







TIMELINES FOR THE BRISTOL RNVR / RNR DRILL SHIPS AND SHOREBASES

Year		Event
1848		<p>On 6 August 1848, Captain McQuhae of the Daedalus and several of his officers and crew (en route to St Helena) saw a sea serpent which was subsequently reported (and debated) in The Times. The vessel sighted what they named as an enormous serpent between the Cape of Good Hope and St Helena. The serpent was witnessed to have been swimming with four feet (1.2 m) of its head above the water and they believed that there was another sixty feet (18 m) of the creature in the sea.</p> <p>Wikipedia</p>
1861		<p>HMS Daedalus arrives in Bristol as a drill ship for the Royal Navy Coast Volunteers.</p> <p>HMS Daedalus was a 46-gun fifth rate launched in 1826. She was reduced to 20 guns in 1843.</p> <p>BRO 43207/9/29/42</p>

<p>circa 1862</p>		<p>HMS DAEDALUS</p> <p>Newspaper article reads: 'The frigate lost her beauty when she became a drill ship. Her tall masts were reduced to stumps and canvas awnings hid the upper deck. Bristolians regarded her with proprietorial affection. Due to her being in an unseaworthy condition, she cannot leave her mooring and gun drill at sea can only be carried out when there is a gunboat available. Photo accompanies article (date not known).</p> <p>BRO 43207/9/29/43</p>
<p>circa 1862</p>		<p>On board HMS DAEDALUS</p> <p>BRO 43207/9/29/39</p>

1872		<p>HMS DAEDALUS</p> <p>Clifton National School built in 1872 (large building on the hill behind Daedalus). Demolished by Luftwaffe in 1940. Cleared by 1949</p>
1880		<p>HMS DAEDALUS</p> <p>Possibly dressed overall for the visit of the Duke of Edinburgh.</p> <p>PRESS ASSOCIATION TELEGRAMS “... Duke of Edinburgh will visit Bristol on Thursday next to inspect the Royal Naval Reserve Force on board her Majesty's ship Daedalus.</p> <p>Saturday 24 January 1880 , Western Times , Devon, Article Words: 736 Page: 4</p> <p>BRO 43207/9/29/34</p>

1880






HMS DAEDALUS in the distance along Mardyke Wharf.

1895
-7



HMS DAEDALUS in the background:-
"Favell" was the last big sailing ship to be built in Bristol. She was built in 1895 by Charles Hill & Sons at Albion Dockyard, with a steel hull and three masts. In 1897 she was sold to a Finnish shipping company.

Library Ref: LS.301

1902		<p>Mardyke Ferry, Hotwells, Bristol. 27/08/1902. Vaughan postcards.</p> <p>HMS DAEDALUS in the background.</p> <p>43207/17/29 Bristol archive - similar view: Mardyke Ferry, Hotwells, Bristol, c.1910's, BRO 43207/9/29/2</p>
1906		<p>HMS DAEDALUS on 1906 postcard.</p> <p>No77 (P37) of Bygone Bristol – CENTRAL BRISTOL – on old postcards by J&D Fisher ISBN 9 781899 388257</p>
1909		<p>Bristol Division RNVR moved to 37 Jamaica Street in 1909.</p> <p>In 1914 the Division was mobilised, reforming in 1919 in the same location.</p> <p>Moved to HMS Flying Fox in 1924.</p> <p>Drawing by Samuel Loxton dated 1909 shows the former carriage works on Jamaica Street that in 1909 was in use by the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserves.</p> <p>Bristol Reference Library Z1877</p>



37 – 39 Jamaica St today
Listed building [37 – 39] built as a carriage works in 1905, upper two stories added in 1909.

1911







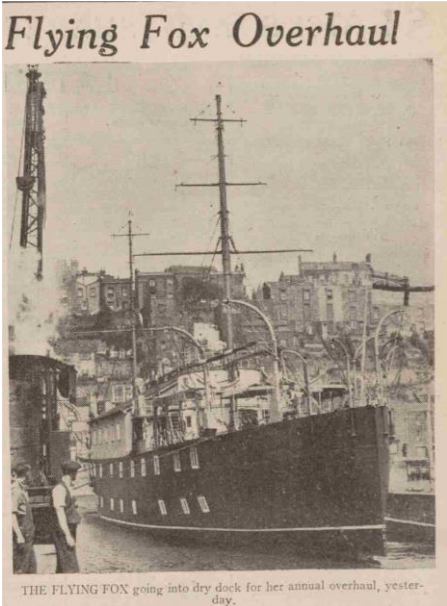
HMS DAEDALUS decommissioned in 1910, she was sold in 1911.

Stripped prior to departure.



HMS Daedalus came to Bristol in much-reduced form in 1861 as a Royal Naval Reserve training ship. She was berthed at Mardyke until 1911, when she was sold off for scrap, eventually being replaced by HMS Flying Fox from 1924 - 1972. This photo appears to have been taken as she was being dismantled: her three masts have gone, and so has the tent-like structure on her upper deck which can be seen in other photographs; only some of the supporting posts and rails remain. The towers of the Cathedral can be seen in the distance on the left.

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1911		HMS DAEDALUS being towed away.
1918		<p>HMS FLYING FOX in dazzle cam. Based at Queenstown (Cobh).</p> <p>Castletown - Bearhaven was a kite balloon station at Queenstown and between late July and early August 1918 supported operations on HMS FLYING FOX.</p> <p>From Andy Harris' article on American LTA operations from NASs in Europe.</p>
1921		HMS FLYING FOX arriving Bristol. Passing Clifton Rocks Railway having been towed from Devonport

1922 /3	No photos	HMS FLYING FOX refitted at Pembroke Dock as a Headquarters Ship for the RNVR.
1923	No photos	HMS FLYING FOX opened 12 May 1923
1924	No photos	HMS FLYING FOX Dedication Service 10 August 1924
1924		<p>From a much larger photo. Shows converted HMS FLYING FOX on Mardyke wharf and Paddle Steamer behind. The short stubby boat ahead looks like the one in the 1946 overhead.</p> <p>Historic England</p>
1927	 <p>THE FLYING FOX going into dry dock for her annual overhaul, yesterday.</p>	<p>HMS FLYING FOX drydocked: ".... the R.N.V.R. training ship was towed from her berth near the Mardyke Ferry to Messrs Stothert's yard, where she was safely dry docked for overhaul. The <i>Flying Fox</i> has become a familiar landmark.....</p> <p>Western Daily Press 8 April 1927</p>

<p>circa 1932</p>		<p>HMS FLYING FOX before mast removed in 1939. Ferry being rowed. Multiple paddle steamers. All boats fitted.</p> <p>BRO 43207/34/1/62</p>
<p>circa 1932</p>		<p>HMS FLYING FOX postcard.</p> <p>No78 (P37) of Bygone Bristol – CENTRAL BRISTOL – on old postcards by J&D Fisher ISBN 9 781899 388257</p>

1934	<p><i>The Port of Bristol.</i> OFFICIAL HANDBOOK- P50 _ 1936</p>  <p>TIMBER YARDS, CITY DOCKS</p>	<p>Looking to Timber yards, HMS FLYING FOX in foreground.</p> <p>Docks Official Handbook 1936.</p>
circa 1938	 <p><i>H.M.S. Flying Fox at Hotwells</i></p>	<p>HMS FLYING FOX postcard, between 1924 & 1939. Two masts, guns and boats. No war damage – largest building flattened in Nov 1940. Some boats missing</p>

1939



Division mobilised. HMS FLYING FOX used to train DEMS gunners and as a recruiting base.

Photo shows gunnery drill for merchant seamen.

1939

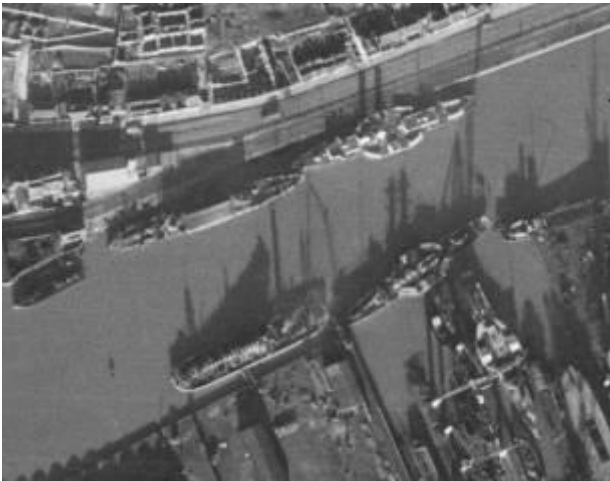


TRAINING SHIP LEAVES FAMILIAR BERTH.—H.M.S. Flying Fox being towed in Canon's Marsh this afternoon for the removal of her masts. She will afterwards go to Hill's Dockyard for an overhaul and refit.

HMS FLYING FOX towed to Canon's Marsh for removal of aft mast and then to Charles Hill's Dockyard for overhaul & refit.

Towed stern first bows to sea. Note: Tugs fore and aft.

1946



Paddle steamer berthed astern.

BCC Know Your Place website.

1950






Aerial photo of HMS FLYING FOX.

Note: Clifton National School demolished.

MMS 1761 arrived in 1947. HMS Locust not yet arrived.

britainfromabove.org.uk

Historic England

1951		<p>HMS LOCUST arrives in Bristol. Drill ship from 1951 until 1967.</p> <p>Photo shows her in 1944 in D Day dazzle cam.</p>
1955		<p>Aerial photo of HMS FLYING FOX and HMS LOCUST.</p> <p>HMS LOCH DUNVEGAN finishing refit ready for reserve.</p> <p>britainfromabove.org.uk Historic England</p>
1957		<p>The Saltom was a 274-ton sandsucker, built in 1900, owned by the Bristol Sand & Gravel Co. On 7th January 1957, a Monday, returning from the Holms with a full 250-ton load of sand, she was in the Floating Harbour and twenty feet off Baltic Wharf when she started to make water. As she was foundering, the crew of six leaped to safety. She sank fifteen feet into the mud of the river bed. Only her mast, funnel and bridge remained visible. HMS FLYING FOX is in background.</p> <p>Photo : Bristol Times - Page 180</p>

1959







Train passing Mardyke Wharf. HMS FLYING FOX in far background and a LEY Class IMS in the foreground. HMS BROOMLEY transferred to the RNR 1/59 and became HMS WATCHFUL, HMS BURLEY transferred in 12/59 and became HMS SQUIRREL. Looking at the bridge and aerial configuration, it is most likely to be HMS SQUIRREL [M2008 originally HMS BURLEY].



circa
1959




Tug Sea Gem prepositioning for towing event below?
HMS FLYING FOX in background.

<p>circa 1959</p>		<p>Towing event 1a</p> <p>HMS FLYING FOX under tow. Tug Sea Gem is making sternway. Ensign flying.</p>
<p>circa 1959</p>		<p>Towing event 1b</p> <p>HMS FLYING FOX leaving Mardyke stern first. Tug wash indicates move to Canon's Marsh. Date is post Sep 54 when M1117 arrived and Pre 1961 when M1146 arrived. Ensign flying.</p>

<p>circa 1959</p>		<p>Towing event 1c</p> <p>HMS FLYING FOX at Canon's Marsh. Small tug on stern. Tug wash at bow. Line ashore from bow, but no Jack. Radar Antenna AQR visible? Car looks like A30 (1952). Ensign flying. C&J Bush warehouse ceases business in the early 1960s.</p>
<p>circa 1959</p>		<p>Towing event 2</p> <p>HMS FLYING FOX under tow. Tug John King ceased working Bristol in 1970. Tug is on slack line to FF stern so FF heading back towards Mardyke. Or given fenders on port side (not needed for Mardyke) is she being put alongside for 1959ish refit?</p>

1961		<p>Could be same time / just prior to Towing event 1?</p> <p>Photo dated in posting on http://bristol.wikia.com/wiki/Crossing_the_River</p>
1962		<p>The film 'Some People' reportedly has footage of the Mardyke Ferry. Ferry looks motorised in this?</p>

<p>1965 ish</p>		<p>Mardyke Ferry motorised.</p> <p>BEP: Post View of Bristol – Page 192</p>
<p>1968</p>	<p>No photo available</p>	<p>Locust towed for scrap by two tugs.</p> <p>Clydesite.co.uk</p>

1970



Breaking Ice in the docks.



Bristol Times Page 170




1970



Original is in colour.

Note: No boats or radar at stern of drill hall.

<p>circa 1970</p>		<p>No HMS LOCUST.</p>
<p>1972</p>		<p>Water colour by Frank Duffield.</p> <p>Presented by outgoing RNSO Lt Cdr Tim Hancock – hangs in the Wardroom.</p>

1972		<p>1972 Severn Division RNR moved ashore to Winterstoke Road. Opened on 18 Nov 72.</p>
1973		<p>This photograph was taken from Cumberland Wharf, on the opposite side of the Floating Harbour, on Saturday 3rd March 1973. Smoke, from welding issues from one of the lower portholes and muffled hammer-blows could be heard. Workmen are on board making the vessel seaworthy for her final voyage to the breaker's yard.</p> <p>She was towed away on Sunday 18th March.</p>
1973		<p>HMS FLYING FOX alongside in Cumberland Basin en-route to being scrapped.</p> <p>Photo by Maurice Tubey</p>

1973



HMS FLYING FOX being towed into the river to be scrapped.



Photo by Maurice Tubey.

1973



Frank Shipsides' 'The Derelict'. Done from memory at Bristol Savages.

Being towed away; just left the Cumberland Basin. Note: Ensign flying, bows first. Tugs have same funnel insignia (new to Bristol Tugs).

1973		<p>Frank Shipsides' original painting showing departure.</p> <p>Being towed down the river.</p> <p>Private collection.</p>
1973		<p>Frank Shipsides' original painting showing departure.</p> <p>Being towed down the Floating Harbour.</p> <p>Hangs in the Wardroom Annex. Presented by widow of Lt Cdr D Sainsbury.</p>

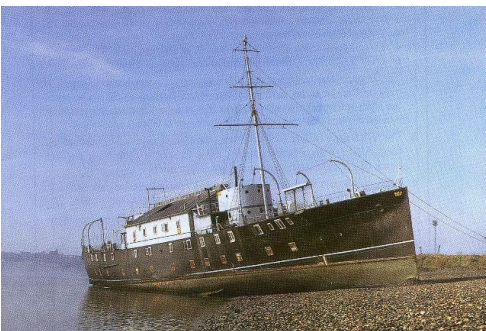
1973



En route to being scrapped in the Bristol Channel.

Scanned from image provided by Andy Harris.

1973



On foreshore at Cardiff awaiting breaking up.

1973



On foreshore at Cardiff awaiting breaking up.