



HMS *Basilisk* was a B-class destroyer built for the Royal Navy around 1930. Initially assigned to the Mediterranean Fleet, she was transferred to the Home Fleet in 1936. The ship escorted convoys and conducted anti-submarine patrols early in World War II before participating in the Norwegian Campaign.

The ship was transferred from the Western Approaches Command on 30th May to support the evacuation from Dunkirk. She made two trips to Dover during the following day and evacuated a total of 695 men (including 13 Field Survey Company RE). *Basilisk* returned to La Panne to load more troops on the morning of 1st June and was attacked three times by German bombers. One bomb from the first wave detonated inside the No. 3 boiler room, killed all of her boiler and engine room personnel, fractured her steam lines and knocked out all her machinery. Near misses from the same attack buckled the sides of her hull and her upper deck. The ship's torpedoes and depth charges were jettisoned to reduce top weight and the French fishing trawler *Jolie Mascotte* attempted to tow *Basilisk*. A second attack caused no further damage, but caused the French ship to drop the tow. The third attack around noon sank *Basilisk* in shallow water at 51°08'16"N 02°35'06"E. *Jolie Mascotte* and the destroyer *Whitehall* rescued eight officers and 123 crewmen from the ship. *Whitehall* then destroyed the wreck with gunfire and torpedoes.