

= HMS Bulldog (H91) =

HMS Bulldog (H91) was a B-class destroyer built for the Royal Navy (RN) from 1929 to 1931 . Initially assigned to the Mediterranean Fleet , she was transferred to the Home Fleet in 1936 . 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 . Bulldog saw service throughout World War II on convoy escort duty during the Battle of the Atlantic and in the Arctic . Her most notable actions were the capture of a complete Enigma machine and codebooks from the German submarine U-110 in 1941 , and sinking another German submarine in 1944 . The surrender of the German garrisons of the Channel Islands was signed on 9 May 1945 aboard Bulldog . Redundant after the war , she was broken up for scrap in 1946 .

= = Description = =

Bulldog 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 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 . Bulldog 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 , which increased to 142 during wartime .

Bulldog mounted four 45-calibre quick-firing (QF) 4.7-inch Mk IX guns in single mounts , designated ' A ' , ' B ' , ' X ' , and ' Y ' from front to rear . She was briefly fitted with a C XIII mount capable of 60-degree elevation for testing purposes . For anti-aircraft (AA) defence , Bulldog 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 . The ship was fitted with a Type 119 ASDIC set to detect submarines through sound waves beamed into the water that would reflect off the submarine .

By April 1941 , the ship 's AA armament had been increased when the rear set of torpedo tubes was replaced by a 3-inch (76.2 mm) (12-pounder) AA gun . In late 1941 , the ship was converted to an escort destroyer with the replacement of her ' A ' gun by a Hedgehog anti-submarine spigot mortar . By April 1943 , the ' Y ' gun had been removed to compensate for the increase to 70 depth charges . Additional depth charge stowage later replaced the 12-pounder high-angle gun . The 2-pounder mounts were replaced by 20-millimetre (0.8 in) Oerlikon autocannon and two additional Oerlikon guns were also added in the forward superstructure . To combat German E-boats , a QF 6-pounder gun was mounted at the very tip of the bow in 1944 .

= = Construction and service = =

The ship was ordered on 22 March 1929 from Swan Hunter at Wallsend , under the 1928 Naval Programme . She was laid down on 10 August 1929 , and launched on 6 December 1930 , as the sixth RN ship to carry this name . Bulldog was completed on 8 April 1931 at a cost of £ 221,408 , 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 September 1936 , when it was transferred to the Home Fleet . Bulldog aided survivors of the 1932 Ierissos earthquake and patrolled southern Spanish waters during the first month of the Spanish Civil War . During her time in the Mediterranean , the ship was refitted at Gibraltar in 1932 and 1935 and in Malta in 1936 . Once she returned to Britain , Bulldog was almost

continuously under repair or refitting at Chatham Dockyard until 9 January 1937 . She remained with the 4th Flotilla until January 1939 , and made multiple deployments off the coast of Spain enforcing the embargo until 31 March 1938 , when she was refitted , this time at Sheerness Dockyard . The ship escorted the battleship Resolution to Scapa Flow in September during the Munich Crisis . Bulldog was briefly assigned to the Gibraltar Local Flotilla in January 1939 , until she became plane guard for the aircraft carrier Glorious in the Mediterranean in March .

In October she was deployed with Glorious , the battleship Malaya and the destroyer Daring as part of a Hunting Group in the Indian Ocean , based at Socotra . She sailed to Malta with Glorious in January 1940 to refit , returning to plane guard duty in March , this time for Ark Royal . In April Bulldog had repairs made to her feed water heater at Devonport , that lasted until 3 May . Bulldog joined the Home Fleet at Scapa Flow and sailed on 9 May , with a force consisting of the cruiser Birmingham and thirteen destroyers , to search off the mouth of the Skagerrak for German minelayers . The British force was spotted by German E @-@ boats and the minelayers returned to base before they could be intercepted . One of the E @-@ boats torpedoed the destroyer Kelly the next day and seriously damaged her . Bulldog towed Kelly to Hebburn for repairs , sustaining damage to her stern structure during the tow , which was repaired by Swan Hunter from 13 to 21 May .

The ship damaged her propellers on 27 May and was under repairs at Chatham Dockyard until 4 June , when she was transferred to the 1st Destroyer Flotilla . She sailed for Le Havre , France on 9 June , to assist in the evacuation of British troops before advancing German troops (Operation Cycle) . The next afternoon , she was severely damaged by three hits from German aircraft that knocked out her steering gear . Bulldog 's crew was able to temporarily repair the steering gear and the ship reached Portsmouth Dockyard early the following morning . Whilst under repair , she was further damaged by splinters during an air raid on 24 August . Bulldog rejoined the flotilla after her repairs were completed on 2 September .

She was refitted at Cammell Laird from 2 January to 18 February 1941 , and was assigned to the 3rd Escort Group for convoy escort duties to and from Iceland . Commander Joe Baker @-@ Cresswell was the ship 's captain as well as the commander of the group . Together with the destroyer Amazon and the sloop Rochester , she damaged U @-@ 94 on 7 May , while escorting Convoy OB 318 off Iceland . Two days later , the corvette Aubretia depth @-@ charged U @-@ 110 , forcing her to the surface . Bulldog and the destroyer Broadway fired on , and then closed on the U @-@ boat , whose crew were abandoning the boat . Sub @-@ Lieutenant David Balme of Bulldog led a boarding party that removed the Enigma coding machine and various codebooks . This was of immense help to the Government Code and Cypher School in breaking German naval codes . She took the submarine in tow , but it sank the following morning . Bulldog remained on Atlantic convoy duties until October , when she sailed to Fairfields in Govan , Glasgow , for conversion into an escort destroyer , a process that lasted until February 1942 . As part of the conversion , a Type 271 target indication radar was installed above the bridge , that replaced her director @-@ control tower and rangefinder . By 1944 a Type 290 short @-@ range surface search radar was also fitted .

Bulldog was an unattached ship assigned to Western Approaches Command from 10 February 1942 , and aided the destroyer Richmond after she had collided with the American merchant ship SS Francis Scott Key on 31 March whilst escorting Convoy PQ 14 from Eban , Scotland to Reykjavík , Iceland . On 12 April , she rejoined the convoy en route to Murmansk , where they arrived a week later . Beginning on 28 April , she escorted the returning Convoy QP 11 with the same ships . Two days later the light cruiser Edinburgh joined the convoy . Whilst taking position ahead of the convoy later that day , Edinburgh was hit by two torpedoes fired by U @-@ 456 . The cruiser , heavily damaged and with her steering gear wrecked , was taken in tow for the voyage back to Murmansk . On 1 May the convoy was attacked by the German destroyers Z7 Hermann Schoemann , Z24 , and Z25 which had been searching for Edinburgh . Commander Maxwell Richmond , Bulldog 's captain and commander of the escorts , interposed his four destroyers between the Germans and the merchantmen and drove off the Germans in a three @-@ hour battle during which Bulldog was lightly damaged by shell splinters . She was repaired from 2 June to 14 August , after which she was assigned to the Greenock Special Escort Division . In November she

escorted British ships participating in the Allied landings in North Africa (Operation Torch) , before returning to Greenock for repairs from 23 November to 14 December .

Bulldog was assigned to the escort for Convoy JW 51B on 20 December , but had to return home for weather repairs on 28 December . After repairs were completed on 16 January 1943 , she escorted convoys between Iceland and the UK for the next two months . The ship was under repair at Greenock from 29 March to 22 April , after which she sailed to Freetown for escort duties between Lagos , Nigeria , Freetown and Gibraltar . Bulldog returned home in October for a lengthy refit at Portsmouth Dockyard that lasted from 8 November to 24 May 1944 . In June she began escort duties between the River Clyde and the Faeroe Islands , and sank U @-@ 719 on 26 June .

On 20 August , her hull was badly damaged after a collision with the frigate Loch Dunvegan in Gourock Bay . After repairs at Ardrossan that lasted until 4 September , she resumed local convoy duties between the Faeroes , the Clyde and Scapa Flow until she required major machinery repairs in November . Upon their completion on 30 January 1945 , Bulldog escorted convoys between Plymouth and various ports in the Irish Sea for the rest of the war . On 9 May 1945 she sailed to Guernsey and the German forces in the Channel Islands formally surrendered to British representatives aboard the ship . The ship was placed in Category ' B ' reserve on 27 May at Dartmouth . She was transferred to Rosyth on 27 November and was reduced to Category ' C ' reserve on 13 December . Bulldog was approved for scrapping on 22 December and turned over to Metal Industries , Limited on 17 January 1946 .