

HMS Trinidad Timeline Summary (from Naval-History.Net, with thanks)

Synopsis

ON 14TH October 1941, HMS Trinidad was commissioned for service and following 10 days of Acceptance Trials took passage to the Clyde for sea trials in the NW Approaches, joining the 10th Cruiser Squadron. On completion of the trials she joined the Home Fleet at Scapa Flow, where she was nominated for duty escorting convoys of merchant ships to Murmansk.

On 10th January she sailed with PQ8 and saw her first action on 17th, when she was attacked by U454, which sunk the destroyer HMS Matabele with heavy loss of life. (Only two survived.)

On the 24TH she embarked on the return trip to Greenock, with 250 Polish nationals as passengers, landing on 1st February, and for the whole of February she was deployed to patrol the Faeroes/Iceland gap to intercept German destroyers and U boats, and to escort mine-laying ships as part of the Northern Barrage.

On 7th March she was deployed against the German battleship TIRPITZ, south east of Jan Mayen Island, where she carried out refuelling of destroyers hunting TIRPITZ, and covered the rear of returning convoy QP8.

On 23rd March after the search for TIRPIZ was abandoned, she deployed as close cover for convoy PQ13, with destroyers ECLIPSE and FURY. The convoy was scattered by a gale, but TRINIDAD remained on station to cover the destroyers as the convoy re-assembled.

On 29th, with HMS Eclipse, she was in action against three German destroyers, Z24, Z25 and Z26. She damaged Z26 at close range but was hit by return fire. She fired a torpedo at Z26 to complete its destruction, but the torpedo malfunctioned and hit Trinidad on the ports side, forward of the bridge. The forward boiler room was flooded with oil, which ignited.

HMS Trinidad was towed into Murmansk by HMS ORIBI, FURY and HARRIER, anchoring on 30th March. She docked for repair on 7th April, when 32 bodies were recovered from the boiler room and the gunnery Transmitting Station.

1941 October

Commissioned for service following harbour trials.

14th Acceptance Trials.

25th Passage to Clyde for sea trials in NW Approaches based in Clyde escorted by Polish destroyer ORP KUJAWIAK.



November Trials continued with 10th Cruiser squadron

December On completion took passage to Scapa Flow to join Home Fleet.

1942 January Nominated for duty with escort of convoy to Murmansk.

Took passage to Iceland to join mercantiles.

10th Joined escort for Russian Convoy PQ8 at Hvalfjord with HM Destroyers MATABELE and SOMALI.

17th During passage in Barents Sea convoy under attack by U454 which sank HM Destroyer MATABELE with heavy loss of life. Only two of ship's company survived. Detached from PQ8 on arrival at Murmansk.

24th Embarked 250 Polish nationals for passage to UK

February

1st Landed passengers at Greenock.

10th Deployed at Scapa Flow and nominated for BLACK patrol to relieve HM Cruiser KENYA.

11th Passage to Faeroes-Iceland Gap for interception of commerce raiders.

21st At Hvalfjord for maintenance.

25th Relieved HM Cruiser SHEFFIELD for interception duties.

28th Deployed as Ocean escort for minelaying by ships of 1st Minelaying Squadron in the Northern Barrage (Operation SN85 - See Naval Staff History (MINING)).

March

7th Carried out patrol with HM Cruiser LIVERPOOL south east of Jan Mayen during sortie by German battleship TIRPITZ.

(Note: After refuelling in Iceland deployed with HM Cruisers LONDON and KENT and these four ships were also made available for refuelling destroyers carrying out interception patrols. See ARCTIC CONVOYS by R Woodman.)

THE GEORGE LLOYD SOCIETY

- 9th Covered rear of returning Russian Convoy QP8 with HM Destroyers PUNJABI, ECHO and FURY.
- 11th Deployed with destroyer screen to intercept TIRPITZ north of Trondheim screened by Home Fleet destroyers.
- 13th Search abandoned. TIRPITZ did not enter area until after withdrawal.)
- 23rd Deployed with HM Destroyers ECLIPSE and FURY to provide Close Cover for Russian Convoy PQ13
- 24th Convoy scattered by gale and remained to cover destroyers during re-assembly. Warned that attack by German destroyers was likely.
- 29th In action against German destroyers Z24, Z25 and Z26 with HM Destroyer ECLIPSE. (Note: Enemy ships were searching for PQ13-)
- Damaged Z26 at close range but hit on port side aft by return fire causing damage by outbreak of fire.
- After further damage to Z26 by HMS ECLIPSE, fired torpedo at enemy ship to complete its destruction. Owing to malfunction this torpedo circled and hit the ship on port side forward of Bridge structure. Forward Boiler Room flooded with oil fuel which ignited causing further major damage.
- Joined by HM Minesweeper HARRIER, HM Destroyers ORIBI and FURY.
- Taken in tow until own propulsion available.
- Z26 was sunk in this engagement. For full details of passage of PQ13 see ARCTIC DESTROYERS and Naval Staff History.).
- 30th Arrived at Murmansk screened by HMS FURY and HMS ORIBI
- April 7th** Docked for repair during which 32 bodies were recovered. Burial at sea later carried out from HM Minesweeper NIGER

Date convoy sailed	Joined convoy as escort	Convoy No.	Left convoy	Date convoy arrived
08/01/42	11/01/42	PQ 008	17/01/42	17/01/42
24/01/42	25/01/42	QP 006	28/01/42	28/01/42
10/03/42	23/03/42	PQ 013	25/03/42	31/03/42