

= HMS Delight (H38) =

HMS Delight was a D class destroyer built for the Royal Navy in the early 1930s . Delight was initially assigned to the Mediterranean Fleet before she was transferred to the China Station in early 1935 . She was temporarily deployed in the Red Sea during late 1935 during the Abyssinia Crisis , before returning to her duty station where she remained until mid 1939 . Delight was transferred back to the Mediterranean Fleet just before the Second World War began in September 1939 . She served with the Home Fleet during the Norwegian Campaign . The ship was sunk by German dive bombers on 29 July 1940 while attempting to transit the English Channel in daylight .

= = Description = =

Delight displaced 1,375 long tons (1,397 t) at standard load and 1,890 long tons (1,920 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 . Delight carried a maximum of 473 long tons (481 t) of fuel oil that gave her a range of 5,870 nautical miles (10,870 km ; 6,760 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 Mark IX guns in single mounts . For anti aircraft (AA) defence , Delight had a single 12 pounder (3 inch (76.2 mm)) gun between her funnels and 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 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 .

= = Career = =

Delight was ordered on 2 February 1931 under the 1930 Naval Estimates and was laid down at the yards of the Fairfield Shipbuilding and Engineering Company , Govan , Scotstoun on 22 April 1931 . She was launched on 2 June 1932 and completed on 31 January 1933 , at a total cost of £ 229,378 , excluding equipment supplied by the Admiralty , such as weapons , ammunition and wireless equipment .

The ship was used to carry out sea trials on the Mark IX torpedo after working up until 24 April 1933 . Delight then joined the 1st Destroyer Flotilla in the Mediterranean and made a brief deployment to the Persian Gulf in September ? November 1933 . The ship was refitted at Portsmouth between 3 September and 25 October 1934 for service on the China Station with the 8th (later the 21st) Destroyer Flotilla and arrived there in January 1935 . She was attached to the Mediterranean Fleet in the Red Sea from September to November 1935 during the Abyssinian Crisis . As war with Germany loomed , Delight was assigned to the Mediterranean and departed 29 August 1939 in company with several of her sisters . She arrived at Aden on 19 September and later at Alexandria where she operated with the Mediterranean Fleet for the next three months . The ship was transferred to the Home Fleet in December and arrived at Portsmouth on 30 December .

She was refitted until 27 January 1940 before she joined the 3rd Destroyer Flotilla . Delight was damaged in heavy weather on 8 April and forced to return to port for repairs . During the Norwegian Campaign , Delight escorted the aircraft carrier HMS Furious as she returned to Scapa Flow on 25 April to replenish her aircraft . On 1 May , she ferried troops to the light cruisers HMS Manchester and HMS Birmingham of the 18th Cruiser Squadron during the evacuation from Åndalsnes . Delight supported the Allied troops on 27 ? 28 May as they recaptured Narvik before she was sent to Bodø the next day to investigate reports of a German amphibious landing . Over the next two nights , the

ship and seven other destroyers evacuated British troops from Bodø . On 7 ? 8 June , Delight escorted a troop convoy evacuating Allied troops from Narvik (Operation Alphabet) .

The ship went to the assistance of the armed merchant cruiser HMS Scotstoun after she had been torpedoed by U @-@ 25 on 13 June . Delight had her superheater tubes replaced at Rosyth from 21 June to 24 July . In the meantime , the Battle of Britain began on 10 July 1940 and the English Channel became the main battle ground until August . After departing Portland Harbour in daylight on 29 July , contrary to orders , the ship was detected by a Freya radar at Cherbourg and the Luftwaffe was alerted . At 19 : 25 12 Ju 87s belonging to III . / Sturzkampfgeschwader 2 led by Gruppenkommandeur Walter Enneccerus attacked Delight , which was by now some 20 miles (32 km) off Portland Bill . She was hit by a bomb on her fo 'c'sle , which caused a major fire and a subsequent explosion . The ship sank later that evening having lost six of her company in the attack .

Delight currently lies at a maximum depth of 62 metres (203 ft) , broken into several sections . Her centre is upside down , her bow is broken off , and the stern is upright . As the wreck is designated as a protected place under the Protection of Military Remains Act 1986 it is illegal to enter the wreck without a license or to interfere with the wreck or debris field in any way .