

= HMS Crescent (1931) =

HMS Crescent was a C class destroyer which was built for the Royal Navy in the early 1930s . The ship was initially assigned to the Home Fleet , although she was temporarily deployed in the Red Sea and Indian Ocean during the Abyssinia Crisis of 1935 ? 36 . Crescent was sold to the Royal Canadian Navy in late 1936 and renamed HMCS Fraser . She was stationed on the west coast of Canada until the beginning of World War II when she was transferred to the Atlantic coast for convoy escort duties . The ship was transferred to the United Kingdom (UK) in May 1940 and helped to evacuate refugees from France upon her arrival in early June . Fraser was sunk on 25 June 1940 in a collision with the anti aircraft cruiser HMS Calcutta while returning from one such mission .

= = Design and construction = =

Crescent 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 . Crescent 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 , Crescent 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 .

Crescent was ordered on 30 January 1930 as part of the 1929 Naval Programme and laid down on 1 December 1930 at Vickers Armstrongs , Barrow in Furness . She was launched on 29 September 1931 and completed on 15 April 1932 .

= = Operational history = =

After the ship commissioned on 21 April 1932 , she was assigned to the 2nd Destroyer Flotilla of the Home Fleet . Crescent collided with her sister HMS Comet at Chatham on 21 July and was under repair until 27 August . Crescent was refitted at Chatham between 30 March and 6 May 1933 , before deploying to the West Indies between January and March 1934 . She was given another refit at Chatham from 27 July to 3 September 1934 . Crescent was detached from the Home Fleet during the Abyssinian Crisis , and deployed in the Indian Ocean and the Red Sea from September 1935 to April 1936 . When the ship returned , she was refitted at Sheerness between 23 April to 13 June and placed briefly in reserve .

= = Transfer to the Royal Canadian Navy = =

Together with her sister HMS Cygnet , Crescent was sold to Canada on 20 October 1936 for a total price of £ 400 , 000 . She was refitted again to meet Canadian standards , including the installation of ASDIC (sonar) , and taken over by them on 1 February 1937 . The ship was renamed as HMCS Fraser and commissioned into the RCN at Chatham on 17 February . Fraser was

assigned to the Canadian Pacific Coast and arrived at Esquimalt on 3 May 1937 . She remained there until she was ordered to the East Coast on 31 August 1939 .

When World War II began on 3 September , Fraser was transiting the Panama Canal and arrived at Halifax on 15 September . She and her sisters were employed as local escorts to ocean convoys sailing from Halifax . In November the Royal Navy 's North America and West Indies Station took operational control of the Canadian destroyers . The ship escorted the convoy bringing most of the 1st Canadian Infantry Division to Britain part way across the North Atlantic in mid @-@ December . In March 1940 she was ordered to join the Jamaica Force for Caribbean patrols before being reassigned to Western Approaches Command two months later . On 26 May she left Bermuda for Britain and arrived at Plymouth on 3 June where she was pressed into service evacuating Allied troops from various French ports on the Atlantic coast . Sometime in 1940 , the ship 's aft set of torpedo tubes was removed and replaced by a 4 @-@ inch (102 mm) AA gun .

= = Loss = =

On 25 June 1940 , Fraser , her sister HMCS Restigouche , and the cruiser Calcutta were returning from St. Jean de Luz after rescuing refugees trapped by the German Army (Operation Ariel) , when Fraser was rammed by Calcutta in the Gironde estuary . Struck forward of the bridge by the cruiser 's bow , Fraser was cut in half and sank immediately . All but 45 of the ship 's crew were rescued by Restigouche and other nearby ships . Many of the survivors from Fraser transferred that later summer to HMCS Margaree , and were lost when that vessel sank on 22 October 1940 as a result of a collision with the freighter MV Port Fairy .