HML ESSEX
COUNTY-CLASS
The backbone of the Royal Sky Fleet, the County-class light cruiser is the journeyman of the British skies. While these vessels lack the pomp of the mighty battleships, or the nimble grace of the lighter destroyers, the County-class is the most common of the British fliers, instantly recognizable with its distinctive three-stack boiler pattern. Best deployed as part of a larger flotilla, the County-class can be considered a Jack-of-all-trades, albeit a master of none.

Just recently redeployed from the Hindu Kush to the Channel Fleet, the HML Essex is remarkable for the fact that it counts Sepoy Indians from the Subcontinent as members of its crew. Lieutenant Commander Tate Evans has been nothing but effusive regarding his newest crewmen, praising their ability to put steel on target during a stoush. As evidence of their skill, the Essex’s crew recently won the Jellicoe Medal at HMS Excellent during their visit to the annual gunnery competition.

**County-class Light Cruiser**

- **Dimensions:** 290 ft. x 51 ft. x 65 ft. (excluding funnels & masts)
- **Complement:** 282
- **Weight:** 4,800 tons
- **Engines:** Triple expansion, producing 18,000 shaft hp (max. speed 30 knots)
- **Fuel:** (coal) normal 600 tons; max 750 tons
- **Armament:** 3-6”, 4-3” QF, 2-launch bays