

# Swansea Tugs Through the Years

Compiled by Ron Tovey

# ALBERT



Built 1902 and  
broken up at Llanelli

# ALEXANDRA (1)



Built 1917, scrapped 1962 at Briton  
Ferry

## ALEXANDRA (2)



Built 1963, sold to G.P.S.  
Rochester 1998, still in service 2007

# ALFRED



Built 1971, sold to Togo Oil &  
Marine 1999 and renamed Defiant,  
still in service 2007

# BENSON



Built as Egerton 1908 but sold to Admiralty on completion. Acquired by Dewsbury's of Swansea in 1924 and renamed Benson. Re-acquired by A.T.C.L. In 1947 and broken up at Cork 1960

# BRAMBLES



Built in 1942 as Empire Teak.  
Acquired by A.T.C.L. In 1950,  
scrapped 1969 Newport Mon.

# BROCKENHURST



Built 1913 as Gladstone, sold to Russia in 1914 and renamed Salvage Steamer No. 2.

Renamed Kersoness in 1922 then re-acquired 1923. Broken up at Cardiff 1964



# BRYNFORTH



Built as Empire Thistle 1942,  
later became Flying  
Hurricane. Broken up at  
Silloth 1965

## CAMBRIAN (1)



Built as Wallasey 1903, scrapped at  
Briton Ferry 1959

## CAMBRIAN (2)



Built 1959, sold to Malta Ship Towage  
1972, renamed Lapsi and scrapped  
1997

## CANADA



Along with the Albert of 1902, one of the two tugs that started the A.T.C.L. presence in Swansea in 1924. Built 1894, scrapped 1950 at Llanelli

## CANNING (2)



Built 1954, acquired by Swansea City Council in 1975 as permanent display in Maritime Museum

## CASWELL



Built 1943 as Empire Sybil, M.O.W.T. Then purchased by Mersey Docks & Harbour Board and renamed Assistant. Purchased by A.T.C.L. Liverpool and eventually scrapped at Passage West 1969.

## CASWELL (2)



Built for P.L.A. as Platoon 1965, renamed Duhlia 1993, transferred to Swansea and renamed Caswell 1994. Transferred to Howard Smith, Grimsby and renamed Lady Theresa 1998. Sold in 2001 and renamed Lady.



# CLYNEFORTH



Built 1943 as Empire Minnow, sold on and renamed Thika in 1948. Acquired by Britannia in 1951 and sold 1966 to Greek owners and renamed Ena



# CROSBY



Built 1937, scrapped 1968 at Dalmuir

# DEBEN



Built in 1960 for Sun Tugs, London  
as Sun XXII renamed Deben and  
later transferred to A.T.C.L.  
Gibraltar

## EGERTON (3)



Built 1965, transferred from Liverpool to Swansea 1973 and then to London in 1975. Sold in 1990 and renamed Caribe 1

## Egerton (4)



Built 1969 as Subtil for French owners, transferred to Howard Smith, London . After service at Swansea transferred to Howard Smith Rochester and later sold to T.P.Towage Gibraltar . Still in service 2007.

## FABIAN'S BAY



Built 1966 as Sun III for London Tugs,  
renamed on arrival in Swansea 1984.

Sold to Greek owners 1992 and  
renamed Fillipos. Still in service 2007

## FLYING KESTREL



Built 1943 as Empire Mascot, acquired by Metal Industries Ltd., in 1947 and renamed Metinda IV. To A.T.C.L in 1949 and broken up in Passage West 1969

# FORMBY



Built 1951, sold to Italian interests in 1969 and renamed Strepitoso

# GLADSTONE



Built 1951, sold to Italian interests in 1969  
and renamed Ponderoso, as seen.



## GOWER (1)



Built 1905 as Herculaneum (1)  
renamed Formby, then Gower.  
Scrapped 1959 at Bromborough

## GOWER (2)



Built 1961, sold 1984 to Greek interests  
and renamed Kostas

# GRAIGFORTH



Built 1923 as Samson, renamed Shamsan in 1924. Acquired by Britannia in 1958 and scrapped 1966 at Briton Ferry.

# HARRINGTON



Built 1903, sunk in Kings Dock, Swansea in 1953 with the loss of two lives. Scrapped at Briton Ferry 1959.

# HENDON



Built in 1977 as Wearsider for Tyne & Wear Towing but not delivered. Purchased by A.T.C.L. Swansea, later transferred to River Thames. Sold to Greek interests and renamed Karipiperis 12 and still in service 2007.

# HERCULANEUM (1)



Seen as Gower, scrapped at Bromborough  
1959.

## HERCULANEUM (2)



Built 1909, scrapped at Cork 1961



## HERCULANEUM (3)



Built 1962, sold to Greek interests in  
1997 and renamed Christos VIII



# INDEFATIGABLE



Built in Yugoslavia in 1975 as Sea Diamond, later sold to French interests and renamed Chambon Bora. Purchased by A.T.C.L. In 1984 and later transferred to River Thames and renamed Avenger. Sold to West Coast Towing and renamed Valiant Nader.

# KINGFORTH



Built 1904 as Flying Falcon, sold and renamed Maycock in 1932. Acquired by Britannia Steam Towing 1948 and scrapped in 1961 at Passage West.

## LANGLAND (1)



Built as Gladstone 1916, scrapped 196?

## LANGLAND (2)



Built 1965 for P.L.A. as Plasma. Renamed Burma 1991, transferred to Swansea 1994 and renamed Langland. Transferred to Grimsby 1998 and renamed Lady Joan. Sold in 2001 and renamed Joan.

# MAJESTIC



Built by Clelands, Wallsend in 1898

Broken up at Llanelli 1956

## MARGAM (1)



Built 1930 as Deemore for Furness  
Withy, acquired 1958. Broken up at  
Silloth 1965.

## MARGAM (2)



Built 1952 as Caedmon Cross, acquired 1968. Sold to Dutch interests in 1970 and renamed Rilland



## MARGAM (3)



Built 1970, sold under false pretences to West Coast Towing and renamed Hurricane H. Later sold to Greek interests and still in service 2007.



## MUMBLES (1)



Built in 1899 as Waterloo, broken up  
1956 at Briton Ferry, where this  
photograph was taken.

## MUMBLES (2)



Built 1929 as Beemore for Furness  
Withy. Acquired 1958 and broken  
up 1965 at Briton Ferry.

## MUMBLES (3)



Built 1968, transferred to Gibraltar 1995,  
later purchased by T.P. Towage Gibraltar.  
Still in service 2007.

# MURTON



Built 1929 as Ceemore for Furness  
Withy. Acquired 1964 and broken up  
1965 at Briton Ferry.

# NEATH



Built 1917 as William Poulsom. Broken  
up at Cork 1962.

## NORTH BUOY



Built 1958. Sold to Italian interests  
in 1973 and renamed Corragioso.

## NORTH WALL



Built 1959, sold 1973 to Italian interests and renamed Maestoso.



# OAKLEY



Built as Victoria in 1972. First saw service in Liverpool and transferred to Swansea. Later transferred to Southampton and Felixstowe and renamed Oakley. Returned to Swansea and sold in 1997 to Togo Oil & Marine and renamed Defender.

# QUEENFORTH



Built in 1911 as Alvear. Acquired by Britannia Steam Towing in 1929 and scrapped at Llanelli in 1959.

# RANA



Built 1951 for Gaselee & Son. Bought  
by London Tugs 1968, acquired by  
A.T.C.L. 1975, sold

# SAURIA



Built in 1968 for Gaselee & Son,  
Felixtowe. To Swansea from  
Felixtowe in 1997. Sold the same  
year to Greek interests and renamed  
Triton. Sold on again and renamed  
Karapiperis VI. Scrapped 1990's.

# SLOYNE



Built 1928, sold in 1966 to Irish  
interests and renamed Lavinia.  
Broken up in Cork 1969.

# TALBOT



Built 1961 for service at Port  
Talbot. Sold 1984 to Greek  
interests and renamed Achilleas.

# TROVER



Built 1943 as TID 59. Acquired 1979, later sold to British interests and renamed Lady of Menai. (This was the last Swansea tug ever to be painted in the livery of the Britannia Steam Towing Co.)



# VICTORIA



Built 1972, later transferred to  
Felixtowe and renamed Oakley.

## WALLASEY (1)



Built 1903, later renamed Cambrian  
and scrapped 1959 at Briton  
Ferry.

## WALLASEY (2)



Built 1954, sold 1972 to British  
interests and renamed Kendiken.  
Scrapped

## WALLASEY (3)



Built 1977. Sold 1999 to Greek interests and renamed Karipiperis 14. Still in service 2007.

## WAPPING



Built in 1959 as William Lamey ,  
transferred to A.T.C.L. Gibraltar in  
1973. Sold in 1985 and renamed  
Theodoros.

## WATERLOO (1)



Built 1899, renamed Mumbles and broken up at Briton Ferry in 1956.



## WATERLOO (2)



Built 1954. Sold to Italian interests in 1972 and renamed Dritto. Scrapped in 1989.



## WATERLOO (3)



Built 1977, later transferred to A.T.C.L.. London. Sold to Iranian interests in 1984 and renamed Ghorban.