

LOST AT SEA

THIS MONTH WE OFFER A SELECTION OF DOOMED MUSEUM SHIPS. JUST BECAUSE A SHIP IS SCHEDULED FOR PRESERVATION DOESN'T MEAN IT WILL SURVIVE. WE WONDER IF THIS IS THE FATE OF MOST LARGE SHIPS EXPOSED TO THE ELEMENTS

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The Royal Malaysian Navy's KD *Rhamat* (F24) was a one-of-a-kind frigate. Commissioned in 1971, she was used for experimental work and as a training ship. Decommissioned in 2004, after a period of storage she was transferred to the city of Lumut for development as a museum ship. This was actually relatively successful but in 2017 she was hammered by the violent storms that transited the area and several leaks developed in the hull. This caused a heavy list to port. Flooding was stabilized and the ship was reopened. However, just eight months later more storms hit the area and she sank at her moorings. Declared a total loss, she was scrapped.



USSRS *Dnepr* was a *Grisha*-class corvette commissioned into the Soviet Border Guard on 12 September 1976. Assigned to the Black Sea Fleet, she carried out routine patrols but after the 1992 collapse of the Soviet Union was transferred to the Ukrainian Coast Guard and kept her name until 1995 when she was rechristened UNS *Vinnytsia*. In March 2014, Russia annexed Crimea and seized the majority of the Ukrainian Navy, including *Vinnytsia*. Half her crew defected to Russia and the ship would remain in Russian custody for a month. After that, she was given back to the Ukraine as a training ship. In 2017, she was inspected and her condition was described as poor so the Ukrainian Navy wanted to decommission her. In 2017 but the need for warships was desperate and she was retained. However, in 2021 she was withdrawn and it was announced she would become a museum ship in Odesa. While undergoing conversion to a museum display in June 2022, she was hit by a Russian missile and destroyed.



The ex-USS *Everett F. Larson* (DD-830) was commissioned in April 1945 as a *Gearing*-class destroyer. Too late to see action, she assisted in the occupation of Japan and in 1946 took part in the sinking of 24 captured Japanese submarines. She would go on to serve in the Pacific and Mediterranean. In 1962, she received the FRAM II upgrade and in 1965 she fired her guns in anger for the first time, striking North Vietnamese Army positions. In 1972 she was transferred to the South Korean Navy and rechristened ROKS *Jeon Buk* (DD-916) and began coastal patrols. Decommissioned in 1999, she became a museum ship in Gangneung but the pandemic caused the museum to fail and she was scrapped in 2021.

Commissioned into the Soviet Navy in 1957, USSRS *B-80* was a *Zulu*-class submarine that served with the Northern Fleet but visited South America, the Arctic, and the Mediterranean. Decommissioned in 1990, the next year she was purchased by a Dutch businessman who opened her as a museum ship in Den Helder, The Netherlands. In 2002, she was moved to Amsterdam but there were battles over ownership and these slowed down museum plans. The City of Amsterdam, unable to determine correct owners, ordered her scrapped.

Commissioned during December 1944, *LST-853* was an *LST-542*-class tank landing ship. Deploying to the Pacific, she took part in the deadly Battle of Okinawa and survived kamikaze attacks. With the end of the war, she became part of Operation *Magic Carpet* and returned US Marines back home. In 1946, she was decommissioned and placed in reserve but also rechristened USS *Kane County*. In 1958, she was transferred to South Korea and rechristened ROKS *Suyeong* and served until decommissioning in 2005. She then became a museum ship at Danghangpo but her condition went downhill and in 2017 she was declared unsafe and returned to the Republic of Korea Navy in 2020. It appears she was scheduled to be scrapped.

