

= SM U @-@ 68 =

SM U @-@ 68 was a Type U 66 submarine or U @-@ boat for the German Imperial Navy (German : Kaiserliche Marine) during the First World War . She had been laid down in December 1913 as U @-@ 9 of the U @-@ 7 class for the Austro @-@ Hungarian Navy (German : Kaiserliche und Königliche Kriegsmarine or K.u. K. Kriegsmarine) but was sold to Germany , along with the others in her class , in November 1914 . Under German control , the class became known as the U 66 type and the boats were renumbered ; U @-@ 9 became U @-@ 68 , and was redesigned and reconstructed to German specifications . She was launched in June 1915 and commissioned in August .

Six days into her first war patrol , on 22 March 1916 , U @-@ 68 was sunk by Farnborough , a British Q @-@ ship , with all hands . U @-@ 68 sank no ships in her brief career . A post @-@ war German study found fault with U @-@ 68 's captain for not following established procedures for avoiding decoy ships .

= = Design and construction = =

After the Austro @-@ Hungarian Navy had competitively evaluated three foreign submarine designs , it selected the Germaniawerft 506d design , also known as the Type UD , for its new U @-@ 7 class of five submarines . The Navy ordered five boats on 1 February 1913 .

The U @-@ 7 class was seen by the Austro @-@ Hungarian Navy as an improved version of its U @-@ 3 class , which was also a Germaniawerft design . As designed for the Austro @-@ Hungarian Navy , the boats were to displace 695 tonnes (684 long tons) on the surface and 885 tonnes (871 long tons) while submerged . The doubled @-@ hulled boats were to be 69 @. 50 metres (228 ft) long overall with a beam of 6 @. 30 metres (20 @. 7 ft) and a draft of 3 @. 79 metres (12 @. 4 ft) . The Austrian specifications called for two shafts with twin diesel engines (2 @, 300 metric horsepower (2 @, 269 bhp ; 1 @, 692 kW) total) for surface running at up to 17 knots (31 km / h ; 20 mph) , and twin electric motors (1 @, 240 PS (1 @, 220 shp ; 910 kW) total) for a maximum of 11 knots (20 km / h ; 13 mph) when submerged . The boats were designed with five 45 cm (17 @. 7 in) torpedo tubes ; four located in the bow , one in the stern . The boats ' armament was to also include a single 6 @. 6 cm (2 @. 6 in) L / 26 deck gun .

U @-@ 9 was laid down on 31 December 1913 , the third of the U @-@ 7 boats . Her construction was slated to be complete within 29 to 33 months . Neither U @-@ 9 nor any of her sister boats were complete when World War I began in August 1914 . With the boats under construction at Kiel , the Austrians became convinced that it would be impossible to take delivery of the boats , which would need to be towed into the Mediterranean past Gibraltar , a British territory . As a result , U @-@ 9 and her four sisters were sold to the Imperial German Navy on 28 November 1914 .

U @-@ 9 was renumbered by the Germans as U @-@ 68 when her class was redesignated as the Type U 66 . The Imperial German Navy had the submarines redesigned and reconstructed to German standards , which increased the surface displacement by 96 tonnes (94 long tons) and the submerged by 48 tonnes (47 long tons) . The torpedo load was increased by a third , from 9 to 12 , and the deck gun was upgraded from the 6 @. 6 cm (2 @. 6 in) gun originally specified to an 8 @. 8 cm (3 @. 5 in) one .

= = Service career = =

U @-@ 68 was launched on 1 June 1915 . On 17 August , SM U @-@ 68 was commissioned into the Imperial German Navy under the command of Kapitänleutnant Ludwig Güntzel , a new submarine commander . On 29 November , U @-@ 68 was assigned to the IV . U @-@ Halbflotille .

U @-@ 68 departed the Ems on 16 March 1916 to begin her first war patrol . Headed to her assigned operating area off Britain 's west coast , Güntzel and U @-@ 68 came across Farnborough , a British Q @-@ ship ? in appearance unarmed ? under the command of Gordon Campbell . At

approximately 07 : 00 , U @-@ 68 fired a torpedo at Farnborough and narrowly missed the ship 's bow . Farnborough continued the deception and continued on at her same speed and course . At 07 : 20 , U @-@ 68 surfaced about 1 @,@ 000 yards (910 m) astern of Farnborough , moved to the ship 's port quarter , and fired a shot across the Q @-@ ship 's bow .

Farnborough stopped , blew off steam , and launched a boat to simulate a surrender . As U @-@ 68 closed to 800 yards (730 m) , Farnborough raised the White Ensign , uncovered her guns and opened fire with three of her five 12 pounder (76 mm) guns . The British gunners scored several hits on the U @-@ boat out of 21 rapidly fired rounds . As U @-@ 68 began to sink , Campbell steered Farnborough over U @-@ 68 's location and dropped a depth charge that blew the bow of the submarine out of the water . As U @-@ 68 began going down by the stern , Farnborough 's gunners scored another five hits on the U @-@ boat 's conning tower . U @-@ 68 sank with the loss of all 38 men at position 51 ° 54 ' N 10 ° 53 ' W off Dingle in southern Ireland . U @-@ 68 sank no ships during her brief service career .

A post @-@ war German study faulted U @-@ 68 's commander , Kptlt . Güntzel , for failing to follow established procedures for dealing with neutral @-@ flagged vessels in order to avoid decoy ships like Farnborough . According to the report , Güntzel had broken almost all the rules when approaching Farnborough . However , Kommodore Hermann Bauer , the commander of the German High Seas Fleet U @-@ boats , in his post @-@ war memoirs , reports Güntzel was an inexperienced captain and had not , contrary to usual practice , been first sent to sea under a more experienced U @-@ boat captain to gain knowledge .