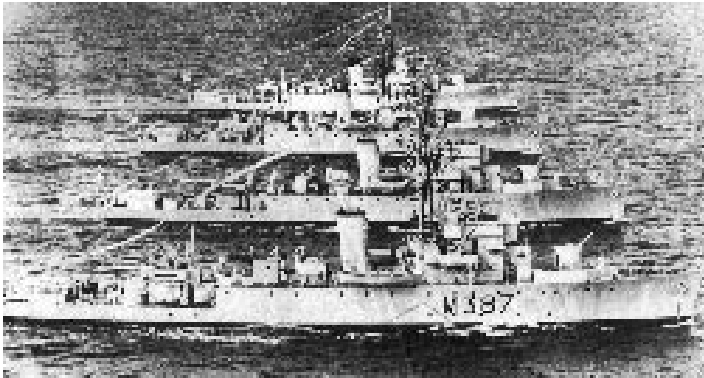


## Do You Remember When?



Above: HMS Chameleon after the storm, blocking the dock gates

Beneath: HMS Chameleon (M387) with her sister ships HMS Plucky, HMS Recruit, HMS Rيمان in 1954



Many thanks to Geoff Bland for providing this information which will no doubt bring back memories to many.

In 1966 the Ardmore Steel Company was using the docks at Silloth to break up the minesweeper HMS Chameleon (M387). It was lying on the southern side of the outer dock and all the heavy machinery had been removed, making it an empty shell, riding high on the water.

A sudden gale broke its moorings and turned the ship through 90 degrees, pushing it across the dock gates, blocking them. On its way several fishing boats were struck and damaged, especially Jimmy Wilson's boat.

HMS Chameleon was commissioned in 1945 and was posted to the Far East before a refit in South Africa. She then went to Singapore, returning to the UK in 1946, in 1947 she went to Malta, returning to the UK in 1954. She arrived in Silloth April 1966 for breaking.

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