

= SM UB @-@ 42 =

SM UB @-@ 42 was a Type UB II submarine or U @-@ boat for the German Imperial Navy (German : Kaiserliche Marine) during World War I. UB @-@ 42 operated in the Mediterranean and the Black Seas during the war . She was broken up at Malta in 1920 .

UB @-@ 42 was ordered in July 1915 and was laid down at the AG Weser shipyard in Bremen in September . UB @-@ 42 was 36 @. @ 90 m (121 ft 1 in) in length and displaced between 270 and 305 tonnes (266 and 300 long tons) , depending on whether surfaced or submerged . She was equipped to carry a complement of four torpedoes for her two bow torpedo tubes and had an 5 cm (1 @. @ 97 in) deck gun . As part of a group of six submarines selected for Mediterranean service , UB @-@ 42 was broken into railcar sized components and shipped to Pola where she was assembled , launched and commissioned in March 1916 .

In 21 patrols during the war , UB @-@ 42 sank ten ships of 15 @, @ 925 gross register tons (GRT) , captured one 97 @-@ ton vessel as a prize , and damaged Veronica a British Acacia @-@ class sloop . In October 1916 , UB @-@ 42 delivered five Georgians who had gold to help finance a Georgian independence movement . After the surrender of the Ottoman Empire in late October 1918 , UB @-@ 42 fled to Sevastopol , where she was surrendered in November . UB @-@ 42 was taken to Malta , where she was broken up in 1920 .

= = Design and construction = =

The German UB II design improved upon the design of the UB I boats , which had been ordered in September 1914 . In service , the UB I boats were found to be too small and too slow . A major problem was that , because they had a single propeller shaft / engine combo , if either component failed , the U @-@ boat became almost totally disabled . To rectify this flaw , the UB II boats featured twin propeller shafts and twin engines (one shaft for each engine) , which also increased the U @-@ boat 's top speed . The new design also included more powerful batteries , larger torpedo tubes , and a deck gun . As a UB II boat , U @-@ 47 could also carry twice the torpedo load of her UB I counterparts , and nearly ten times as much fuel . To contain all of these changes the hull was larger , and the surface and submerged displacement was more than double that of the UB I boats .

The German Imperial Navy ordered UB @-@ 42 from AG Weser of Bremen on 31 July 1915 as one of a series of six UB II boats (numbered from UB @-@ 42 to UB @-@ 47) . UB @-@ 42 was 36 @. @ 90 metres (121 ft 1 in) long and 4 @. @ 37 metres (14 ft 4 in) abeam . She had a single hull with saddle tanks and had a draught of 3 @. @ 75 metres (12 ft 4 in) when surfaced . She displaced 305 tonnes (300 long tons) while submerged but only 272 tonnes (268 long tons) on the surface .

The submarine was equipped with twin Daimler diesel engines and twin electric motors ? for surfaced and submerged running , respectively ? that drove one propeller shaft . UB @-@ 42 had a surface speed of up to 9 @. @ 06 knots (16 @. @ 78 km / h ; 10 @. @ 43 mph) and could go as fast as 5 @. @ 71 knots (10 @. @ 57 km / h ; 6 @. @ 57 mph) while underwater . The U @-@ boat could carry up to 28 tonnes (28 long tons) of diesel fuel , giving her a range of 7 @, @ 030 nautical miles (13 @, @ 020 km ; 8 @, @ 090 mi) at 5 knots (9 @. @ 3 km / h ; 5 @. @ 8 mph) . Her electric motors and batteries provided a range of 45 nautical miles (83 km ; 52 mi) at 4 knots (7 @. @ 4 km / h ; 4 @. @ 6 mph) while submerged .

UB @-@ 42 was equipped with two 50 @-@ centimeter (19 @. @ 7 in) bow torpedo tubes and could carry four torpedoes . The U @-@ boat was also armed with one 8 @. @ 8 cm (3 @. @ 5 in) Ukl / 30 deck gun .

UB @-@ 42 was laid down on 3 September 1915 . As one of six U @-@ boats selected for service in the Mediterranean while under construction , UB @-@ 42 was broken into railcar @-@ sized components and shipped overland to the Austro @-@ Hungarian port of Pola . Shipyard workers from Weser assembled the boat and her five sisters at Pola , where she was launched on 4 March 1916 .

= = Service career = =

SM UB @-@ 42 was commissioned into the German Imperial Navy on 23 March 1916 under the command of Kapitänleutnant Fritz Wernicke . UB @-@ 42 , Wernicke 's first U @-@ boat command , was assigned to the Navy 's Pola Flotilla (German : Deutsche U @-@ Halbflotille Pola) . Although the flotilla was based in Pola , the site of the main Austro @-@ Hungarian Navy base , boats of the flotilla operated out of the Austro @-@ Hungarian base at Cattaro which was located farther south and closer to the Mediterranean . German U @-@ boats typically returned to Pola only for repairs . The first months of service for UB @-@ 42 proved unsuccessful ; the U @-@ boat sank no ships while in the Pola Flotilla .

After Germany 's conquest of Romania (see Romania during World War I) , the German Imperial Navy had sufficient fuel oil for submarines located in the Black Sea . UB @-@ 42 and three of her sister ships in the Pola Flotilla were ordered to Constantinople and , en route , had to navigate through the Dardanelles , which had been heavily mined by the Allies in the middle of 1916 . UB @-@ 42 joined the Constantinople Flotilla (German : U @-@ boote der Mittelmeerdivision in Konstantinopel) on 16 August .

The German submarines in the Black Sea accomplished little , sinking only six ships between August 1916 and the end of the year . UB @-@ 42 sank half of the six in September and October . On 3 September , Wernicke and UB @-@ 42 achieved their first success when they sank the Russian transport Peter Darcy in the Black Sea . The 731 @-@ ton ship was headed from Constantza to Odessa when torpedoed by UB @-@ 42 . The 150 @-@ ton Russian vessel St. Nikolei was sunk at the entrance to Karkinit Bay on 5 October , and the 2 @,@ 891 @-@ ton Czarita was sunk two weeks later off Cape Midia .

In April 1917 , UB @-@ 42 was operating in the Mediterranean when she made attacks on three ships . On 14 April , Wernicke torpedoed the British Acacia @-@ class sloop HMS Veronica 45 nautical miles (83 km ; 52 mi) off Alexandria , damaging the 1 @,@ 200 t vessel . Two days later , UB @-@ 42 sank the 86 @-@ ton Egyptian sailing ship off Gaza and , a week after that , sank a 15 @-@ ton Italian sailing vessel , Boro , east of Rhodes in the Aegean Sea .

On 14 May , Wernicke was succeeded by Kapitänleutnant Kurt Schwarz as commander of UB @-@ 42 . The 27 @-@ year @-@ old Schwarz , who had previously commanded the Type UB I boat UB @-@ 14 , led UB @-@ 42 to sink her largest ship , Cestrian , on 24 June . The 8 @,@ 912 @-@ ton former Leyland Line steamer was in use as a troopship , carrying 800 troops and horses when Schwarz sent her down 4 nautical miles (7 @. 4 km ; 4 @. 6 mi) southeast of Skyros in the Aegean . Three of Cestrian 's crewmen died in the attack and , according to R. H. Gibson and Maurice Prendergast , " splendid discipline " among the embarked troops was the sole reason that none were lost .

In early October , UB @-@ 42 had returned to the Black Sea , when she was ordered to deliver five Georgians with gold to finance a Georgian independence movement . While remaining in the Black Sea , UB @-@ 42 sank the sailing ships Agios Georgios on 10 October , and Francesco Patrino in November . On 22 November , she torpedoed the 1 @,@ 086 @-@ ton Siracusy while the latter was at anchor off the Georgian coast . UB @-@ 46 also shelled Tuapse while in the northern Black Sea .

Kapitänleutnant Erich von Rohrscheidt assumed command of UB @-@ 42 on 6 April 1918 , and six week later , led the U @-@ boat in capturing the motor sailing vessel Sergij as a prize six weeks later off Novorossisk . In September , Kapitänleutnant Hans Georg Lübke (who had succeeded Herbert Nolde after his two @-@ month stint as commander of UB @-@ 42) led the U @-@ boat in sinking her final ship . On the night of 7 / 8 September , the 1 @,@ 833 @-@ ton Italian steamer Vicenza was sent down south of Salonica . UB @-@ 42 's commanding officer was changed twice more before the end of the war , but the submarine sank no more ships .

After the signing of the Armistice of Mudros on 30 October ended the war for the Ottoman Empire , the four remaining U @-@ boats of the Constantinople Flotilla ? UB @-@ 14 , UB @-@ 42 , UC @-@ 23 , and UC @-@ 37 ? fled to Sevastopol . There they were surrendered on 26 November .

UB @-@ 42 was broken up at Malta in 1920 .

= = Summary of raiding history = =