

= HMS Grenville (H03) =

HMS Grenville was the flotilla leader for the G class destroyers , built for the Royal Navy in the mid 1930s . She spent most of the pre war period as part of the Mediterranean Fleet . The ship was transferred to the British Isles to escort shipping in local waters shortly after the beginning of World War II . In January 1940 , Grenville struck a mine outside the Thames Estuary and sank with the loss of 77 of her crew .

= = Description = =

Grenville displaced 1,455 long tons (1,478 t) at standard load and 2,053 long tons (2,086 t) at deep load . The ship had an overall length of 330 feet (100 m) , a beam of 34 feet 6 inches (10 m) and a draught of 12 feet 9 inches (3 m) . She was powered by Parsons geared steam turbines , driving two shafts , which developed a total of 38,000 shaft horsepower (28,000 kW) and gave a maximum speed of 36 knots (67 km / h ; 41 mph) . Steam for the turbines was provided by three Yarrow side fired , water tube boilers . Grenville 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 175 officers and men .

The ship mounted five 45 calibre 4.7 inch (120 mm) Mark IX guns in single mounts . For anti aircraft (AA) defence , Grenville had two quadruple Mark I mounts for the 0.5 inch Vickers Mark 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 .

= = Service history = =

Ordered in 1934 , the ship was laid down by the Yarrow Shipbuilding Company at Scotstoun in Glasgow on 29 September 1934 , launched on 15 August 1935 , and completed on 1 July 1936 . Excluding government furnished equipment like the armament , the ship cost £ 275,412 . Aside from a brief period when she was assigned to the 20th Destroyer Flotilla after her commissioning , Grenville spent the prewar period as the flagship of the 1st Destroyer Flotilla with the Mediterranean Fleet . She spent ten months deployed off the Spanish coast in the Western Mediterranean during the Spanish Civil War before returning to Portsmouth for a brief overhaul between 24 May and 9 June 1937 . The ship returned to the Mediterranean until she was given a more thorough refit in Portsmouth between 7 June and 25 July 1938 .

On the outbreak of war in September 1939 , Grenville was deployed in the Mediterranean . On 22 October , Grenville and her sisters Griffin , Grenade and Gipsy were transferred to the Western Approaches Command and arrived at Plymouth on 2 November . Grenville and Grenade collided during the night of 7 / 8 November and Grenville 's No. 3 boiler room was flooded . She was under repair at HM Dockyard , Devonport until 1 December . While the ship was under repair , her flotilla had been transferred to the Nore Command at Harwich for local patrol and escort work . Grenville rejoined them the on 3 December and participated in several attempts to intercept enemy shipping traffic off the Dutch and German North Sea coasts . Whilst returning from one of these missions on 19 January Grenville struck a mine 23 miles (37 km) east of Kentish Knock Light Vessel . Seventy seven of the ship 's company were killed as the ship sank .