

= German submarine U 105 (1940) =

German submarine U 105 was a Type IXB U boat of Nazi Germany 's Kriegsmarine . She was ordered in May 1938 as part of Germany 's naval rearmament program . Her keel was laid down in Bremen in November 1938 . After roughly seven months of construction , she was launched in June 1940 and formally commissioned into the Kriegsmarine in September 1940 .

During her three year career , U 105 sank 23 vessels for a total loss of 125 , 470 gross register tons (GRT) before being sunk by the Free French Forces off the coast of Dakar (Senegal) in June 1943 .

= = Construction and design = =

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U 105 was ordered by Nazi Germany 's Kriegsmarine on 24 May 1938 ; her keel was laid down on 16 November 1938 by DeSchiMAG AG Weser in Bremen as yard number 968 . She was launched on 15 June 1940 and commissioned on 10 September under the command of Kapitänleutnant Georg Schewe .

= = = Design = = =

German Type IXB submarines were slightly larger than the original German Type IX submarines , later designated IXA . U 105 had a displacement of 1 , 051 tonnes (1 , 034 long tons) when at the surface and 1 , 178 tonnes (1 , 159 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 . 76 m (22 ft 2 in) , a height of 9 . 60 m (31 ft 6 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 . 3 knots (13 . 5 km / h ; 8 . 4 mph) . When submerged , the boat could operate for 64 nautical miles (119 km ; 74 mi) at 4 knots (7 . 4 km / h ; 4 . 6 mph) ; when surfaced , she could travel 12 , 000 nautical miles (22 , 000 km ; 14 , 000 mi) at 10 knots (19 km / h ; 12 mph) . U 105 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 = =

Under the command of Kapitänleutnant Georg Schewe , U 105 left Kiel on 24 December 1940 . She spent 39 days in the North Sea . During this patrol , she sank the British ship Bassano on 9 January 1941 , and Lurigethan , part of Convoy SL 61 , on 26 January 1941 , totalling 8 , 407 GRT . Five days later , on 31 January , U 105 arrived at the German occupied port of Lorient , France , which would remain her home port for the rest of her career .

= = = 1941 = = =

U @-@ 105 left Lorient on her second patrol on 22 February 1941 and underwent a 112 @-@ day voyage in the Atlantic Ocean . Along with U @-@ 124 , she was directed by the Oberkommando der Marine (Supreme naval headquarters) , to attack Convoy SL @-@ 67 . During this attack , U @-@ 105 sank the merchant ship Harmodius , on 8 March . Collectively , the two U @-@ boats sank a total of 28 @,@ 148 tons . U105 then stalked Convoy SL @-@ 68 , sinking Medjerda on 18 March , Mandalika on 19 March and Clan Ogilvy , Benwyvis and Jhelum , all on the 21st . U @-@ 105 went on to score Nazi Germany 's first kill off the coast of South America when she sank Ena de Larrinaga on 5 April 1941 . Later during the patrol she sank Oakdene , part of Convoy OG @-@ 59 . On 6 May , Benvrackie , part of Convoy OB @-@ 312 ; on the 13th , Benvenue part of Convoy OB @-@ 314 and on the 15th , Rodney Star on 16 May and Scottish Monarch on 1 June as part of Convoy OB @-@ 319 . This was the second most successful U @-@ boat patrol of the entire Second World War , with 12 ships sunk for a total of 71 @,@ 450 GRT . On 5 May 1941 , the 105mm deck gun exploded , wounding six crew members . U @-@ 105 returned to Lorient on 13 June , and remained there until 3 August , when she departed on her third war patrol .

On 5 August she was assigned to wolfpack ' Hammer ' and remained with it until it was disbanded on 12 August , when she was reassigned to wolfpack ' Grönland ' , with which she remained until its disbanding on 27 August . She was then assigned to wolfpack ' Margrave ' , and sank the Panamanian merchant ship Montana , part of Convoy SC @-@ 42 , on 11 September . She returned to Lorient nine days later . U @-@ 105 left Lorient on her fourth patrol on 8 November 1941 and spent 36 days in the North Atlantic . On 14 November she was assigned to wolfpack ' Steuben ' and remained with it until 2 December . Having sunk no ships during the patrol , she returned to Lorient on 13 December 1941 . Georg Schewe left the boat shortly after this patrol , and was replaced as commander by Heinrich Schuch .

== 1942 ==

On 25 January 1942 U @-@ 105 left Lorient on her fifth patrol . On 31 January she sank the British warship HMS Culver , part of Convoy SL @-@ 98 , south @-@ west of Ireland , and , on 5 February 1942 , she rescued seven men from a crashed German Dornier Do 24 350 miles off the coast of France . U @-@ 105 returned to Lorient on 8 February . Seventeen days later , on 25 February , U @-@ 105 left Lorient . Between 25 and 27 March , she sank the British merchant ship Narragansett and the Norwegian merchant ship Svenør off the east coast of the United States . U @-@ 105 returned to Lorient on 15 April after spending 50 days in the North Atlantic , and left on another patrol on 7 June . While crossing the Bay of Biscay , she was attacked by an Australian Short Sunderland aircraft from No. 10 Squadron RAAF . U @-@ 105 sought shelter in Ferrol , Spain and did not leave until 28 June , when she departed for Lorient , which she reached on the 30th . The attack apparently caused serious damage , as she did not sail again until 23 November . During this period , Oberleutnant zur See Hans @-@ Adolf Schweichel was put in command of the boat , but did not undertake any patrols and was replaced by Oberleutnant zur See Jürgen Nissen , under whose command U @-@ 105 left Lorient .

While patrolling the North Atlantic she succeeded in sinking three British merchant ships ; Orfor on 14 December 1942 , C.S. Flight on 12 January 1943 , and British Vigilance , part of Convoy TM @-@ 1 , on 24 January , as well as the American freighter Cape Decision on the 27th . U @-@ 105 returned to Lorient on 14 February , and remained there until 16 March . During this patrol , (on 1 April) , the boat 's commander , Jürgen Nissen , was promoted to Kapitänleutnant . On 15 May 1943 U @-@ 105 sank the Greek merchant ship Maroussio Logothetis 250 miles southwest of Freetown . On 2 June 1943 , while passing close to Dakar , U @-@ 105 was attacked and sunk by a Potez @-@ CAMS 141 flying boat " Antarés " from Free French Squadron 141 . All 53 crew members were killed .

== Summary of raiding history ==

* Sailing vessel

