

= HMS Unrivalled ( P45 ) =

HMS Unrivalled ( P45 ) was a U @-@ class submarine built for the Royal Navy during World War II . So far she has been the only ship of the Royal Navy to bear the name Unrivalled . Completed in 1942 , the boat spent most of the war in the Mediterranean . She sank a number of small merchant ships and naval auxiliaries , but major success eluded her during the war . Too small and slow for the post @-@ war environment , Unrivalled was scrapped in 1946 .

= = Design and description = =

HMS Unrivalled was one of the second group of U @-@ class submarines ordered on 23 August 1940 . These submarines differed from their predecessors in that they were lengthened by 5 feet ( 1 @. @ 5 m ) " to give a more streamlined shape aft and to improve the flow of water over the propellers . "

The submarine was 195 feet 6 inches ( 59 @. @ 6 m ) long and 15 feet 9 inches ( 4 @. @ 80 m ) abeam . Unrivalled had a single hull with internal ballast tanks and had a draft of 15 feet 19 inches ( 5 @. @ 05 m ) when surfaced . She displaced 735 long tons ( 747 t ) while submerged , but only 648 long tons ( 658 t ) on the surface . The submarine was equipped with two diesel engines and twin General Electric electric motors ? for surfaced and submerged running , respectively . They were coupled together with a diesel @-@ electric transmission . Unrivalled had a surface speed of up to 11 @. @ 25 knots ( 20 @. @ 84 km / h ; 12 @. @ 95 mph ) and could go as fast as 9 knots ( 17 km / h ; 10 mph ) while underwater . The boat could carry up to 55 long tons ( 56 t ) of diesel fuel , giving her a range of 5 @, @ 000 nautical miles ( 9 @, @ 300 km ; 5 @, @ 800 mi ) at 10 knots ( 19 km / h ; 12 mph ) . Her electric motors and batteries provided a range of 120 nautical miles ( 220 km ; 140 mi ) at 2 knots ( 3 @. @ 7 km / h ; 2 @. @ 3 mph ) while submerged .

HMS Unrivalled was equipped with four 21 @-@ inch ( 533 mm ) bow torpedo tubes and could carry eight torpedoes . The submarine was also armed with a 3 @-@ inch ( 76 mm ) QF Mk I gun deck gun . She had a crew of 33 men .

= = Career = =

HMS Unrivalled was ordered on 23 August 1940 as part of the 1940 naval construction programme from Vickers @-@ Armstrong at Barrow @-@ in @-@ Furness . She was laid down on 12 May 1941 , launched on 16 February 1942 and commissioned on 3 May 1942 .

Apart from a work @-@ up patrol in the Norwegian Sea , she spent the bulk of the war in the Mediterranean . While working up , Unrivalled fired a torpedo at what was thought to be a submerged enemy submarine . Only the periscope was sighted , and the torpedo was fired in the direction detected by the hydrophones , but no German submarine was in the area . Whilst in service in the Mediterranean , she sank a number of small merchantmen and small naval auxiliary vessels with both torpedoes and gunfire . These included the Italian auxiliary submarine chaser O 97 / Margherita , the Italian merchants Maddalena , Mostaganem and Pasubio , the Italian tugs Genova and Iseo , the Italian sailing vessels Triglav , Albina , Margherita , Sparviero and Ardito , the German auxiliary submarine chasers UJ 2201 / Bois Rose and UJ 2204 / Boréal , the Italian tanker Bivona , the small Italian merchant Santa Mariana Salina , the Italian auxiliary minesweeper R 172 / Impero and the small Italian vessel San Francisco di Paola A.

Unrivalled also damaged the Italian torpedo boat Antonio Mosto on 3 December 1942 , but neither sank or damaged any Axis ships after 28 July 1943 . During Operation Husky in July 1943 , she was stationed offshore to mark the landing beaches for the 1st Canadian Infantry Division . The boat survived the war , but was too slow for requirements and was not retained after the war . She was scrapped at Briton Ferry , Wales , beginning on 22 January 1946 .