

= HMS Highlander ( H44 ) =

HMS Highlander was an H <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>-class destroyer that had originally been ordered by the Brazilian Navy with the name Jaguaribe in the late 1930s , but was bought by the Royal Navy after the beginning of World War II in September 1939 and later renamed . When completed in March 1940 , she was assigned to the 9th Destroyer Flotilla of the Home Fleet . The ship was assigned to convoy escort duties in June with the Western Approaches Command , sinking one German submarine in October . Highlander was transferred to Freetown , Sierra Leone in mid <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>- 1941 to escort convoys off West Africa , but returned to the United Kingdom in August . She became flotilla leader of Escort Group B <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>- 4 of the Mid <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>- Ocean Escort Force in early 1942 and continued to escort convoys in the North Atlantic for the rest of the war . The ship became a target ship after the war ended and was sold for scrap in mid <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>- 1946 .

= = Description = =

Highlander displaced 1 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>, 350 long tons ( 1 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>, 370 t ) at standard load and 1 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>, 883 long tons ( 1 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>, 913 t ) at deep load . The ship had an overall length of 323 feet ( 98 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> m ) , a beam of 33 feet ( 10 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> m ) and a draught of 12 feet 5 inches ( 3 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> m ) . She was powered by Parsons geared steam turbines , driving two shafts , which developed a total of 34 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>, 000 shaft horsepower ( 25 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>, 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 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>- drum water <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>- tube boilers . Highlander carried a maximum of 470 long tons ( 480 t ) of fuel oil , giving her a range of 5 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>, 530 nautical miles ( 10 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>, 240 km ; 6 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>, 360 mi ) at 15 knots ( 28 km / h ; 17 mph ) . The ship 's complement was 152 officers and men .

The vessel was designed for four 45 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>- calibre 4 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>- inch Mk IX guns in single mounts , designated ' A ' , ' B ' , ' X ' , and ' Y ' from front to rear , but ' Y ' gun was removed to compensate for the additional depth charges added . For anti <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>- aircraft ( AA ) defence , Highlander had two quadruple Mark I mounts for the 0 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> inch Vickers Mark III machine gun . She was fitted with two above <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>- water quadruple torpedo tube mounts for 21 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>- inch ( 533 mm ) torpedoes . One depth charge rail and two throwers were originally fitted , but this was increased to three sets of rails and eight throwers while fitting <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>- out . The ship 's load of depth charges was increased from 20 to 110 as well .

Highlander was completed without a director <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>- control tower ( DCT ) so the three remaining 4 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>- inch low <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>- angle guns fired in local control using ranges provided by a rangefinder . She was fitted with an ASDIC set to detect submarines by reflections from sound waves beamed into the water .

= = = Wartime modifications = = =

Little data on Highlander 's modifications during the war has survived , although it is known that she had her rear torpedo tubes replaced by a 12 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>- pounder AA gun in July 1940 . The ship 's short <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>- range AA armament was later augmented by two Oerlikon 20 mm guns on the wings of the ship 's bridge and the .50 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>- calibre machine gun mounts were replaced by a pair of Oerlikons . It is uncertain if the ship 's director <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>- control tower was installed before a Type 271 target indication radar was installed above the bridge . At some point , the ship was converted to an escort destroyer . ' A ' gun was replaced by a Hedgehog anti <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>- submarine spigot mortar and additional depth charge stowage replaced the 12 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>- pounder high <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>- angle gun . A Type 286 short <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>- range surface search radar was fitted as well as a HF / DF radio direction finder mounted on a pole mainmast .

= = History = =

She was originally ordered as Jaguaribe on 16 December 1937 by the Brazilian Navy . The ship

was laid down by John I. Thornycroft and Company at Woolston , Hampshire on 28 September 1938 and was purchased by the British on 5 September 1939 after the beginning of World War II . Renamed HMS Highlander , she was launched on 16 October and commissioned on 18 March 1940 . After working up at Portland Harbour , she was assigned to the 9th Destroyer Flotilla of the Home Fleet and began escort duty on 11 April . Six days later , the ship ran aground in the Shetland Islands and was moderately damaged . Re @-@ floated , Highlander was repaired at Hull between 20 April and 19 May . She escorted the battlecruiser Renown to Scapa Flow and arrived there on 24 May . The flotilla was transferred to the Western Approaches Command in mid @-@ June and Highlander rescued survivors of the torpedoed armed merchant cruiser Scotstoun en route to Plymouth . Later in the month , the ship escorted ships evacuating Allied troops from French ports on the Atlantic coast ( Operation Ariel ) .

Highlander then rejoined the 9th Destroyer Flotilla on convoy escort duties until January 1941 . During this time , she was briefly refitted in mid @-@ July with a 12 @-@ pounder AA gun replacing her rear set of torpedo tubes and , together with her sister Harvester , the ship sank the German submarine U @-@ 32 on 30 October . On 1 December , she escorted the torpedoed Canadian destroyer HMCS Saguenay to Barrow @-@ in @-@ Furness for repairs . Highlander began a longer refit at Hawthorn Leslie 's shipyard at Hebburn from 30 January to 23 March 1941 . After its completion , the ship was briefly assigned to Force H at Gibraltar , before continuing on to Freetown to begin escort duties with the 18th Destroyer Flotilla there . She remained there until August when she was transferred to Londonderry where she was later assigned to the 28th Escort Group of Western Approaches Command .

Highlander was refitted and rearmed from 2 February ? 18 March 1942 at Tilbury . She became flotilla leader for Escort Group B4 and was assigned to the Mid @-@ Ocean Escort Force when her refit was completed . The ship and her consorts escorted Convoy SC 122 through the largest convoy battle of the war in March 1943 ; Highlander was unsuccessfully attacked by U @-@ 441 and U @-@ 608 during the battle . The ship was given an extensive overhaul at Troon from 28 December ? 12 April 1944 that was lengthened when she was damaged in a collision with a tugboat . Upon its completion , she rejoined her group and remained with them until September when she was transferred to Escort Group B2 and became its flotilla leader . Highlander crushed her bow on 15 April 1945 when she struck some ice ; she had to be towed to Bay Bulls , Newfoundland , for temporary repairs . She received permanent repairs at nearby St. John 's from 17 April to 24 July . The ship reached Portsmouth five days later and later sailed to Rosyth for service as a target ship for aircraft . Highlander was placed in Category C reserve on 19 January 1946 and was approved for scrapping on 19 February 1946 . She was sold on 27 May , but demolition did not begin until May 1947 .