

= German submarine U 30 ( 1936 ) =

German submarine U 30 was a Type VIIA U boat of Nazi Germany 's Kriegsmarine that served during World War II . She was ordered in April 1935 in violation of the Treaty of Versailles , which prevented the construction and commissioning of any U boats for the German navy , and as part of the German naval rearmament program known as Plan Z. She sank the liner SS Athenia , the first ship sunk in World War II , on 3 September 1939 , under the command of Fritz Julius Lemp . She was retired from front line service in September 1940 after undertaking eight war patrols , having sunk 17 vessels and damaging two others . U 30 then served in a training role until the end of the war when she was scuttled . She was later raised and broken up for scrap in 1948 .

= = Construction = =

U 30 was ordered by the Kriegsmarine on 1 April 1935 ( as part of Plan Z and in violation of the Treaty of Versailles ) . Her keel was laid down on 24 January 1936 by AG Weser , Bremen as yard number 911 . She was launched on 4 August and formally commissioned into the Kriegsmarine on 8 October under the command of Kapitänleutnant ( Kptlt . ) Hans Cohausz .

= = Design = =

Like all Type VIIA submarines , U 30 had two MAN 6 cylinder 4 stroke M6V 40 / 46 diesel engines totalling 2 , 100 ? 2 , 310 PS ( 1 , 540 ? 1 , 700 kW ; 2 , 070 ? 2 , 280 bhp ) as well as two Brown , Boveri & Cie GG UB 720 / 8 electric motors , that produced 750 PS ( 550 kW ; 740 shp ) and allowed her to travel at a maximum of 17 knots ( 31 km / h ; 20 mph ) while surfaced and 8 knots ( 15 km / h ; 9 . 2 mph ) submerged . She had a range of 6 , 200 nmi ( 11 , 500 km ; 7 , 100 mi ) at 10 knots ( 19 km / h ; 12 mph ) while on the surface and 73 ? 94 nmi ( 135 ? 174 km ; 84 ? 108 mi ) at 4 knots ( 7 . 4 km / h ; 4 . 6 mph ) while submerged . U 30 had five torpedo tubes , ( four in the bow , one in the stern ) . She could also carry a total of eleven 53 . 3 cm ( 21 in ) torpedoes or 22 TMA mines or 33 TMB mines and had a 8 . 8 centimetres ( 3 . 5 in ) C35 / L45 deck gun ( with 220 rounds ) . She was equipped with one 2 cm ( 0 . 79 in ) C 30 anti aircraft gun . After being commissioned and deployed , U 30 was stationed in the German port city of Wilhelmshaven .

= = Service history = =

During her career U 30 was involved in eight war patrols and sank 16 merchant ships , totalling 86 , 165 gross register tons ( GRT ) and one auxiliary warship of 325 GRT . U 30 also damaged one ship of 5 , 642 GRT and damaged the British battleship HMS Barham . All of these attacks took place under the command of Kptlt . Fritz Julius Lemp .

= = First patrol and the sinking of Athenia = =

U 30 went to sea on 22 August 1939 , before World War II began . Her active service career began on 3 September 1939 , just 12 days after leaving Wilhelmshaven and only 10 hours after Great Britain declared war on Germany , she sank the 13 , 581 ton passenger ship SS Athenia about 200 nmi ( 370 km ; 230 mi ) west of the Hebrides while she was en route from Liverpool to Montreal in Canada . The Athenia was the first ship sunk in World War II ; out of 1 , 400 passengers , 112 of them , including 28 neutral Americans , died . After sinking Athenia , U 30 went on to sink two more vessels , Blairlogie and the SS Fanad Head .

Following the attack , the German Ministry of Propaganda checked incoming reports from both London and the German Naval High command . Having been told by Kriegsmarine that there was not a single U boat in the vicinity of Athenia on the day of her sinking , the Propaganda

Ministry promptly denied all allegations that any German U @-@ boat had sunk Athenia . They claimed instead that the British had torpedoed their own vessel in an attempt to bring the United States into the war on the side of the Allies .

In order to calm @-@ down any American response to the sinking of Athenia , Joachim von Ribbentrop , the German Foreign Minister , arranged a meeting between Grand Admiral Erich Raeder and the American naval attaché on 16 September 1939 . During the meeting , Raeder assured the attaché that he had received reports from every German submarine at sea and " as a result of which it was definitely established that Athenia had not been sunk by a German U @-@ boat " . Raeder then asked the attaché to inform the American government . However , not every submarine had returned to port and all U @-@ boats maintained radio silence while at sea .

Once U @-@ 30 docked on 27 September , Admiral Karl Dönitz met Lemp while he was disembarking from the U @-@ boat . Dönitz later said that Lemp looked " very unhappy " and that he told the Admiral that he was in fact responsible for the sinking of Athenia . Lemp had mistaken Athenia for an armed merchant cruiser , which he claimed was zig @-@ zagging . Dönitz subsequently received orders that Athenia affair was to be kept a " total secret " , the High Command of the Navy ( OKM ) were not to court @-@ martial Lemp as they considered his actions in good @-@ faith , and that any other political explanations about the sinking of Athenia were to be handled by the OKM who would deny any allegations that a German U @-@ boat had sunk the vessel . In order to keep the sinking of Athenia a secret , Dönitz had U @-@ 30 's log altered in order to erase any evidence . It was not until the Nuremberg trials in 1946 that the truth about the fate of the liner was brought forth publicly by the Germans .

== Second patrol ==

As a result of the investigation undertaken by the German General Staff following the sinking of Athenia , U @-@ 30 remained in port until 9 December 1939 when she was finally allowed to put to sea again for her second war patrol . It lasted only six days , during which time she travelled up to the southern coast of ( then neutral ) Norway before returning to Wilhelmshaven on 14 December 1939 . During the voyage U @-@ 30 did not encounter any enemy vessels , consequently she returned to port without any claims .

== Third patrol ==

U @-@ 30 's third patrol was much more successful . Having left Wilhelmshaven on 23 December 1939 , she journeyed into the North Sea . She then circumnavigated the British Isles and travelled along the southern coast of Ireland . It was near to the west coast of Scotland that U @-@ 30 sank her first enemy vessel during her third patrol , the 325 ton anti @-@ submarine trawler HMS Barbara Robertson , on 28 December . That same day , she hit a much bigger target , the British battleship HMS Barham . Following the sinking of Barbara Robertson , U @-@ 30 fired a torpedo at the battleship and damaged her , killing four crew members . U @-@ 30 's next three victims were sunk by mines laid by the U @-@ boat : El Oso , sunk on 11 January ; Gracia , damaged on 16 January and Cairnross , sunk on 17 January . Meanwhile , U @-@ 30 returned to her home port of Wilhelmshaven on 17 January 1940 .

== Fourth patrol ==

The fourth patrol that U @-@ 30 undertook began on 11 March 1940 when she left Wilhelmshaven for the west coast of Norway in preparation for the invasion of that country . For a period of 20 days , she traveled northeast along the Norwegian coast in search of any Allied convoys , she did not find any and returned to Wilhelmshaven on 30 March 1940 .

== Fifth patrol ==

Like her fourth patrol , U @-@ 30 's fifth patrol ended without any losses . She put to sea on 3 April 1940 to support the German invasion of Norway and Denmark ( codenamed Operation Weserubung ) . For 32 days , U @-@ 30 travelled up the west coast of Norway . She then headed southwest to Scotland in order to intercept British warships that were heading north to defend Norway . She failed to encounter any vessels , however , and returned to Wilhelmshaven , arriving there on 4 May .

= = = Sixth patrol = = =

U @-@ 30 's sixth patrol was the first time in which she had sunk any enemy ships since her third patrol . Having left Wilhelmshaven on 8 June 1940 , she once again entered the North Sea in an attempt to sink any Allied ships in the area . For 32 days , U @-@ 30 circumnavigated the British Isles and sank five enemy ships in the Bay of Biscay . The first vessel to be attacked was the 4 @,@ 876 ton British merchantman , Otterpool which was sunk on 20 June 1940 . Two days later , the 3 @,@ 999 ton Norwegian vessel Randsfjord was sunk . On 28 June , the British ship Llanarth was torpedoed , followed by Beignon on 1 July and the Egyptian Angele Mabro on 6 July . Following these attacks , U @-@ 30 headed back to port . Instead of returning to Wilhelmshaven , however , U @-@ 30 put in at Lorient , in France , which had been captured after the fall of that country . In doing so , she became the first German U @-@ boat to enter the port .

= = = Later patrols and retirement = = =

U @-@ 30 began her first patrol operating from Lorient and her seventh overall on 13 July 1940 . During a period of 12 days , she traveled as far south as Portugal and sank the 712 ton British ship Ellaroy on the 21st . Three days later , on 24 July , U @-@ 30 returned to Lorient , having experienced a malfunction in one of her engines . It then became clear that the boat was suffering a number of mechanical difficulties and as a result it was decided that she would need to be used sparingly . For her next patrol it was decided that she would leave from Lorient , but would return to Germany .

The eighth and last war patrol that U @-@ 30 was to undertake , began on 5 August 1940 when she left Lorient for the North Atlantic . In 26 days , she travelled north of the British Isles , into the North Sea and entered the German port city of Kiel on 30 August 1940 . During that time , she sank the Swedish vessel Canton on 9 August and the British steam merchantman Clan Macphee on 16 August 1940 . Both of these attacks took place off the west coast of neutral Ireland . After these successes , however , U @-@ 30 once again experienced engine trouble and was forced to end her patrol early , returning to Germany . Before she arrived , Lemp received word that he had been awarded the Knight 's Cross of the Iron Cross for the boat 's previous war patrols .

Following her eighth patrol , U @-@ 30 was retired from front @-@ line service on 15 September 1940 and was assigned to training flotillas in the Baltic for the rest of the war . After her retirement , many of U @-@ 30 's experienced crew members , including Lemp , were transferred to U @-@ 110 . In the last months of the war , U @-@ 30 was used as a range boat ( gunnery platform ) before being scuttled by her crew on 4 May 1945 at Flensburg in Kupfermühlen Bay , in order to avoid surrendering the boat to the Allies as part of Operation Regenbogen . The wreck of the U @-@ boat was later raised and broken up in 1948 .

= = = Wolfpacks = = =

U @-@ 30 took part in one wolfpack , namely .  
Prien ( 12 ? 17 June 1940 )

= = Summary of raiding history = =

During her service in the Kriegsmarine , U @-@ 30 sank 16 commercial ships , a loss of 86 @,@ 165 GRT , and one warship for a loss of 325 GRT . She also damaged one commercial ship of 5

@, @ 642 GRT and damaged the battleship HMS Barham .