

= French destroyer Jaguar =

The French destroyer Jaguar was a Chacal class destroyer ( contre torpilleur ) built for the French Navy during the 1920s . She spent most of her pre World War II career as a flagship for various destroyer units . The ship was assigned convoy escort duties in the Atlantic after the start of the World War II in September 1939 until she was badly damaged during a collision in January 1940 . Five months later , after her repairs were completed , she was committed to the English Channel after the Battle of France began in May 1940 . Jaguar was torpedoed by German E boats on 23 May and had to beach herself ; her wreck was written off as unrepairable .

= Design and description =

The Chacal class ships were designed to counter the large Italian Leone class destroyers . They had an overall length of 126 m 8 meters ( 416 ft 0 in ) , a beam of 11 m 1 meters ( 36 ft 5 in ) , and a draft of 4 m 1 meters ( 13 ft 5 in ) . The ships displaced 2 126 metric tons ( 2 092 long tons ) at standard and 2 980 ? 3 075 metric tons ( 2 026 long tons ) at deep load . They were powered by two geared steam turbines , each driving one propeller shaft , using steam provided by five du Temple boilers . The turbines were designed to produce 50 000 metric horsepower ( 37 000 kW ; 49 000 shp ) , which would propel the ship at 35 m 5 knots ( 65 m 7 km / h ; 40 m 9 mph ) . During her sea trials on 18 May 1926 , Jaguar 's turbines provided 57 850 metric horsepower ( 42 550 kW ; 57 060 shp ) and she reached 35 m 27 knots ( 65 m 32 km / h ; 40 m 59 mph ) for a single hour . The ships carried 530 metric tons ( 522 long tons ) of fuel oil which gave them a range of 3 000 nautical miles ( 5 600 km ; 3 500 mi ) at 15 knots ( 28 km / h ; 17 mph ) . Their crew consisted of 10 officers and 187 crewmen in peacetime and 12 officers and 209 enlisted men in wartime . Jaguar was unique among the Chacals in being fitted to serve as a flagship and equipped to accommodate the admiral and his staff of four officers .

The main armament of the Chacal class ships consisted of five Canon de 130 mm modèle 1919 guns in single mounts , one superfiring pair fore and aft of the superstructure and the fifth gun abaft the aft funnel . The guns were numbered ' 1' to ' 5' from front to rear . Their anti aircraft armament consisted of two Canon de 75 mm modèle 1924 guns in single mounts positioned amidships . The ships carried two above water triple sets of 550 mm ( 21 m 7 in ) torpedo tubes . A pair of depth charge chutes were built into their stern ; these housed a total of twenty 200 kg ( 440 lb ) depth charges . They were also fitted with four depth charge throwers for which they carried a dozen 100 kg ( 220 lb ) depth charges .

= Construction and career =

Jaguar , named after the eponymous feline , was ordered on 18 April 1922 from the Arsenal de Lorient . She was laid down on 24 August 1922 on No. 7 slipway , launched on 17 November 1923 , completed on 7 October 1926 and entered service on 19 November . Completion was delayed by problems with her propulsion machinery and late deliveries by sub contractors . Even before she was formally completed , she participated in a Baltic cruise in mid 1926 and visited Dakar , French West Africa in December . She made another port visit in April 1927 at Seville , Spain . The following month she was one of the ships that escorted Gaston Doumergue , President of France , across the English Channel during his state visit to Britain . Jaguar then accompanied the light cruiser Lamotte Picquet as she visited Dakar and Buenos Aires , Argentina between June and September . The ship became the flagship of the Group of Torpedo Boat Flotillas ( later redesignated as the 1st Torpedo Boat Flotilla ) of the 1st Squadron ( 1ere Escadre ) , based at Toulon , on 1 May 1928 . Two months later , she hosted Doumergue as he reviewed the fleet off Le Havre on 3 July .

Two years later , the ship participated in the naval review at Algiers on 10 May 1930 commemorating the centenary of the first French landing in Algeria on 13 June 1830 . The four

depth charge throwers were removed in 1932 . About two years later , the 75 @-@ millimeter guns were replaced by four twin mounts for 13 @.@ 2 @-@ millimeter ( 0 @.@ 5 in ) anti @-@ aircraft machineguns . Jaguar became the flagship of the 2nd Torpedo Boat Flotilla of the 2nd Squadron ( 2e Escadre ) at Brest on 5 July 1935 . After completing their maneuvers , the combined Brest and Toulon squadrons , including Jaguar , were reviewed in the Baie de Douarnenez by the Naval Minister , François Piétri , on 27 June 1936 . The following year , the ship participated in the fleet review by the new Navy Minister , Alphonse Gasnier @-@ Duparc , off Brest on 27 May 1937 . The ship was relieved as flagship on 26 September , but temporarily resumed her former role from 1 March to 22 June 1939 while Bison was under repair after a collision .

When the war started in September 1939 , Jaguar belonged to the 2nd Large Destroyer Division ( 2e division de contre @-@ torpilleur ) ( DCT ) with her sisters Chacal and Léopard . Between October and December , the ship had two depth @-@ charge throwers reinstalled , No. 3 gun removed , and her depth charge stowage reduced to a dozen 200 kg and eight 100 kg depth charges to improve her stability . She was assigned to the Western Command ( Forces maritimes de l 'Ouest ) for convoy escort duties from October to January 1940 where she guarded convoys traveling between Gibraltar and Brest as well as Casablanca , French Morocco , and Le Verdon @-@ sur @-@ Mer . On the night of 16 / 17 January 1940 , Jaguar was accidentally rammed by the British destroyer Keppel . The collision killed one crewman aboard the French ship and Keppel 's bow penetrated all the way to Jaguar 's midline . The ship was able to reach Brest on 19 January to begin repairs that lasted until early May . She had a British Type 123 ASDIC installed in March and was fitted with degaussing equipment the following month .

After the beginning of the Battle of France on 10 May , the 2nd DCT was transferred to the English Channel to support British forces there . On 23 May , entering Dunkirk harbor with a demolition team aboard , Jaguar was struck by a torpedo fired by either the E @-@ boat S @-@ 21 or S @-@ 23 . The detonation killed 13 men and wounded 23 ; the ship had to be beached at Malo @-@ les @-@ Bains lest she sink , and was written off .