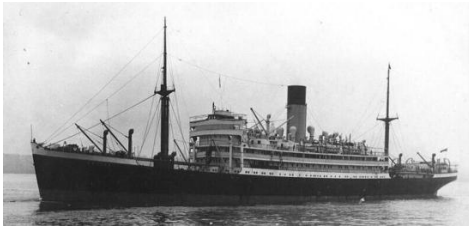


Pattern: Hector, Prince Robert, Ascania, Armed Merchant Cruiser (AMC); Introduced in to NZ Service: 1940; Withdrawn: 1942.

| Name | Tonnage | Dimensions | Built | Port | Owners |
|----------------|-------------|-----------------|--------------------------|-----------|---------------------------|
| Hector: | 11,198 grt, | 498.8 x 62.3 ft | 1924 Scotts | Liverpool | Ocean S. S. Co |
| Prince Robert: | 6,892 grt | 366.4 x 57.1 ft | 1930 Camell Laird | Vancouver | Canadian National S.S. Co |
| Ascania: | 14,013 grt | 520.0 x 65.3 ft | 1925 Armstrong Whitworth | Liverpool | Cunard S. S. Co |

Machinery: all 2 shaft, Steam turbines,

| Name | Pennant No | Loaned by | NZ Service | Speed | Main Armament |
|---------------|------------|-----------|--------------------|--------|------------------------------|
| Hector | F 45 | RN | 10/2/40 to 26/6/40 | 15 Kts | 6 x 6 in |
| Prince Robert | F 56 | RCN | 5/41 to 28/7/41 | 21 Kts | 4 x 6 in, 4 x 4 in, 2 x 3 in |
| Ascania | F 68 | RN | 4/4/42 to 14/7/42 | 15 Kts | 8 x 6 in |



Hector



Prince Robert



Ascania

New Zealand Service

These three Armed Merchant Cruisers were loaned to the New Zealand Station for short periods between 1940 and 1942. *Hector* was in collision with *Thorshov* on 23/4/40, one of two Norwegian tankers that she was escorting from Brisbane to Wellington, both ships being severely damaged. On arrival she spent 19 days in the floating dock while her bow was repaired. *Hector* was later sunk in a Japanese air attack on Colombo Harbour 5/4/42, she was raised and later scrapped. *Prince Robert* operated out of Suva before returning to Canada where she was converted to an auxiliary AA Ship in 1943. *Ascania* was disarmed at Auckland in June 1942 and returned to Britain where she was converted to troop carrier LSI (L) in 1943 and took part in the invasion of Sicily and southern France.

Acknowledgements: *New Zealand Naval Vessels* by RJ McDougall.