

# HMS WAGER

## 70<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF HER LAUNCH + OTHER 70<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARIES

### All Saints' Day, Friday 1 November 2013

is the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the launch of yard number 603 at [John Brown's shipyard](#), [Clydebank](#), on the River Clyde.

### HMS Wager was launched on Monday 1 November 1943

but the name of the lady sponsor is not known.

Future 70<sup>th</sup> anniversaries, in 2014-2016, in the story and life of HMS Wager include:

- (August 1943 – Engineer Officer joined HMS Wager at [John Brown's yard](#))
- 22 Dec 1943** – Torpedo Officer (Gunner T – the electrical officer) joined HMS Wager
- 3 Feb 1944** – First Lieutenant joined HMS Wager at [John Brown's yard](#), [Clydebank](#)
- mid-Feb/early Mar 1944** – Other ship's officers and key departmental senior ratings joined ship at [John Brown's yard](#)
- 28 Feb 1944** – Lt Cdr R C Watkin joined HMS Wager as Commanding Officer
- 28 Mar 1944** – Cook ratings joined HMS Wager to clean and commission galley;
- 1 Apr 1944** – Two Midshipmen join HMS Wager
- 2 Apr 1944** – Advance party of the Ship's Company joined: officers and ratings moved from digs ashore in [Clydebank](#) to living on board ship
- 3 Apr 1944** – Remaining majority of ship's company joined and moved straight on board; simple commissioning service held on board conducted by naval chaplain
- 5 Apr 1944** – HMS Wager sailed Clydebank for her first day at sea: Acceptance Trials undertaken over next two weeks
- 14 Apr 1944** – HMS Wager formally completed by shipbuilder and accepted by the Admiralty, becoming part of the Home Fleet
- 14/15 April 1944** – HMS Wager sailed from the River Clyde on the west coast of Scotland, [around the north of the British Isles](#), to [Rosyth Naval Base](#) on the east coast of Scotland (595 nautical miles direct, taking about 1½ days at an average speed of 18 knots; it's [just 55 miles by road!](#))
- 18 Apr 1944** (tbc) – HMS Wager sailed Rosyth, north for Scapa Flow
- 7 May 1944** – HMS Wager sailed from [Scapa Flow](#), Orkney Islands, with task force on [Operation Hoops](#) to waters off the coast off [south Norway](#); returned to Scapa Flow 9 May 1944
- (**10-13 May 1944** – [HM King George VI visited the Home Fleet](#) at Scapa Flow)
- 12 May 1944** – HMS Wager sailed [Scapa Flow](#) with task force on [Operation Potluck](#) to carry out strikes against enemy shipping off the Norwegian coast, returning to Scapa Flow on 16 May 1944
- 28 May 1944** – HMS Wager sailed [Scapa Flow](#) with task force for [Operation Tiger Claw](#) north to waters around the [Faroe Islands](#), returning the afternoon 2 Jun 1944

37. HMS WAGER – June 1944 (extract of [CinC Home Fleet's War Dairy](#))

1st	At sea on Operation TIGER CLAW
2nd	Returned to Scapa
7th	Left Scapa on Operation KRUSCHEN
8th	Returned to Scapa
16th	Left Scapa, arriving Skaalefiord (Operation D.B.)
18th	Rendezvoused with JAMAICA and WHELP for passage to Spitzbergen
20th	Left Spitzbergen

24th	Arrived Scapa
26th	Left Scapa to escort STRIKER to 58-15N, Returned Scapa
30th	Left Scapa escorting HOWE to Clyde

**1 July 1944** – HMS *Wager* arrived [Greenock](#), at the mouth of the River Clyde, alongside the depot ship [HMS Sandhurst](#) for short refit; Ship's Company granted one to two weeks' Foreign Service Leave from 5 Jul 1944 before deploying to Far East

**July 1944** – HMS *Wager* joined 27<sup>th</sup> Destroyer Flotilla

**26 Jul 1944** – HMS *Wager* sailed Greenock for the Eastern Fleet in the Pacific

**1 Aug 1944** – HMS *Wager* arrived [Gibraltar](#); sailed 10 Aug 1944

**11 Aug 1944** – HMS *Wager* arrived Algiers; sailed 13 Aug 1944

**15 Aug 1944** – HMS *Wager* arrived [Malta](#); sailed 17 Aug 1944

**19 Aug 1944** – HMS *Wager* arrived Alexandria; sailed 25 Aug 1944 for [Suez Canal](#)

**29 Aug 1944** – HMS *Wager* arrived [Aden](#); sailed 31 Aug 1944

**5 Sep 1944** – HMS *Wager* crossed Equator: Crossing the Line ceremony 7 Sep 1944

**7 Sep 1944** – HMS *Wager* anchored in Addu Atoll, [Maldives](#); sailed 8 Sep 1944

**9 Sep 1944** – HMS *Wager* arrived Colombo, [Ceylon](#); sailed 11 Sep 1944

**10 Sep 1944** – Commander-in-Chief, Admiral Sir Bruce Fraser visited HMS *Wager*

**12 Sep 1944** – HMS *Wager* arrived [Trincomalee](#), Ceylon; sailed 15 Oct 1944

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**22 Nov 1944** – HMS *Wager* formally joined British Pacific Fleet

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**2 Sep 1945** – HMS *Wager* in Tokyo Bay for formal surrender of Japan

**14 Dec 1945** – HMS *Wager* sailed Singapore for Portsmouth

**14 Jan 1946** – HMS *Wager* arrived Portsmouth (for the first time) to pay off > allocated to the Reserve Fleet, Portsmouth