



SERVICE HISTORIES of ROYAL NAVY
WARSHIPS in WORLD WAR 2
by Lt Cdr Geoffrey B Mason RN (Rtd) (c) 2003

HMS ROBERTS - Roberts-class
15in gun Monitor

HMS Roberts (Navy Photos, [click to enlarge](#))

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ROBERTS-Class Monitor ordered on 16th March 1940 from John Brown at Clydebank and laid down on 30th April 1940 as Job Number 1572 (Yard No. 572) The ship was launched on 1st February 1941 as the 2nd RN ship to carry this name which was previously used for a 1915 Monitor sold in 1936. Build completion date was 6th Oct. 1941. This ship was fitted during build with radar for aircraft warning Type 281, for surface warning Type 272 for main armament fire control Type 285 and Type 282 for Anti-aircraft Armament. These were replaced by improved equipment before the end of WW2. The warning radar equipment enabled the ship to used for air defence as well as in her primary role for naval gunfire support.

Battle Honours

DARDANELLES 1915-16 - NORTH AFRICA 1942 - SICILY 1943 - SALERNO 1943 -
MEDITERRANEAN 1943 - NORMANDY 1944 - WALCHEREN 1944

Heraldic Data

Badge: On a Field Blue, a Field Marshall's baton and a sword
in saltire Proper pommel and hilt Gold enfiled with an
antique crown also Gold and in chief between the baton
and sword blade an estoile also Gold.

Details of War Service

(for more ship information, go to [Naval History Homepage](#) and type name in Site Search

1941

September	Contractors trials.
October	Commissioned for trials.
6th	Build completion and commenced acceptance trials.
13th	Docked in Clyde.
November to December	Carried out First of Class and special, trials. Nominated for service in Eastern Mediterranean.

1942

January	Passage to Alexandria for support of military operations by 8th Army.
February	Arrived at Alexandria and retained for use as AA Guardship at Suez
March to July	Guardship deployment in continuation.

August	Nominated for support of planned allied landings in North Africa.
September	Passage to Gibraltar to Join Eastern Naval Task Force
October	Deployed at Gibraltar.
November	Prepared for support of landings.
8th	Deployed in support of landings at Algiers. (Operation TORCH - For details see ENGAGE THE ENEMY MORE CLOSELY by C. Barnett and Naval Staff History).
11th	Damaged in air attacks at Bougie. Passage to UK for repair.
December	Under repair and refit by Cammell Laird shipyard at Birkenhead.

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January to May	Under repair and refit. Radar Type 281 replaced by 279 (See RADAR AT SEA BY D Howe.) On completion of repair deployed in central Mediterranean.
June	Post refit trials and work-up in Home waters. Nominated for support of allied landings in Sicily (Operation HUSKY - For detail see ENGAGE THE ENEMY MORE CLOSELY by C. Barnett and Naval Staff History). Passage to Algiers to join British Support Force East
July	Deployed at Algiers for HUSKY.
5th	Sailed from Algiers.
7th	Joined assault convoy KMS18 during passage to Sicily. (Note: Other ships in Support Force East included HM Monitor ABERCROMBIE, HM Cruisers NEWFOUNDLAND, MAURITIUS, UGANDA, ORION, CARLISLE and COLOMBO with destroyer screen.. See above references.)
10th	Provided gunfire support with Force Q during landings of XXX Corps.
August	HUSKY support duties in continuation. Bombarded coast road near Taormina to impede German retreat. Covered Commando raid near Taormina. Nominated for support of British landings on Italian mainland. (Operation BAYTOWN - See above references).
September	
2nd	Bombarded coast between Reggio Calabria and Pessaro with HM Monitors EREBUS, ABERCROMBIE, HM Battleships VALIANT, WARSPITE,. HM Cruisers ORION and MAURITIUS.
3rd	Provided naval gunfire support during landings by British XIII corps near Reggio and Villa San Giovanni with HMS ABERCROMBIE, HMS EREBUS, HMS ORION, MAURITIUS, HM River Gunboats APHIS and SCARAB.
9th	Joined Northern Attack Force (TF85) for support during Salerno landings. (Operation AVALANCHE: For details see above references.)
13th to 16th	Provided gunfire support during German attacks on bridgehead with HMS MAURITIUS, HMS ORION, HMS UGANDA, HMS AURORA, US Navy cruisers USS PHILADELPHIA USS BOISE and RN destroyers. Under sustained air attacks including radio controlled bombs. See above references.
October to December	Military support off Italian west coast in continuation. On release from Mediterranean support took passage to UK.

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January to March	Deployed in Home waters.
April	Nominated for support of allied landings in Normandy (Operation NEPTUNE) Allocated for duty in Bombarding Force D attached to Force S
May	Prepared for duty with Bombarding Force at Portsmouth. (For details of activities prior to and during landings see LANDINGS IN NORMANDY. June 1944 (HMSO) and OPERATION NEPTUNE by K. Edwards). Nominated target in Pre-Arranged Fire Plan - Houlgate Battery or Gorneville sur Mer as secondary target.
June	
4th	Operation delayed 24 hours.
5th	Joined HM Battleships WARSPITE and RAMILLIES, HM Cruisers MAURITIUS, ARETHUSA, DANAE, FROBISHER and Polish ORP DRAGON comprising Bombarding Force D off Portsmouth. Passage through swept channel with Force D.
6th	On arrival off SWORD Beach took up bombarding position. Provided gunfire support in accordance with fire-plan. Right-hand 15in Gun burst jacket.
7th	Returned to Portsmouth for repair, and replenishment of stores and ammunition. Resumed support deployment in Eastern Task Force area.
26th	Provided naval gunfire support for British Army attacks in Caen area with HM Battleship RODNEY, HM Cruisers ARGONAUT, BELFAST and DIADEM.
July	
11th	Gunfire support to land operations in continuation. Provided gunfire support to land operations with HMS BELFAST.
August	After release from Post NEPTUNE support remained in Home waters for support of planned allied landings.
September	Nominated for support of British landings at Walcheren. (Operation INFATUATE - For details see ENGAGE THE ENEMY MORE CLOSELY and CAMPAIGN NORTH WEST EUROPE, June 1944 to May 1945 (HMSO).)
October	
31st	Joined HMS WARSPITE and HM Monitor EREBUS. Passage to Walcheren with ships of Bombarding Squadron.
November.	
1st	Provided gunfire support with Squadron during assault at Westkappelle.
2nd	Provided further support with HMS EREBUS. (Note: HMS WARSPITE had left area.).
December	Deployed in Home waters for support duties if required.

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January to July	Nominated for duty in British Pacific Fleet and prepared for foreign service in support of planned operations
August 15th	Passage to join Fleet. At Kilindini

P o s t W a r N o t e s

HMS ROBERTS was not required for service with British Pacific Fleet after VJ Day and returned to Devonport with call at Malta on 5th November 1945. The ship was Paid-off and reduced to Reserve status after arrival on 27th November and then used as a Turret Drill ship until the need for training on 15in guns had lapsed. She was then placed on the Disposal List and although sold to BISCO to be broken up she was retained for use in Devonport as an Accommodation Ship. During the period up to 1965 she was in fact rented from the nominated shipbreaker, T W Ward. When no longer required she was laid up in the Hamoaze and finally left for the breakers yard at Inverkeithing near Rosyth on 19th July 1965.

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further editing and formatting is required
