

USS *Winston S. Churchill*

USS *Winston S. Churchill* (DDG-81) is an *Arleigh Burke*-class destroyer of the United States Navy. She is named after Sir Winston Churchill, former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom. This ship is the 31st destroyer of her class. *Winston S. Churchill* was the 18th ship of this class to be built at Bath Iron Works in Bath, Maine, and construction began on 7 May 1998. She was launched and christened on 17 April 1999. On 10 March 2001, she was commissioned during a ceremony at Town Point Park in Norfolk, Virginia.



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Contents

[Naming](#)

[Design](#)

[Service history](#)

[Coat of arms](#)

[Shield](#)

[Crest](#)

[Motto](#)

[Seal](#)

[References](#)

[Further reading](#)

[External links](#)

History



United States

Name:	USS <i>Winston S. Churchill</i>
Namesake:	<u>Winston S. Churchill</u>
Ordered:	6 January 1995
Builder:	<u>Bath Iron Works</u>
Laid down:	7 May 1998
Launched:	17 April 1999
Commissioned:	10 March 2001
Motto:	"In war: Resolution; In peace: Good Will"
Status:	in active service
Badge:	



General characteristics

Class and type:	<i>Arleigh Burke</i> -class destroyer
Displacement:	9,200 tons (9,350 t)
Length:	509.5 ft (155.3 m)
Beam:	66 ft (20 m)
Draft:	31 ft (9.4 m)



Sir Winston Churchill

Naming

On 29 November 1995, on a visit to the United Kingdom, President Bill Clinton announced to Parliament that the new ship would be named after Sir Winston Churchill, a former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom. She was the first destroyer and only the fourth United States Navy warship named after a British citizen, and

the first since 1976 named after a non-U.S. citizen, though Churchill was an honorary U.S. citizen and his mother was American.

Other U.S. warships named after Britons were Alfred, an armed merchantman named after King Alfred the Great; Raleigh, a continental frigate, named after Sir Walter Raleigh (though three later USS Raleighs—and two Confederate warships—would be named after the North Carolina city, which did not exist at the time) and Effingham, named after The 3rd Earl of Effingham who resigned his commission rather than fight the colonists during the American Revolutionary War. The former frigate Harold E. Holt was also named after a person from a country in the Commonwealth of Nations, Harold Holt, the Australian Prime Minister who is presumed to have drowned in 1967. However, this is the first ship to be named after a modern British citizen, or British Prime Minister.

Design

The ship is the first of the Flight IIA variants fitted with the 62-caliber Mark 45 Mod 4 naval gun system. The guns' longer barrels allow more complete combustion of the propellant, reducing barrel flare and improving projectile velocity and firepower against ship and shore targets; additionally, the Mk 45 mod 4 uses a modified gun-house, designed to reduce its radar signature. *Winston S. Churchill* is armed with Tomahawk, Standard and ASROC (VLA) missiles.^[1]

The vessel additionally contains two hangars, not present in earlier destroyers; these can house Light Airborne Multi-Purpose System (LAMPS) Sikorsky SH-60B or MH-60R Seahawk helicopters. These LAMPS can be fitted with air-to-surface missiles for surface ship attacks, and torpedoes for submarine attacks.

The ship is also fitted with the AN/SPY-1D phased array radar—this represents a significant advancement in the detection capabilities of the Aegis weapon system and provides enhanced resistance to electronic countermeasures. The radar can guide more than one hundred missiles at once to targets as far as 600 nautical miles (1,100 km; 690 mi).

Service history

The contract to build *Winston S. Churchill* was awarded to the Bath Iron Works Corporation on 6 January 1995, and the keel was laid down on 7 May 1998. *Winston S. Churchill* was launched on 17 April 1999, delivered 13 October 2000, and commissioned 10 March 2001. The launch and christening of the ship was co-sponsored by Lady Soames, the daughter of Winston Churchill, and Mrs. Janet Cohen, wife of the Secretary of Defense. Her first commanding officer was Commander (now Vice Admiral) Michael T. Franken.^[2]

Propulsion:	4 × <u>General Electric LM2500-30 gas turbines</u> , 2 shafts, 100,000 shp (75 MW)
Speed:	exceeds 30 knots (56 km/h; 35 mph)
Complement:	32 officers, 348 enlisted
Electronic warfare & decoys:	<u>AN/SLQ-32(V)3</u>
Armament:	<div>1 × <u>5 inch (127 mm)/62 caliber Mk 45 Mod 4 naval gun</u></div> <div>2 × <u>25 mm Mk 38 Autocannons</u></div> <div>4 × <u>.50 cal (12.7 mm) machine guns</u></div> <div>2 × <u>20 mm Phalanx CIWS</u></div> <div>2 × <u>Mk 32 Mod 11 triple torpedo tubes</u> for:</div> <div><div><u>Mk 46 torpedo</u></div><div><u>Mk 50 torpedo</u></div><div>96-cell <u>Mk 41 VLS</u> for:</div><div><div><u>RIM-66 Standard Missile 2</u></div><div><u>BGM-109 Tomahawk</u></div><div><u>RUM-139 VL-ASROC missiles</u></div></div></div>
Aircraft carried:	2 × <u>SH-60 Seahawk</u> helicopters



A Royal Navy officer assists on the bridge

Winston S. Churchill is the only U.S. Navy vessel to have a Royal Navy exchange officer permanently assigned to the ship's company (usually a Navigation Officer).^[3] The U.S. Navy had a permanent U.S. Navy Officer on the Royal Navy ship, HMS *Marlborough*, until her decommission on 8 July 2005. *Winston S. Churchill* is also the only U.S. Naval vessel to fly a foreign ensign. Being named after a Briton, the Royal Navy's White Ensign is honorarily flown on special occasions from the ship's mast, on the port side, whereas the U.S. flag is flown from the starboard side.^{[4][5][6]} However, during normal operations, only the U.S. flag is flown on the center of the main mast.^{[7][8]}

On 14 May 2001, *Winston S. Churchill* underwent shock trials off the coast of Florida. These trials subjected the ship to several close-range underwater detonations, each consisting of 7 tons of high explosives, and were performed to collect data concerning ship survivability and damage resistance in a modern threat environment. *Winston S. Churchill* sustained minor damage during these three tests.^[9] On 14 September 2001, (three days after the 11 September 2001 attacks), the German Navy destroyer *Lütjens* passed close abeam *Winston S. Churchill* and rendered honors by manning the rails, flying the Stars and Stripes at half-mast, and the display of a banner reading "We Stand By You." An e-mail sent by an ensign on board *Winston S. Churchill* described the occasion.^{[10][11]}

In January 2003, *Winston S. Churchill* deployed with the USS *Theodore Roosevelt* battle group in support of the Iraq War's Operation Iraqi Freedom, firing several Tomahawk missiles. *Winston S. Churchill* returned to Norfolk at the end of May 2003.

On 22 August 2005, *Winston S. Churchill* was involved in a minor collision with the destroyer USS *McFaul* off the coast of Jacksonville, Florida. Both ships suffered minor damage, and no injuries were reported. Both ships returned to their homeport at Naval Station Norfolk under their own power.^[12]

On 22 January 2006 *Winston S. Churchill* captured a suspected pirate vessel in the Indian Ocean as part of an ongoing effort to help maintain law and order in the region.^[13]

On 26 September 2010, *Winston S. Churchill* came across a disabled skiff in the Gulf of Aden. After attempts to repair the skiff's engines failed *Winston S. Churchill* took the vessel under tow towards Somalia. On 27 September the skiff sank when the 85 passengers rushed to one side of the skiff during a food delivery causing the vessel to capsize.^[14] *Winston S. Churchill* was able to rescue 61 of the passengers and continued towards Somalia on 28 September.^[15]

Her homeport is currently Naval Station Norfolk, Virginia. She is currently a part of Carrier Strike Group 12.

Coat of arms

Shield

The shield features an inescutcheon of his ancestral coat of arms and the cross of St. George.

The traditional Navy colors were chosen for the shield because dark blue and gold represents the sea and excellence respectively. Red signifies sacrifice and valor. The cross of St. George and the fleur-de-lis are from Churchill's augmentation from his ancestor's coat of arms. The red cross on the white

field is a reference to the flag of St. George. The gold lion over the field of red is a reference to the heritage of Great Britain. The lion shows strength, courage and determination. The nebuly is representative to the sky and clouds, which recall Britain enduring German airpower in the Battle of Britain. Winston Churchill's reputation of an inspiring war leader, talented statesman, orator and author is referred to by the stylized book.



Crest

The crest consists of a trident encompassed by a chevron, laurel and oak.

The trident is a symbol for sea prowess and represents the ship's vertical launch capabilities. The trident's tines denote air, surface, and anti-submarine warfare capabilities. A chevron divides the trident which suggests a "V" to signify victory in war and strength of defense in peace. The laurel symbolizes honor and achievement while the oak represents strength and resolve.

Motto

The motto is written on a double scroll of red that has a white reverse side.

The ship's motto, "In war: Resolution. In peace: Good Will," is taken from the epigraph of Churchill's The Second World War.^[16]

Seal

The coat of arms in full color as in the blazon, upon a white background enclosed within a dark blue oval border edged on the outside with a gold rope and bearing the inscription "USS Winston S. Churchill" at the top and "DDG 81" in the base all gold.

References

This article includes information collected from the Naval Vessel Register, which, as a U.S. government publication, is in the public domain.

1. Kennedy, Harold (April 2001). "USS Churchill Shows Off High-Tech Gear" (https://web.archive.org/web/20160420075613/http://www.nationaldefensemagazine.org/archive/2001/April/Pages/USS_Churchill4271.aspx). *National Defense Magazine*. Archived from the original (http://www.nationaldefensemagazine.org/archive/2001/April/Pages/USS_Churchill4271.aspx) on 20 April 2016. Retrieved 12 January 2017.
2. "Vice Admiral Michael T. Franken, Deputy Commander for Military Operations U.S. Africa Command" (<http://www.navy.mil/navydata/bios/navybio.asp?bioID=474>). US Navy. Retrieved 2 October 2015.

3. Kennedy, Harold (April 2001). "USS Churchill Shows Off High-Tech Gear" (https://web.archive.org/web/20070927200801/http://www.nationaldefensemagazine.org/issues/2001/Apr/USC_Churchill.htm). *National Defense*. NDIA. Archived from the original (http://www.nationaldefensemagazine.org/issues/2001/Apr/USC_Churchill.htm) on 27 September 2007. Retrieved 15 April 2007. "She also is the only U.S. Navy ship to have a British Royal Navy officer permanently assigned as a member of the ship's company. Lieutenant Angus Essenhigh, RN, of Portsmouth, England, is serving as ship's navigator during his two-year tour of duty."
4. File:USS Churchill mast.jpg
5. File:USS Winston S. Churchill (DDG 81) English Channel.jpg
6. File:USS Winston S. Churchill (DDG-81) high speed run.jpg
7. File:Flickr - Official U.S. Navy Imagery - A VBSS team departs USS Winston S. Churchill.jpg
8. File:010822-N-6967M-503 DDG 81 At Sea.jpg
9. "DDG 81 Winston Churchill" (<http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/agency/navy/ddg-81.htm>). *GlobalSecurity.org*. Retrieved 2 October 2015.
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13. "Suspected Pirates Captured Off Somali Coast" (<https://web.archive.org/web/20070927010004/http://www.centcom.mil/sites/uscentcom1/Lists/Press%20Releases/DispForm.aspx?ID=2597>) (Press release). Headquarters, United States Central Command. 22 January 2006. Archived from the original (<http://www.centcom.mil/sites/uscentcom1/Lists/Press%20Releases/DispForm.aspx?ID=2597>) on 27 September 2007. Retrieved 15 December 2006.
14. Mười ba thuyền nhân Phi Châu chết đuối (<http://nguoi-viet.com/absolutenm/anmviewer.asp?a=120161&z=5>) (in Vietnamese)
15. "Tragic end to US rescue bid off Somali coast" (<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-11425451>). *BBC News*. 28 September 2010.
16. Churchill, Winston (1948). *The Gathering Storm* (https://archive.org/details/gatheringstorm00chur_0). Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company. ISBN 0-395-41055-X.

Further reading

- International Festival of the Sea Official Souvenir Programme (24–27 August 2001)
- US Navy Press Release: USS *Winston S. Churchill* Intercepts Pirate Ship (https://web.archive.org/web/20060219235157/http://www.news.navy.mil/search/display.asp?story_id=22026)

External links

- Official website (<http://www.churchill.navy.mil/>)
 - Youtube: Short video with internal and external footage of the DDG-81 shock trials (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ogmVzCqkTAI>)
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