

= SM UB @-@ 7 =

SM UB @-@ 7 was a German Type UB I submarine or U @-@ boat in the German Imperial Navy (German : Kaiserliche Marine) during World War I. She disappeared in the Black Sea in September 1916 .

UB @-@ 7 was ordered in October 1914 and was laid down at the AG Weser shipyard in Bremen in November . UB @-@ 7 was a little over 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 @-@ 7 was originally one of a pair of UB I boats sent to the Austro @-@ Hungarian Navy to replace an Austrian pair to be sent to the Dardanelles , and was broken into sections and shipped by rail to Pola in March 1915 for reassembly . She was launched in April and commissioned as SM UB @-@ 7 in the German Imperial Navy in May when the Austrians opted out of the agreement .

Although briefly a part of the Pola Flotilla at commissioning , UB @-@ 7 spent the majority of her career patrolling the Black Sea as part of the Constantinople Flotilla . The U @-@ boat sank one ship of 6 @,@ 011 GRT in September 1915 . In October , she helped repel a Russian bombardment of Bulgaria . She was considered for transfer to the Bulgarian Navy , but disappeared in late September 1916 before a transfer could take place . Her fate is officially unknown , but sources report that may have struck a mine or been sunk by a Russian airplane .

= = 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 @-@ 7 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 @-@ 7 was laid down by Germaniawerft in Kiel on 30 November . As built , UB @-@ 7 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 @-@ 7 was rated to a diving depth of 50 metres (160 ft) , and could completely submerge in 33 seconds .

UB @-@ 7 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 @-@ 7 's standard complement consisted of one officer and thirteen enlisted men .

While UB @-@ 7 's construction neared completion in early March 1915 , Enver Pasha and other Turkish leaders were pleading with their German and Austro @-@ Hungarian allies to send submarines to the Dardanelles to help attack the British and French fleet pounding Turkish positions . The Germans induced the Austro @-@ Hungarian Navy (German : Kaiserliche und Königliche Kriegsmarine or K.u.K. Kriegsmarine) to send two boats ? its own Germaniawerft @-@ built boats U @-@ 3 and U @-@ 4 ? with the promise of UB @-@ 7 and UB @-@ 8 as replacements .

When work on UB @-@ 7 and UB @-@ 8 was complete at the Germaniawerft yard , they were both

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 . The boats were ready for shipment to the main Austrian naval base at Pola on 15 March , despite the fact that the Austrian pair was still not ready . German engineers and technicians that accompanied the German boats to Pola worked under the supervision of Kapitänleutnant Hans Adam , head of the newly created U @-@ boat special command (German : Sonderkommando) . Typically , the UB I assembly process took about two to three weeks , and , accordingly , UB @-@ 7 was launched at Pola sometime in April .

= = Career = =

During her trials , UB @-@ 7 developed a leak which took some time to repair . In the meantime , she was assigned the Austrian number of U @-@ 7 and an Austrian commander . Her German crew at Pola ? since it was still the intent for UB @-@ 7 to be transferred to the K.u.K. Kriegsmarine ? wore either civilian clothes or Austrian uniforms . As time dragged on , the Austrian U @-@ 3 and U @-@ 4 were still not ready , and eventually Admiral Anton Haus , the head of the Austrian Navy , reneged on his commitment because of the overt hostility from neighbor and former ally Italy .

With the change of heart from the Austrians , Germany resolved to retain UB @-@ 7 and send her to the aid of the Turks . So , upon completion of her leak repairs , the boat was commissioned into the German Imperial Navy as SM UB @-@ 7 on 6 May under the command of Oberleutnant zur See Wilhelm Werner , a 26 @-@ year @-@ old native of Apola . At commissioning , the boat temporarily joined the Pola Flotilla (German : Deutsche U @-@ Halbflotille Pola) .

Because of her limited range , UB @-@ 7 would not have been able to make the entire journey to Turkey , so on the night on 15 / 16 May , she was towed by the Austrian destroyer SMS Triglav through the Straits of Otranto and into the Ionian Sea . By June , UB @-@ 7 had reached Smyrna ? not having any success on her journey there ? and joined U @-@ 21 and UB @-@ 8 in the Constantinople Flotilla (German : U @-@ boote der Mittelmeer division in Konstantinopel) . Once there , UB @-@ 7 was ineffective because she was hampered by her limited torpedo supply and her weak engines , which made negotiating the strong Dardanelles currents nearly impossible . Because of this , UB @-@ 7 was sent to patrol in the Black Sea in July , cruising without success from the 5th to the 22nd .

In September 1915 , UB @-@ 7 and UB @-@ 8 were sent to Varna , Bulgaria , and from there , to patrol off the Russian Black Sea coast . On 18 September , UB @-@ 7 torpedoed and sank the British steamer Patagonia about 10 @.@ 5 nautical miles (19 @.@ 4 km ; 12 @.@ 1 mi) from Odessa . The cargo ship , of 6 @,@ 011 gross register tons (GRT) , was the only ship credited to UB @-@ 7 , and the only one sunk by any of the Constantinople Flotilla in the month .

Because Bulgaria had joined the Central Powers , battleships of the Russian Black Sea Fleet , and aircraft from the seaplane carriers Almaz and Imperator Nikolai I began attacks on Varna and the Bulgarian coast on 25 October . UB @-@ 7 and UB @-@ 8 , both based out of Varna by this time , sortied to disrupt the bombardment . Off Varna on the 27th , UB @-@ 7 got in position to fire a torpedo at the Russian battleship Panteleimon (most well @-@ known under her former name of Potemkin) . Although UB @-@ 7 's crew heard what they thought was the torpedo explode , it did not hit Panteleimon . Despite the lack of success , the attempt did cause the Russians to break off their attacks and withdraw .

In early 1916 , UB @-@ 7 and UB @-@ 8 were still cruising in the Black Sea out of Varna . The Germans did not have good luck in the Black Sea , which was not a priority for them . The Bulgarians , who saw the value of the submarines in repelling Russian attacks , began negotiations to purchase UB @-@ 7 and UB @-@ 8 . Bulgarian sailors practiced in the pair of boats and technicians were sent to Kiel for training at the German submarine school there . The transfer of UB @-@ 8 to the Bulgarian Navy took place on 25 May 1916 , but for reasons unreported in sources , UB @-@ 7 remained under the German flag .

In July 1916 , the Germans sent SMS Breslau to mine off Novorossisk . To attempt to neutralize any Russian response , UB @-@ 7 ? under the command of Hans Lütjohann , who had taken over

for Werner when he returned to Germany to command the new U @-@ 55 ? was stationed off Sevastopol to attack any ships that sailed in response to the mission . Unfortunately , Russian seaplanes spotted UB @-@ 7 and bombed the U @-@ boat , preventing her from accomplishing her goal . With the submarine out of the way , Rear Admiral Aleksandr Kolchak sortied with dreadnought Imperatritsa Mariya , cruiser Kagul , and five destroyers . The Russian fleet engaged Breslau , which was forced to abort her mission and retire . Sources are quiet on damage , if any , suffered by UB @-@ 7 .

= = Summary of raiding history = =

= = Fate = =

On 27 September 1916 , UB @-@ 7 departed Varna for operations off Sevastopol and was never heard from again . According to some sources , UB @-@ 7 was mined somewhere in the Black Sea . In June 1917 , a Russian pilot captured by the Germans reported that a Russian airplane bombed and sank UB @-@ 7 on 1 October at position 44 ° 30 ? N 33 ° 15 ? E , near the Chersones Lighthouse . Authors Dwight Messimer and Robert Grant are each dubious of this claim , and the fate of UB @-@ 7 is still officially unknown . Among the fifteen men lost on UB @-@ 7 were the Constantinople Flotilla 's senior radio officer , and the first Bulgarian submariner lost during the war , a trainee from Vidin .