

= SM UB @-@ 13 =

SM UB @-@ 13 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 probably sunk by a British mine net in April 1916 .

UB @-@ 13 was ordered in October 1914 and was laid down at the AG Weser shipyard in Bremen in November . UB @-@ 13 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 @-@ 13 was broken into sections and shipped by rail to Antwerp for reassembly . She was launched in March 1915 and commissioned as SM UB @-@ 13 in April .

UB @-@ 13 spent her entire career in the Flanders Flotilla and sank 11 merchant ships , about half of them British fishing vessels . In March 1916 , UB @-@ 13 was responsible for sinking the Dutch ocean liner Tubantia , raising the ire of the Dutch public . Tubantia was the largest neutral vessel sunk during the war and among the 30 largest ships sunk by U @-@ boats . On 24 April 1916 , UB @-@ 13 was sunk with all hands .

= = 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 @-@ 13 was part of the initial allotment of seven submarines ? numbered UB @-@ 9 to UB @-@ 15 ? ordered on 15 October from AG Weser of Bremen , just shy of two months after planning for the class began . UB @-@ 13 was laid down by Weser in Bremen on 7 November . As built , UB @-@ 13 was 27 @. @ 88 metres (91 ft 6 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) Körting 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 7 @. @ 45 knots (13 @. @ 80 km / h ; 8 @. @ 57 mph) , surfaced , and 6 @. @ 24 knots (11 @. @ 56 km / h ; 7 @. @ 18 mph) , submerged . At more moderate speeds , she could sail up to 1 @, @ 500 nautical miles (2 @, @ 800 km ; 1 @, @ 700 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 @-@ 13 was rated to a diving depth of 50 metres (160 ft) , and could completely submerge in 33 seconds .

UB @-@ 13 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 @-@ 13 's standard complement consisted of one officer and thirteen enlisted men .

After work on UB @-@ 13 was complete at the Weser yard , she 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 February 1915 , the sections of UB @-@ 13 were shipped to Antwerp for assembly in what was typically a two- to three @-@ week process . After UB @-@ 13 was assembled and launched on 8 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 @-@ 13 on 6 April

1915 under the command of Oberleutnant zur See Walter Gustav Becker , a 29 @-@ year @-@ old first @-@ time U @-@ boat commander . On 26 April , UB @-@ 13 joined the Flanders Flotilla (German : U @-@ boote des Marinekorps U @-@ Flotille Flandern) , which had been organized on 29 March . When UB @-@ 13 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 .

Submarines of the Flanders Flotilla sank over 14 @,@ 000 tons of merchant vessels in June 1915 , and UB @-@ 13 's first ship sunk , Dulcie , contributed almost one @-@ seventh of that total . The British steamer Dulcie , listed at 2 @,@ 033 gross register tons (GRT) , was headed from Dunston for Le Havre with a load of coal when Becker torpedoed her 6 nautical miles (11 km ; 6 @. 9 mi) east of Aldeburgh . One man on Dulcie lost his life in the attack . Dulcie was the only ship sunk by UB @-@ 13 in June .

On 27 and 28 July , Becker and UB @-@ 13 sank three British fishing vessels while patrolling between 15 and 30 nautical miles (28 and 56 km ; 17 and 35 mi) off Lowestoft . All three of the sunken ships were smacks ? sailing vessels traditionally rigged with red ochre sails ? which were stopped , boarded by crewmen from UB @-@ 16 , and sunk with explosives .

In response to American demands after German submarines had sunk the Cunard Line steamer Lusitania in May 1915 and other high profile sinkings in August and September , the chief of the Admiralstab , Admiral Henning von Holtzendorff , issued orders suspending the first offensive on 18 September . His 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 . On 20 February 1916 , under the command of Kapitänleutnant Karl Neumann , who replaced Becker in December 1915 , UB @-@ 13 captured a Belgian ship named Z10 David Marie and retained her as a prize . There are no further details about where Z10 David Marie was taken or her final disposition , but other ships captured as prizes by Flanders boats were sailed into Zeebrugge by prize crews .

= = 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 . The day after the beginning of the second offensive , Neumann and UB @-@ 13 sank four more fishing smacks northeast of Lowestoft . All four ships were boarded and sunk in the same manner as the three sunk the previous July . Shortly after , Neumann was transferred to command UB @-@ 2 in early March , and was replaced by Oberleutnant zur See Arthur Metz , who had been in command of UB @-@ 17 for the preceding month .

= = = SS Tubantia = = =

Shortly after 02 : 30 on 16 March , a torpedo from UB @-@ 13 struck the starboard side of the neutral Dutch ocean liner Tubantia , which was at anchor near the North Hinder Lightship , about 50 nautical miles (93 km ; 58 mi) off the Dutch coast . The Royal Holland Lloyd (Dutch : Koninklijke Hollandsche Lloyd) ship had been fully illuminated , with her name spelled out in electric lights between the twin funnels . Distress calls from Tubantia were heeded and all 80 passengers and 294 crew were rescued by three nearby ships before the ship foundered . Tubantia was the largest

neutral ship sunk during the war , and among the 30 largest ships sunk by U @-@ boats .

Germany initially tried to implicate British mines or torpedoes , but relented when confronted with evidence that it was one of their own torpedoes ? which had been assigned to UB @-@ 13 ? that had sunk Tubantia . The Germans , however , presented a forged log from UB @-@ 13 that showed her nowhere near Tubantia at the time of the attack . Further , they reported , UB @-@ 13 had fired that specific torpedo at a British warship on 6 March ? ten days before Tubantia was sunk ? which would have been under her previous commander , Kapitänleutnant Neumann . The U.S. Minister to the Netherlands , Henry van Dyke , writing in Fighting for Peace in 1917 , called this explanation " amazing " and derided it :

This certain U @-@ boat had fired this particular torpedo at a British war @-@ vessel somewhere in the North Sea ten days before the Tubantia was sunk . The shot missed its mark . But the naughty undisciplined little torpedo went cruising around in the sea on its own hook for ten days waiting for a chance to kill somebody . Then the Tubantia came along and the wandering @-@ Willy torpedo promptly , obstinately , ran into the ship and sank her . This was the explanation . Germany was not to blame .

The Dutch public was furious at what they believed a hostile German act , which caused German diplomats to spread rumors of an impending British invasion of the Netherlands to divert the unwanted attention .

Amidst all of the denials and diplomatic wrangling over Tubantia 's sinking , UB @-@ 13 continued to sink ships . On 31 March , off Lowestoft , Metz and UB @-@ 13 sank the Norwegian steamer Memento . The 1 @,@ 076 GRT ship was carrying a load of coke destined for Porsgrunn when she went down with one crewman . Twelve days later , in the Kentish Knock area , UB @-@ 13 sank the Danish ship Proeven . The 276 @-@ ton sailing vessel was the last ship sunk by UB @-@ 13 .

= = Sinking = =

On the evening of 23 April 1916 , UB @-@ 13 departed Zeebrugge for a patrol off the mouth of the Thames and was never heard from again . Author Dwight Messimer , in his book Verschollen : World War I U @-@ boat Losses , reports that the British had deployed a new explosive anti @-@ submarine net at position 51 ° 33 ? N 2 ° 45 ? E in the early morning hours of 24 April . He suggests that it was possible UB @-@ 13 had set off some of the contact mines on the net , or possible that the submarine had struck a mine in one of the many British minefields off the Flemish coast . However , according to authors R. H. Gibson and Maurice Prendergast , in their book The German Submarine War , 1914 ? 1918 , UB @-@ 13 fouled the anchor cable of the British naval drifter Gleaner of the Sea on 24 April , and was depth charged by E.E.S .. Then for good measure , the British destroyer Afridi deployed explosive sweeps against the submarine . Whatever the specific cause of her demise , all seventeen crewmen on board the submarine were killed .

= = Summary of raiding history = =