

= German U @-@ boat bases in occupied Norway =

German U @-@ boat bases in occupied Norway operated between 1940 and 1945 , when the Kriegsmarine (German navy) , converted several naval bases in Norway into submarine bases . Norwegian coastal cities became available to the Kriegsmarine after the invasion of Denmark and Norway in April 1940 . Following the conclusion of the Norwegian Campaign (June 1940) , the occupying Germans began to transfer U @-@ boats stationed in Germany to many Norwegian port cities such as Bergen , Narvik , Trondheim , Hammerfest and Kirkenes . Initial planning for many U @-@ boat bunkers began in late 1940 . Starting in 1941 , the Todt Organisation began the construction of bunkers in Bergen and Trondheim . These bunkers were completed by Weyss & Freytagg AG between 1942 and 1943 .

The Kriegsmarine generally used U @-@ boats stationed in Norway to extend its range of operation in the North Atlantic and Arctic Oceans . The Norwegian bases housed U @-@ boats that took part in the interception of Allied convoys crossing the Arctic Ocean to the Soviet Union . Following the liberation of France by the Western Allies in 1944 , U @-@ boat activity in many Norwegian ports increased . With the French ports captured or cut off , many German U @-@ boats re @-@ located to Norwegian port cities .

During the German occupation of Norway , the Kriegsmarine stationed over 240 U @-@ boats in the Nordic country at one time or another , most of them members of the 11th U @-@ boat Flotilla , which had 190 U @-@ boats in its fleet during the flotilla 's entire career . Other well @-@ known flotillas in Norway included the 13th and 14th Flotillas .

= = German invasion of Norway = =

Germany invaded both Norway and Denmark on 9 April 1940 . Norway was very important to Germany for two reasons : firstly as a base for naval units to harass Allied shipping in the North Atlantic and Arctic Oceans , and secondly to secure shipments of iron ore coming in from Sweden through the port of Narvik . During Operation Weserübung , Denmark fell in less than a day , becoming the briefest invasion in recorded military history . The Norwegians put up a stiffer resistance to the invading German forces . Nonetheless , by May the southern half of Norway was under German control . Following the German invasion of France and the Low Countries , the Allies were forced to evacuate Narvik , leaving the country to the Germans who would occupy it until the end of the war . After the invasion , Vidkun Quisling led the collaborationist government of Norway , based around the fascist Nasjonal Samling (" National Gathering ") party .

= = German use of Norwegian ports = =

During the occupation , several of the nation 's naval ports were turned into U @-@ boat bases that were used to harass Allied shipping in the North Atlantic and Arctic Oceans . These included Bergen , Narvik , Trondheim , Hammerfest and Kirkenes . Over 240 U @-@ boats were stationed in Norway at various times during the war , most of them were members of the 11th U @-@ boat Flotilla which had 190 U @-@ boats in its fleet during the flotilla 's career . Other well @-@ known flotillas in Norway included the 13th and 14th flotillas .

= = = Bergen = = =

The southern port of Bergen was captured by the Germans on 9 April 1940 , on the first day of the invasion . The Germans immediately saw the potential for several Norwegian harbours and ports to function as bases of operation for the Kriegsmarine 's U @-@ boats patrolling the North Sea and the Arctic Ocean . It would become the home of the 11th U @-@ boat Flotilla .

Bergen was the first Norwegian port to be established as a U @-@ boat base . From July 1940 to the end of the war in May 1945 , 270 U @-@ boat patrols originated in Bergen . Bergen was also the site where the only type XXI submarine left for a patrol in the war ; U @-@ 2511 left the port on

3 May 1945 .

Planning for the first U @-@ boat bunker in Bergen began in late 1940 and was undertaken by the German military engineering group , the Todt Organisation . It coordinated the building of the first U @-@ boat bunker in Bergen , codenamed Bruno , as well as several other U @-@ boat bunkers along the Norwegian coast . The construction of Bruno began in 1941 . When it was completed it had seven pens , three of which were " dry " docks and three of which were " wet " docks . The seventh pen was used for storing fuel , torpedoes and other essentials . The bunker itself had a roof up to 6 metres (20 ft) thick and was 131 metres (430 ft) by 143 metres (469 ft) in area . Once Bruno was completed , it could hold up to 9 U @-@ boats .

Bergen remained a quiet base during the first few years of the occupation , experiencing only one large Allied air attack . In 1943 , the U @-@ boat base added two new bunkers , U @-@ Stützpunkt Prien and U @-@ Stützpunkt Weddingen along with a shipyard named Danziger Werft .

The U @-@ boat base at Bergen grew exponentially after the liberation of France by the Western Allies , when the senior commanding officer of U @-@ boat operations in the west (" FdU West ") was moved from Angers , France to the city . A large expansion program was conducted at the base and several new anti @-@ aircraft guns were set up to protect the U @-@ boat bunkers . More engineers and technicians were moved to Bergen to accommodate the increased technical requirements of the base as well . Two more bunkers named Werft Gemeinschaftslager 1 and Gemeinschaftslager 2 were also built during this time .

In late 1944 several British air attacks damaged the U @-@ boat bases in Bergen . During one of these attacks , a ' Tallboy ' bomb went straight through the roof of pen 3 , damaging it beyond repair and putting it out of action for the remainder of the war . The base was handed over to the Allies , along with the rest of occupied Norway , on 8 May 1945 when all German forces in Europe surrendered . As a result of the intensive bombing of the city in late 1944 and 1945 , the Bergen area was one of the worst damaged regions in the south of Norway at the conclusion of the war .

= = = Trondheim = = =

Trondheim was an important U @-@ boat base in Norway during the war . It was the home of the 13th flotilla and sent out around 55 U @-@ boat patrols between June 1940 and the end of the war in May 1945 .

The list of surrendered U @-@ boats in Trondheim included following : U @-@ 310 , U @-@ 315 , U @-@ 483 , U @-@ 773 , U @-@ 775 , U @-@ 861 , U @-@ 953 , U @-@ 978 , U @-@ 994 , U @-@ 995 , U @-@ 1019 , U @-@ 1064 and U @-@ 1203 .

Two U @-@ boat bunkers , codenamed " Dora I " and " Dora II " , were planned to be built in Trondheim to provide additional repair facilities outside Germany itself . Like the bunkers in Bergen , the two bunkers in Trondheim came under the control of the Todt Organisation . Only " Dora I " , which the Kriegsmarine took charge of in 1943 , was completed before the end of the war . At 153 feet (47 m) long and 105 feet (32 m) wide it had five pens with space to hold seven U @-@ boats . Construction of " Dora II " began in 1942 but was never completed . If finished it would have been 168 feet (51 m) long by 102 feet (31 m) wide , with four pens capable of holding six U @-@ boats .