

= German Type IXA submarine =

The German Type IXA submarine was a sub @-@ class of the German Type IX submarine built for Nazi Germany 's Kriegsmarine between 1937 and 1938 . These U @-@ boats were designed between 1935 and 1936 and were intended to be fairly large ocean @-@ going submarines . The inspiration for the Type IXA submarine came from the German Type IA submarine , which had a similar diving depth and identical submerged horsepower .

Two of the eight Type IXA submarines (U @-@ 37 and U @-@ 38) would become the 6th and 10th most successful U @-@ boats that saw service in World War II , sinking 53 and 35 ships respectively . All of the Type IXA submarines were sunk fairly early in the war except for U @-@ 37 and U @-@ 38 , which were scuttled in May 1945 to prevent them from falling into the hands of the Allies .

= = Construction = =

All Type IXA submarines were ordered by the Kriegsmarine between 29 July 1936 and 21 November 1936 as part of Plan Z and the overall German plan of re @-@ armament in violation of the Treaty of Versailles . The design of the IXA submarines was derived from the German Type IA submarine . All contracts for the construction of the submarines were awarded to DeSchiMAG AG Weser , Bremen . The first U @-@ boat to be laid down in the Bremen ship yards was U @-@ 37 , whose keel was laid down on 15 March 1937 . The last U @-@ boat to be laid down was U @-@ 44 , whose construction began on 15 September 1937 . By November 1939 , all eight submarines had been fully constructed and commissioned into the Kriegsmarine .

= = Design = =

= = = General characteristics = = =

The Type IXA submarines were the first German submarines to have a double hull . This allowed for a greater chance of survival in the event of an attack and gave them better seaworthiness on the surface . The Type IXA submarines had a test depth of 230 metres (750 ft) . The class had two MAN M 9 V 40 / 46 supercharged 9 @-@ cylinder diesel engines that produced 4 @, @ 400 PS (4 @, @ 300 shp ; 3 @, @ 200 kW) as well as two SSW 2 GU 345 / 34 double @-@ acting electric motors that produced 1 @, @ 000 PS (986 shp ; 735 kW) and allowed them to travel at 18 @. @ 2 knots (33 @. @ 7 km / h ; 20 @. @ 9 mph) while surfaced and 7 @. @ 7 knots (14 @. @ 3 km / h ; 8 @. @ 9 mph) submerged . The Type IXA submarines had a range of 10 @, @ 500 nmi (19 @, @ 400 km ; 12 @, @ 100 mi) at 10 knots (19 km / h ; 12 mph) while on the surface and up to 78 nmi (144 km ; 90 mi) at 4 knots (7 @. @ 4 km / h ; 4 @. @ 6 mph) while submerged . The fuel capacity was 154 tonnes (152 long tons) . The maximum crew capacity was 56 , though the number on board was usually around 45 ? 48 .

= = = Armament = = =

The Type IXA submarines had six torpedo tubes (four in the bow and two in the stern) and carried a total of twenty @-@ two 53 @. @ 3 cm (21 in) torpedoes . The torpedo warhead was between 617 pounds (280 kg) and 948 pounds (430 kg) . These torpedoes could travel up to 6 @, @ 000 m (6 @, @ 600 yd) and as fast as 44 knots (81 km / h) . Twelve torpedoes were stowed internally and ten were in the topside deck containers . In order to get the torpedoes into the forward or bow torpedo room , the torpedoes were lifted over the U @-@ boat by a crane . The crew would then pull the torpedo inside the vessel using a cradle that was set at an angle to allow the torpedo to slide into position inside the torpedo room . To reload a torpedo tube with a torpedo from one of the above @-@ deck canisters , the submarine would have to surface in calm water . Then the torpedo

would be pulled out of the compartment with winches and lowered into the forward or bow torpedo room . This process could take several hours for just one torpedo , during which the U @-@ boat was unable to dive , making it an easy target for Allied aircraft .

The Type IXA submarines were equipped with a 10 @. @ 5 cm (4 @. @ 13 in) L / 45 deck gun on a Utof mounting forward of the conning tower . Shell storage was 180 rounds . The gun fired a 33 @. @ 3 @-@ pound (15 @. @ 1 kg) HE round at a muzzle velocity of 780 m / s (2 @, @ 600 ft / s) out to a maximum range of 15 @, @ 175 m (16 @, @ 596 yd) . Against aircraft the weapon 's ceiling was 10 @, @ 000 m (11 @, @ 000 yd) . Training and elevation was manual . The rate of fire was 15 rounds per minute . They were also armed with 2 cm FlaK 30 and 3 @. @ 7 cm (1 @. @ 5 in) anti @-@ aircraft guns . The 2 cm FlaK 30 guns had a range of 4 @, @ 900 metres (5 @, @ 400 yd) firing at up to 280 rounds per minute ; firing against aircraft the ceiling was reduced to 3 @, @ 700 m . The muzzle velocity was 835 m / s (2 @, @ 740 ft / s) and each round weighed 0 @. @ 71 pounds (0 @. @ 32 kg) . The 3 @. @ 7 cm SK C / 30U had a range of 8 @, @ 500 metres (9 @, @ 300 yd) and a firing rate of 30 rounds per minute . Its muzzle velocity was 1 @, @ 000 m / s (3 @, @ 300 ft / s) and the shell 's total weight was 1 @. @ 64 lb (0 @. @ 74 kg) .

= = List of Type IXA U @-@ boats = =

The Type IXA class had eight U @-@ boats , all of which were built by AG Weser of Bremen . After being commissioned and deployed , the Type IXA submarines were stationed in the German port city of Wilhelmshaven .

= = = U @-@ 37 = = =

U @-@ 37 was laid down by AG Weser of Bremen on 15 March 1937 . Following just over a year of construction , she was launched from the Bremen shipyards on 14 May 1938 and commissioned into the Kriegsmarine on 4 August 1938 under the command of Kapitänleutnant Heinrich Schuch as a member of the 6th U @-@ boat Flotilla . U @-@ 37 was by far the most successful Type IXA U @-@ boat and the sixth most successful U @-@ boat in World War II , sinking 53 merchant ships for a total of 200 @, @ 124 gross register tons (GRT) , along with two warships during eleven war patrols from August 1939 to March 1941 . In spite of these victories , U @-@ 37 was later withdrawn from combat service and was used for training submarine crews until the end of the war . On 8 May 1945 , the crew of U @-@ 37 scuttled the U @-@ boat in Sonderburg Bay off Flensburg to keep her from falling into the hands of the Allies .

= = = U @-@ 38 = = =

The keel for U @-@ 38 was laid down on 15 April 1937 and after over a year and a half of construction she was commissioned on 24 October 1938 with Oberleutnant zur See Heinrich Liebe in command . Upon commissioning , U @-@ 38 was assigned to the 6th U @-@ boat Flotilla . Like U @-@ 37 , U @-@ 38 conducted eleven patrols . During these patrols she managed to sink or damage over 30 enemy vessels . Like U @-@ 37 , U @-@ 38 ranks as one of the most successful U @-@ boats of World War II , holding 10th place . With World War II drawing to a disastrous close for Germany , U @-@ 38 was scuttled by her own crew west of Wesermünde on 5 May 1945 .

= = = U @-@ 39 = = =

The keel for U @-@ 39 was laid down on 2 June 1937 . She was commissioned over a year later on 10 December 1938 with Kapitänleutnant Gerhard Glattes in command as a member of the 6th U @-@ boat Flotilla . On 14 September 1939 , just days after she began her first war time patrol , U @-@ 39 was hunted down by the British destroyers HMS Faulknor , HMS Firedrake , and HMS Foxhound and disabled with depth charges after she attempted to sink the British aircraft carrier HMS Ark Royal . All of her crew members survived and were captured by the British . U @-@ 39

was the first German U @-@ boat to be sunk in World War II .

=== U @-@ 40 ===

U @-@ 40 was ordered for construction on 29 July 1936 and her keel was laid down on 1 July 1937 . She was launched from Bremen on 9 November 1938 and commissioned on 11 February 1939 with Kapitänleutnant Werner von Schmidt in command . U @-@ 40 conducted only two war patrols during her career , both while part of the 6th U @-@ boat Flotilla . During her short war @-@ time service , U @-@ 40 sank no ships . She sank on 13 October 1939 after hitting mines in the English Channel while attempting a short cut to a rendezvous with other U boats .

=== U @-@ 41 ===

U @-@ 41 was laid down on 27 November 1937 and was launched on 28 January 1939 . She was commissioned into the Kriegsmarine on 22 April 1939 under the command of Oberleutnant zur See Gustav @-@ Adolf Mugler . U @-@ 41 only undertook three war patrols , two as part of the 6th U @-@ boat Flotilla and one as a member of the 2nd U @-@ boat Flotilla . During her brief career she sank five enemy vessels for a total of 22 @,@ 815 GRT , captured two more ships for a total of 2 @,@ 073 GRT , and damaged one ship of 8 @,@ 096 GRT . On 5 February 1940 , U @-@ 41 was sunk after a depth charge attack by the British destroyer HMS Antelope off the coast of Ireland . All 49 crew members were lost with the ship .

=== U @-@ 42 ===

U @-@ 42 was ordered by the Kriegsmarine on 21 November 1936 . Her keel was laid down on 21 December 1937 by AG Weser of Bremen as yard number 947 . She was launched on 16 February 1939 and commissioned on 15 July 1939 with Kapitänleutnant Rolf Dau in command of the vessel . U @-@ 42 had a very short career , being sunk while still on her first war patrol . During her service with the Kriegsmarine , U @-@ 42 conducted only one training patrol and one war patrol , during which she damaged one enemy vessel of 4 @,@ 803 GRT . Both of U @-@ 42 's patrols were as a member of the 6th U @-@ boat Flotilla . On 13 October 1939 , U @-@ 42 was sunk southwest of Ireland by the British warships HMS Imogen and HMS Ilex . Out of a crew of 46 , twenty survived and 26 went down with the submarine .

=== U @-@ 43 ===

The keel for U @-@ 43 was laid down on 15 August 1938 at the AG Weser yard at Bremen ; she was launched on 23 May 1939 and commissioned on 26 August 1939 under the command of Kapitänleutnant Wilhelm Ambrosius . Between November 1939 and July 1943 the U @-@ boat conducted 14 combat patrols as a member of the 6 . Unterseebootsflottille and later the 2 . Unterseebootsflottille , sinking 21 merchant ships for a total of 117 @,@ 036 GRT , damaging one ship of 10 @,@ 350 GRT and another of 9 @,@ 131 GRT , enough for it to be declared a total loss . U @-@ 43 was sunk on 30 July 1943 southwest of the Azores by a torpedo dropped by a United States Navy aircraft from the escort carrier Santee ; all 55 hands were lost .

=== U @-@ 44 ===

U @-@ 44 was ordered by the Kriegsmarine on 21 November 1936 and was laid down on 15 September 1938 by AG Weser , Bremen as yard number 949 . She was launched on 5 August 1939 and commissioned on 4 November under the command of Kapitänleutnant Ludwig Mathes . During her service in the Kriegsmarine , U @-@ 44 conducted only two war patrols (one as part of the 6th U @-@ boat Flotilla and another as a member of the 2nd U @-@ boat Flotilla) and sank a total of eight enemy vessels for a loss of 30 @,@ 885 GRT . On 13 March 1940 , U @-@ 44 struck a mine

that was located in Minefield Number 7 off the north coast of the Netherlands . All 47 of U @-@ 44 's crew members went down with the submarine .