

## Patrick Joseph Mooney 1910 – 1959

### Details of RN Service 1939 -1941

Pembroke I - 19 Sep 39 - 19 Mar 40  
Lynx (Brilliant) - 20 Mar 40 - 30 Sep 40  
Pembroke - 1 Oct 40 - 8 Dec 40  
Pembroke (Legion) - 9 Dec 40 - 10 Mar 41  
Pembroke - 11 Mar 41 - 14 Jun 41  
Curacoa - 15 Jun 41 - 13 Aug 41 - "R"

The "R" is an abbreviation for "RUN" which is the way the RN indicated that someone had deserted.

Where the name of a ship appears in brackets it means that it is the ship served in. The name preceding it is that of the accounting base responsible for pay, etc.

Some vessels, from the smallest up to destroyers, (which invariably operated in squadrons or flotillas, had insufficient working space on board, i.e. no victualing office, no stores office and only the tiniest ship's office on the larger frigates and destroyers, to look after the Captain's correspondence, daily orders for the ship etc., and didn't have sufficient sleeping and living accommodation to carry the victualling, stores and writer ratings necessary to fill the positions, i.e. these ships were designed purely as fighting machines - and the people who would organize the pay and service documents for the ship's company, victualing accounts and menus and all the various stores that a ship requires to operate, lived ashore in say Pembroke, where they could look after far more people than they could have done had they lived on board, i.e. there was a saving in manpower e.g. 1 Petty Officer Writer and 1 writer could look after the pay documents for 500 officers and ratings - which would be the pay for several ships - depending on the size of the ship's company.

In addition, the depot could carry specialist officers and experienced maintenance ratings, which could help any ships in the squadron that might have had problems in say the engine room or with electrical equipment etc. The depot ship or establishment is therefore known as the mother ship and the MTB, minesweeper or destroyer would be known as a tender.

**Pembroke.** Pembroke was at the Royal Naval Barracks, Chatham, Kent, which was the centre for administration for all those who served in the Chatham Port Division.

**Lynx (Brilliant).** HMS Lynx acted as the administration centre for HMS Brilliant. Brilliant was based at Dover and was bombed in July 1940.

*HMS Brilliant: Destroyer, 1350 tons, built by Swan Hunter (Wallsend), launched 9 Oct 1930 ; Armament: 4 x 4.7"; 2 x 2 pdr; 8 x 21" Torp Tubes; Depth Charges; 36 knots; Dimensions LBD: 323 x 32 x 12 feet; Complement 138, Broken up 21 Feb 1948.*

**Pembroke (Legion).** Pembroke was the administration centre for HMS Legion.

*HMS Legion: Destroyer, 2045 tons, built by Hawthorn Leslie (Hebburn); completed 19 Dec 1940 ; 8 x 4 ", 4 x 2 pdr, 8 x 21" Torp Tubes Depth Charges.36 knots; Dimensions LBD 362 x 36 x 13; Complement 226; 26*

The Imperial War Museum's book "The War at Sea" by Julian Thompson includes mention of HMS Legion - but regrettably not for the period above. However it would appear that she spent much of her time in the Mediterranean. She was seriously damaged in Mar 1942, during an air attack off Malta as a result of which she was beached. She was subsequently refloated and moved to Grand Harbour, Malta, where she was destroyed by air raids on 26 Mar 1942 and was broken up in 1944.

**Curacoa.** HMS Curacoa was big enough to do its own administration. HMS Curacoa was a Ceres Light Class Cruiser:

*HMS Curacoa: Ceres Class Light Cruiser, later AA cruiser having been converted from Aug 1939-Feb 1940; built at Pembroke Dock; launched 5 May 1917; 2 Oct 1942 rammed by the liner Queen Mary NW of Bloody Foreland, Ireland and was cut in two and foundered after failing to keep station on the liner.*

*It is mentioned in "The Royal Navy in World War II" by Robert Jackson that HMS Curacao was fitted out with radar before the Norwegian campaign in April 1940.*

*Out of a ship's company of around 400 some 388 were lost. The collision has been the subject of much debate since. From 1940 to her loss was used in Home waters but got around a bit to gain Battle Honours for operations in Norway in 1940, Atlantic 1940, North Sea 1940-42 and Arctic 1942.*