

= SM UB @-@ 44 =

SM UB @-@ 44 was a Type UB II submarine or U @-@ boat for the German Imperial Navy (German : Kaiserliche Marine) during World War I. UB @-@ 44 operated in the Mediterranean and disappeared in August 1916 .

UB @-@ 44 was ordered in July 1915 and was laid down at the AG Weser shipyard in Bremen in September . UB @-@ 44 was a about 37 metres (121 ft 5 in) in length and displaced between 270 and 305 tonnes (266 and 300 long tons) , depending on whether surfaced or submerged . She was equipped to carry a complement of four torpedoes for her two bow torpedo tubes and had an 5 @-@ centimeter (2 @. @ 0 in) deck gun . As part of a group of six submarines selected for Mediterranean service , UB @-@ 44 was broken into railcar sized components and shipped to Pola where she was assembled and launched in April 1916 and commissioned in May .

In two patrols in her three @-@ month career , UB @-@ 44 sank one ship of 3 @, @ 409 gross register tons (GRT) . In early August 1916 , UB @-@ 44 departed from Cattaro for Hersingstand and never arrived . Her fate is officially unknown , but she may have been sunk by a torpedo boat near the island of Paxoi on 8 August .

= = Design and construction = =

The German UB II design improved upon the design of the UB I boats , which had been ordered in September 1914 . In service , the UB I boats were found to be too small and too slow . A major problem was that , because they had a single propeller shaft / engine combo , if either component failed , the U @-@ boat became almost totally disabled . To rectify this flaw , the UB II boats featured twin propeller shafts and twin engines (one shaft for each engine) , which also increased the U @-@ boat 's top speed . The new design also included more powerful batteries , larger torpedo tubes , and a deck gun . As a UB II boat , U @-@ 47 could also carry twice the torpedo load of her UB I counterparts , and nearly ten times as much fuel . To contain all of these changes the hull was larger , and the surface and submerged displacement was more than double that of the UB I boats .

The Imperial German Navy ordered UB @-@ 44 from AG Weser on 31 July 1915 as one of a series of six UB II boats (numbered from UB @-@ 42 to UB @-@ 47) . UB @-@ 44 was 36 @. @ 90 metres (121 ft 1 in) long and 4 @. @ 37 metres (14 ft 4 in) abeam . She had a single hull with saddle tanks and had a draught of 3 @. @ 68 metres (12 ft 1 in) when surfaced . She displaced 305 tonnes (300 long tons) while submerged but only 272 tonnes (268 long tons) on the surface .

The submarine was equipped with twin Daimler diesel engines and twin Siemens @-@ Schuckert electric motors ? for surfaced and submerged running , respectively ? that drove one propeller shaft . UB @-@ 44 had a surface speed of up to 8 @. @ 82 knots (16 @. @ 33 km / h ; 10 @. @ 15 mph) and could go as fast as 6 @. @ 22 knots (11 @. @ 52 km / h ; 7 @. @ 16 mph) while underwater . The U @-@ boat could carry up to 27 tonnes (27 long tons) of diesel fuel , giving her a range of 6 @, @ 940 nautical miles (12 @, @ 850 km ; 7 @, @ 990 mi) at 5 knots (9 @. @ 3 km / h ; 5 @. @ 8 mph) . Her electric motors and batteries provided a range of 45 nautical miles (83 km ; 52 mi) at 4 knots (7 @. @ 4 km / h ; 4 @. @ 6 mph) while submerged .

UB @-@ 44 was equipped with two 50 @-@ centimeter (19 @. @ 7 in) bow torpedo tubes and could carry four torpedoes . The U @-@ boat was also armed with one 8 @. @ 8 cm (3 @. @ 5 in) Ukl / 30 deck gun .

UB @-@ 44 was laid down by AG Weser at its Bremen shipyard on 3 September 1915 . As one of six U @-@ boats selected for service in the Mediterranean while under construction , UB @-@ 44 was broken into railcar @-@ sized components and shipped overland to the Austro @-@ Hungarian port of Pola . Shipyard workers from Weser assembled the boat and her five sisters at Pola , where she was launched on 20 April 1916 .

= = Service career = =

SM UB @-@ 44 was commissioned into the German Imperial Navy on 11 May 1916 under the command of Oberleutnant zur See Franz Wäger . UB @-@ 44 , Wäger 's fourth U @-@ boat command , was assigned to the Navy 's Pola Flotilla (German : Deutsche U @-@ Halbflotille Pola) . Although the flotilla was based in Pola , the site of the main Austro @-@ Hungarian Navy base , boats of the flotilla operated out of the Austro @-@ Hungarian base at Cattaro which was located farther south and closer to the Mediterranean . German U @-@ boats typically returned to Pola only for repairs .

On 30 June , Wäger and UB @-@ 44 achieved their only success when they sank the steamer Moeris 46 nautical miles (85 km ; 53 mi) southeast of Cape Sidero , Crete . The 3 @,@ 409 @-@ gross register ton British steamer was carrying a general cargo from Glasgow for Alexandria when she went down with the loss of three men .

After Germany 's conquest of Romania (see Romania during World War I) , the German Imperial Navy had sufficient fuel oil for submarines located in the Black Sea . UB @-@ 44 and three of her sister ships in the Pola Flotilla were ordered to Constantinople and , en route , had to navigate through the Dardanelles , which had been heavily mined by the Allies in the middle of 1916 . UB @-@ 44 departed from Cattaro on 8 August for Hersingstand (located on the Gallipoli peninsula) to pick up a pilot for the trip through the Dardanelles , but never arrived .

UB @-@ 44 's fate is unknown . Two British post @-@ war reports list UB @-@ 44 as falling victim to the Otranto Barrage on 30 July but , as author Dwight Messimer points out , German records record UB @-@ 44 's departure from Cattaro nine days after that . Messimer reports that it is possible that UB @-@ 44 was sunk by the torpedo boat HMS 368 , which was reported by an Athenian newspaper as sinking a U @-@ boat 6 nautical miles (11 km ; 6 @.@ 9 mi) on 8 August off Paxoi with a lance bomb .

= = Summary of raiding history = =