

= HMS Imogen (D44) =

HMS Imogen was a I @-@ class destroyer built for the Royal Navy in 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 . After the start of the Second World War the ship was transferred to Home Fleet and participated in the Norwegian Campaign in April 1940 . Imogen sank two German submarines before her own sinking following an accidental collision in July 1940 .

= = Description = =

The I @-@ class ships were improved versions of the preceding H @-@ class . They displaced 1 @, @ 370 long tons (1 @, @ 390 t) at standard load and 1 @, @ 888 long tons (1 @, @ 918 t) at deep load . The ships had an overall length of 323 feet (98 @. @ 5 m) , a beam of 33 feet (10 @. @ 1 m) and a draught of 12 feet 6 inches (3 @. @ 8 m) . They were powered by two Parsons geared steam turbines , each driving one propeller shaft , using steam provided by three Admiralty three @-@ drum boilers . The turbines developed a total of 34 @, @ 000 shaft horsepower (25 @, @ 000 kW) and gave a maximum speed of 35 @. @ 5 knots (65 @. @ 7 km / h ; 40 @. @ 9 mph) . Imogen carried a maximum of 455 long tons (462 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 ships ' complement was 145 officers and ratings .

The ships mounted four 4 @. @ 7 @-@ inch (120 mm) Mark IX guns in single mounts . For anti @-@ aircraft (AA) defence , they had two quadruple Mark I mounts for the 0 @. @ 5 inch Vickers Mark III machine gun . The I class was fitted with two above @-@ water quintuple torpedo tube mounts for 21 @-@ inch (533 mm) torpedoes . One depth charge rack and two throwers were fitted ; 16 depth charges were originally carried , but this increased to 35 shortly after the war began .

= = Construction and career = =

The ship was ordered on 30 October 1935 from Hawthorn Leslie at Hebburn under the 1935 Naval Programme . She was laid down on 18 January 1936 , launched on 30 December 1936 , as the seventh Royal Navy ship to carry this name , and completed on 2 June 1937 , at a contract price of £ 256 @, @ 917 , excluding items supplied by Admiralty such as armaments and communications equipment . Imogen was assigned to the 3rd Destroyer Flotilla of the Mediterranean Fleet upon commissioning and was initially based in Malta . Transferred to Gibraltar , she patrolled Spanish waters enforcing the policies of the Non @-@ Intervention Committee during 1938 . The ship was given a brief refit in Malta from 17 October ? 28 November 1938 and another at Sheerness Dockyard in August 1939 .

Imogen returned to the Mediterranean on 3 September , but was transferred to the Western Approaches Command for convoy escort duties two days later when Italy did not enter the war . Together with the entire 3rd Destroyer Flotilla , the ship was transferred to the Home Fleet in October . Together with her sister Ilex , she sank the German submarine U @-@ 42 on 13 October after the submarine attempted to sink the freighter SS Stonepool . Whilst escorting the merchant ship to Barry , Imogen rescued survivors from the ships Louisiane and Bretagne . She was refitted at Liverpool between 20 October and 7 November and then rejoined Home Fleet . The following month , the ship came to the aid of the torpedoed battleship Barham off the Butt of Lewis on 28 December .

With her sister Inglefield and the destroyer Escort , Imogen sank U @-@ 63 after it had been spotted by the British submarine Rorqual on 25 February 1940 . During the Norwegian Campaign , the ship searched unsuccessfully for German ships , escorted ships of Home Fleet and troopships carrying Norwegian Army units from Kirkenes and Alta to Sjøvegan in mid @-@ April . In mid @-@ June , she escorted the aircraft carrier Illustrious to Bermuda to work up . Off Duncansby Head

during the night of 16 July , Imogen collided with the light cruiser Glasgow in thick fog whilst bound for Scapa Flow . She was badly damaged , caught fire , and sank at position 58 ° 34 ' N 02 ° 54 ' W. Glasgow rescued 10 officers and 125 enlisted men , but 19 men were killed in the collision .