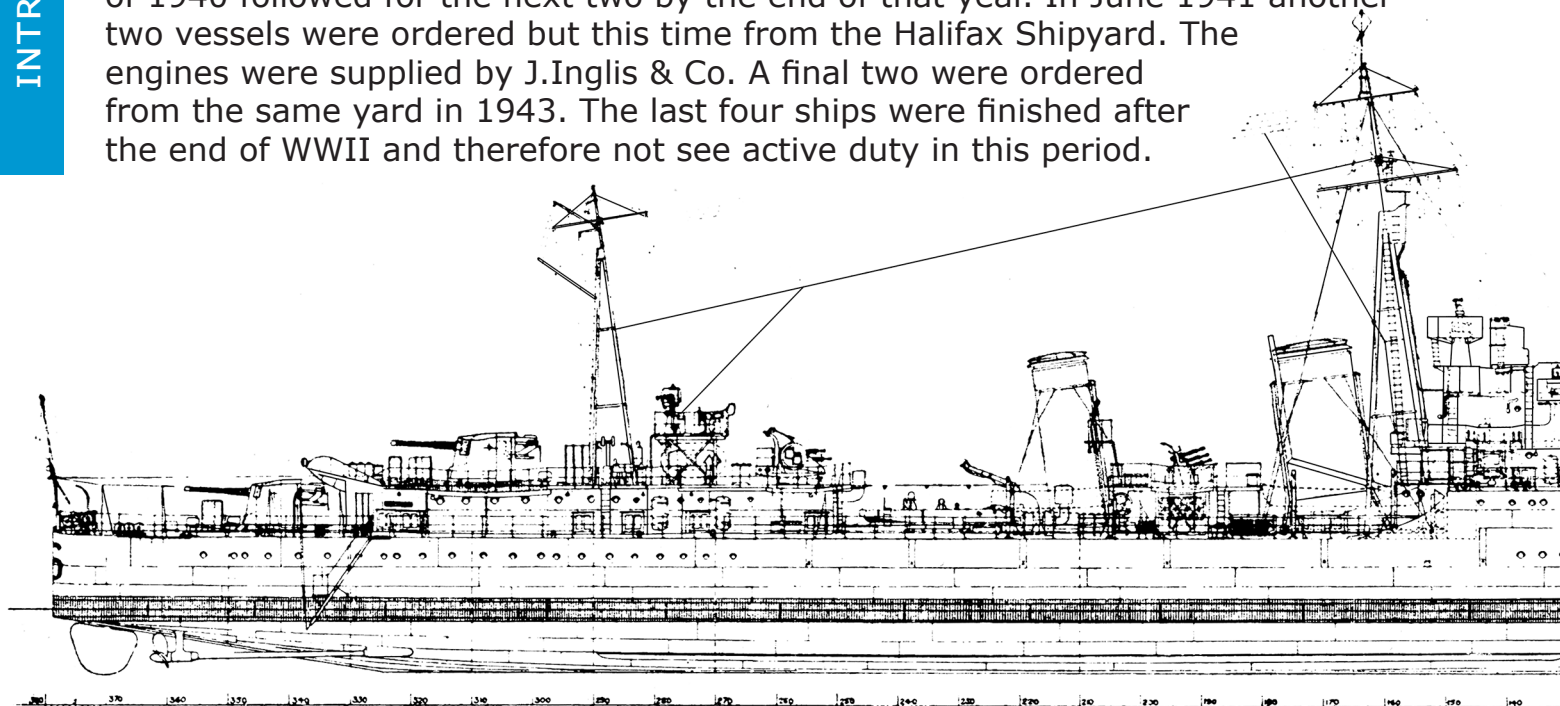


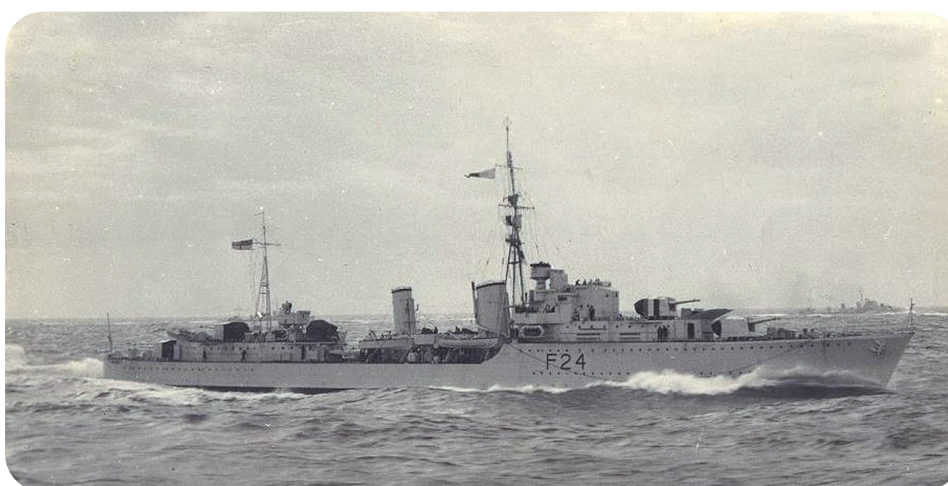
DESTROYER
HMCS HAIDA

In 1940 it was decided to order a number of Tribal class destroyers for the Canadian navy from British yards. These ships were ordered from Vickers-Armstrongs (Tyne) in Great Britain.

The reason was that Canada did not have sufficient skilled workers to build these ships and it was virtually impossible to get sufficient professional support from Britain. Contrary to the Australian government which had ships built on their own yards. The order for the first two ships was placed at the beginning of 1940 followed for the next two by the end of that year. In June 1941 another two vessels were ordered but this time from the Halifax Shipyard. The engines were supplied by J.Inglis & Co. A final two were ordered from the same yard in 1943. The last four ships were finished after the end of WWII and therefore not see active duty in this period.



HMS Matabele was one of the original sixteen British ships with a standard displacement of 1,959 tons and a full load displacement of 2,519 tons. On 17 January 1942, while screening convoy PQ8 to Murmansk, Matabele was hit by a torpedo from U-454 and sank almost immediately. Only two out of her complement of 238 survived.



HMS Maori was a unit of the Mediterranean Fleet until sunk by German aircraft while at Malta in 1942. The wreck was later raised and scuttled outside the Grand Harbour and is nowadays a diving site.

Tribal destroyer

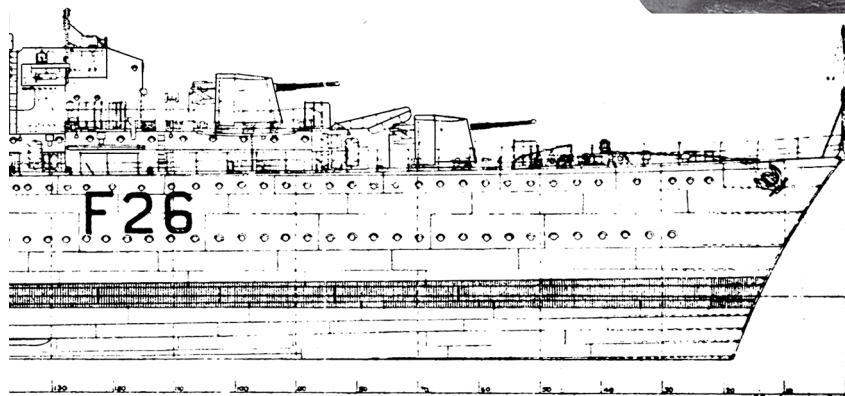
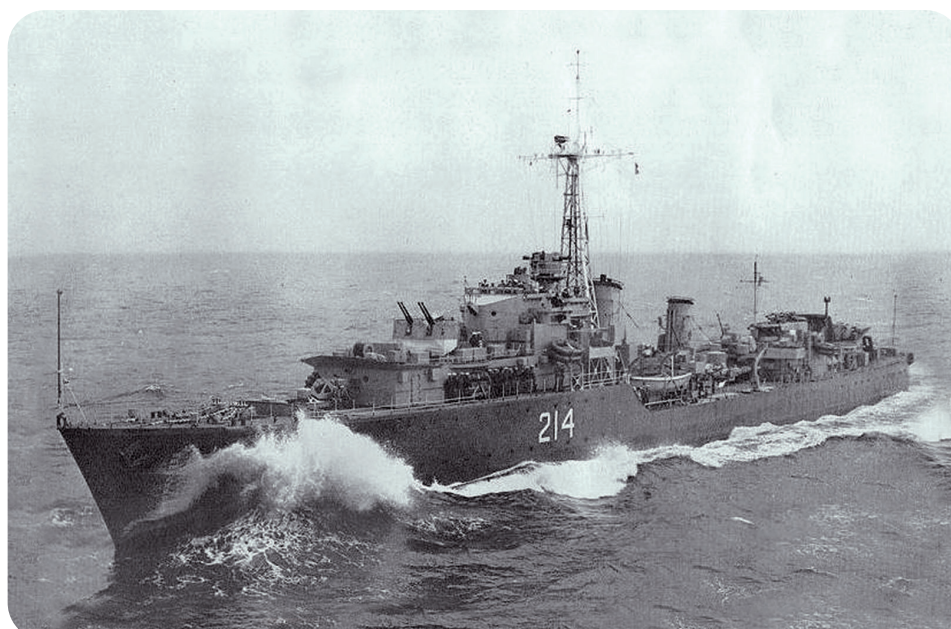
The Tribal or Afridi class destroyers were built for the Royal Navy, Royal Canadian Navy and Royal Australian Navy. Originally conceived as a failed design for a light fleet cruiser the Tribals evolved into fast, powerful destroyers with greater emphasis on guns over torpedoes than previous destroyers in response to new designs by Japan, Italy, and Germany.

The Tribals were liked by their crews and the public due to their power. Often becoming symbols of prestige while in service.

As some of the Royal Navy's most modern and powerful escort ships, the Tribals served with distinction in nearly all theatres of WWII.

Because the first ships were not ordered until 1940 use could be made of the hard lessons that had already been learned during wartime by the British ships as well as what should be demanded from a destroyer. 'Improved technology could be implemented in the Canadian ships as they were built. For instance the air defence systems were too weak and this could be modified in the design.

The later hulls were strengthened during building as pounding at high speed in rough seas had weakened the earlier hulls, which had to be stiffened during refits. Cracks and splits in the forecastle decks had had to be plated over or welded together



HMCS Micmac was the first of four Tribal destroyers built at the Halifax Shipyard and the first modern, high-performance warship built in Canada.

Cracks in the decks, overcrowded messdecks. Due to extra equipment, more personnel had to be crammed into their messes. Hammocks touching, messdecks two feet deep flooded, violent weather, infrequent mail, irregular leave and unremitting weariness was the life of a sailor.

Royal Canadian Navy						
Name	Pennant	Builder	Laid down	Launch	Commissioned	Fate
Iroquois (ex-Athabaskan)	G89/217	Vickers Armstrongs	19 Sept. 1940	23 Sept. 1941	10 Dec. 1942	Sold for scrapping, 1966
Athabaskan (i) (ex-Iroquois)	G07	Vickers Armstrongs	31 Oct. 1940	15 Nov. 1941	3 Feb. 1943	Lost 29 April 1944, torpedoed by German torpedo boat T-24 north of Ile de Bas
Huron	G24/216	Vickers Armstrongs	15 July 1941	25 June 1942	19 July 1943	Sold for scrapping, 1965
Haida	G63/215	Vickers Armstrongs	29 Sept. 1941	25 Aug. 1942	30 Aug. 1943	Preserved as museum ship, Hamilton, 1964
Micmac	R10/214	Halifax Shipyards,	20 May 1942	18 Sept. 1943	18 Sept. 1945	Sold for scrapping, 1964
Nootka	R96/213	Halifax Shipyards	20 May 1942	26 April 1944	7 Aug. 1946	Sold for scrapping, 1964
Cayuga	R04/218	Halifax Shipyards	7 Oct. 1943	28 July 1945	20 Oct. 1947	Sold for scrapping, 1964
Athabaskan (ii)	R79/219	Halifax Shipyards	15 May 1944	4 May 1945	20 Jan. 1948	Sold for scrapping, 1969
(Source: The Tribals / Martin H. Brice)						

Note: Museum ship Haida has 30 August 1942 as date of commissioning. This is the date that Haida was released to be commissioned and to start sea trials. These were completed on 18 September.

The others:

Three days after the German troops marched into the Rheinland, the first seven British Tribals were ordered (10 March 1936) followed by a second batch in June 1936.

The new destroyers were notable in incorporating a number of 'firsts' and 'lasts' in their layout. In so far as the hull was concerned, they were the last to employ the established transverse framing. They also ended a long run of twin-funnelled destroyers in the Royal Navy. (After WWII it was re-introduced with Weapon- and Daring class.)

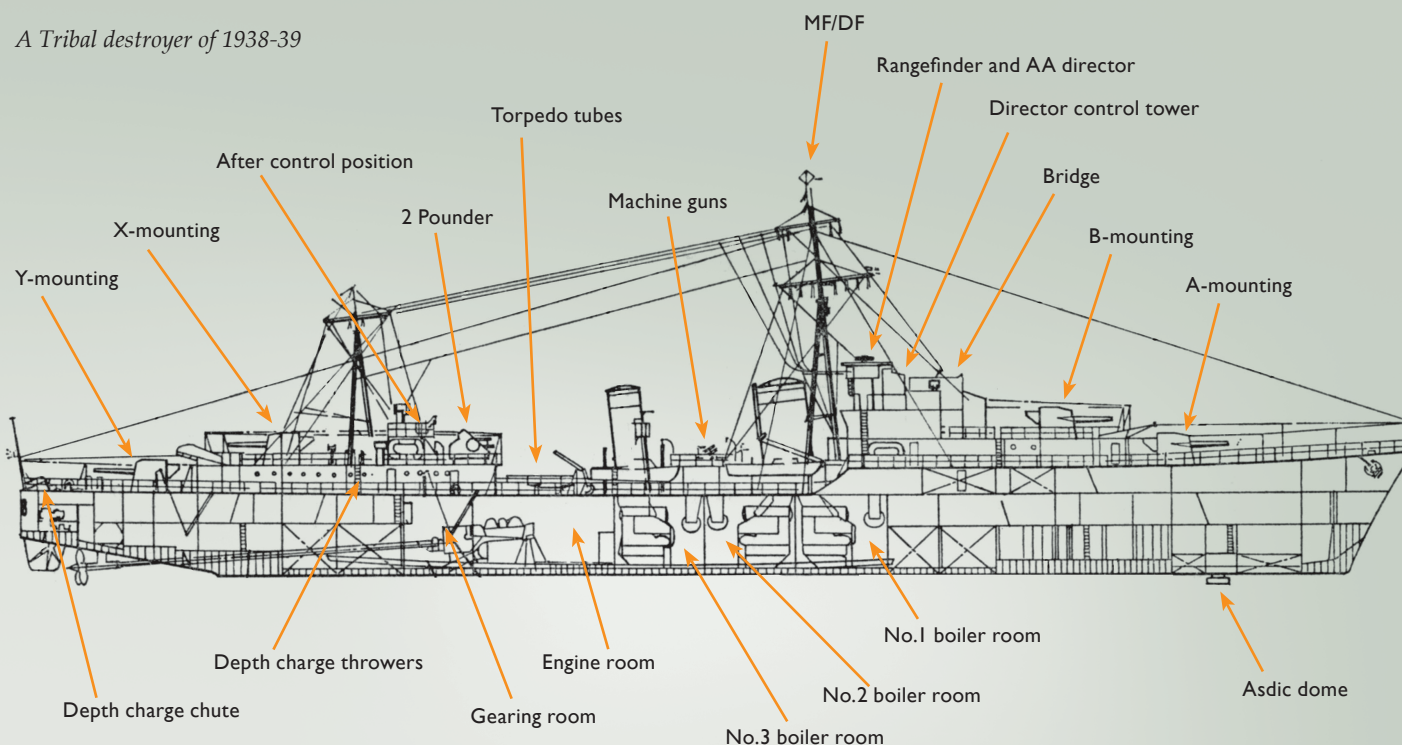
Internally, the arrangements conformed to contemporary practice: crew's quarters forward, the main machinery in the waist, officers cabins and wardroom aft.



On commissioning in 1938 HMS Afridi was assigned to the 1st Destroyer Flotilla, with the Mediterranean Fleet.

Royal Navy					
Name	Pennant	Builder	Laid down	Commissioned	Fate
Afridi	F07	Vickers-Armstrongs, Walker	9 June 1936	3 May 1938	Lost 3 May 1940 to aircraft attack off Namsos, Norway
Ashanti	F51	William Denny & Brothers, Dumbarton	23 Nov. 1936	21 Dec. 1938	Sold for scrapping, 12 April 1949
Bedouin	F67	Denny	Jan. 1937	15 March 1939	Lost 15 June 1942 to aircraft attack after being disabled by Italian cruisers south of Pantellaria, Mediterranean Sea
Cossack	F03	Vickers-Armstrongs	9 June 1936	7 June 1938	Lost 24 October 1941, torpedoed by U-563 west of Gibraltar
Eskimo	F75	Vickers-Armstrongs	5 Aug. 1936	30 Dec. 1938	Sold for scrapping, 27 June 1949
Gurkha	F20	Fairfield Shipbuilding & Engineering Company, Govan	6 July 1936	21 Oct. 1938	Lost 9 April 1940, to aircraft attack off Stavanger, Norway
Maori	F24	Fairfield	6 July 1936	2 Jan. 1939	Lost 12 February 1942 to aircraft attack in Grand Harbour, Valletta, Malta
Mashona	F59	Vickers-Armstrongs	5 Aug. 1936	28 March 1939	Lost 28 May 1941 to aircraft attack, southwest of Ireland during the Bismarck chase
Matabele	F26	Scotts Shipbuilding & Engineering Company, Greenock	1 Oct. 1936	25 Jan. 1939	Lost 17 January 1942, torpedoed by U-454 in Barents Sea
Mohawk	F31	John I. Thornycroft & Company, Woolston	16 July 1936	7 Sept. 1938	Lost 16 April 1941, torpedoed by Italian destroyer Luca Tarigo
Nubian	F36	Thornycroft	10 Aug. 1936	6 Dec. 1938	Sold for scrapping, 11 June 1949
Punjabi	F21	Scotts	1 Oct. 1936	29 March 1939	Lost 1 May 1942, rammed by King George V in Atlantic
Sikh	F82	Alexander Stephen & Sons, Linthouse	24 Sept. 1936	12 Oct. 1938	Lost 14 September 1942 to shore batteries off Tobruk
Somali	F33	Swan Hunter & Wigham Richardson, Wallsend	26 Aug. 1936	12 Dec. 1938	Lost 20 September 1942, torpedoed by U-703, sank while under tow in Arctic Ocean
Tartar	F43	Swan Hunter	26 Aug. 1936	10 March 1939	Sold for scrapping, 6 January 1948
Zulu	F18	Stephen	10 Aug. 1936	7 Sept. 1938	Lost 14 September 1942 to aircraft attack off Tobruk

A Tribal destroyer of 1938-39



By 1943 the sixteen Tribals of the Royal Navy had been reduced to four, but had been joined by four Tribals built by Vickers-Armstrong for Royal Canadian Navy (previous page): *Iroquois*, *Athabaskan* (soon to be lost), *Haida* and *Huron*.

Canada was building four more in her own yards while three were built in Australia. (see below) Another four Australian Tribals were projected, but they were not proceeded with.

Royal Australian Navy					
Name	Pennant	Builder	Laid down	Commissioned	Fate
Arunta	I30	Cockatoo Dockyard, Sydney	15 Nov. 1939	30 April 1942	Sold for scrapping 1969, foundered en route to breakers
Warramunga	I44	Cockatoo	10 Feb. 1940	23 Nov. 1942	Sold for scrapping 1963
Bataan (ex-Kurnai)	I91	Cockatoo	18 Feb. 1942	25 May 1945	Sold for scrapping 1958

Tribals worldwide:

Afridi	North West Frontier, India	Eskimo	Northern North America and Greenland	Mohawk	Canada
Arunta	Australian Aborigines	Gurkha	Nepal	Nootka	Canadian Indian tribe
Ashanti	Ghana	Haida	Canadian Indian tribe	Nubian	Between Sudan and Egypt
Athabaskan	Canadian Indian tribe	Huron	Canadian Indian tribe	Punjabi	North West India
Bataan	Australian Aborigines	Iroquois	Canadian Indian tribe	Sikh	The Punjab
Bedouin	Nomadic, Arab	Maori	New Zealand	Somali	'Horn of Africa'
Coyuga	Canadian Indian tribe	Mashona	Southern Rhodesia	Tartar	Central Asia
Cossack	South East Russia	Matabele	Southern Rhodesia	Warramunga	Australian Aborigines
		Micmac	Canadian Indian tribe	Zulu	Natal, South Africa

