

= German destroyer Z3 Max Schultz =

The German destroyer Z3 Max Schultz was a Type 1934 destroyer built for the Kriegsmarine in the mid 1930s . Shortly before the beginning of World War II , the ship accidentally rammed and sank a German torpedo boat . Max Schultz spent the following month under repair . In mid February 1940 , while proceeding into the North Sea to search for British fishing trawlers , one of her sisters , Z1 Leberecht Maass , was bombed and sunk by a patrolling German bomber . While trying to rescue survivors , Max Schultz struck a British mine and sank with all hands .

= Design and description =

Max Schultz had an overall length of 119 meters (390 ft 5 in) and was 114 meters (374 ft 0 in) long at the waterline . The ship had a beam of 11 meters (37 ft 1 in) , and a maximum draft of 4 meters (13 ft 11 in) . She displaced 2 223 long tons (2 259 t) at standard load and 3 156 long tons (3 207 t) at deep load . The two Wagner geared steam turbine sets , each driving one propeller shaft , were designed to produce 70 000 PS (51 000 kW ; 69 000 shp) using steam provided by six high pressure Wagner boilers . The ship had a designed speed of 36 knots (67 km / h ; 41 mph) , but her maximum speed was 38.7 knots (71.1 km / h ; 44.2 mph) . Max Schultz carried a maximum of 752 metric tons (740 long tons) of fuel oil which was intended to give a range of 4 400 nautical miles (8 100 km ; 5 100 mi) at a speed of 19 knots (35 km / h ; 22 mph) , but the ship proved too heavy in service and 30 % of the fuel had to be retained as ballast low in the ship . The effective range proved to be only 1 530 nmi (2 830 km ; 1 760 mi) at 19 knots .

The ship carried five 12 cm SK C / 34 guns in single mounts with gun shields , two each superimposed , fore and aft . The fifth gun was carried on top of the aft superstructure . Her anti aircraft armament consisted of four 3 cm SK C / 30 guns in two twin mounts abreast the rear funnel and six 2 cm C / 30 guns in single mounts . Max Schultz carried eight above water 53 cm 3 centimeter (21 in) torpedo tubes in two power operated mounts . A pair of reload torpedoes were provided for each mount . Four depth charge throwers were mounted on the sides of the rear deckhouse and they were supplemented by six racks for individual depth charges on the sides of the stern . Enough depth charges were carried for either two or four patterns of 16 charges each . Mine rails could be fitted on the rear deck that had a maximum capacity of 60 mines . A system of passive hydrophones designated as ' GHG ' (Gruppenhorchgerät) was fitted to detect submarines . The crew numbered 10 officers and 315 enlisted men , plus an additional four officers and 19 enlisted men if serving as a flotilla flagship .

= Construction and career =

The ship was ordered on 7 July 1934 and laid down at Deutsche Werke , Kiel , on 2 January 1935 as yard number K244 . She was launched on 30 November 1935 and completed on 8 April 1937 . She was named after Max Schultz who commanded the torpedo boat V69 and was killed in action in January 1917 . Korvettenkapitän Martin Balzer was appointed as her first captain . Max Schultz was assigned to the 1st Destroyer Division on 26 October 1937 and made a port visit to Ulvik , Norway in April 1938 , together with her sisters Z2 Georg Thiele and Z4 Richard Beitzen . Upon her return she was taken in hand by Deutsche Werke to have her bow rebuilt to reduce the amount of water that came over the bow in head seas . This increased her length by .3 meters (1 ft 0 in) . The ship participated in the August Fleet Review and the following fleet exercise . In December , Max Schultz , together with her sisters Leberecht Maass , Georg Thiele , and Richard Beitzen , sailed to the area of Iceland to evaluate their seaworthiness in a North Atlantic winter with their new bows . On 23 - 24 March 1939 , the ship was one of the destroyers that escorted Adolf Hitler aboard the pocket battleship Deutschland to occupy Memel . She participated in the Spring fleet exercise in the western Mediterranean , as the flagship of Rear Admiral Günther Lütjens , and made several visits

to Spanish and Moroccan ports in April and May .

Days before the outbreak of World War II , in the early morning hours of 27 August 1939 , the destroyer accidentally collided with and sank the torpedo boat Tiger near Bornholm . Two men were killed and six were wounded aboard the torpedo boat , while no one was injured aboard Max Schultz . The latter 's bow was severely damaged and she had to be towed , stern @-@ first , by Z2 Georg Thiele . Two tugboats arrived a half @-@ hour later and took over the tow to Swinemünde at a speed of 4 knots (7 @.@ 4 km / h ; 4 @.@ 6 mph) . Max Schultz was under repair until late September and did not participate in the Polish Campaign .

She patrolled the Skagerrak to inspect neutral shipping for contraband goods during October . While returning from one such patrol on 28 October , one of the ship 's turbines exploded , causing boiler room No. 1 to flood and knocking out the ship 's power . Attempts to tow her failed , but the ship eventually managed to restore power and she sailed to Kiel for repairs . Max Schultz , Beitzen and Z16 Friedrich Eckoldt laid 110 magnetic mines in the Shipwash area , off Harwich , on 9 / 10 February 1940 that sank six ships of 28 @,@ 496 gross register tons (GRT) and damaged another .

On 22 February , Max Schultz and five other destroyers , Z1 Leberecht Maass , Z4 Richard Beitzen , Z6 Theodor Riedel , Z13 Erich Koellner and Z16 Friedrich Eckoldt , sailed for the Dogger Bank to intercept British fishing vessels in " Operation Wikinger " . En route , the flotilla was erroneously attacked by a Heinkel He 111 bomber from Bomber Wing (Kampfgeschwader) 26 . Leberecht Maass was hit by at least one bomb , lost steering , and broke in half , sinking with the loss of 280 of her crew . During the rescue effort , Max Schultz hit a mine and sank with the loss of her entire crew of 308 . Hitler ordered a Court of Inquiry to be convened to investigate the cause of the losses and it concluded that both ships that been sunk by bombs from the He 111 . The Kriegsmarine had failed to notify its destroyers that the Luftwaffe was making anti @-@ shipping patrols at that time and had also failed to inform the Luftwaffe that its destroyers would be at sea . Postwar evidence revealed that one or both ships struck a British minefield laid by the destroyers Ivanhoe and Intrepid .