



Henley

(CG-12)

Builder: Fore River Shipbuilding Company, Quincy, MA

Commissioned (USN): 6 Dec 1912

Acquired (CG): 16 May 1924

Commissioned (CG): 14 Nov 1924

Decommissioned: 30 Jan 1931

Displacement: 742 tons

Dimensions: 293'10" overall x 27' x 9'5"

Machinery: Direct-drive turbines, 3 screws, 12,000 hp, 29.5 knots.

Complement: 6 officers, 82 men

Armament: 3 3"/50, 1 1-pdr.

Design & Service

A total of thirty-one Navy destroyers were lent to the Coast Guard for enforcing Prohibition. Adapting these vessels to service was thought to be less costly than building new ships. In the end the rehabilitation of the vessels became a saga in itself because of the exceedingly poor condition of many of these war-weary ships. In many instances it took nearly a year to bring the vessels up to seaworthiness. Additionally, these were by far the largest and most sophisticated

vessels ever operated by the service and trained personnel were nearly nonexistent. As a result, Congress authorized hundreds of new enlistees. It was these inexperienced men that generally made up the destroyer crews.

USCGD *Henley* was one of the pre-World War I 742-ton "flivvers". All were capable of over 25 knots, an advantage in the rum-chasing business. They, however, were easily outmaneuvered by smaller vessels. The destroyers' mission, therefore, was to picket the larger supply ships ("mother ships") and prevent them from off-loading their cargo onto the smaller, speedier contact boats that ran the liquor into shore. The *Henley* was among the first group of destroyers loaned to the Coast Guard. She was first originally stationed at Stapleton, NY and then transferred to New London, CT.

Operational Highlights

16 May 1924 Transferred from US Navy to Coast Guard at New York Navy Yard.

14 Nov 1924 Commissioned at the Philadelphia Navy Yard.

5 Jul 1925 Arrived at New York Navy Yard.

8 Oct 1925 Arrived at duty station, Stapleton, NY.

22 May 1926 Ordered to new duty station at New London.

16 Jul 1926 Arrived at New London.

16 Oct 1930 Arrived at Philadelphia Navy Yard.

30 Jan 1931 Decommissioned and returned to the US Navy.

[Photograph](#)

