

= SM UB @-@ 8 =

SM UB @-@ 8 was a German Type UB I submarine or U @-@ boat in the German Imperial Navy (German : Kaiserliche Marine) during World War I. She was sold to Bulgaria in 1916 and renamed Podvodnik No. 18 (Bulgarian : ?o??o???? ? 18) , and was the first ever Bulgarian submarine .

UB @-@ 8 was ordered in October 1914 and was laid down at the AG Weser shipyard in Bremen in November . UB @-@ 8 was a little under 28 metres (92 ft) in length and displaced between 127 and 141 tonnes (125 and 139 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 @-@ 8 was originally one of a pair of UB I boats sent to the Austro @-@ Hungarian Navy to replace an Austrian pair to be sent to the Dardanelles , and was broken into sections and shipped by rail to Pola in March 1915 for reassembly . She was launched and commissioned as SM UB @-@ 8 in the German Imperial Navy in April when the Austrians opted out of the agreement .

Although briefly a part of the Pola Flotilla at commissioning , UB @-@ 8 spent the majority of her German career patrolling the Black Sea as part of the Constantinople Flotilla . The U @-@ boat sank two ships . One of them , SS Merion , was disguised by the British Admiralty as a Royal Navy battlecruiser as part of a decoy operation . In October , she helped repel a Russian bombardment of Bulgaria .

In May 1916 , the submarine was transferred to the Bulgarian Navy as Podvodnik No. 18 and commissioned in a ceremony that was attended by Crown Prince Boris and Prince Kiril . In Bulgarian service , the submarine patrolled the Bulgarian Black Sea coast and had encounters with Russian vessels on several occasions . After the war ended , the submarine was surrendered to France in February 1919 and scrapped at Bizerta in August 1921 . However , in July 2011 Viceadmiral Manushev , Commander of the Bulgarian Navy , announced that the submarine , discovered in 2010 at the sea bottom near the town of Varna , is UB @-@ 8 . Divers discovered manufacturer numbers and according to them the identity is confirmed .

= = 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 seas 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 @-@ 8 was last boat of the initial allotment of eight submarines ? numbered from UB @-@ 1 ? ordered on 15 October from Germaniawerft of Kiel , just shy of two months after planning for the class began .

UB @-@ 8 was laid down by Germaniawerft in Kiel on 4 December . As built , UB @-@ 8 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 (9 ft 11 in) . 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 @-@ 8 was rated to a diving depth of 50 metres (160 ft) , and could completely submerge in 33 seconds .

UB @-@ 8 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 @-@ 8 's standard complement consisted of one officer and thirteen enlisted men .

While UB @-@ 8 's construction neared completion in early March 1915 , Enver Pasha and other Turkish leaders were pleading with their German and Austro @-@ Hungarian allies to send submarines to the Dardanelles to help attack the British and French fleet pounding Turkish positions . The Germans induced the Austro @-@ Hungarian Navy (German : Kaiserliche und Königliche Kriegsmarine or K.u.K. Kriegsmarine) to send two boats ? its own Germaniawerft @-@ built boats U @-@ 3 and U @-@ 4 ? with the promise of UB @-@ 7 and UB @-@ 8 as replacements .

When work on UB @-@ 7 and UB @-@ 8 was complete at the Germaniawerft yard , they were both 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 . The boats were ready for shipment to the main Austrian naval base at Pola on 15 March , despite the fact that the Austrian pair was still not ready . German engineers and technicians that accompanied the German boats to Pola worked under the supervision of Kapitänleutnant Hans Adam , head of the newly created U @-@ boat special command (German : Sonderkommando) . Typically , the UB I assembly process took about two to three weeks , and , accordingly , UB @-@ 8 was launched at Pola sometime in April .

= = German career = =

During her trials , UB @-@ 8 was assigned the Austrian number of U @-@ 8 and an Austrian commander . Her German crew at Pola ? since it was still the intent for UB @-@ 8 to be transferred to the K.u.K. Kriegsmarine ? wore either civilian clothes or Austrian uniforms . As time dragged on , the Austrian U @-@ 3 and U @-@ 4 were still not ready , and eventually Admiral Anton Haus , the head of the Austro @-@ Hungarian Navy , reneged on his commitment because of the overt hostility from neighbor and former ally Italy .

With the change of heart from the Austrians , Germany resolved to retain UB @-@ 8 and send her to the aid of the Turks . So , the boat was commissioned into the German Imperial Navy as SM UB @-@ 8 on 23 April under the command of Kapitänleutnant Ernst von Voigt , a 27 @-@ year @-@ old first @-@ time U @-@ boat commander . At commissioning , the boat temporarily joined the Pola Flotilla (German : Deutsche U @-@ Halbflotille Pola) .

Because of her limited range , UB @-@ 8 would not have been able to make the entire journey to Turkey , so on 2 May , she was towed by the Austrian cruiser SMS Novara from Pola down the Adriatic and through the Straits of Otranto . The duo continued until spotted by French forces near Kefalonia . UB @-@ 8 slipped the tow and Novara raced back into the Adriatic without incident . Two days after her departure , UB @-@ 8 was running on the surface when the stern of the boat suddenly dropped . The watch officer , on the conning tower with the helmsman and a lookout , was able to partially close the hatch before the entire submarine slipped below the waves , depositing the three men in the water . On board the submarine , water continued to pour in through the hatch and the boat was sinking by the stern . Voigt ordered the interior hatch to the control room sealed and all the ballast tanks filled with compressed air to increase buoyancy . The tactic returned UB @-@ 8 to the surface where the boat 's diesel engines were restarted . Voigt circled back for the missing crewmen but only the watch officer and helmsman were recovered ; the lookout had drowned .

On 29 May 1915 , UB @-@ 8 came upon an Allied convoy near Lemnos , and , enticed by the prospect of hitting what he identified as the Royal Navy battlecruiser HMS Tiger , Voigt allowed five fully laden transport ships to pass unmolested . When he had a clear shot , Voigt launched one of his torpedoes at the stationary ship and hit it , sending debris into the air . Unfortunately for Voigt and UB @-@ 8 , they had in fact torpedoed the British ocean liner SS Merion , which was a participant in an Admiralty plan to disguise large liners as Royal Navy capital ships . Merion , which eventually sank on 31 May , had been outfitted with wood and canvas " guns " and overloaded with cement and stones to approximate the profile of Tiger . There are no reports of any deaths during Merion 's sinking .

On 4 June , UB @-@ 8 became the first submarine in the new Constantinople Flotilla (German : U @-@ boote der Mittelmeer division in Konstantinopel) based in Constantinople (present @-@ day

Istanbul) . Despite German intentions to use her in the Dardanelles , UB @-@ 8 was ineffective because she was hampered by her limited torpedo supply and her weak engines , which made negotiating the strong currents there nearly impossible . Because of this , UB @-@ 8 was sent to patrol in the Black Sea , where she was active by late July . Off Sevastopol on 31 July , UB @-@ 8 sank her second and final ship , the 1 @,@ 265 @-@ ton Russian ship Peter Melnikoff .

On 12 August , UB @-@ 8 fired a torpedoe at HMS Manica from 500 yards , which passed under Manica 's shallow draught , the submarine was then sighted outside net , two torpedoes fired and missed Manica , which hit the net at an acute angle and burst . An attack two days later on similar vessels was also unsuccessful .

In September , UB @-@ 7 and UB @-@ 8 were sent to Varna , Bulgaria , and from there , to patrol off the Russian Black Sea coast . Because Bulgaria had joined the Central Powers , battleships of the Russian Black Sea Fleet , and aircraft from the seaplane carriers Almaz and Imperator Nikolai I began attacks on Varna and the Bulgarian coast on 25 October . UB @-@ 7 and UB @-@ 8 , both based out of Varna by this time , sortied to disrupt the bombardment . UB @-@ 8 was never able to launch any attacks , but UB @-@ 7 launched a torpedo at the Russian battleship Panteleimon (most well @-@ known under her former name of Potemkin) , but it missed . Despite the lack of any success by either submarine , their presence did cause the Russians to break off their attacks and withdraw .

In early 1916 , UB @-@ 7 and UB @-@ 8 were still cruising in the Black Sea out of Varna . The Germans did not have good luck in the Black Sea , which was not a priority for them . The Bulgarians , who saw the value of the submarines in repelling Russian attacks , began negotiations to purchase UB @-@ 7 and UB @-@ 8 . Bulgarian sailors practiced in the pair of boats and technicians were sent to Kiel for training at the German submarine school there . The transfer of UB @-@ 8 to the Bulgarian Navy took place on 25 May 1916 , but for reasons unreported in sources , UB @-@ 7 remained under the German flag .

= = Bulgarian career = =

Upon acceptance of UB @-@ 8 by the Bulgarian Navy , she was renamed Podvodnik No. 18 (in Cyrillic : ?o??o???? ? 18) . Although the commissioning ceremony for Podvodnik No. 18 was kept out of newspapers , it was attended by Crown Prince Boris and his brother Prince Kiril , who both boarded the submarine for a ceremonial first voyage to Euxinograd , the Bulgarian summer palace located just north of Varna . In Bulgarian service , the submarine was armed with a 47 @-@ millimeter (1 @.@ 9 in) deck gun that supplemented its machine gun .

Podvodnik No. 18 's first patrol under the Bulgarian flag took place on 4 and 5 July 1916 when she sailed to Cape Shabla and Mangalia . The submarine was used for reconnaissance and coastal defense , and patrolled a regular route . This route was a loop that began in Varna and went northward to Kaliakra , Mangalia , and Constan?a ; then southward to Burgas , and Sozopol ; then ended at Varna . On 6 September , she had an encounter with the Russian destroyers Bystry and Gromki , drove off Russian submarines on other occasions , and on 16 December helped turn back a Russian sortie against Balchik . After the Russian withdrawal from World War I in 1917 , Podvodnik No. 18 's activities were greatly reduced .

After the end of the war , Podvodnik No. 18 was surrendered to the French on 23 February 1919 . Towed to Bizerta , she was scrapped after August 1921 .

= = Ships sunk or damaged = =