

= HMS Havant (H32) =

HMS Havant was an H class destroyer originally ordered by the Brazilian Navy with the name Javary in the late 1930s , but was bought by the Royal Navy after the beginning of World War II in September 1939 . The ship was initially assigned to escort duties in the Western Approaches , but was transferred to the Home Fleet when the Norwegian Campaign began in April 1940 . She was only peripherally involved in the campaign as she escorted ships carrying troops that occupied Iceland and the Faeroe Islands as well as convoys to Narvik . Havant was evacuating troops from Dunkirk when she was badly damaged by Junkers Ju 87 Stuka dive bombers on 1 June and had to be scuttled .

= = Description = =

Havant displaced 1,350 long tons (1,370 t) at standard load and 1,883 long tons (1,913 t) at deep load . The ship had an overall length of 323 feet (98.5 m) , a beam of 33 feet (10.1 m) and a draught of 12 feet 5 inches (3.8 m) . She was powered by Parsons geared steam turbines , driving two shafts , which developed a total of 34,000 shaft horsepower (25,000 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 . Havant 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 145 officers and men .

The ship was designed for four 4.5-calibre 4.7-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-aircraft (AA) defence , Havant 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 originally fitted , but this was increased to 3 sets of rails and eight throwers while fitting out . The ship's load of depth charges was increased from 20 to 110 as well .

= = Service = =

Javary was ordered by Brazil on 8 December 1937 from J. Samuel White , Cowes . The ship was laid down on 30 March 1938 and launched on 17 July 1939 . She was purchased by the British on 5 September and renamed HMS Havant . The ship was commissioned on 19 December and arrived at Portland Harbour on 8 January 1940 to begin working up . She made one unsuccessful anti-submarine sweep 4-9 February with the destroyers Ardent and Whitshed after she was assigned to the 9th Destroyer Flotilla of the Western Approaches Command at Plymouth . Havant had degaussing equipment fitted and minor repairs were made through March .

The ship was en route to Greenock to escort a convoy to Gibraltar on 7 April when she was transferred to the Home Fleet as a result of the impending German invasion of Norway . Along with her sister Hesperus , Havant escorted the heavy cruiser Suffolk on 13 April as the latter ship carried a detachment of Royal Marines to occupy the Faeroe Islands . The ship then escorted convoys to Narvik until 7 May . A week later she escorted the ocean liners Lancastria and Franconia as they carried troops to occupy Iceland .

Havant joined the Dunkirk evacuation on 29 May and rescued over 2,300 men by 1 June . That morning she had embarked 500 troops and then went alongside the destroyer Ivanhoe , which had been disabled by German dive bombers earlier that morning . The ship loaded all of the troops and wounded from Ivanhoe and sailed for Dover under heavy air attack . Shortly afterwards , Stukas hit Havant with two bombs in her engine room and another exploded beneath her hull . Eight crewmen were killed and 25 were wounded in the attack . At least 25 soldiers were also killed . She was severely damaged and had to be scuttled by the minesweeper HMS Saltash after an attempt to

tow her failed .