



**EMBARGOED FOR RELEASE
00:01 TUESDAY 3 SEPTEMBER 2024**

**PRESS RELEASE
2 SEPTEMBER 2024**

**HIS MAJESTY THE KING APPROVES
THE NAME CHANGE FROM HQS WELLINGTON TO HMS WELLINGTON (1934)**

The Wellington Trust Board of Trustees are thrilled to announce that His Majesty the King has approved the name change from HQS WELLINGTON to HMS WELLINGTON (1934). HMS WELLINGTON is the Grimsby Class sloop moored at Temple Stairs, Victoria Embankment, London.

Reverting to her name when WELLINGTON was a commissioned Royal Navy warship between 1934 and 1947 is a recognition of both her original identity and her significance today. She is the only dedicated surviving Battle of the Atlantic warship in the UK and is of local, national and international historic importance.

The Battle of Atlantic was the longest battle of the Second World War and was fought between 3 September 1939 to 8 May 1945. During this period, HMS WELLINGTON conducted an incredible 103 convoy escorts protecting vital maritime supply lines and merchant navy vessels making these dangerous voyages. WELLINGTON also saved hundreds of lives while conducting her convoy duties.

Today, as we mark the 85th anniversary of the start of the Battle of the Atlantic, Wellington Trust Chairman Professor Dominic Tweddle commented on His Majesty's approval:

"We are greatly honoured that His Majesty the King has graciously approved our proposed name change from HQS Wellington to HMS WELLINGTON (1934).

This change of name in her 90th anniversary year is a true testament to her heritage as the sole surviving dedicated Battle of the Atlantic warship in Europe. There is no better day for HMS WELLINGTON (1934) to adopt her new name, on the 85th anniversary of the start of the Battle of the Atlantic.

The Wellington Trust is proud to be stewards for the conservation and preservation of the newly renamed HMS WELLINGTON (1934).

The Wellington Trust – Registered Charity 1109066
Patron: Her Royal Highness, The Princess Royal, KG, KT, GCVO, GCStJ, CD, QSO

Chairman: Professor Dominic Tweddle, FSA, FSA Scot
Temple Stairs, Victoria Embankment, London WC2R 2PN
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HMS WELLINGTON survives today thanks to the Honourable Company of Master Mariners. She was purchased by the Company from the Admiralty in 1947 and thus rescued from the breaker yard at Pembroke Dock. WELLINGTON then steamed for the last time to Chatham, where her engine was stripped out and the space was converted into a beautiful wood-panelled courtroom, along with other major modifications. WELLINGTON was then towed to her current berth at Temple Stairs, Victoria Embankment where she remains as a place of learning and as a unique event venue.

In this 90th year since her launch in 1934, the Trust launched a 90th anniversary fundraising campaign to help secure WELLINGTON's future for the nation to enjoy. All funds raised will both support WELLINGTON's conservation and preservation and implement a new business plan to make her more accessible to the public as a visitor attraction.

Members of the public can donate by either:

1. Visiting our website: <https://www.thewellingtontrust.org/donate/>
2. Contributing to our GoFundMe campaign: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/wellington90>

Keep up to date on our efforts to secure the future of WELLINGTON and what's happening onboard by following The Wellington Trust on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) or [LinkedIn](#).

- Ends -

Notes to Editors


HMS WELLINGTON was built in Devonport as a 1200-ton Grimsby Class Sloop in 1934 for Service in New Zealand and the South Pacific. She was recalled to the UK in September 1939 at the outbreak of the Second World War.

HMS WELLINGTON spent most of the Second World War conducting Battle of the Atlantic convoy duties and is credited with completing 103 convoys. She is also credited with rescuing over 400 lives and participating in Operation Torch and Operation Cycle.

HMS WELLINGTON's role in the Battle of the Atlantic directly contributed to her presence in London today. Her wartime service was the seed that grew into the strong affinity and relationship WELLINGTON has enjoyed with the Merchant Navy. She has been a well-known riverscape icon on the Thames since her arrival in December 1948 by the Honourable Company of Master Mariners (HCMM).

HMS WELLINGTON is a heritage vessel of national and international historical significance as she is the last surviving Grimsby Class sloop and is the last survivor of the Battle of the Atlantic, the longest battle of the Second World War. She is owned by the Wellington Trust, Registered Charity 1109066 and is listed on the National Historic Ships Register.

Notes to Picture Editors

High-resolution Image of HMS Wellington can be downloaded here:  [Image 5 - Cityscape and WELLINGTON.jpg](#)

A Pathe newsreel from 1940 of HMS WELLINGTON landing torpedo attack survivors from the Royal Mail liner Highland Patriot can be viewed [here](#).

For further information, please contact the Wellington@90 fundraising appeal Assistant Campaign

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