

= HMS Hyperion (H97) =

HMS Hyperion was an H class destroyer built for the Royal Navy during the mid 1930s . During the Spanish Civil War of 1936 ? 1939 the ship enforced the arms blockade imposed by Britain and France on both sides as part of the Mediterranean Fleet . During the first few months of World War II , Hyperion searched for German commerce raiders in the Atlantic Ocean and blockaded German merchant ships in neutral harbours until she returned to the British Isles in early 1940 . The ship participated in the Norwegian Campaign before she was transferred back to the Mediterranean Fleet shortly afterwards . Hyperion participated in the Battle of Calabria and the Battle of Cape Spada in July 1940 while escorting the larger ships of the fleet . The ship covered several convoys to Malta before she struck a mine and had to be sunk in December 1940 .

= = Description = =

Hyperion displaced 1,350 long tons (1,370 t) at standard load and 1,883 long tons (1,913 t) at deep load . The ship had an overall length of 323 feet (98 m) , a beam of 33 feet (10 m) and a draught of 12 feet 5 inches (3.8 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 36 knots (67 km / h ; 41 mph) . The other G- and H class destroyers were built with three Admiralty 3 drum water tube boilers , but as a trial Hyperion uniquely used a Johnson boiler in the aft position instead . This is an O type boiler with a single lower water drum and curved tubes , rather than the triangular arrangement with two drums used by the Admiralty . The first boiler design suffered from poor circulation and so external cold downcomers were added , making the reworked boiler 10 % heavier . The boiler was well regarded in service as it reduced the amount of potentially troublesome refractory firebrick usually used for the base of the furnace .

Hyperion carried a maximum of 470 long tons (480 t) of fuel oil that gave her a range of 5,530 nautical miles (10,240 km ; 6,360 mi) at 15 knots (28 km / h ; 17 mph) . The ship's complement was 137 officers and men in peacetime , but this increased to 146 in wartime .

The ship mounted four 45 calibre 4.7 inch Mk IX guns in single mounts . For anti aircraft (AA) defence , Hyperion had two quadruple Mark I mounts for the 0.5 inch Vickers Mk III machine gun . 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's anti aircraft armament was increased when the rear set of torpedo tubes was replaced by a 12 pounder 12 cwt AA gun , although when exactly the modification was made is not known .

= = Career = =

Ordered on 13 December 1934 , Hyperion was laid down by Swan Hunter & Wigham Richardson at Wallsend on Tyne , England , on 27 March 1935 . She was launched on 8 April 1936 and completed on 3 December 1936 . Excluding government furnished equipment like the armament , the ship cost £ 251,466 . She was assigned to the 2nd Destroyer Flotilla of the Mediterranean Fleet upon commissioning . Hyperion patrolled Spanish waters during the Spanish Civil War enforcing the policies of the Non Intervention Committee . The ship received an overhaul at Malta between 30 September and 30 October 1937 and resumed patrolling Spanish waters for the rest of the war . Hyperion was sent to Portsmouth for another refit in August 1939 that lasted from 16 to 27 August .

When World War II began on 3 September , the ship was en route to Freetown , Sierra Leone to search for German commerce raiders . Hyperion was transferred to the North America and West Indies Station in late October where he blockaded various German merchant ships in American and Mexican harbours . She intercepted the German ocean liner Columbus off Cape Hatteras on 19

December , but Columbus scuttled herself before she could be captured . Hyperion was transferred to the British Isles in mid @-@ January 1940 and began a refit at Portsmouth that lasted from 25 January to 6 March . The ship rejoined the 2nd Destroyer Flotilla of the Home Fleet at Scapa Flow .

On 5 April Hyperion escorted the battlecruiser Renown as she covered the minelayers preparing to implement Operation Wilfred , an operation to lay mines in the Vestfjord to prevent the transport of Swedish iron ore from Narvik to Germany . The ship and her sister Hero pretended to lay a minefield off Bud , Norway on 8 April and reported its location to the Norwegians . Hyperion escorted the aircraft carriers Glorious and Ark Royal from 21 April as their aircraft attacked German targets in Norway . She remained with Ark Royal when Glorious returned to Scapa Flow to refuel on 27 April . In early May the ship escorted the light cruiser Birmingham on an unsuccessful sweep of the North Sea looking for German ships .

Hyperion evacuated British personnel from the Hook of Holland from 8 to 12 May and was then ordered to reinforce the Mediterranean Fleet at Malta on 16 May . On 9 July she participated in the Battle of Calabria as an escort for the heavy ships of Force C and unsuccessfully engaged Italian destroyers and suffered no damage . During the Battle of Cape Spada on 19 July , the ship escorted Australian light cruiser HMAS Sydney and rescued some of the 525 survivors from the Italian cruiser Bartolomeo Colleoni together with the other escorting destroyers . Together with her sister Hereward and two other destroyers , she bombarded Italian positions around Sidi Barrani on 25 September . Hyperion escorted the carrier Illustrious during the Battle of Taranto on the night of 11 / 12 November . With Hereward , she sank the Italian submarine Naiade on 14 December 1940 near Bardia .

Hyperion struck a mine on 22 December 1940 off Pantelleria as she escorted the battleship HMS Malaya on passage from Alexandria to Gibraltar while covering a convoy to Malta . The destroyer Ilex attempted to tow Hyperion , but the tow cable broke twice and the destroyer Janus was ordered to sink her after Ilex took off the crew . Only two members of the crew were not rescued and were presumed killed in the explosion .