

= German submarine U @-@ 28 (1936) =

German submarine U @-@ 28 was a Type VIIA U @-@ boat of Nazi Germany 's Kriegsmarine during World War II .

Her keel was laid down on 2 December 1935 , by DeSchiMAG AG Weser of Bremen . She was launched on 14 July 1936 , and commissioned into Kriegsmarine on 12 September 1936 , with Kapitänleutnant Wilhelm Ambrosius in command . Ambrosius was succeeded by nine other commanding officers over the next eight years .

U @-@ 28 conducted seven war patrols between 19 August 1939 and 15 November 1940 , all under the command of Kapitänleutnant Günter Kuhnke , sinking 13 ships totaling 56 @,@ 272 gross register tons (GRT) and damaging two others totaling 10 @,@ 067 GRT .

After her third patrol , U @-@ 28 became a training vessel and was used to bring new U @-@ boat crews up to standard . She was later sunk in an accident on 17 March 1944 and stricken on 4 August 1944 .

= = Construction and design = =

= = = Construction = = =

U @-@ 28 was ordered by the Kriegsmarine on 1 April 1935 as part of the German Plan Z and in violation of the Treaty of Versailles . Her keel was laid down in the AG Weser shipyard in Bremen as yard number 909 on 2 December 1935 . After about ten months of construction , she was launched on 14 July 1936 and commissioned into the Kriegsmarine as the third Type VIIA submarine on 12 September 1936 under the command of Kapitänleutnant Wilhelm Ambrosius .

= = = Design = = =

Like all Type VIIA submarines , U @-@ 28 displaced 626 tonnes (616 long tons) while surfaced and 745 t (733 long tons) when submerged . She was 64 @.@ 51 m (211 ft 8 in) in overall length and had a 45 @.@ 50 m (149 ft 3 in) pressure hull . U @-@ 28 's propulsion consisted of two MAN 6 @-@ cylinder 4 @-@ stroke M 6 V 40 / 46 diesel engines that totaled 2 @,@ 100 ? 2 @,@ 310 PS (1 @,@ 540 ? 1 @,@ 700 kW ; 2 @,@ 070 ? 2 @,@ 280 bhp) . Her maximum rpm was between 470 and 485 . The submarine was also equipped with two Brown , Boveri & Cie GG UB 720 / 8 electric motors that totaled 750 PS (550 kW ; 740 shp) . Their maximum rpm was 322 . These power plants gave U @-@ 28 a maximum speed of 17 knots (31 km / h ; 20 mph) while surfaced and 8 knots (15 km / h ; 9 @.@ 2 mph) when submerged . She had a range of 6 @,@ 200 nmi (11 @,@ 500 km ; 7 @,@ 100 mi) while traveling at 10 knots (19 km / h ; 12 mph) on the surface and 73 ? 94 nmi (135 ? 174 km ; 84 ? 108 mi) at 4 knots (7 @.@ 4 km / h ; 4 @.@ 6 mph) when submerged .

The U @-@ boat 's test depth was 220 m (720 ft) but she could go as deep as 230 ? 250 m (750 ? 820 ft) without having her hull crushed . U @-@ 28 's armament consisted of five 53 @.@ 3 cm (21 in) torpedo tubes , (four located in the bow and one in the stern) . She could have up to eleven torpedoes on board or 22 TMA mines or 33 TMB mines . U @-@ 28 was also equipped with a C35 88 mm gun / L45 deck gun with 220 rounds . Her anti @-@ aircraft defenses consisted of one 2 cm (0 @.@ 79 in) anti @-@ aircraft gun .

= = Service history = =

= = = First patrol = = =

U @-@ 28 's first war patrol took place from 19 August to 29 September 1939 . On 14 September ,

while sailing around the mouth of St George 's Channel , U @-@ 28 sank a 5 @,@ 000 ton freighter , which was her only success of the patrol .

= = = Second patrol = = =

U @-@ 28 's second war patrol took place from 8 November to 12 December 1939 . For this effort she was instructed to lay a minefield near the port city of Swansea . En route to Bristol , U @-@ 28 sank two ships ; the 5 @,@ 000 ton Dutch tanker MV Sliedrecht and the 5 @,@ 100 ton British freighter SS Royston Grange . U @-@ 28 then laid her minefield and returned to port in Germany . While the minefield was not an immediate success , it sank the 9 @,@ 600 ton British freighter SS Protesilaus 60 days after it was laid .

= = = Third patrol = = =

U @-@ 28 's third sortie took place from 18 February to 25 March 1940 . She was instructed to lay mines off the British Naval Base at Portsmouth . After U @-@ 28 laid the minefield , she went on to sink two ships for 11 @,@ 200 tons .

= = = Fourth patrol = = =

U @-@ 28 's fourth war patrol took place from 8 June to 7 July 1940 . She was sent to the Western Approaches and turned in an average performance of sinking three ships totalling 10 @,@ 300 tons . The Irish government sought an explanation from Germany for the sinking of the neutral Greek ship Adamandios Georgandis : " the entire cargo of which comprised grain for exclusive consumption in Éire " She was sailing from Rosario (in Argentina) to Cork with a cargo of wheat when she was torpedoed and sunk south @-@ west of Ireland at 43 ° 35 ' N 11 ° 15 ' W.

= = = Fifth patrol = = =

U @-@ 28 's fifth war patrol took place from 11 August to 17 September 1940 and was one of Kuhnke 's most productive . In August , she sank two ships for 5 @,@ 500 tons . On 10 September , U @-@ 28 found and tracked Convoy OA 210 . In the darkness of early morning on 11 September , U @-@ 28 attacked the convoy and claimed two large freighters (13 @,@ 000 tons each) sunk and caused damage to a 10 @,@ 000 ton tanker , bringing Kuhnke 's total for the patrol to five ships for 30 @,@ 000 tons . However , during the postwar analysis , he was only credited with sinking a 2 @,@ 000 ton Dutch freighter and damaging a 4 @,@ 700 ton British freighter ; which , combined with his earlier sinkings , brought his total to four ships for 9 @,@ 945 tons . On his return to Lorient Kuhnke was awarded the Knight 's Cross for his work .

= = = Sixth patrol = = =

U @-@ 28 's sixth and final war patrol took her from Lorient back to Germany ; because of the heavy seas and foul weather , U @-@ 28 sank only half a ship for 2 @,@ 694 tons . (U @-@ 28 and U @-@ 31 shared credit for the sinking of the SS Matina) . On 15 November 1940 , she returned to Germany and was turned over to the training command . Günter Kuhnke proceeded to command U @-@ 125 .

= = Fate = =

U @-@ 28 sank by accident on 17 March 1944 , at the U @-@ boat pier in Neustadt . During a training exercise , the boat had passed under a dummy freighter used for target practice . The commander @-@ in @-@ training failed to note the position of the stationary freighter , and the U @-@ boat 's conning tower was ripped off . Water flooded the control room , but the other

compartments remained intact . The crew escaped by slowly equalizing the water pressure in the boat and swimming to the surface . The boat was raised in March 1944 , but was stricken on 4 August . The submarine 's crew suffered no casualties during her career .

= = Wolfpacks = =

U @-@ 28 took part in one wolfpack , namely :
Prien (12 ? 17 June 1940)

= = Summary of raiding history = =