

= German submarine U 64 (1939) =

German submarine U 64 was a Type IXB U boat of Nazi Germany 's Kriegsmarine during World War II . She was ordered by them in July 1937 . Her keel was laid down by AG Weser in Bremen in December 1938 . Following about nine months of construction , she was launched in September 1939 and formally commissioned into the Kriegsmarine in December .

U 64 had a very short career and sank no enemy vessels . Having left her home port of Wilhelmshaven for her first war patrol on 6 April 1940 , she was intercepted by Allied aircraft seven days later off the coast of Norway during the invasion of that country and was sunk by a bomb from a Fairey Swordfish aircraft of HMS Warspite (03) . Of her crew of 46 , eight men died and 38 escaped from the sinking submarine .

= = Construction and design = =

= = = Construction = = =

U 64 was ordered by the Kriegsmarine on 16 July 1937 as part of Plan Z and in violation of the Treaty of Versailles . Her keel was laid down on 15 December 1938 by AG Weser in Bremen as yard number 952 . She was launched on 20 September 1939 and commissioned on 16 December under the command of Kapitänleutnant Georg Wilhelm Schulz .

= = = Design = = =

German Type IXB submarines were slightly larger than the original German Type IX submarines , later designated IXA . U 64 had a displacement of 1,051 tonnes (1,034 long tons) when at the surface and 1,178 tonnes (1,159 long tons) while submerged . The U boat had a total length of 76.50 m (251 ft) , a pressure hull length of 58.75 m (192 ft 9 in) , a beam of 6.76 m (22 ft 2 in) , a height of 9.60 m (31 ft 6 in) , and a draught of 4.70 m (15 ft 5 in) . The submarine was powered by two MAN M 9 V 40 / 46 supercharged four stroke , nine cylinder diesel engines producing a total of 4,400 metric horsepower (3,240 kW ; 4,340 shp) for use while surfaced , two Siemens Schuckert 2 GU 345 / 34 double acting electric motors producing a total of 1,000 metric horsepower (740 kW ; 990 shp) for use while submerged . She had two shafts and two 1.92 m (6 ft) propellers . The boat was capable of operating at depths of up to 230 metres (750 ft) .

The submarine had a maximum surface speed of 18.2 knots (33.7 km / h ; 20.9 mph) and a maximum submerged speed of 7.3 knots (13.5 km / h ; 8.4 mph) . When submerged , the boat could operate for 64 nautical miles (119 km ; 74 mi) at 4 knots (7.4 km / h ; 4.6 mph) ; when surfaced , she could travel 12,000 nautical miles (22,000 km ; 14,000 mi) at 10 knots (19 km / h ; 12 mph) . U 64 was fitted with six 53.3 cm (21 in) torpedo tubes (four fitted at the bow and two at the stern) , 22 torpedoes , one 10.5 cm (4.13 in) SK C / 32 naval gun , 180 rounds , and a 3.7 cm (1.5 in) as well as a 2 cm (0.79 in) anti aircraft gun . The boat had a complement of forty eight .

= = Service history = =

U 64 went to sea on 6 April 1940 . For eight days , she roamed the North Sea in search of Allied convoys heading to Norway in support of the campaign centred around that country . During that time she encountered no enemy vessels . On 13 April , the eighth day of her first patrol , she was heaved to in the waters off Bjerkvik in Norway , and was struck by a 350 pound bomb from a British Fairey Swordfish aircraft of HMS Warspite (03) . Her deck was also riddled with machine gun fire . The U boat then sank to the bottom of the harbor , eight of her

crew went down with her . The remaining 38 were able to escape the sinking vessel and were picked up by German mountain troops stationed ashore . They later formed the crew of U @-@ 124 .