

= HMS Crusader (H60) =

HMS Crusader was a C class destroyer built for the Royal Navy in the early 1930s . She saw service in the Home and Mediterranean Fleets and spent six months during the Spanish Civil War in late 1936 in Spanish waters , enforcing the arms blockade imposed by Britain and France on both sides of the conflict . Crusader was sold to the Royal Canadian Navy (RCN) in 1938 and renamed HMCS Ottawa . She was initially deployed on the Canadian Pacific Coast before World War II , but was transferred to the Atlantic three months after the war began . She served as a convoy escort during the battle of the Atlantic until sunk by the German submarine U 91 on 14 September 1942 . Together with a British destroyer , she sank an Italian submarine in the North Atlantic in November 1941 .

= = Design and construction = =

Crusader displaced 1,375 long tons (1,397 t) at standard load and 1,865 long tons (1,895 t) at deep load . The ship had an overall length of 329 feet (100 .3 m) , a beam of 33 feet (10 .1 m) and a draught of 12 feet 6 inches (3 .8 m) . She was powered by Parsons geared steam turbines , driving two shafts , which developed a total of 36,000 shaft horsepower (27,000 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 . Crusader carried a maximum of 473 long tons (481 t) of fuel oil that gave her a range of 5,500 nautical miles (10,200 km ; 6,300 mi) at 15 knots (28 km / h ; 17 mph) . The ship's complement was 145 officers and men .

The ship mounted four 45-calibre 4 .7-inch Mk IX guns in single mounts , designated ' A ' , ' B ' , ' X ' , and ' Y ' from front to rear . For anti-aircraft (AA) defence , Crusader had a single QF 3-inch 20 cwt AA gun between her funnels , and two 40-millimetre (1 .6 in) QF 2-pounder Mk II AA guns mounted on the aft end of her forecastle deck . The 3-inch (76 mm) AA gun was removed in 1936 and the 2-pounders were relocated to between the funnels . She was fitted with two above-water quadruple torpedo tube mounts for 21-inch torpedoes . Three depth-charge chutes were fitted , each with a capacity of two depth charges . After World War II began this was increased to 33 depth charges , delivered by one or two rails and two throwers .

The ship was ordered on 15 July 1930 from Portsmouth Dockyard under the 1929 Naval Programme . Crusader was laid down on 12 September 1930 , launched on 30 September 1931 , as the second ship to carry the name , and completed on 2 May 1932 .

= = Service history = =

Crusader was initially assigned to the 2nd Destroyer Flotilla of Home Fleet and remained with this flotilla for the next four years . She received her first refit at Portsmouth from 30 July to 4 September 1934 . Following the Italian invasion of Abyssinia in August 1935 , Crusader was sent with the rest of her flotilla to reinforce the Mediterranean Fleet the following month . From October to March 1936 she was deployed in the Red Sea to monitor Italian warship movements . Upon her return in April , the ship was refitted at Portsmouth from 27 April to 30 May . During the beginning of the Spanish Civil War in August ? September 1936 , the ship evacuated British nationals from Spanish ports on the Bay of Biscay . Crusader was assigned as the plane guard for the aircraft carrier Courageous from January 1937 to March 1938 , aside from a brief refit between 30 March and 27 April 1937 . The ship began a major refit at Sheerness on 28 April 1938 to bring her up to Canadian specifications that included the installation of Type 124 ASDIC .

= = = Transfer to the Royal Canadian Navy = = =

The ship was purchased for C \$ 817,500 by the Royal Canadian Navy and she was

commissioned on 15 June as HMCS Ottawa . The ship was assigned to the Canadian Pacific Coast and arrived at Esquimalt on 7 November 1938 . She remained there until she was ordered to Halifax , Nova Scotia on 15 November 1939 where she escorted local convoys , including the convoy carrying half of the 1st Canadian Infantry Division to the UK on 10 December . Ottawa 's stern was damaged in a collision with the tugboat Bansurf in April 1940 , and repairs took two months to complete .

On 27 August 1940 , Ottawa was sailed to Greenock , Scotland , and assigned to the 10th Escort Group of the Western Approaches Command upon her arrival on 4 September for convoy escort duties . In October , the ship 's rear torpedo tube mount was exchanged for a 12 @-@ pounder AA gun . On 24 ? 26 September , she rescued survivors of two British merchant ships ; 55 from SS Sulairia that had been sunk by German submarine U @-@ 43 and 60 from SS Eurymedon that had been sunk by U @-@ 29 . Ottawa assisted the British destroyer Harvester in sinking the Italian submarine Comandante Faà di Bruno on 7 November . By mid @-@ November , Ottawa had been fitted with a Type 286M short @-@ range surface @-@ search radar , adapted from the Royal Air Force 's ASV radar . This early model , however , could only scan directly forward and had to be aimed by turning the entire ship . On 23 November , she rescued 29 survivors of the grain carrier SS Bussum which had been sunk by U @-@ 100 .

Ottawa returned to Canada in June 1941 and was assigned to the RCN 's Newfoundland Escort Force which covered convoys in the Mid @-@ Atlantic . She was transferred to Escort Group C4 in May 1942 . In early September , the ship 's captain refused to allow her director @-@ control tower and rangefinder to be removed in exchange for a Type 271 target indication radar . On 14 September , while escorting Convoy ON 127 500 nautical miles (930 km) east of St. John 's , Newfoundland , Ottawa was torpedoed by U @-@ 91 . Ten minutes later , unable to manoeuvre , she was hit by a second torpedo . She sank ten minutes later ; 114 crewmen lost their lives , including the commanding officer , while nearby vessels rescued 69 survivors .

The armament changes undergone by the ship during the war are not entirely clear . Photographic evidence shows that four Oerlikon 20 mm AA guns were added , one pair to her searchlight platform and the other pair on the bridge wings , although Ottawa retained her 2 @-@ pounder guns even after the Oerlikons were added . ' Y ' gun was also removed to allow her depth charge stowage to be increased to at least 60 depth charges .

= = = Trans @-@ Atlantic convoys escorted = = =