HML TRAFFORD
D-CLASS
An evolution of the D-class destroyers, the HML Trafford shares much in common with its sister vessels. The most glaring difference is the reinforced hull, an experiment in adding a layer of Krupp armour over the base Harvey shielding used by the other D-class leviathans. It is hoped this will increase the vessel’s survivability without adding substantially to the cost. The price of this added protection is a noticeable reduction in the vessel’s speed, and it remains to be seen whether the trade-off is worth it.

The up-armoured HML Trafford has yet to test its new staying power, having taken on a fresh crew straight from the classrooms of Whale Island. Unlike the majority of D-class captains, Ensign Clinton Parks has an exemplary record, and his crew of novices are likewise unblemished. Whether this signals a shift in Admiralty thinking regarding the so-called Thug of the Sky remains to be seen.

**D-class Destroyer**

Dimensions: 155 ft. x 34 ft. x 40 ft. (excluding funnels & masts)

Complement: 63

Weight: 970 tons

Engines: Turbines, producing 11,800 shaft hp (max. speed 31 knots)

Fuel: (coal) normal 105 tons; max 145 tons

Armament: 4-3” QF, 2-launch bays