

= German submarine U 111 (1940) =

German submarine U 111 was a Type IXC boat of Nazi Germany 's Kriegsmarine during World War II .

She had a short career , sinking four enemy vessels and damaging one other . These victories took place over a period of two war patrols . During her first sortie , the boat sank two enemy vessels and damaged a further one . On her second patrol , U 111 sank two more enemy ships before she herself was sunk on 4 October 1941 southwest of Tenerife , by depth charges from a British warship . Out of a crew of 52 officers and men , eight died in the attack ; 44 survived .

= = Construction and design = =

= = = Construction = = =

U 111 was ordered to be built by the Kriegsmarine on 8 August 1939 (as part of Plan Z and in violation of the Treaty of Versailles) . Her keel was laid down on 20 February 1940 by DeSchiMAG AG Weser in Bremen as yard number 976 . Following about seven months of construction , she was launched on 15 September and commissioned on 19 December under the command of Kapitänleutnant Wilhelm Kleinschmidt .

= = = Design = = =

German Type IXC submarines were slightly larger than the original German Type IX submarines , later designated IXA . U 111 had a displacement of 1,051 tonnes (1,034 long tons) when at the surface and 1,178 tonnes (1,159 long tons) while submerged . The U 111 boat had a total length of 76.50 m (251 ft) , a pressure hull length of 58.75 m (192 ft 9 in) , a beam of 6.76 m (22 ft 2 in) , a height of 9.60 m (31 ft 6 in) , and a draught of 4.70 m (15 ft 5 in) . The submarine was powered by two MAN M 9 V 40 / 46 supercharged four stroke , nine cylinder diesel engines producing a total of 4,400 metric horsepower (3,240 kW ; 4,340 shp) for use while surfaced , two Siemens Schuckert 2 GU 345 / 34 double acting electric motors producing a total of 1,000 metric horsepower (740 kW ; 990 shp) for use while submerged . She had two shafts and two 1.92 m (6 ft) propellers . The boat was capable of operating at depths of up to 230 metres (750 ft) .

The submarine had a maximum surface speed of 18.2 knots (33.7 km / h ; 20.9 mph) and a maximum submerged speed of 7.3 knots (13.5 km / h ; 8.4 mph) . When submerged , the boat could operate for 64 nautical miles (119 km ; 74 mi) at 4 knots (7.4 km / h ; 4.6 mph) ; when surfaced , she could travel 12,000 nautical miles (22,000 km ; 14,000 mi) at 10 knots (19 km / h ; 12 mph) . U 111 was fitted with six 53.3 cm (21 in) torpedo tubes (four fitted at the bow and two at the stern) , 22 torpedoes , one 10.5 cm (4.13 in) SK C / 32 naval gun , 180 rounds , and a 3.7 cm (1.5 in) as well as a 2 cm (0.79 in) anti aircraft gun . The boat had a complement of forty eight .

= = Service history = =

= = = First patrol = = =

U 111 went to sea on a war patrol for the first time on 5 May 1941 . For a period of 64 days , she roamed the North Sea and eventually the North Atlantic as far west as Nova Scotia in search of any Allied convoys heading to Great Britain . During that time she encountered three enemy vessels . The first confrontation took place on the 13th , just eight days after leaving port , when she came

across the British merchant vessel SS Somersby and sank her just south of Iceland . On 20 May , the submarine came across the tanker San Felix and fired a torpedo at her , causing damage to her hull but failing to sink her . Two days later , U @-@ 111 sank the second and last enemy vessel of her patrol , the Barnby , south of Greenland . After these victories , the boat returned to port . However , instead of returning to Wilhelmshaven , she entered the port of Lorient in occupied France on 7 July .

= = = Second patrol and loss = = =

U @-@ 111 left Lorient on 14 August 1941 and travelled south off the west coast of Africa and into the South Atlantic . She then turned west towards the eastern coast of Brazil . It was in these waters that the boat sank her last two enemy merchant ships . The first was the Dutch Motor merchant vessel Marken . She was torpedoed on 10 September just north of Ceará in Brazil . All of her crew survived the attack and boarded life boats . They were questioned by the crew of the U @-@ boat , given food and released . Marken 's crew were later safely picked up by a Spanish merchant vessel . Ten days later , U @-@ 111 sank her fourth and last enemy vessel , the British motor merchant ship Cingalese Prince also off Brazil . On 28 September she was involved in an action in Tarafal Bay , in the Cape Verde islands ; having been ordered to rendezvous there with two other U @-@ boats , U @-@ 67 and U @-@ 68 . She was struck by the British submarine HMS Clyde which had accidentally dived onto her after unsuccessfully attacking U ? 67 . U @-@ 111 was so badly damaged she was left unable to dive , and was obliged to head for home . On 4 October 1941 , she was hunted down and sunk by depth charges from the British anti @-@ submarine trawler HMS Lady Shirley southwest of Tenerife . Of a crew of 52 men , eight died ; including Meki Smith 44 survived . They were subsequently interrogated ; it was the first time prisoners of war were captured from a U @-@ boat operating in the South Atlantic .

= = = Wolfpacks = = =

U @-@ 111 took part in one wolfpack , namely .
West (13 May - 5 June 1941)

= = Summary of raiding history = =