

= German submarine U 42 ( 1939 ) =

German submarine U 42 was a Type IXA U boat of Nazi Germany 's Kriegsmarine that operated during World War II .

U 42 was ordered by Kriegsmarine in November 1936 . Her keel was laid down in December 1937 ; she was launched in February 1939 and commissioned in July 1939 .

U 42 had a very short career , being sunk while still on her first war patrol . During her service with Kriegsmarine , the boat conducted only one training patrol and one war patrol . Over the latter she damaged one enemy vessel of 4 , 803 gross register tons ( GRT ) . Both her patrols were as part of the 6th U boat Flotilla .

U 42 was sunk southwest of Ireland on 13 October 1939 . Out of a crew of 46 , 20 survived and 26 went down with the submarine .

= Construction =

U 42 was ordered by Kriegsmarine on 21 November 1936 ( as part of Plan Z ) . Her keel was laid down on 21 December 1937 by DeSchiMAG AG Weser of Bremen as yard number 947 . She was launched on 16 February 1939 and commissioned on 15 July of that same year under the command of Kapitänleutnant Rolf Dau .

= Design =

As one of the eight original German Type IX submarines , later designated IXA , U 42 had a displacement of 1 , 032 tonnes ( 1 , 016 long tons ) when at the surface and 1 , 153 tonnes ( 1 , 135 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 . 51 m ( 21 ft 4 in ) , a height of 9 . 40 m ( 30 ft 10 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 . 7 knots ( 14 . 3 km / h ; 8 . 9 mph ) . When submerged , the boat could operate for 65 ? 78 nautical miles ( 120 ? 144 km ; 75 ? 90 mi ) at 4 knots ( 7 . 4 km / h ; 4 . 6 mph ) ; when surfaced , she could travel 10 , 500 nautical miles ( 19 , 400 km ; 12 , 100 mi ) at 10 knots ( 19 km / h ; 12 mph ) . U 42 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 =

= Patrol =

Following training exercises with the 6th Flotilla from 16 July 1939 to 1 October 1939 , U 42 was moved into active service with the 6th Flotilla , ready for operations . The day after her training exercises ended , she left Wilhelmshaven on 2 October . On a 12 day journey , U 42 traveled into the North Sea and circumnavigated the British Isles . She then entered the North Atlantic in search of any Allied convoys . During this operation , one enemy ship was damaged , the

4 @, @ 803 ton British steam freighter SS Stonepool , which had become separated from Convoy OB 17 while sailing from Liverpool , England to North America . This was to be the boat 's first and only attack on any Allied merchant vessel . While still on her first war patrol , U @-@ 42 was sunk on 13 October 1939 by depth charges from the British destroyers HMS Imogen and HMS Ilex . This attack took place off the southwest coast of neutral Ireland . Of the 46 man crew , 26 were killed in the depth charge attack , 20 crew members survived and were made prisoners of war by the British . The youngest crew member aboard U @-@ 42 was Rudolf Nuggel who was born on 22 December 1919 and was among the 26 dead . He was 19 years old with his 20th birthday just over two months away . The captain , Rolf Dau , was the oldest known crew member of U @-@ 42 . He was born on 1 April 1906 and was 33 years old at the time of the boat 's sinking ; he survived . U @-@ 42 was the fifth U @-@ boat to be lost in World War II .

= = = Fate = = =

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= = Summary of raiding history = =