| 1693 | 1907 | Destroyer | Cossack | 8 |
| 1694 | 1910 | Destroyer | Scourge | 4 |
| 1695 | 1910 | Destroyer | Swift | 1 |
| 1696 | 1916 | Destroyer | Oracle | 6 |
| 1697 | 1914 | Destroyer | Patrician | 5 |
| 1698 | 1914 | Destroyer | Ithuriel | 2 |
| 1699 | 1918 | Destroyer | Sepoy | 7 |
| 1700 | 1917 | Destroyer | Faulknor | 3 |

The destroyer was a type introduced around 1890 to counter the introduction of small fast torpedo boats. When Whitehead’s modified design of torpedo became available, larger navies saw it as a threat to their larger warships – a weapon capable of sinking a large vessel but delivered by a much smaller cheaper one. Many navies began to create torpedo boats – fast, nimble craft which could attack by surprise. TB1, 1906 (Model number 1692) is such a boat. To counter the threat navies began to build larger, faster, more heavily armed ‘torpedo boat destroyers’ or destroyers.

Ultimately, they became the general-purpose warship, just as the frigate was the general purpose warship in the age of sail. Eden, 1903 (Model number 1691) and Cossack, 1907 (Model number 1693) are early designs. Destroyers became faster and more heavily armed and Scourge, 1910 (Model number 1694) and the much larger Swift, 2010 (Model number 1695) were the largest built at the time. Swift was a destroyer leader which suggests that destroyers would work together in squadrons with a senior officer controlling strategy.

Hundreds of destroyers were built during WW1 and these would vary slightly depending on who built them but, basically the had a 4 inch gun armament (4 or 5) and 2 sets of triple or quadruple torpedo tubes which we can see in Patrician, 1914 (Model number 1697) Ithuriel, 1914 (Model number 1698), Oracle, 1916 (Model number 1696), Faulknor, 1917 (Model number 1700) Sepoy, 1918 (Model number 1699), Wyvern, 1919 (Model number 741) and Wolverine 1919 (Model number 742).

Throughout the 1930s, after the reduction of the navy during the 1920s, destroyers were built to a more or less consistent plan with 2 funnels, 2 sets of quadruple torpedo tubes and 4 4.5 inch guns in open shields. There were, year on year, destroyers of the A, B, C , D, E, F, G, H and I classes, for example Hyperion, 1932 (Model number 745), to this design with added destroyer leaders Duncan, 1932 (Model number 755), Faulkner 1934 (Model number 756) and 1936 (Model number 757) with and extra 4.5 inch gun between the funnels. An additional class, the Tribals, such as Cossack, 1937 (Model number 706) was introduced at this time with three twin turrets but otherwise similar.

Despite the success of this design, even against much heavier gunned German destroyers, a totally new design, classes J, K, L, M, N and S were built from 1939 onwards. The single funnel design included guns in twin turrets but the same torpedo tube arrangement initially. With the need for anti-aircraft capacity several of these ships had one or two of their torpedo tube sets replaced with AA. We have examples Kimberley, 1939 (Model number 737) Laforey, 1941 (Model number 738) Lookout, 1940 (Model number 739) Stord, 1943 (Model number 699) Saumarez, 1942 (Model number 700) and Savage, 1942 (Model number 701) all to similar designs.

The Battle class of 1947 and Daring class of 1949 were much larger versions of the wartime but with new automatic twin turrets before the County class begun in 1962 introduced guided missiles to the destroyer with a twin ‘Seaslug’ launcher on the after deck. Bristol, 1970 (Model number 909) was a later version differing from the earlier ships by having twin side by side funnels aft where in the earlier ships was a single funnel.

The type 42, Sheffield, 1975 (Model number 763), Broadsword, 1976 (Model number 912) and Liverpool, 1981 (Model number 886) were all a natural development with SAMs, an automatic rapid firing 5 inch turret and a helicopter and landing platform aft to provide anti-submarine capability. As a result of the Falklands war and the loss of the Sheffield and her sister ship Coventry there were upgraded replacements - the type 22 Sheffield, 1986 (Model number 762), Norfolk, 1987 (Model number 884) and Chatham, 1990 (Model number 885).

The latest classes, the D class Dragon, 2012 (Model number 854) and the type 26 Plymouth, 2016 (Model number 992) and their sister ships, add stealth features which make them much less of a target than in the past. These will be the main defence for the new large carriers being built – the Queen Elizabeth and Prince of Wales.

