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THE EXPANSION OF THE NAVIES ON THE PERSIAN GULF(U)
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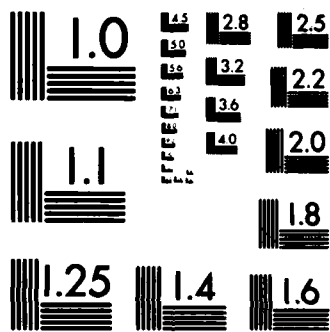
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TRANSLATION

TITLE: THE EXPANSION OF THE NAVIES ON
THE PERSIAN GULF

AUTHOR: JURGEN ROHWER

TRANSLATED BY: 9147

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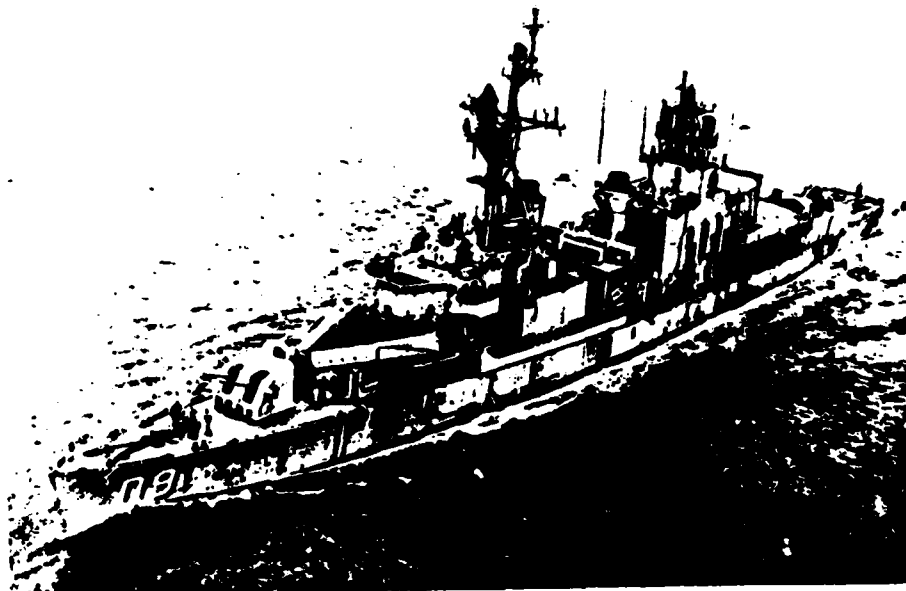
THE EXPANSION OF THE NAVIES ON THE PERSIAN GULF

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[Rohwer, Jürgen; *Marine-Rundschau*, B 20113 E, May 1983, pp. 208 - 214; Bernard & Graefe Verlag GmbH & Co. KG, Koblenz; German]

In the last ten year the states on the Persian Gulf have prosecuted or initiated the expansion of their naval forces. This article provides an overview on the inventories of their navies and the current expansion programs.

The oil finds in the areas around the Persian Gulf caused a considerable increase in traffic in this region even before WWII. In WWII the opening of the Anglo-American supply route for "Lend-Lease" ships to the Soviet Union over the Persian Gulf and the Iranian rail and road system, which was expanded for this purpose, caused a further increase in maritime traffic; the termination of this traffic was more than compensated by the explosively increasing tanker traffic.



One of the two Iranian ALLEN M. SUMNER FRAM II destroyers, PALANG ((D9/62, ex-USS STORMES), acquired by Iran in 1972, which have been laid up since 1980 because of lack of spare parts. The cannisters for the STANDARD SSM can be noted on the B position and between the stacks,

This progressively more international traffic continued to operate until the 1960's through a area in which, aside from small patrol ships, there were hardly any naval forces, while in the adjacent area of the Arabian Sea units of the Royal Navy constituted the dominant element. The British withdrawal from East of Suez in the 1960's left a power vacuum in this area, which the U.S. Navy was not prepared to fill at that time, although a dock landing ship was sent to Bahrain as a depot.

The appeared to suffice, while thr Shah of Iran attempted to develop a strong regional military and sea power, allied with the West and particularly with the USA, which appeared to be ready and capable of insuring the common interests in keeping the traffic and tanker routes open.

The appearance of Soviet naval ships in the Arabian Sea since the the second half of the 1960's and their visits at various harbors, including the Iraki harbor Umm Qasr and the delivery of several Soviet P-6 torpedo craft and several patrol ships of the SO-1 Class from 1959-1962 to Irak still did not affect the situation.

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THE IRANIAN NAVY

During the British-Soviet occupation in August 1941 the Iranian Navy was practically eliminated by the British attack*. The Royal Navy had given

* Cf. the article by Jürg Meister: "The British-Soviet Intervention in Iran in August 1941" (I and II) in: *Marine-Rundschau* 12/1982 and 1/1983.

a number of small ships to Iran, including a minesweeper and a frigate, as reparation in 1949.

After until 1962, when the Iranian Navy had acquired - in addition to several small ships and auxiliary vessels - four coastal minesweepers and for Coast Guard patrol ships from the USA, the plans of the Iranian Navy in the 1960's were in an initial phase to develop the basis for a deep-sea navy with frigates and corvettes built in the USA and Great Britain and to prepare itself for all eventualities in the Gulf region by developing amphibious and air components with helicopters.

The increase in oil revenues at the beginning of the 1970's then resulted in the initiation of another phase, in which the intent was to improve the operational capabilities within the Gulf region by the acquisition of hovercraft and to expand the logistical capability by ordering supply and landing ships. The explosive increase of oil revenues after 1973 resulted in a rapid expansion of the expansion program, which threatened to exceed the real personnel and logistical capabilities of the Iranian Navy; the orders for ships and equipment now included not only a rather large number of fast attack missile craft, but also very modern guided missile destroyers and submarines.

The fall of the Shah terminated these ambitions and plunged the Iranian Navy into a crisis, which was caused on the one hand in the disintegration of the integrity of the officer corps as a consequence of the revolution and in particular by the cessation of the supplies of ships, systems, spare parts, etc., from the Western supplying countries. The majority of the new construction ordered was cancelled or blocked.

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The consequences were apparent in the less than scintillating performance of the Iranian Navy in the Iranian-Iraki War and in the attempted desertion of the fast attack missile craft TABARZIN in the transfer cruise from France, which made headlines, but which was probably exaggerated.

There is only very sparse information available in regard to the current material status of the ships of the Iranian Navy and their losses in the Iranian-Iraki War. According to unconfirmed reports three unidentified ships were sunk in January 1982 at Bandar Khomeini, two others in the Khowr-e-Musa in May 1982, another two at the northern end of the Persian Gulf, and in August 1982 another two ships sunk in the vicinity of the island Khur-Mussa. Two fast attack missile craft of the KAMAN Class are reported to be among the ships lost. The operational capability of these ships is also reduced by the fact that prior to the US embargo only nine HARPOON missiles were delivered, of which two were expended in the first phase of the war, and the remaining missiles might already have been expended in the interim.

The war with Irak has now according to press reports resulted in efforts by the Khomeini regime to reestablish old contacts, in order to revive orders, which were cancelled or blocked years ago, for replacement of losses or to improve capabilities against the enemy. The US Naval Institute Proceedings in its "International Navies Issue" of March 1983 (p. 47) reported

on the Iranian intent to revive the contract concluded in 1978 with the Howaldt-Werke/Deutsche Werft, which was cancelled in 1979, for the delivery of six Type 209/3 submarines; this intent will probably fail because of the embargo imposed by the Federal Republic of Germany upon weapons sales in conflict areas.

THE SHIPS OF THE IRANIAN NAVY

Submarines

US TANG Class (built 1949-53 in the USA), 2,050 tons; delivery scheduled in 1978, cancelled in 1979:

(101) KUSSEH (ex-TROUT); (102) NAHANG (ex-WAHOO); 103 DOLFIN (ex-TANG).

German IKL Class 209/3, 1,400 tons, ordered in 1978, cancelled in 1979:

(111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116).

Destroyers

British BATTLE Class, 2,325 tons (built 1943-46 in England, modernized 1975/1976; SSM- STANDARD/SAM SEA CAT retrofit): 41 ARTEMIZ (ex-Sluys), acquired 1967; US ALLEN M. SUMNER Class (built 1943-1945 in USA. 2,200 tons, STANDARD missile retrofit: 61 BABR (ex-ZELLARS, acquired 1971), 62 PALAMG (ex-STORMES, acquired 1972); US MOD. SPRUANCE Class (ordered in 1974, built 1978-82, cancelled in 1979 and finished for the US NAVY (KIDD Class), 6,210 tons, 8 HARPOON SSM, STANDARD ER SAM: (11) KOUROOSH (KIDD), (12) DARYUSH (CALLAGHAN), (13) NADER (SCOTT), (14) ANOUSHIRVAN (CHANDLER), (15) ARDESCHIR (cancelled 1976), (16) SHAHPUR (cancelled 1976).

Light Frigates/Corvettes

US PF-103 Class (ordered 1962/66, MAP, 900 tons):

81 BAYANDOR 1964, 82 NAGHDI 1974, 83 MILANIAN 1969, 84 KAHNAMUIE 1969.

British Vosper Mark 5 Class (ordered in 1966, 1,110 tons, SEAKILLER SSM 5, SEA CAT SAM): 71 SAAM 1971, 72 ZAAL 1971, 73 ROSTAM 1972, 74 FARAMARZ 1972.

Fast Attack Missile Craft

French COMBATTANE II Class, ordered 1974, 234 tons, 4 HARPOON SSM only partially installed because of US embargo in 1979: 221 KAMAN 1977, 222 ZOUBIN 1977, 223 KHADANG 1978, 224 PEYKAN 1978, 225 JOSHAN 1978, 226 FALAKON 1978, 227 SHAMSHIR 1978, 228 GORX 1978, 229 GARDUNEH 1978, 230 KHANJAR 1981, HEYZEH 1981, 232 TARBAZIN 1981.

Patrol Ships:

Ex-US Coast Guard CAPE Class, 85 tons: 201 KAIWAN 1956, 202 TIRAN 1957, 203 MEHRAN 1959, 204 MAHAN 1959;

Ex-US improved PGM-71 Class, 105 tons: 211 PARVIN 1967, 212 BAHRAM 1969, 213 NAHID 1970; number small patrol ships.

Hovercraft

6 British BJ. 7 WELLINGTON Class, 50 tons, delivered 1970-85, No. 101-106.

8 British SR. N.6 Class, 10 tons, delivered 1973-75, No. 01-08.

Minesweepers

US coastal minesweepers MSC-292 Class, delivered 1959-62 under MAP, 320 tons: 301 SHAROKH 1960, 302 SIMORGH, 303 KARKAS (1974 after collision +)

US inshore minesweepers CAPE Class, delivered 1964 under MAP. 180 tons:

311 HARISHI 1964, 312 RIAZI 1964.

Landing Ships

British Yarrow-Logistic, LS-Type, 2,500 tons: 2 ordered 1972, 4 ordered in 1977, 4 begun, only the first two delivered, two others laid up in England:

(511) HENGAM 1979, (512) LARAK 1974, (513) LAVAN (in England) 1979, (514) TOMB (in England) 1979, (515) cancelled, (516) cancelled.

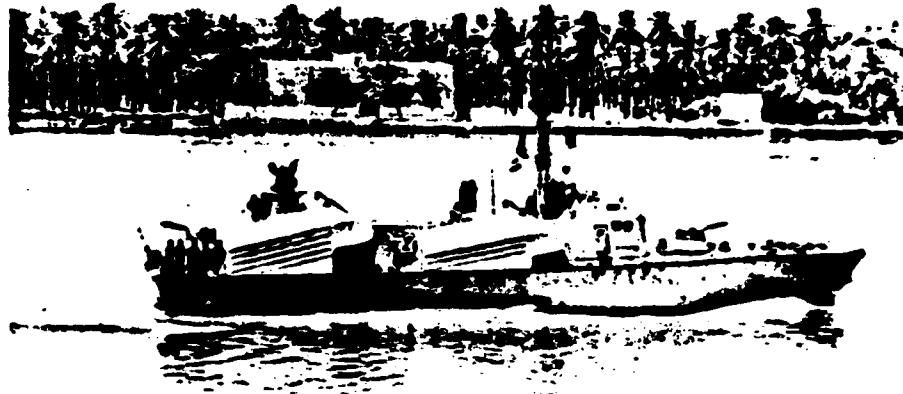
Supply Ships

New construction Lühring, Brake, ordered 1972, 3,250 tons: 421 BANDAR ABBAS /210
1974, 422 BOOSHEHR

British new construction, order 1974 Swan Hunter, 10,890 tons, completed 1980,
but not delivered: (431) KHARG.

IRAK

With the withdrawal of Irak from the Baghdad Pact in 1959 and the beginning of the Kurdish rebellion in northern Irak, the tensions with neighbouring Iran were aggravated. The new socialist oriented regime has since received to an increasing degree military and equipment assistance



IRAK received from 1972-74 six fast attack missile craft of the OSA-1 Class from the Soviet Union, of which two have been eliminated in the interim. Here one of the ships on the Shatt-el-Arab. /211

The Iraki Navy, which until that time had been insignificant, was then equipped in 1959-61 with twelve Soviet Type P-6 torpedo craft and in 1962 with three ASW-ships of the SO-I Type. After several visits a friendship treaty was concluded between the Soviet Union and Irak in 1972, which gave the Soviet Union access to the Iraki base Umm Qasr and as compensation gave Irak delivery of 14 fast attack missile craft.

In 1975 - after Iran had supported the Kurdish rebellion for a long time - Iran and Irak reached agreement in drawing the boundary line in the Shatt-el-Arab on the centerline, which facilitated sea access for Iran to the Iranian oil installations, and in return Iran sealed its borders to the Kurds, who were forced to conclude an armistice with the Iraki government.

In 1976 another treaty, which was kept secret, was reported to have been concluded between the Soviet Union and Irak, which accorded the Soviet Union additional rights in Umm Qasr, and provided in return the delivery of ten guided missile corvettes to Irak. Actually, this treaty was apparently not realized, because no further missile ships were delivered to Irak, and only as additional four landing ships and several in-shore minesweepers were delivered.

After the assumption of power by President Saddam Hussein the gradual drift of Irak away from the Soviet camp slowly became more apparent, and a reorientation of the naval policy was evidenced, which as in all Gulf countries because of the oil incomes, which were expected to continue to increase on the long term, assumed dimensions, which far exceeded the previous projections for a litoral navy. In January 1981 an extensive contract

was concluded with Italian shipyards, which provided for the delivery of no less than four LUPO class guided missile frigates, six 650 ton guided missile corvettes, a supply ship and a 6,000 ton floating dock. In addition, six hovercraft and in Yugoslavia a frigate-type yacht, which was intended to be used as a training ship, and two landing ships and auxiliary ships were ordered. /21

When the war with Iran was initiated, none of these ships was yet available, and the battles at sea, in which in the first three/four months of 1980 some losses developed on both sides, were still conducted with Soviet weapons and ships. To what extent combat losses and the deficient supply and spare parts deliveries from the Soviet Union have affected the combat power of the Iraqi Navy is not yet clear.

The continuation of construction of ships in Italy suggests that the Iraqi Navy will have a good basis of modern combat ships after the war.

THE IRAKI NAVY

Frigates:

Jugoslavian Type, 1,850 tons, ordered in 1978, IBN KHLADOUN, delivered 1981
Italian LUPO Class, ordered 1981, 2,208 tons, SSM-SAM armament:
I launched 1983, completion 1984, II, in building dock, completion 1984,
II completion 1985, IV, completion 1985?.

Corvettes

Italian type Libyan WADI/ASSAD Class, 670 tons, SSM: 6 OTOMAT, SAM: ALBATROS, 1 76 mm, 6 VJ-torpedoes) 76 mm, construction begun 1981 at Breda-Venice:
I launched/1984, II 1974, III 1983, IV 1985.
Italian type Ecuadorian ESMEALDA Class (680 tons, SSM: 2 OTOMAT, SAM: Albatros, 1 76 mm, helicopter, ordered 1981 at Muggiano:
MUSSA BEN NUSSEIR, launched 1983, completion 1984, VI completion 1985.

Fast Attack Missile Craft

Soviet OSA-I Type (165 tons, SSM: 4-SS-N2A): HARIZANI 1972, KANUN ATH-THANI 1972, NISAN 1972, TAMUZ 1974 (two other units decommissioned).

Soviet OSA-II Type (165 tons, SSM: 4 SS-N2B: SA'D 1974, KHALID IBN !, AL WALID IV !, V !, VI !, VII !, VIII 1976.

Fast Attack Torpedo Craft

Soviet Type P-6, 64 tons, 211-222, 2 delivered 1959, 4 1960, 6 1961, name assignment uncertain: AL ADRISI, AL BAHY, AL SHAAB, AL TAMI, ALEF, IBN SAUD, LAMAKI, RAMADAN. SHULAB, TANUR, TAREQ BEN ZAID, XII.

ASW-Ships

Soviet Type OS-I, 170 tons, 310-312 delivered 1962, names not known.

Patrol Ships

Various Thornycroft ships and Soviet types.

Minesweepers

Soviet Type T-43, 580 tons, delivered beginning of the 1970's: 465 AL YARMOUK, 467 AL KADISIA.

Landing Ships:

Soviet POLNOCNY Class, 700 tons: ATIKA 1977, GANDA 1977, NOUH 1978, IV 1979.

Supply Ships

Italian STROMBOLI Type, ordered 1981: AGNADEEN, launched 1983, completion 1984. /212

SAUDI ARABIA

As the third Gulf state. Saudi Arabia, similarly inspired by the increasing oil income, began with the build-up of relatively strong and modern equipped naval forces. In January 1972 a "Saudi Naval Expansion (SNEP) Program" scheduled for ten years was concluded with the USA, which initially provided for six corvettes, four coastal minesweepers, two patrol ships, three training ships and two tugboats to be ordered; in 1976/77 instead of the six projected corvettes, the orders were changed to four guided missile corvettes of 732 tons and nine fast attack missile craft of 384 tons, which were built in American shipyards and were delivered in 1982-1983. /212



Launch of the supply ship of the modified DURANCE Class, NORAIDA (902), ordered by Saudi Arabia at CN de la Ciotat.

Photo: G. Gysseis 1/83

In addition to these ships, a series of other patrol ships from the USA and France and hovercraft from Great Britain were acquired.

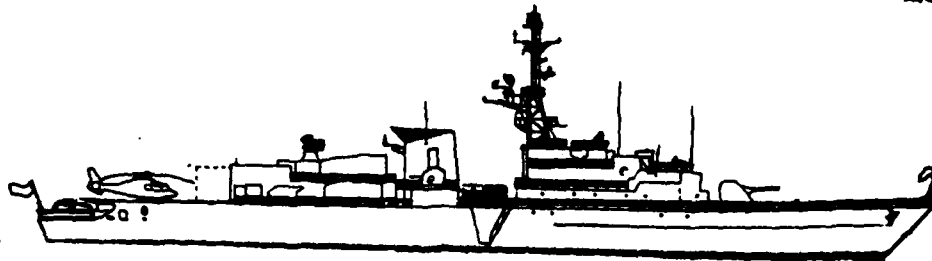
In 1980 a treaty was concluded with France, in whose parameters the construction of four guided missile Type F-2000 frigates and of two under-way supply ships of the DURANCE Class and 24 helicopters was included. The construction of these ships has progressed in the interim, and the two first frigates and the first supply ship have been launched. The frigates will be equipped with OTOMAT SSM, CROTALE SAM, torpedo tubes and 100 mm and 40 mm guns and will be able to carry a DAUPHIN helicopter, for which a telescoping hangar is provided.

In January 1982 Saudi Arabia and France signed another treaty, which provides French services for improving the infrastructure and the training facilities. According to rumours, the Saudis are also interested in acquiring two F-4000 guided missile frigates (similar to the C70/AA).

THE SAUDI ARABIAN NAVY

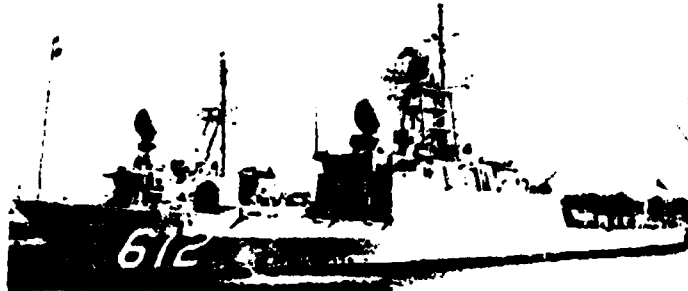
Frigates

French Type F2000, 2610 tons, ordered in 1981, SSM: 8 OTOMAT-2, SAM: CROTALE: I, launched St. Lorient, completion 1984, II, launched La Seyne 1985, III, in building dock La Seyne 1985, IV, La Seyne 1986.



F 2000 Type

Guided Missile Frigates
 US Type TACOMA, 732 tons, SSM: 8 HARPOON, PHALANX

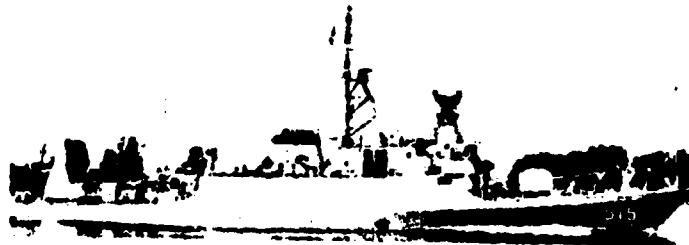


BADR

10/1981, Dr. Giorgio Arra

612 BADR 1980, 614 AL YARMOUK, 616 HITTEEN 1981, 618 TABUK 1981.

FAST ATTACK MISSILE CRAFT
 US Type PETERSON, 384 tons, SSM: 4 HARPOON, PHALANX



ABUL AZIZ

8/1981, L. and L. van Ginderen

511 AS SAFDDIQ 1980, 513 AK FAROUQ 1981, 515 ABDUL AZIZ 1981, 517 FAISAL 517, 519 KAHLID 1981, 521 AMYR 1981, 53 TARIQ 1982, 525 OQBAH 1982, 527 ABU OBAIDAH 1982.

TORPEDO CRAFT

German Type Lürssen (160 tons, ordered 1967, modernized 1976):
 DAMMAM 1969, KHABAR 1969, MACCAH 1969.

Patrol Ships

Numerous small ships, including 12 RAPIER Class from Halter, New Orleans, 15 SCORPION Class from Erlenbach, MAIN, and Thornycroft types and Type P-32 by CMN.

Minesweepers

US MSC-322 Type, 320 tons, ordered 1975
 412 ADDRIYAH 1978, 414 AK QUYSUMAH 1978, 416 AL WADEEAH 1979, 417 SAFWA 1979.

HOVERCRAFT

8 British Type SRN. 6, 1970

8 additional units of the same type, ordered in 1980.

Landing Ships

8 US Type LCM (4 acquired 1977, 4 acquired 1980).

4 US Type LCU (acquired 1976)

4 German Type LCU-Schlichting (acquired 1982).

Supply Ships

French Type modified DURANCE (ordered 1980, 10,475 tons, under construction at Le Ciotat).

902 BORAIDA, launched 1983, completion 1984, II, 1985, various other auxiliary ships.

KUWAIT

Even the smaller Arab oil sheikdoms on the Persian Gulf, which up to the 1970's usually had a number of small coastal patrol craft, which were capable of performing only police functions, have in the period after the oil price boom begun to acquire modern naval forces, usually in the form of fast attack missile craft.

In this regard, the Kuwaiti Navy, which had a number of small patrol ships by Vosper-Thornycroft in Great Britain or from its subsidiary in Singapore, ordered six fast attack missile craft of the Type TNC-45 from the German Lürssen Werft, supplemented by two Type FPB-57 cannon gun boats. The ships are equipped with the internationally standard Italian 76 mm and 40 mm guns and in part with OTOMAT missiles.

THE KUWAITI NAVY

Fast Attack Missile Craft

German Type Lürssen TNC-45 (ordered 1980, 225 tons, 4 OTOMAT SSM):

451 WERIJAH 1982, 453 MASHUWAN 1983, 455 JALBOOT 1983, 457 1984, 459 1984, 461 1984.

Fast Attack Craft - Gun

German Type Lürssen FPB 57 (ordered 1980, 410 tons, 76 mm OTO Melara, equipped as command ships): 751, launched 1983, completion 1983, 753 1984.

Hovercraft

6 British N 5 Mk 8 ordered.

Watch And Patrol Ships

10 Thornycroft 40 tons, delivered 1966-1972; 5 Vosper-Thornycroft 56 ft., 25 tons

2 delivered 1973/74, 3 1978/79; 1 Halter-Marine, 61 tons, delivered 1979;

7 Thornycroft-Singapore 50 ft., numerous other small craft ordered.

Landing Ships

3 LCU by Vosper-Singapore, 320 tons, delivered 1979; 3 LCU by Vosper-Singapore, 170 tons, delivered 1971/75.



At the end of 1982 the first Type PB 57 ship was launched. Kuwait ordered two ships of this type. The first unit has the identification number K 751V. Photo: P. Voß 14.11.1982

BAHRAIN

The Navy of Bahrain, which had been previously equipped with small patrol ships of British design awarded the contract in 1979 to the Lürssen Werft for the construction of two fast attack craft - gun of the Type FPB-38 and two fast attack missile craft of the Type TNC-45 with EXOCET missiles. The two first units were delivered in 1981 and the two others are scheduled for 1983/84.

THE NAVY OF BAHRAIN

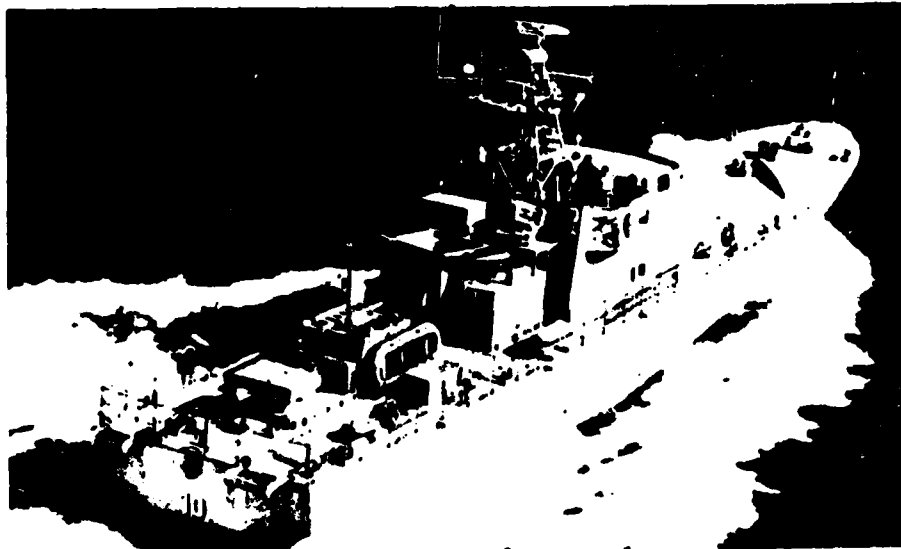
Fast Attack Missile Craft: German Type Lürssen TNC-45 (228 tons, ordered 1979, SSM: 4 EXOCET: I 1983, II 1984.

Fast Attack Craft - Gun

German Type FPB 38 (188 tons, ordered 1979): AL RIFFA 1981, HOWAR 1981

Coast Guard Patrol Ships

17 ships of various types, including Vosper-Thornycroft, Singapore, Cheverton, Fairey SWORD, et al.



The small navy of the Sultanate of Bahrain acquired as its first powerful combat nucleus two each Lürssen Type FPB 38 and TNC-45 fast attack craft, Here the first FPB 38 unit AL RIFFA with a 40 mm Bofors Breda twin mount and a light rocket launcher aft. Photo: P. Voß

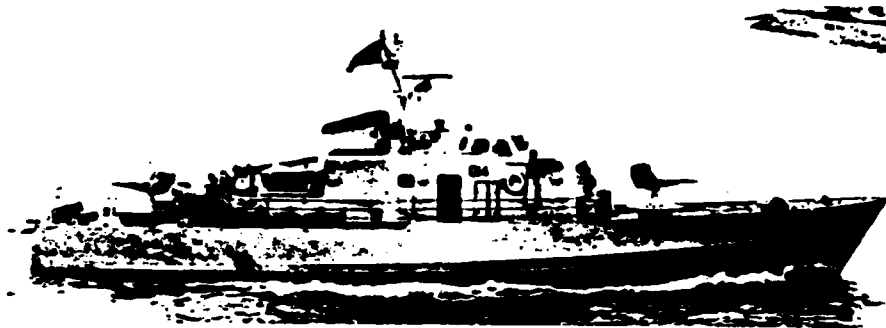
QUATAR

The small navy of Qatar, whose modern nucleus consists of six Vosper-Thornycroft patrol ships delivered in the 1970's, ordered three fast attack missile craft of the Type COMBATTANTE IIIM at the CMB Shipyard in Cherbourg, which are equipped in addition to 76 mm OTO, 40 mm Breda and 30 mm Oerlikon with 8-MM-40 EXOCET SSM. These units are scheduled for delivery in 1982/83. Qatar is also reported to have ordered truck-mounted EXOCET SSM.

The Qatar Navy

Fast Attack Missile Craft

French Type COMBATTANTE IIIM (345 tons, ordered 1980, SSM:8 EXOCET MM40: DAMSAH 1982, AL SARIYAH 1983, RBIGAH 1983.



The QATAR Navy acquired six 120 ton patrol ships from Vosper-Thornycroft in 1975/76, hier the Q 14 AL WUSSAAIL, as it is used by many other navies in very similar versions, also in the navy of the United Arab Emirates. Photo: Archiv BfZ

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Patrol Ships

British Type Vosper-Thornycroft, 120 tons, ordered 1972-1973:
Q11 BARZAN 1975, Q12 HWAR 1975, Q13 THAT ASSAURAI 1975, Q14 AK WUSAAIL 1975, Q15 FATEH-AL-KHAIR 1976, Q16 TARIQ, and also 39 smaller patrol boats, including 24 of the Type Fairey SPEAR.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

The small Arab Emirates, which consolidated in 1971, which initially had six patrol ships and several other small patrol vessels of British design, ordered six TNC-45 fast attack missile craft from the Lürssen-Werft in 1977, which were delivered in 1980/81 and are armed with four MM-40 EXOCET SSM and 76 mm guns.

THE NAVY OF THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

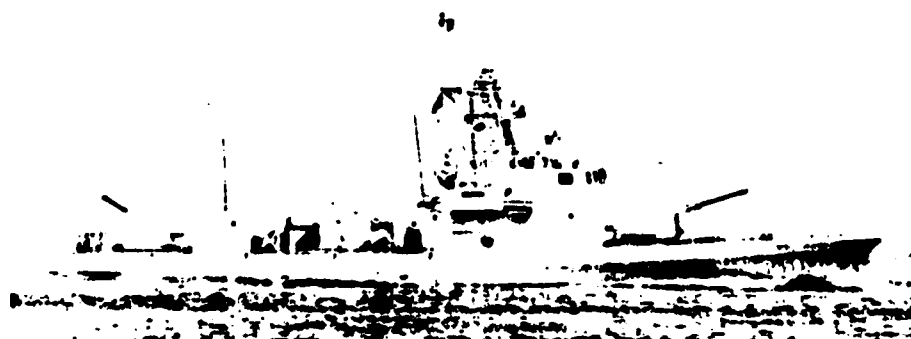
Fast Attack Missile Craft

German Type Lürssen TNC-45 (ordered 1977, 230 tons, SSM: 4 EXOCET MM40):
4501 BANI YAS 1980, 4502 MURBAN 1980, 4503 RASOOM 1981, 4504 SHAHEEN 1981, 4505 SAQR 1981, 4506 TATEF 1981.

Patrol Craft

British Type Vosper-Thornycroft (110 tons, ordered 1974): 1101 ARDHANA 1975, 1102 ZURARA 1975, 1103 MURBAN 1975, 1104 AK GHULLAN 1975, 1105 RADOOM, 1106 GHANADHAH 1976.

3 Keith-Nelson, 2 Cheverton patrol craft, also ca. 40 small coast guard patrol craft.



The Lürssen-Werft delivered the first six units of its successful Type TNC-45 to the United Arab Emirates, here the first ship, 4501 BANI YAS, then orders followed from Bahrain (2) and Kuwait (6). Photo: L.L. van Ginderen

OMAN

The navy of the Sultanate of Oman had ordered first in the 1970's from the British firm Brooke-Marine seven 166-ton patrol craft, which were variously armed. Two of the ships had only 1 40 mm gun and two MM-38 EXOCET launchers; the other four were armed with one 76 mm gun. They were commissioned between 1973 and 1977. /214

In 1980 the Sultanate ordered three large fast attack missile craft of the PROVINCE Class from Vosper-Thornycroft, the lead ship of which has already been delivered. Smaller ships and a landing ship from the Brooke Firm complete the inventory of this growing navy, which has as its primary mission keeping the Strait of Hormuz open.

THE OMAN NAVY

Fast Attack Missile Craft

British Type Vosper-Thornycroft PROVINCE Class (420 tons, ordered 1980, SSM: 6 EXOCET MM40: DHOFAR 1982, AL GARIYAH 1983, AL BATNARI 1983.

British Type Brook-Marine, 166 tons, ordered 1971, SSM: 2 EXOCET MM-38. B1 AL BUSHRA (sunk 1978), B2 AL MANSOUR 1973, B3 AL NEHAH.

Fast Attack Craft - Gun

Type British Brook-Marine 135 tons, ordered 1974, 76 mm OTO Melara:

B4 AL WAFI 1977, B5 AL FULK 1977, B6 AL MUJAHID 1977, B7 AL JABBAR 1977. 4 small patrol craft, also other coast guard patrol craft.

Landing Ships

British Type Brooke-Marine, 2,000 tons, ordered 1977:

L1 AL MUNASSIR 1979.

6 LCU of various types up to 170 tons, all delivered by British shipyards between 1975-1981.

Within the last ten years in the area of the Persian Gulf a forced expansion could be noted in the region. Whereas in the first phase particularly the United States was the supplier for the Iranian and Saudi navies, this activity has been terminated by the Iranian revolution on the one hand and the conclusion of the Saudi-American SNEP Program. On the other hand, the European shipbuilding countries have gained considerable ground in the construction of modern fast attack missile craft (FRG, France, UK) and also in the construction of corvettes and frigates (Italy, France). It can only be hoped that the new modern ships now delivered by European shipyards will contribute to deterring potential aggressors from attacks on the critical oil producing installations. The recent events in the Gulf War between Iran and Irak have shown what horrendous consequences the irresponsible destruction of oil producing installations by air and sea attacks by Iraki forces has with the oil pollution threatening all neighbouring countries on the Persian Gulf.

END

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