

= HMS Gallant (H59) =

HMS Gallant (H59) was a G class destroyer , built for the Royal Navy in the mid 1930s . During the Spanish Civil War of 1936 ? 1939 the ship spent considerable time in Spanish waters , enforcing the arms blockade imposed by Britain and France on both sides of the conflict . Gallant was transferred from the Mediterranean Fleet shortly after the beginning of World War II to the British Isles , to escort shipping in local waters . She was slightly damaged by German aircraft during the evacuation of Allied troops from Dunkirk at the end of May 1940 . Following repairs , Gallant was transferred to Gibraltar and served with Force H for several months . In November , the ship was transferred to the Mediterranean Fleet , where she escorted several convoys . She struck a mine in January 1941 and was towed to Malta for repairs . These were proved extensive and Gallant was further damaged by near misses during an air raid in April 1942 , before they were completed . The additional damage made the ship uneconomical to repair so she was scuttled as a blockship in 1943 . Her wreck was broken up in 1953 .

= = Description = =

Gallant displaced 1,350 long tons (1,370 t) at standard load and 1,883 long tons (1,913 t) at deep load . The ship had an overall length of 323 feet (98 m) , a beam of 33 feet (10 m) and a draught of 12 feet 5 inches (3 m) . She was powered by Parsons geared steam turbines , driving two shafts , which developed a total of 34,000 shaft horsepower (25,000 kW) and gave a maximum speed of 36 knots (67 km / h ; 41 mph) . Steam for the turbines was provided by three Admiralty 3 drum water tube boilers . Gallant carried a maximum of 470 long tons (480 t) of fuel oil that gave her a range of 5,530 nautical miles (10,240 km ; 6,360 mi) at 15 knots (28 km / h ; 17 mph) . The ship 's complement was 137 officers and men in peacetime , but it increased to 146 in wartime .

The ship mounted four 45 calibre 4.7 inch (120 mm) Mark IX guns in single mounts . For anti aircraft defence Gallant had two quadruple Mark I mounts for the 0.5 inch Vickers Mark III machine gun . She was fitted with two above water quadruple torpedo tube mounts for 21 inch (533 mm) torpedoes . One rail and two depth charge throwers were fitted ; 20 depth charges were originally carried , but this increased to 35 shortly after the war began .

= = Service = =

Gallant was laid down by Alexander Stephen and Sons in Glasgow , Scotland on 15 September 1934 , launched on 26 September 1935 and completed on 25 February 1936 . Excluding government furnished equipment like the armament , the ship cost £ 252,920 . She was assigned to the 1st Destroyer Flotilla of the Mediterranean Fleet upon commissioning . Gallant patrolled Spanish waters during the Spanish Civil War enforcing the edicts of the Non Intervention Committee . She pulled off a Spanish merchantman that had grounded between Almeria and Málaga on 20 December 1936 . The ship was attacked by a Spanish Nationalist aircraft off Cape San Antonio on 6 April 1937 , but was not damaged . The next month she returned to Great Britain for an overhaul at Sheerness between 31 May and 21 July 1937 .

When World War II began in September 1939 , Gallant was in the Mediterranean , but she and her entire flotilla were transferred to the Western Approaches Command at Plymouth in October . After a boiler cleaning , the ship was reassigned at the end of the month to the Nore Command in Harwich for patrol and escort duties . On 2 February 1940 Gallant and her sister ship , Griffin , rescued the crew from the oil tanker British Councillor which was sinking after it had struck a mine . Gallant took over escorting Convoy HN 12 after the destroyer Duchess was sunk on 18 February and she rescued 12 survivors from the Swedish ship Santos near Duncansby Head a week later . On 20 March 1940 she escorted the armed merchant cruisers Cilicia and Carinthia after they collided . The ship was refitted at Southampton between 28 March and 30 April and rejoined her flotilla at Harwich .

the next day . During the evening of 9 / 10 May , Gallant and the destroyer Bulldog rescued most of the crew of the destroyer Kelly after the latter ship was torpedoed by a German E @-@ boat in the North Sea .

While Gallant was participating in the Dunkirk evacuation , a near miss by a bomb on 29 May knocked out her steering and caused minor damage to her hull and electrical systems . She was repaired at Hull and encountered a German mine @-@ laying sortie on the evening of 5 / 6 June off Lowestoft when in company with the destroyer Walpole . Later in June the ship was refitted in Chatham Dockyard with a 12 @-@ pounder (3 @-@ inch (76 mm)) anti @-@ aircraft gun that replaced the rear torpedo tube mount .

After her refit Gallant was transferred to the 13th Destroyer Flotilla of the North Atlantic Command , arriving at Gibraltar on 30 July . On her voyage south the ship escorted the aircraft carrier Argus which was loaded with a dozen Hawker Hurricane fighters . During Operation Hurry , Gallant , and three other destroyers , escorted Argus to a position south @-@ west of Sardinia so the carrier could fly off her Hurricanes to Malta on 2 August . After her return to Gibraltar the ship was transferred to Force H. On 20 October , Gallant , her sister Griffin and the destroyer Hotspur sank the Italian submarine Lafolè east of Gibraltar . The ship escorted the battleship Barham and the cruisers Berwick and Glasgow during Operation Coat in early November as they joined the Mediterranean Fleet . Gallant herself was transferred to the 14th Destroyer Flotilla at Malta on 10 November . She participated in the inconclusive Battle of Cape Spartivento on 27 November during Operation Collar .

On 10 January 1941 , during Operation Excess , the Italian torpedo boats Circe and Vega attempted an attack on the Allied convoy off Pantellaria . Right after the engagement , in which Vega was sunk , Gallant struck a mine that detonated her forward magazine , because the Italian action pushed the British convoy too much south of their pre @-@ established route . The explosion blew the bow off the ship , killing 65 and injuring 15 more of her crew . Her sister Griffin rescued most of the survivors and the destroyer HMS Mohawk towed her stern @-@ first to Malta . The ship was slowly repaired and in October 1941 it was estimated that they would be completed in June 1942 . However , on 5 April 1942 , she was extensively damaged by bomb splinters by an air raid on Valletta and had to be beached at Pinto 's Wharf to prevent her from sinking . She was judged to be a constructive total loss and any usable equipment was stripped from her hulk . Gallant was expended as a blockship at St Paul 's Island in September 1943 , with the wreck being broken up in 1953 .