

= HMS Algerine (J213) =

HMS Algerine was the lead ship of her namesake class of minesweepers built for the Royal Navy during World War II , the Algerine @-@ class minesweepers . Initially assigned to the North Sea , she was transferred to lead the 12th Minesweeping Flotilla . The Flotilla were posted to the Mediterranean to assist with Operation Torch . In 1942 , after a successful mine clearing operation off Bougie , she was torpedoed by the Italian submarine Ascianghi , causing Algerine to sink , leaving only eight survivors .

= = Description = =

Algerine displaced 850 long tons (860 t) at standard load and 1 @, @ 125 long tons (1 @, @ 143 t) at deep load . The ship had an overall length of 225 feet (68 @. @ 6 m) , a beam of 35 feet 6 inches (10 @. @ 8 m) and a draught of 8 feet 6 inches (2 @. @ 6 m) . She was powered by Parsons geared steam turbines , driving two shafts , which gave a maximum speed of 16 @. @ 5 knots (30 @. @ 6 km / h ; 19 @. @ 0 mph) .

The ship mounted one single 4 @-@ inch Mk XIX gun . Algerine had four single mounts for 20 @-@ millimetre (0 @. @ 8 in) Oerlikon 20 mm autocannon , and she was fitted with two depth charge rails , and four depth charge throwers .

= = Career = =

Algerine was laid down on 15 March 1941 , by Harland & Wolff , Belfast , and launched on 22 December 1941 . She was the eighth ship of the Royal Navy to be named Algerine . After being completed , the ship was commissioned on 24 March 1942 , and adopted by Sittingbourne due to a Warship Week campaign .

= = = 1942 = = =

Algerine joined the 9th Minesweeping Flotilla in May 1942 and began action in minesweeping , escorting , and patrolling duties on the east side of England . She was proposed as leader for the 12th Minesweeping Flotilla , which would participate in action abroad . Her sister ships from the 9th Flotilla , Alarm and Albacore , joined her , as did Acute , and Cadmus . In October , she was put forward to go to the Mediterranean to assist Operation Torch , but her departure was delayed due to repair work . The other four ships in her flotilla left for Gibraltar as escorts to a convoy . Four days after the other ships left , Algerine escorted convoy KMF1 to Oran .

In early November , she helped recover the escort destroyer Cowdray off Algiers after Cowdray was damaged by an aerial attack . On 15 November , Algerine and Alarm were positioned off Bougie , clearing mines . The mission had been successful , with 46 mines cleared ; but , Algerine was torpedoed by the Italian Adua @-@ class submarine Ascianghi , commanded by Lieutenant commander Rino Erler . The submarine had first fired two torpedoes at the middle ship in the trio , then fired another two torpedoes at the final ship , Algerine : Algerine suffered heavy casualties and sank . The converted merchant vessel Pozarica rescued 32 men , of whom only 8 survived , internal wounds killing 24 . The survivors had been on a Carley raft .

Algerine 's wreck lies at 1 @, @ 100 ft (340 m) on the northern coast of Algeria .