

AURORA

An Arethusa class 6" gun cruiser of 1936 which was with 18th CS Home fleet 9,39,

- 9,39 Patrolled off Norway with HF Units & Escorted damaged SPEARFISH to Rosyth,
- 10,39 In 18CS Home Fleet, Covered convoys to Narvik,
- 11,39 Patrolled off Fairisle during hunt for surface raiders which sank RAWALPINDI on 23rd,,
- 1,40 Transfer to CSI Home Fleet,
- 4,40 Took part in the Norwegian campaign (Ops WILFRED & RUPERT)--bombaraded Narvik on 25th and covered evacuation of Molde on 30th,
- 5,40 Bombaraded at Ofjfiord on 1st and had two turrets disabled by air attack on 7th, She landed Fr. Foreign Legion troops at Bjervik on 14th then returned to UK for repairs,
- 7,40 Repair complete & she operated with the Humber Force,
- 8,40 Bombaraded Calais/Boulogne with GALATEA,
- 9,40 Anti invasiopn duties at Sheerness,
- 10,40 Operated on Northern Patrols,
- 11,40 Covered MLI ships minelaying in N Barrage (Op SN11e)
- 1,41 Covered minelaying force off Norway and took part in Op RUBBLE - covering ships escaping from Sweden,
- 3,41 Covered MLI ships minelaying in N Barrage (Op SN69)
- 4,41 Covered minelaying force off Iceland & Faeroes (Op SN8),
- 5,41 Trials with Type 290 radar . Stood by at Scapa during Bismarck hunt & on 24.5 put to sea to escort VICTORIOUS to within 100m of BISMARCK,
- 6,41 Sank supply ship BELCHEN in Denmark Strait (with KENYA)
- 7,41 Operated off Spitzbergen with NIGERIA,
- 8,41 With NIGERIA for evacuation of Spitzbergen & Bear Island,,
- 7,9,41 In company with NIGERIA in an action off N.Cape when German training cruiser BREMSE was sunk,
- 21,10,41 Joined Force K at Malta (with PENELOPE, LANCE & LIVELY) and subsequently became known to the Italians as the "Silver Ghost",
- 9,11,41 With Force K destroyed a convoy east of Malta, 10 transports & the Italian destroyer FULMINE was sunk & GRECALE severely damaged,

AURORA (continued)

31,11,41 With Force K sank transport/troopship ADRIATICO off Benghazi and next day sank the large tanker IRIDIO MANTOVANI and Italian destroyer Da MOSTO off Tripoli

12,41 Escorted BRECONSHIRE to Malta from Alex, took part in 2nd battle of Sirte and was then badly damaged in the Force k minefield disaster when NEPTUNE was sunk & PENELOPE damaged,(19,12),,
 She returned to Malta for repair and then went to Liverpool for refit in 1,42 and joined Home Fleet on completion in 7,42

8,42 Escorted ML1 ships in N Barrage (Op SN73)

9,42 Stationed briefly at Freetown then returned to the Med,

10,42 Escorted carrier delivery of A/C to Malta (Op TRAIN),

8,11,42 She was in Central Task Force for the N.African landings and engaged Vichy destroyers EPERVIER, TRAMONTANE , TORNADE & TYPHON outside Oran. EPERVIER survived but the others were run aground on 8th. She also bombarded to support the capture of Oran.,

1,12,42 Operated with Force Q at Bone and (with QUENTIN & QUIBERON) sank 4 transports from convoy "H" and Italian destroyer FOLGARE on 2nd., Other escorts were also damaged.

1,43 Convoy interception in West & Central Med. for next 4 months.

5,43 Bombarded Pantelleria,(Op CORKSCREW)

19,6,43 Took King George VI from Algiers to Malta & received a tumultuous welcome.

7,7,43 Covered the Sicily landings.,, bombarding Catania & Taormina.

8,43 Based at Bizerta. Bombarded Scaleta near Naples.

9,43 Covered the landings at Taranto & Salerno. Embarked Airborne troops at Bizerte & landed them at Salerno.

10,43 Took part in the Levant Command Aegean operation. In action with E boats off Kalyrnos & landed stores at Leros. Bombarded Cos & Rhodes, & was damaged by bombing off Turkish coast on 30th, sustaining heavy casualties and being escorted back to Alex. by BEAUFORT. (See "Fighting Destroyer" by G G Connell).

11,43 Under repair at Taranto.

4,44 Rejoined Med Fleet for ops in East Med.

6,44 Based at Malta for ops in Central Med.,

8,44 Covered South of France landings. with TF84, (Op DRAGON)

9,44 Took part in the Aegean offensive, (Op MANNA). Bombarded Malos.

10,44 Bombarded Levitha & Supported military ops in Greece.,

11,44 Covered the landings in Greece.

12,44 Bombarded Rhodes & Assisted in "playing down strife" during Greek civil war,
 and remained in the Med until end of war.