

= SM UB @-@ 4 =

Seiner Majestät UB @-@ 4 was a German Type UB I submarine ( U @-@ boat ) in the German Imperial Navy ( German : Kaiserliche Marine ) during World War I. She was sunk by a British Q @-@ ship disguised as a fishing smack in August 1915 .

UB @-@ 4 was ordered in October 1914 and was laid down at the Germaniawerft shipyard in Kiel in November . UB @-@ 4 was a little more than 28 metres ( 92 ft ) in length and displaced between 127 and 142 tonnes ( 125 and 140 long tons ) , depending on whether surfaced or submerged . She carried two torpedoes for her two bow torpedo tubes and was also armed with a deck @-@ mounted machine gun . UB @-@ 4 was broken into sections and shipped by rail to Antwerp for reassembly . She was launched and commissioned as SM UB @-@ 4 in March 1915 .

UB @-@ 4 conducted the first sortie of the Flanders Flotilla in April , during which she sank the Belgian Relief ship Harpalyce , the first ship credited to the flotilla . She sank three more ships from mid @-@ April to mid @-@ August . On 15 August , UB @-@ 4 surfaced near the British Q @-@ ship Inverlyon and was sunk by gunfire from the sailing vessel . None of UB @-@ 4 's 14 crewmen survived the attack .

= = Design and construction = =

After the German Army 's rapid advance along the North Sea coast in the earliest stages of World War I , the German Imperial Navy found itself without suitable submarines that could be operated in the narrow and shallow environment off Flanders . Project 34 , a design effort begun in mid @-@ August 1914 , produced the Type UB I design : a small submarine that could be shipped by rail to a port of operations and quickly assembled . Constrained by railroad size limitations , the UB I design called for a boat about 28 metres ( 92 ft ) long and displacing about 125 tonnes ( 123 long tons ) with two torpedo tubes . UB @-@ 4 was part of the initial allotment of eight submarines ? numbered UB @-@ 1 to UB @-@ 8 ? ordered on 15 October from Germaniawerft of Kiel , just shy of two months after planning for the class began .

UB @-@ 4 was laid down by Germaniawerft in Kiel on 3 November . As built , UB @-@ 4 was 28 @. @ 10 metres ( 92 ft 2 in ) long , 3 @. @ 15 metres ( 10 ft 4 in ) abeam , and had a draft of 3 @. @ 03 metres ( 10 ft ) . She had a single 59 @-@ brake @-@ horsepower ( 44 kW ) Daimler 4 @-@ cylinder diesel engine for surface travel , and a single 119 @-@ shaft @-@ horsepower ( 89 kW ) Siemens @-@ Schuckert electric motor for underwater travel , both attached to a single propeller shaft . Her top speeds were 6 @. @ 47 knots ( 11 @. @ 98 km / h ; 7 @. @ 45 mph ) , surfaced , and 5 @. @ 51 knots ( 10 @. @ 20 km / h ; 6 @. @ 34 mph ) , submerged . At more moderate speeds , she could sail up to 1 @, @ 650 nautical miles ( 3 @, @ 060 km ; 1 @, @ 900 mi ) on the surface before refueling , and up to 45 nautical miles ( 83 km ; 52 mi ) submerged before recharging her batteries . Like all boats of the class , UB @-@ 4 was rated to a diving depth of 50 metres ( 160 ft ) , and could completely submerge in 33 seconds .

UB @-@ 4 was armed with two 45 @-@ centimeter ( 17 @. @ 7 in ) torpedoes in two bow torpedo tubes . She was also outfitted for a single 8 @-@ millimeter ( 0 @. @ 31 in ) machine gun on deck . UB @-@ 4 's standard complement consisted of one officer and thirteen enlisted men .

After work on UB @-@ 4 was complete at the Germaniawerft yard , UB @-@ 4 was readied for rail shipment . The process of shipping a UB I boat involved breaking the submarine down into what was essentially a knock down kit . Each boat was broken into approximately fifteen pieces and loaded on to eight railway flatcars . In early 1915 , the sections of UB @-@ 4 were shipped to Antwerp for assembly in what was typically a two- to three @-@ week process . After UB @-@ 4 was assembled and launched sometime in March , she was loaded on a barge and taken through canals to Bruges where she underwent trials .

= = Service career = =

The submarine was commissioned into the German Imperial Navy as SM UB @-@ 4 on 23 March

under the command of Oberleutnant zur See Karl Gross , a 29 @-@ year @-@ old first @-@ time U @-@ boat commander . UB @-@ 4 soon joined the other UB I boats then comprising the Flanders Flotilla ( German : U @-@ boote des Marinekorps U @-@ Flotille Flandern ) , which had been organized on 29 March . When UB @-@ 4 joined the flotilla , Germany was in the midst of its first submarine offensive , begun in February . During this campaign , enemy vessels in the German @-@ defined war zone ( German : Kriegsgebiet ) , which encompassed all waters around the United Kingdom ( including the English Channel ) , were to be sunk . Vessels of neutral countries were not to be attacked unless they definitively could be identified as enemy vessels operating under a false flag .

UB @-@ 4 kicked off operations for the new flotilla when she departed on her first patrol on 9 April . The following day , she sank the first ship credited to the Flanders Flotilla . The 5 @,@ 940 @-@ ton British @-@ flagged Harpalyce , which had been chartered by the American Commission for Relief in Belgium , was headed for Norfolk , Virginia , United States , in ballast after delivering relief supplies to Rotterdam . UB @-@ 4 came upon the steamer between Harwich and the Hook of Holland and pulled to within about 100 yards ( 91 m ) . Despite the fact that the ship had a pass of safe @-@ conduct from Germany , was marked with the words " Belgian Relief " on her side , and was flying a white flag with the same wording , Gross torpedoed the vessel without warning . Harpalyce sank in about five minutes , which allowed no time to launch any of the lifeboats . The Dutch steamers Elisabeth and Constance , and the American steamer Ruby picked up survivors . Herbert Hoover , head of the relief committee , reported that his organization 's charter of the ship ended after delivery of the cargo in Rotterdam , but expressed disbelief that the ship could have been the victim of a torpedo attack , given the " distinct assurance " that ships engaged in the relief effort " would not be molested " . Harpalyce 's master and 14 others from the 44 @-@ man crew died in the attack . Harpalyce was the largest ship sunk by UB @-@ 4 during her career .

UB @-@ 4 's followed up the sinking of Harpalyce by sinking the Greek ship EllisPontos , a steamer of 2 @,@ 989 gross register tons ( GRT ) . EllisPontos was en route to Montevideo from Amsterdam when sunk by Gross and UB @-@ 4 on 17 April . Although German U @-@ boats sank over 100 @,@ 000 tons of shipping in each of May and June , UB @-@ 4 did not contribute to those totals . She did add one ship to the 98 @,@ 000 @-@ ton tally for July when she sank the Belgian ship Princesse Marie Jose and her load of coal on 29 July . The 1 @,@ 954 @-@ ton steamer had sailed from Dunston and was headed to Bordeaux when sunk 1 @.@ 5 nautical miles ( 2 @.@ 8 km ; 1 @.@ 7 mi ) from the Shipwash Lightship off Harwich .

== = Sinking == =

On 14 August , the 59 @-@ ton British fishing smack Bona Fide was stopped by a U @-@ boat , boarded , and sunk with explosives 35 nautical miles ( 65 km ; 40 mi ) east @-@ northeast of Lowestoft . According to the website Uboat.net , this attack was likely by UB @-@ 4 , because she was operating in the area on her fourteenth patrol . Regardless of the identity of Bona Fide 's attacker , UB @-@ 4 did approach a group of smacks in the vicinity the next day , but unbeknownst to UB @-@ 4 's commander , Gross , one of the fishing vessels was actually a British decoy ship .

The decoy or Q @-@ ship was His Majesty 's Armed Smack Inverlyon , a smack that had been outfitted with a concealed 3 @-@ pounder ( 47 mm ) gun . Around 20 : 20 , UB @-@ 4 drew within 30 yards ( 27 m ) of Inverlyon and Gross , on the conning tower of UB @-@ 4 , shouted out commands to Inverlyon 's crew in German . After waiting until the right moment , Ernest Jehan , a Royal Navy gunner in command of Inverlyon , ordered the White Ensign raised and gave the command to open fire . A burst of three rounds from the 3 @-@ pounder scored hits on the conning tower , the second destroying part of the bridge and sending Gross into the water . UB @-@ 4 , with no one at the helm , drifted behind Inverlyon , and when clear , the 3 @-@ pounder fired another six shots into the hull of UB @-@ 4 at point blank range . All the while small arms fire from Inverlyon 's crew peppered the submarine . The U @-@ boat began going down by the bow , becoming nearly vertical before disappearing below the surface . A member of Inverlyon 's crew attempted the rescue of one crewman from UB @-@ 4 , but was unable to reach him before he went under , meeting the

same fate as the other thirteen crewmen .

As UB @-@ 4 went down , her hulk fouled the Inverlyon 's nets ? which had been deployed to keep up the appearance of a real fishing boat ? essentially anchoring Inverlyon in place . The Q @-@ ship 's crew , not having a wireless set on board , sent word of the encounter with another smack , and followed up by releasing messenger pigeons the following morning , requesting instructions on what to do with UB @-@ 4 . The thought of salvaging the snagged U @-@ boat was rejected , so the nets were cut , freeing UB @-@ 4 to sink to the bottom . UB @-@ 4 's wreck lies at position 52 ° 43 ? N 2 ° 18 ? E. Jehan was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for the sinking of UB @-@ 4 , and the crewmen of Inverlyon split the submarine bounty paid by the Admiralty .

= = Summary of raiding history = =