Rudyard Kipling (ship)

The Rudyard Kipling was a British steam trawler launched in 1920 that undertook fishing operations off the coasts of Great Britain and Ireland for almost 20 years . On 16 September 1939 , shortly after the outbreak of World War II , the trawler was captured 40 miles west of Clare Island by the German submarine U @-@ 27 . After removing food , equipment , and the crew from the ship , the Germans sunk her with the use of scuttling charges . Several hours later the crew of the Rudyard Kipling were cast adrift 5 nautical miles (9 @.@ 3 km) off the coast of Ireland . They eventually landed their lifeboats at Killybegs .
The Rudyard Kipling was the 27th merchant ship , the 26th British merchant ship , and the second British trawler to be sunk by a German U @-@ boat in World War II .

Construction and design

The Rudyard Kipling was constructed in the town of Selby by the shipbuilder Cochrane & Sons Ltd . The trawler was launched from yard number 686 on 11 November 1920 . Named the Rudyard Kipling by the ship 's owner Newington Steam Trawling Co Ltd . , she was registered in the port of Hull on 4 February 1921 and completed later that month . Her official number was 144068 . She had a net tonnage of 140 and her gross tonnage was 333 . The trawler was 138 @.@ 8 feet (42 @.@ 3 m) from bow to stern with a draught of 12 @.@ 9 feet (3 @.@ 9 m) and a breadth of 23 @.@ 7 feet (7 @.@ 2 m) . Her engine was a T.3 @-@ cylinder from C. D. Holmes & Co Ltd . , also of Hull .

Service history

Early service

Following completion and registration , the Rudyard Kipling began fishing off of the coast of Ireland and Great Britain . In May 1934 , the trawler was sold to The Sun Steam Trawling Co Ltd . On 10 May , her registry from Hull was closed and on 16 May , she was registered in the English port town of Fleetwood , where her new owners were based . The Rudyard Kipling remained with the Sun Steam Trawling Co Ltd. for the rest of her career .

Sinking

On 16 September 1939 , the Rudyard Kipling left Fleetwood for a routine fishing trip to an area off the west coast of Ireland . The trawler , under the command of Skipper Charles Robinson and with a crew of 12 men , was about 100 nautical miles (190 km) west of the Irish town of Donegal when U @-@ 27 came alongside and ordered them to pull over to the submarine and surrender . The German crew then took the Rudyard Kipling 's food , including sugar , bread and fish , as well as the trawler 's wireless radios , and transferred them over to the U @-@ boat . Timed explosive charges were then placed on the trawler and three minutes later , at 15 : 53 , the trawler exploded and sank .

While raiding the trawler , the Germans took the crew of the Rudyard Kipling on board and provided them with food and warm clothes . Eight hours later , in the early hours of 17 September , the Germans allowed the crew of the Rudyard Kipling to reboard their lifeboats and set them adrift 5 miles (8 @.@ 0 km) west of the port town of Donegal . Sometime later the crew landed at Killybegs to the west of the town . The Rudyard Kipling was the 27th merchant ship (the 26th one to be British) and the second British trawler to be sunk by a German U @-@ boat in World War II .