



Watercraft Philately



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Israel celebrates its naval history: subs



The Israel Navy did not have any submarines when it was founded in March 1948. The thought of acquiring and operating submarines did not ripen until a few years later, and it was a bold and innovative step for the teams slated to operate these submarines as well as the technical personnel who would maintain them.

*The Navy's flotilla of submarines was established in 1958 and included two outdated submarines of the British Navy's surplus S-class. These submarines, with all their limitations, served as a first step for Israel's young Navy. The two S-class that sailed under the Israeli flag were the **TANIN** and **RAHAV**.*

TANIN, INS (submarine)

Israel # (2017) 2.50s

1945 – Israeli Navy; Cammell Laird & Co. Ltd, Birkenhead, Scotland (yard No. 1142); K. May 8/1944, L. May 14/1945, C. Aug. 2/1945; Displ. 814-872 ton surface, 990 tons submerged; 66m x 7.16m x 3.4m (draught surface); two 8-cyl. Admiralty diesel engine 1,550 hp., Admiralty electro motor 1,300 hp, 14.5 kn surface, 10 kn submerged, bunker cap. 44 tons, range @ 10 kn, 6,000 miles; Armament: 1 – 3” gun, 1 20mm cannon and 3 – 303 calibre machine guns, 6 forward 21” TT and one 21” stern tube; crew 48.

She was built by Cammell Laird & Co. Limited., Birkenhead, for the Royal Navy. Her keel was laid down May 8, 1944, and she was launched as **HMS SPRINGER (P264)** of the S-class on May 14, 1945 and commissioned into the Royal Navy on August 2, 1945.

HMS SPRINGER was part of the Third Group of the S-class built and the only ship of the Royal Navy to bear the name **SPRINGER**.

Built as the Second World War was drawing to a close, she did not see much action. In 1953, she took part in the Fleet Review to celebrate the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II.

Sold to the Israeli Navy in October 1958 and renamed **INS TANIN (S71)** (Hebrew: תנין; Crocodile or Tannin), she was taken over by the Israeli Navy at Portsmouth October 9, 1958. She was refitted in Great Britain before being handed over to Israel in December 1959.

TANIN participated in the Six Day War, launching naval commandos to attack the port of Alexandria. She then tried to torpedo an Egyptian sloop, but was severely damaged by a depth charge counter attack.

Her commander was awarded the Medal of Courage for his actions at the port of Alexandria. She received spare parts from her sister ship, **RAHAV**, formerly **HMS SANGUINE**, when **RAHAV** was retired in 1968. **TANIN** was listed for disposal in 1972.

Sources: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HMS_SPRINGER_\(P264\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HMS_SPRINGER_(P264))

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