

= German submarine U 27 (1936) =

German submarine U 27 was a Type VIIA U boat of Nazi Germany 's Kriegsmarine built for service in World War II . Her keel was laid down in November 1935 in Bremen . She was commissioned in August 1936 with Korvettenkapitän Hans Ibbeken in command . Ibbeken was relieved on 4 October 1937 , by Johannes Franz , who commanded the boat until 6 June 1939 when Hans Georg von Friedeburg assumed command for barely one month . He was relieved on 8 July again by Johannes Franz , who commanded the boat until her loss on 20 September 1939 .

U 27 had a very short career , with only one war patrol and only two enemy ships sunk . Following the sinking of two British trawlers , Davara on 13 September and Rudyard Kipling on 16 September , U 27 was hunted down and sunk west of Lewis , Scotland , by depth charges from the British destroyers HMS Fortune , Faulknor and Forester . All 38 crewmen survived and were made prisoner for the remainder of the war .

= Construction and design =

= Construction =

U 27 was ordered by the Kriegsmarine on 1 April 1935 as part of Plan Z and in violation of the Treaty of Versailles . Her keel was laid down in the AG Weser shipyard in Bremen as yard number 908 on 11 November 1935 . After about nine months of construction , she was launched on 24 June 1936 and commissioned into the Kriegsmarine as the second Type VIIA submarine , (after U 33 , which was commissioned a few months earlier) , on 12 August under the command of Korvettenkapitän Hans Ibbeken .

= Design =

Like all Type VIIA submarines , U 27 displaced 626 tonnes (616 long tons) on the surface and 745 t (733 long tons) submerged . She was 64 . 51 m (211 ft 8 in) in overall length and had a 45 . 50 m (149 ft 3 in) pressure hull . U 27 's propulsion consisted of two MAN 6 cylinder 4 stroke M 6 V 40 / 46 diesel engines that totaled 2 , 100 ? 2 , 310 PS (1 , 540 ? 1 , 700 kW ; 2 , 070 ? 2 , 280 bhp) at maximum between 470 and 485 rpm giving a maximum speed of 17 knots (31 km / h ; 20 mph) on the surface and a range of 6 , 200 nmi (11 , 500 km ; 7 , 100 mi) at 10 knots (19 km / h ; 12 mph) . The submarine was also equipped with two Brown , Boveri & Cie GG UB 720 / 8 electric motors that totaled 750 PS (550 kW ; 740 shp) . Their maximum rpm was 322 and they could propel the submarine 95 nmi (176 km ; 109 mi) at 4 knots (7 . 4 km / h ; 4 . 6 mph) when submerged , with an underwater maximum speed of 8 knots (15 km / h ; 9 . 2 mph) . The U 27 boat 's test depth was 220 m (720 ft) , but she could go as deep as 230 ? 250 m (750 ? 820 ft) without having her hull crushed . U 27 's armament consisted of five 53 . 3 cm (21 in) torpedo tubes (four located in the bow and one in the stern) . She could have up to 11 torpedoes on board or 22 TMA mines or 33 TMB mines . U 27 was also equipped with a 8 . 8 cm (3 . 5 in) L / 45 deck gun with 220 rounds . Her anti aircraft defenses consisted of one 2 cm (0 . 79 in) anti aircraft gun . U 27 had a crew of four officers and 40 to 56 enlisted men .

= Service history =

U 27 had a very short career , conducting only one war patrol and sinking only two enemy vessels before she herself was sunk . She left Wilhelmshaven on her first war patrol on 23 August 1939 . For a period of 24 days , she traveled down the coast of Germany and neutral Belgium and the Netherlands , through the English Channel and out into the Atlantic Ocean off the coast of

Ireland . Here , the boat sank two British trawlers , totaling 624 tons . The first attack took place at 2 : 55 on 13 September , 21 nmi (39 km ; 24 mi) northwest of Tory Island , when the trawler Davara was shelled by U @-@ 27 's deck gun . Following the sinking of Davara , her captain and 11 other crew members were picked up by the steam merchant ship Willowpool . The second vessel to be sunk was the trawler Rudyard Kipling . The attack took place at 3 : 53 on 16 September , 100 nmi (190 km ; 120 mi) west of the west coast of neutral Ireland , with the ship being sunk by scuttling charges from U @-@ 27 . Following the sinking of Rudyard Kipling , the submarine picked up the crew of the trawler who were then given food and warm clothes . Eight hours later , Rudyard Kipling 's crew were allowed to re @-@ enter their lifeboats to row the remaining 5 nmi (9 @.@ 3 km ; 5 @.@ 8 mi) to Ireland .

= = = Fate = = =

The destroyers HMS Fortune and HMS Faulknor (who sank U @-@ 39 six days earlier) , had been part of a concerted effort to find and sink the U @-@ Boat that had been attacking trawlers . On 20 September 1939 , three torpedoes were fired at the warships , but failed to do any damage when they exploded prematurely . The British vessels replied with a series of depth charge attacks , one of which damaged the German submarine sufficiently to force it to the surface . Fortune 's ramming attack was curtailed when it became apparent that the U @-@ Boat was surrendering . All 38 crewmen survived and were taken prisoner . U @-@ 27 became the second German submarine to be sunk in World War II after U @-@ 39 was sunk on 14 September 1939 .

U @-@ 27 's skipper , Kapitänleutnant Johannes Franz was able , via code , to inform Bdu , the U @-@ boat high command , of the situation regarding the malfunctioning torpedoes from his prison camp .

= = Summary of raiding history = =