

Dazzle ships

What is DAZZLE?

Dazzle is a type of ship camouflage used extensively by the British in World War I, and less so in World War II. It was also used by the Americans and other countries to a lesser extent.

It comprised differing and complex patterns of various geometric shapes, in various colours, with the patterns crossing and intersecting. The dazzle pattern on each ship was unique.

What is it for?

Dazzle was not, unlike other types of camouflage, intended to hide the ship from detection. It was designed instead to make it difficult for another surface ship or a submarine to estimate the ship's (i.e. the target) range, speed and heading.