

= HMS Brazen ( H80 ) =

HMS Brazen was a B-class destroyer built for the Royal Navy around 1930 . Initially assigned to the Mediterranean Fleet , she was transferred to Home Fleet in 1936 . The ship escorted convoys and conducted anti-submarine patrols early in World War II before participating in the Norwegian Campaign in April - May 1940 . Brazen later began escorting coastal convoys in the English Channel and was sunk in late July 1940 by German aircraft whilst doing so .

= = Description = =

Brazen displaced 1,360 long tons ( 1,380 t ) at standard load and 1,790 long tons ( 1,820 t ) at deep load . The ship had an overall length of 323 feet ( 98.5 m ) , a beam of 32 feet 3 inches ( 9.8 m ) and a draught of 12 feet 3 inches ( 3.7 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 35 knots ( 65 km / h ; 40 mph ) . Steam for the turbines was provided by three Admiralty 3-drum boilers . Brazen carried a maximum of 390 long tons ( 400 t ) of fuel oil that gave her a range of 4,800 nautical miles ( 8,900 km ; 5,500 mi ) at 15 knots ( 28 km / h ; 17 mph ) . The ship's complement was 134 officers and enlisted men , although it increased to 142 during wartime .

The ship mounted four 4.5-inch QF 4.7-inch Mk IX guns in single mounts . For anti-aircraft ( AA ) defence , Brazen had two 40-millimetre ( 1.6 in ) QF 2-pounder Mk II AA guns mounted on a platform between her funnels . She was fitted with two above-water quadruple torpedo tube mounts for 21-inch ( 533 mm ) torpedoes . One depth charge rail and two throwers were fitted ; 20 depth charges were originally carried , but this increased to 35 shortly after the war began .

= = Career = =

The ship was ordered on 22 March 1929 from Palmers Shipbuilding and Iron Company at Hebburn under the 1928 Naval Programme . She was laid down on 22 July 1929 , and launched on 25 July 1930 , as the seventh RN ship to carry this name . Brazen was completed on 8 April 1931 at a cost of £ 220,342 , excluding items supplied by the Admiralty such as guns , ammunition and communications equipment . After her commissioning , she was assigned to the 4th Destroyer Flotilla with the Mediterranean Fleet until the end of 1935 . The ship received a refit at Devonport from August to October 1933 and another at Malta a few months later . Brazen was assigned to the Home Fleet in 1936 and participated in the effort to rescue the crew of the submarine Thetis which had sunk during sea trials on 1 June 1939 .

The ship was reassigned to the 19th Destroyer Flotilla in August , shortly before World War II began . She spent the next seven months escorting convoys and patrolling in the English Channel and the North Sea . On 13 October , Brazen rescued three survivors from German submarine U-40 which had sunk after striking a mine a few hours earlier . The ship , together with the destroyer Encounter , assumed the escort of Convoy HN12 after the destroyer Daring had been sunk by U-23 . Later that day she rescued some survivors from the Norwegian merchant ship Sangstad . Brazen escorted the capital ships of the Home Fleet as they sortied into the North Sea on 7 April and continued that duty for the next several weeks . The ship was detached to escort a troop convoy to Namsos on 13 April and sank U-49 two days later with the destroyer Fearless near Harstad , Norway . The two destroyers rescued 41 of the submarine's crew . Brazen escorted several more convoys to and from Norway over the next several weeks .

On 30 May , the ship was en route to Harwich when she struck some submerged wreckage and suffered damage that required five weeks to repair . Brazen was transferred to the 1st Destroyer Flotilla , based at Dover , upon their completion , where she began escorting coastal convoys . Whilst escorting Convoy CW7 on 20 July , during the initial phase of the Battle of Britain , the ship was attacked by German Junkers Ju 87 Stuka dive bombers belonging to II . /

Sturzkampfgeschwader 1 ( Dive Bomber Wing 1 ? or StG 1 ) . The shock effect from several near misses broke her keel and then she was hit in the engine room . Brazen sank at position 51 ° 01 ' 05 " N 01 ° 17 ' 15 " E at 20 : 40 . Only one member of her crew was killed during the attack and her gunners claimed to have shot down three Ju 87s . German records confirm only two losses ? both fell to defending British fighter aircraft .