

## **HMS Shrivenham**

### **Compiled by Max Brown**

HMS Shrivenham was one of 93 ships of the Ham-Class of inshore minesweepers. Their names were all chosen from villages ending in - Ham. This particular minesweeper was named after Shrivenham in Oxfordshire.

She was built by J. Bolson at Poole. Launched on 28<sup>th</sup> March 1956. Her Pennant numbers were M2728/IMS65.

Following completion she was immediately placed in Operational Reserve out of the water on a cradle until 1963. She was then transferred to the Royal Navy Auxiliary Service but was put up for disposal in 1966. She was sold to the Port of London Authority in 1969 and remained with them until her retirement in the 1980s.

Although retired and with the wheelhouse, engines and most deck fittings removed she is still classed as "afloat" and has, for the last 22 years, been a "liveboard" home. Renovations continue with the addition of a new topside cabin. Now at Rochford, Essex.

#### **Additional Information**

Blackman, R.V.B. ed. *Jane's Fighting Ships* (1953).

The Ham class was a class of inshore minesweepers (IMS), known as the Type 1, of the British Royal Navy. The class was designed to operate in the shallow water of river estuaries. All of the ships in the class are named for British place names that end with - "ham". The parent firm that was responsible for supervising construction was Samuel White of Cowes, Isle of Wight.

Unlike traditional minesweepers, they were not equipped for sweeping moored or magnetic mines. Their work was to locate individual mines and neutralise them. This was a then new role, and the class was configured for working in the shallow water of rivers, estuaries and shipping channels. The class consisted of 93 ships, launched between 1954 and 1959. HMS Inglesham was the first.

They were built in three slightly different sub-groups, the first sub-group, the 26-group, is distinguished to pennant numbers 26xx, and the second and third sub-groups, the 27-group, are distinguished by pennant numbers 27xx. The 26-group was of wood and non-ferrous metalcomposite construction and the 27-group was of all-wood construction. The third sub-group is distinguished by a prominent rubbing strake around the hull and slightly larger dimensions.

The vessels displaced 164 long tons (167t) fully laden and were armed with one 40 mm Bofors or 20 mm Oerlikon gun. They were 32.5 metres (107 ft) long overall with a 6.4 metre (21 ft) beam. the construction was of wood to minimise magnetic signature. The crew complement was 15, rising to 22 in wartime.

The engines of this class were Paxman diesels, some of which were built under licence by Ruston and Hornsby of Lincoln. Each vessel had: two 12YHAXM (intercooled) for main propulsion, rated at 550 bhp (410 kW) at 1,000 rpm, plus one 12YHAZ for pulse generation. Maximum speed was 14 knots (26 km/h; 16 mph) dropping to 9 knots (17 km/h; 10 mph) when mine sweeping.

The class shared the same basic hull as the Ley-class minehunter and the Echo-class inshore survey craft.