

= HMS Ivanhoe ( D16 ) =

HMS Ivanhoe was an 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 . Before the start of World War II , the ship was modified so that she could be used to lay mines by removing some of her armament . Ivanhoe was transferred to Western Approaches Command shortly after the war began and helped to sink one German submarine in October 1939 . She was converted to a minelayer while undergoing a refit in November ? December and laid minefields in German coastal waters as well as anti submarine minefields off the British coast until she was reconverted back to her destroyer configuration in February 1940 . Ivanhoe reverted to her minelaying role during the Norwegian Campaign in April 1940 and then laid a number of minefields off the Dutch coast during the Battle of the Netherlands in May . The ship participated in the Dunkirk evacuation until she was badly damaged by German aircraft on 1 June . On her first minelaying mission after her repairs were completed , she struck a German mine and had to be scuttled on 1 September 1940 during the Texel Disaster .

= = 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 ) . Ivanhoe 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 . She was one of the four I class destroyers fitted with minelaying equipment in late 1938 ? January 1939 at Malta . This consisted of mounts for rails on the deck on which to carry the mines and an electric winch to move the mines down the rails . A pair of sponsons were added to the stern to allow the mines to clear the propellers when dropped into the sea . ' A ' and ' Y ' guns and both sets of torpedo tubes were modified to allow them to be removed to compensate for the weight of the mines . The ship could carry a maximum of 72 mines . Ivanhoe was fitted with the ASDIC sound detection system to locate submarines underwater .

= = Construction and career = =

The ship was ordered from Yarrow Shipbuilders at Scotstoun on 30 October 1935 under the 1935 Naval Programme . The ship was laid down on 12 February 1936 and launched on 11 February 1937 as the second Royal Navy warship to carry the name . Ivanhoe was completed on 24 August 1937 and cost £ 259 ,371 excluding items supplied by Admiralty such as guns and communications equipment . She was assigned to the 3rd Destroyer Flotilla of the Mediterranean Fleet upon commissioning and participated in training exercises with the French Navy in December through January 1938 . The ship was forced to leave these exercises prematurely as she had problems with the tubes in her superheaters . These were replaced at Malta from 15 January ? 19 March . Afterwards , Ivanhoe was transferred to Gibraltar where she patrolled Spanish waters

enforcing the policies of the Non-Intervention Committee until the end of the war . She was in Cartagena in February ? March 1939 to protect British citizens and interests as foreigners , Republican troops and their supporters evacuated the city .

Ivanhoe was in transit between Alexandria and Malta when World War II began in September 1939 , but she was in Plymouth on 14 September as the entire 3rd Destroyer Flotilla had been transferred to the Western Approaches Command for escort duties . Together with her sisters , Intrepid , and Icarus , the ship sank the German submarine U 45 on 14 October . She was refitted at Sheerness Dockyard and converted to a minelayer from 14 November ? 13 December . Ivanhoe was transferred to the specialist minelaying 20th Destroyer Flotilla on 12 December and laid her first minefield , along with the other three ships of the flotilla , at the mouth of the Ems estuary on the night of 17 / 18 December . Another minefield was laid on the night of 2 / 3 January 1940 by Ivanhoe and Intrepid and they then laid a series of anti submarine minefields later in the month . The ship replaced her guns and torpedo tubes at Portland from 27 January ? 3 February and resumed her former duties .

In early April , Ivanhoe and three other destroyer minelayers were escorted by the 2nd Destroyer Flotilla as they laid mines as part of Operation Wilfred , an operation to lay mines in the Vestfjord to prevent the shipment of Swedish iron ore from Narvik to Germany . The mines were laid on the early morning of 8 April , before the Germans began their invasion , and the destroyers joined the battlecruiser HMS Renown and her escorts after they each successfully laid their 60 mines . The ship was present during , but played no significant part in , Renown 's brief engagement off Lofoten with the German battleships Scharnhorst and Gneisenau on 9 April . Later in the month , the ship carried troops of the 15th Infantry Brigade to Åndalsnes . Ivanhoe then loaded mines and laid a minefield in the approaches to Trondheim , together with Icarus and Impulsive , on the night of 29 / 30 April .

After a boiler cleaning from 7 ? 15 May , Ivanhoe , Esk , and Express , laid 164 mines off the Hook of Holland on the night of 15 / 16 May . Three German minesweepers were later sunk by this minefield on 26 July . Three nights later , the same three ships , reinforced by Intrepid , Impulsive , and the auxiliary minelayer Princess Victoria laid a minefield off the Dutch coast . Princess Victoria struck a German mine on the voyage home and was sunk ; the destroyers rescued the ship 's survivors . They laid five more minefields off the Dutch coast before the end of the month . On 29 May , the ship was transferred to the Dunkirk evacuation effort and ferried 930 troops to Dover that day . She also took aboard the crew of the badly damaged destroyer Grafton and then scuttled Grafton . She was withdrawn from the evacuation on 30 May as too valuable to risk , but this decision was reversed the following day and Ivanhoe evacuated 1 , 290 men to Dover . On the morning of 1 June , already having loaded troops , the ship was attacked off Dunkirk harbour by German aircraft . Two bombs missed to port and starboard , but the third detonated above the upper deck and flooded the two forward boiler rooms . The bomb killed 26 , including five soldiers , and wounded many others . Most of the troops and wounded were taken off by the minesweeper Speedwell and the destroyer Havant . No. 3 boiler room was still operable and the ship reached Dover under her own power .

Repairs at Sheerness lasted until 28 August and she was converted back into a minelayer at Immingham from 28 ? 31 August as she was transferred back to the 20th Destroyer Flotilla . That night , she sailed with Intrepid , Icarus , Esk and Express to lay a minefield off the Dutch coast , north of Texel . Express hit a mine in a newly laid German field that night and had her bow blown off . Ivanhoe closed to assist her and struck another mine shortly afterwards . The explosion knocked out her power for several hours , but the ship was able to raise steam by 01 : 45 on 1 September . She reached a speed of 7 knots ( 13 km / h ; 8 . 1 mph ) while steaming backwards to lessen the stress on her damaged bow . However , about 04 : 00 , either her propellers fell off or her propeller shafts fractured , and she lost all speed . Around 08 : 00 , four motor torpedo boats arrived ; three of these loaded all but 37 men of the ship 's crew while the fourth stayed with the destroyer to recover the remaining crewmen . Ivanhoe continued to take on water and started to list . Early in the afternoon , she lost all power to her pumps and the captain ordered the ship abandoned after opening her valves to speed her sinking . Shortly afterwards , Ivanhoe was

discovered and damaged by a German aircraft , but still did not sink . She had to be scuttled by a torpedo fired by the destroyer Kelvin later in the afternoon . The ship quickly sank afterwards at position 53 ° 26 ' 42 " N 03 ° 45 ' 24 " E.