

= SM UB @-@ 6 =

SM UB @-@ 6 was a German Type UB I submarine or U @-@ boat in the German Imperial Navy (German : Kaiserliche Marine) during World War I. The submarine was interned after running aground in neutral Dutch waters , and was scuttled by her crew at Hellevoetsluis .

UB @-@ 6 was ordered in October 1914 and was laid down at the Germaniawerft shipyard in Kiel in November . UB @-@ 6 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 @-@ 6 was broken into sections and shipped by rail to Antwerp for reassembly . She was launched in March 1915 and commissioned as SM UB @-@ 6 in April .

UB @-@ 6 spent her entire career in the Flanders Flotilla and sank HMS Recruit , the first warship credited to the flotilla in May 1915 . Through September 1916 , the U @-@ boat accounted for fourteen additional ships sunk , two ships damaged , and one ship seized as a prize . On 12 March 1917 , UB @-@ 6 ran aground near the Maas River in the Netherlands due to a navigational error by her commander ; the submarine and crew were interned by the neutral country and taken to Hellevoetsluis . Six days later , UB @-@ 6 was scuttled by her crew , which remained interned for the rest of the war . The wreck of UB @-@ 6 was ceded to France in 1919 and broken up at Brest in July 1921 .

= = 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 @-@ 6 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 @-@ 6 was laid down by Germaniawerft in Kiel on 22 November . As built , UB @-@ 6 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 @-@ 6 was rated to a diving depth of 50 metres (160 ft) , and could completely submerge in 33 seconds .

UB @-@ 6 was armed with two 45 @-@ centimeter (17 @. @ 7 in) torpedoes in two bow torpedo tubes . She was also outfitted for a single 8 @. @ 8 @-@ centimeter (3 @. @ 5 in) Deck gun . UB @-@ 6 's standard complement consisted of one officer and thirteen enlisted men .

After work on UB @-@ 6 was complete at the Germaniawerft yard , UB @-@ 6 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 @-@ 6 were shipped to Antwerp for assembly in what was typically a two- to three @-@ week process . After UB @-@ 6 was assembled and launched sometime in March , she was loaded on a barge and taken through canals to Bruges where she underwent trials .

= = Early career = =

The submarine was commissioned into the German Imperial Navy as SM UB @-@ 6 on 8 April under the command of Kapitänleutnant (Kptlt .) Erich Haecker , a 29 @-@ year @-@ old first @-@ time U @-@ boat commander . On 19 April , UB @-@ 6 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 @-@ 6 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 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 .

The UB I boats of the Flanders Flotilla were initially limited to patrols in the Hoofden , the southern portion of the North Sea between the United Kingdom and the Netherlands . Although UB @-@ 4 had made both the first sortie and sunk the first ship of the flotilla in April , UB @-@ 6 sank the first warship credited to the flotilla . On 1 May , Haecker spotted two old Royal Navy destroyers , Brazen and Recruit , about 30 nautical miles (56 km ; 35 mi) southwest of the Galloper light vessel . Just before noon , Haecker launched a torpedo that hit Recruit and split the 335 @-@ tonne (330 @-@ long @-@ ton) displacement ship in half , killing 34 men ; 26 men were rescued . One month later , on 1 June , UB @-@ 6 sank what would be her largest ship , the British cargo ship Saidieh , of 3 @-@ 303 gross register tons (GRT) . Saidieh was en route to Hull from Alexandria with a load of onions and cottonseed when UB @-@ 6 sank her at the mouth of the Thames ; eight crewmen lost their lives in the attack .

In late June , Korvettenkapitän Karl Bartenbach , head of the Flanders Flotilla , used UB @-@ 6 to test a theory that British defenses in the Straits of Dover ? anti @-@ submarine nets and mines ? were not insurmountable . On the evening of 21 June , UB @-@ 6 departed Zeebrugge for a round @-@ trip to Boulogne . UB @-@ 6 sailed past Dunkirk on the surface and made Boulogne in the early morning of the 22nd , having to crash dive once during the voyage when discovered by a British destroyer . UB @-@ 6 immediately made the return trip and arrived safely at Zeebrugge later the same day . Three other UB I boats , UB @-@ 2 , UB @-@ 5 , and UB @-@ 10 , soon followed with patrols in the Channel , but bad weather and fog hampered the boats and none had any success . Even though no ships were sunk during these forays into the English Channel , by successfully completing their voyages , the submarines helped further prove the feasibility of defeating the British countermeasures in the Straits of Dover .

On 12 July , while patrolling between 18 and 23 nautical miles (33 and 43 km ; 21 and 26 mi) off Lowestoft , UB @-@ 6 attacked five British fishing vessels , sinking four of them . All four of the sunken ships were smacks ? sailing vessels traditionally rigged with red ochre sails ? which were stopped , boarded by crewmen from UB @-@ 6 , and sunk with explosives . Two weeks later , UB @-@ 6 torpedoed and sank the 406 @-@ ton Firth 4 nautical miles (7 @-@ 4 km ; 4 @-@ 6 mi) from the Aldborough Napes Buoy . UB @-@ 6 sank the 57 @-@ ton Leander , another smack , on 11 August .

Germany 's submarine offensive was suspended on 18 September by the chief of the Admiralstab , Admiral Henning von Holtzendorff , in response to American demands after the sinking of the Cunard Line steamer Lusitania in May 1915 and other high profile sinkings in August and September . Holtzendorff 's directive ordered all U @-@ boats out of the English Channel and the South @-@ Western Approaches and required that all submarine activity in the North Sea be conducted strictly along prize regulations . It would be five months before UB @-@ 6 would sink another ship .

In mid @-@ November , Oberleutnant zur See (Oblt.z.S.) Ernst Voigt succeeded Haecker as commander of UB @-@ 6 ; it was the first U @-@ boat command for the 25 @-@ year @-@ old Voigt . Under his command , UB @-@ 6 sank her next vessel in January 1916 . The 57 @-@ ton smack Crystal was boarded and sunk by explosives 25 nautical miles (46 km ; 29 mi) southeast of Southwold on the 27th .

= = Victims Gallery = =

= = Second submarine offensive = =

By early 1916 , the British blockade of Germany was beginning to have an effect on Germany and her imports . The Royal Navy had stopped and seized more cargo destined for Germany than the quantity of cargo sunk by German U @-@ boats in the first submarine offensive . As a result , the German Imperial Navy began a second offensive against merchant shipping on 29 February . The final ground rules agreed upon by the German Admiralstab were that all enemy vessels in Germany 's self @-@ proclaimed war zone would be destroyed without warning , that enemy vessels outside the war zone would be destroyed only if armed , and ? to avoid antagonizing the United States ? that enemy passenger steamers were not to be attacked , regardless of whether in the war zone or not .

UB @-@ 6 's first attack in the new offensive came on 17 March , when the U @-@ boat torpedoed the Swedish ship Ask near the North Hinder lightship . The 1 @,@ 041 @-@ ton ship was en route to London from Westervik with a load of timber , but did not sink ; there were no reports of casualties on the damaged ship . The attack on Ask was followed up two weeks later by the sinking of another Swedish ship . The 1 @,@ 115 @-@ ton Hollandia was at anchor 0 @.@ 25 nautical miles (460 m) from the Galloper lightship when UB @-@ 4 torpedoed her on the last day of March . Hollandia was in ballast and in the process of sailing from Rouen to Rotterdam when sent under without loss of life .

In March , UB @-@ 6 's commander , Voigt , was assigned to the newly commissioned UB @-@ 23 , and replaced on UB @-@ 6 by Kapitänleutnant Karl Neumann , the former commander of two of the submarine 's sister ships , UB @-@ 2 and UB @-@ 13 . In his U @-@ boat career , Neumann sank over 100 @,@ 000 tons of shipping , but none at the helm of UB @-@ 6 . In July , Neumann was succeeded by Oberleutnant zur See Karsten von Heydebreck , a 26 @-@ year @-@ old , first @-@ time U @-@ boat captain , who was Voigt 's classmate in April 1908 cadet class .

Near the end of April 1916 , Admiral Reinhardt Scheer , the newest commander @-@ in @-@ chief of the German High Seas Fleet , called off the merchant shipping offensive and ordered all boats at sea to return , and all boats in port to remain there . As with the end of the first offensive in August 1915 , UB @-@ 6 would not sink any more ships for the next five months .

= = Grand Fleet ambush attempts = =

In mid @-@ May , Scheer completed plans to draw out part of the British Grand Fleet . The German High Seas Fleet would sortie for a raid on Sunderland , luring the British fleet across " ' nests ' of submarines and mine @-@ fields " . In support of the operation , UB @-@ 6 and five other Flanders boats set out at midnight 30 / 31 May to form a line 18 nautical miles (33 km ; 21 mi) east of Lowestoft . This group was to intercept and attack the British light forces from Harwich , should they sortie north to join the battle . Unfortunately for the Germans , the British Admiralty had intelligence reports of the departure of the submarines which , coupled with an absence of attacks on shipping , aroused British suspicions .

A delayed departure of the German fleet for its sortie (which had been redirected to the Skagerrak) and the failure of several of the U @-@ boats stationed to the north to receive the coded message warning of the British advance caused Scheer 's anticipated ambush to be a " complete and disappointing failure " . In UB @-@ 6 's group , only UB @-@ 10 sighted the Harwich forces , and they were too far away to mount an attack . The failure of the submarine ambush to sink any British capital ships allowed the full Grand Fleet to engage the numerically inferior High Seas Fleet in the Battle of Jutland , which took place 31 May ? 1 June .

Later in August , the Germans set up another ambush for the British fleet , when they drew up plans for another High Seas Fleet raid on Sunderland (as had been the original intention in May) . The German fleet planned to depart late in the day on 18 August and shell military targets the next

morning . As in May , UB @-@ 6 was part of a group intended to attack the Harwich forces . As one of five boats forming the second line of boats from the Flanders Flotilla , UB @-@ 6 was stationed off Texel by the morning of 20 August . Once again , British intelligence had given warning of the impending attack and ambush , causing the Grand Fleet to sortie at 16 : 00 on 18 August , five hours before the German fleet sailed . Faulty intelligence caused Scheer initially to divert from Sunderland , and then to eventually call off the whole operation . Although U @-@ boats to the north sank two British light cruisers , UB @-@ 6 and her group played no part in the action .

On 10 September , UB @-@ 6 was patrolling off the Maas lightship and torpedoed the 400 @-@ ton Norwegian steamer Lindborg , with a general cargo for London ; there were no casualties . While patrolling in the same area on the 23rd , UB @-@ 6 sank four Belgian lighters . The following day , the Dutch ship Batavier II was seized as a prize and sailed into Zeebrugge by a prize crew from UB @-@ 6 . Batavier II was the last success for Heydebreck in command of UB @-@ 6 ; he was assigned to command the newly commissioned minelaying submarine UC @-@ 63 in January 1917 . Oberleutnant zur See Oskar Steckelberg , another member of the April 1908 cadet class , replaced Heydebreck on UB @-@ 6 .

= = Unrestricted submarine warfare = =

The British blockade of Germany , which prevented neutral shipping from reaching German ports , had severely limited imports of food and fuel into Germany . Among the results were an increase in infant mortality and as many as 700 @, @ 000 deaths attributed to starvation or hypothermia during the war . With the blockade having such dire consequences , Kaiser Wilhelm II personally approved a resumption of unrestricted submarine warfare to begin on 1 February 1917 to help force the British to make peace . The new rules of engagement specified that no ship was to be left afloat .

On 10 March , UB @-@ 6 departed Zeebrugge to patrol off the Mass lightship . Two days later , UB @-@ 6 entered Dutch territorial waters after Steckelberg made a navigational error , and ran aground at the mouth of the Maas River . Because the Netherlands was neutral during the war , and UB @-@ 6 did not leave Dutch territorial waters within 24 hours as required by international law , the submarine and her crew were interned by the Dutch . The Germans protested , but because UB @-@ 6 's grounding was merely the result of an error and not because of distress , the Dutch could not release the submarine . UB @-@ 6 was taken to the port of Hellevoetsluis for internment , where , on 18 March , UB @-@ 6 's crew scuttled her . The crew of UB @-@ 6 was interned for the duration of the war . After the end of the war , UB @-@ 6 's wreck was surrendered to France , taken to Brest , and broken up in July 1921 .

= = Summary of raiding history = =