

= HMS Zubian =

HMS Zubian was a First World War Royal Navy Tribal class destroyer constructed from the forward end of HMS Zulu and the rear and mid sections of HMS Nubian . These two destroyers had been badly damaged in late 1916 , and rather than scrapping both hulls at the height of World War I , the Admiralty ordered that they be rebuilt as the composite Zubian and put back into service . She was commissioned into the fleet in June 1917 . The name Zubian is a portmanteau of the names of the original ships .

Zubian saw extensive service in the final two years of the war as part of the Dover Patrol . She sank the German U boat UC 50 in February 1918 , while she was on patrol in the English Channel . In late April , she participated in the First Ostend Raid as an escort for the bombardment force . After the war , Zubian was sold for scrap and broken up by December 1919 .

= = Design = =

Zubian was 85 metres (280 ft) long overall , with a beam of 8 m (27 ft) and a draught of 3 m (9 ft) . She displaced 1,040 metric tons (1,020 long tons ; 1,150 short tons) . The ship 's propulsion system consisted of three Parsons steam turbines , which were powered by six oil fired Thornycroft boilers . These provided 14,000 shaft horsepower (10,000 kW) and a top speed of 33 knots (61 km / h ; 38 mph) . She was armed with two QF 4 inch Mk V guns and two 18 in (460 mm) torpedo tubes . One gun was mounted on the forecastle and the other on the stern , with the two torpedo tubes amidships . Her crew numbered 68 officers and enlisted .

= = Service history = =

In late 1916 , two British destroyers of the 6th Flotilla in the Dover Patrol ? Nubian and Zulu ? were badly damaged by German attacks in the English Channel . Nubian 's bow had been destroyed by a torpedo from a German torpedo boat on 26 October , while Zulu had her stern blown off by a mine in the Channel on 8 November , and was towed to Calais . Both wrecks were then towed to Chatham Dockyard , where a complete destroyer was constructed by joining the foreparts of Zulu with the stern of Nubian , and despite a 3 inches (89 mm) difference in beam , the unique operation was successful . The ship was renamed Zubian by Admiral Reginald Bacon , the commander of the Dover Patrol . The hybrid destroyer was commissioned on 7 June 1917 . The choice of name caused confusion among the German Imperial Admiralty Staff , who knew of no such ship under construction .

Zubian joined the 6th Flotilla and served there until the end of the war . During this period , Zubian and the rest of the Flotilla rotated through nighttime patrols of the Dover Strait in groups of four , supported by flotilla leaders ; these patrols were intended to catch German torpedo boats that were conducting night bombardments of Allied positions in the Channel . On 4 February 1918 , she encountered the mine laying U boat UC 50 in the Dover Strait ; the U boat was surfaced about 400 yards (370 m) off Zubian 's port bow with her radio antennae up . Zubian attempted to ram the submarine but the Germans managed to submerge . The destroyer then dropped depth charges over the submerged U boat and a significant amount of oil and wreckage was observed thereafter . Zubian marked the location with a buoy and an hour later , the patrol vessel HMS P12 dropped additional depth charges there . Trawlers later located an object that divers confirmed was UC 50 .

Zubian also participated in the First Ostend Raid two months later on the night of 23 ? 24 April . The attack was intended to close the German held ports of Ostend and Zeebrugge , which were being used as bases for the U boats . Zubian was assigned to the bombardment force , and along with the destroyers Mentor and Lightfoot , provided the close escort for a group of six monitors . The bombardment unit was covered by the Harwich Force in the Channel . The bombardment force was tasked with suppressing the German coastal defences , while a pair of old cruisers

attempted to steam into the harbour entrances , where they would be sunk as blockships . The effort failed when both cruisers ran aground far outside of the harbour .

Worn out by heavy wartime use , Zubian was sold in the immediate post @-@ war draw down and broken up for scrap by December 1919 .