

The Cannon class destroyer escorts (of which nine were in this convoy alone) proved valuable companions to vulnerable cargo ships in the anti-submarine campaign of World War Two. Being the third (and smallest produced) design class of the six evolving D.E. classes, the Cannon's fuel efficient four General Motors model 16-278A diesel engines (with electric tandem motor drive) had a range of about 8,300 nautical miles at 14 knots. Some what slow at 21 knots maximum, the two screws (with two rudders) did have 6,000 shaft horse power. Displacing 1,240 tons standard, each Cannon generally had an overall length of 306 feet. The breadth was just over 36 feet with a draft of nearly 12 feet. Equipage for 15 officers and 201 enlisted men included both sonar and radar sensors. Armament consisted of:

- A. - Three (3) single mount 3 inch / 50 (76 mm) Mark 22 guns with 11 man crews ?
- B. - One (1) twin 40 mm Mark 1 (Bofors design) anti-aircraft mount.
- C. - Eight (8) single mount 20 mm Mark 4 (Oerlikon design) anti-aircraft guns.
- D. - Three (3) Mark 15 (21") above water torpedo launchers.
- E. - One (1) Mark 10 anti-submarine Hedgehog Projector with 144 rounds.
- F. - Eight (8) Mark 6 (and later, the high maintenance, unreliable Mark 8) (K gun) depth charge projectors.
- G. - Two (2) Mark 9 depth charge racks.

While not the most popular of models, this class of destroyer escorts was very effective in protection and proved the convoy system could provide an indispensable supply line to Europe and elsewhere.

(Note: For drawings credit (attached) look within acknowledgements.)

CANNON CLASS

