

Submarines - features of interest

Submarines and U-boats of the First World War

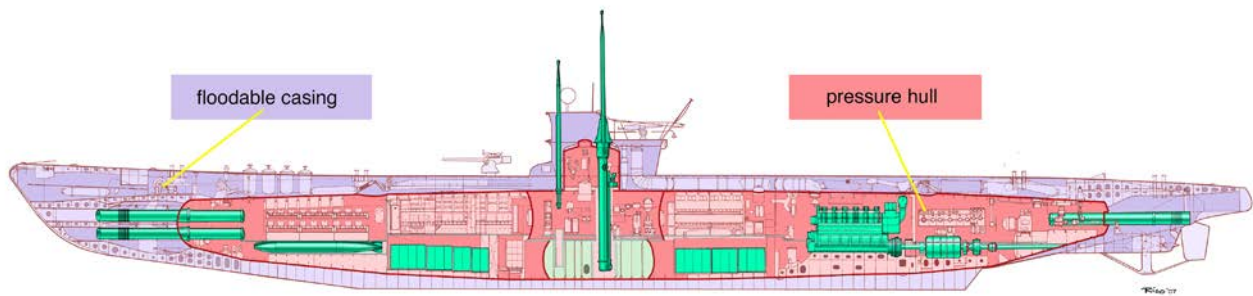
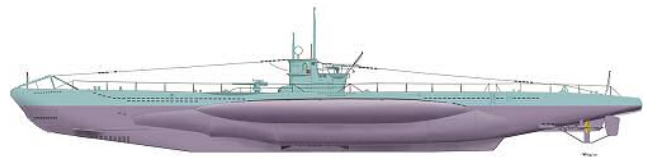
Submarines of several different classes were in use by Allied and German fleets during the First World War, this included those built prior to and during the war. Novel technologies were developed and a range of tactics employed with submarine warfare becoming a significant feature of the war. Periods of unrestricted submarine warfare resulted in large ship losses, with one in every four merchant vessels leaving the UK in April 1917 being sunk by submarines (Lloyd 1975: 102).

Allied and German submarine losses are present within the study area for the Forgotten Wrecks project. Some were lost during the war, with crew on board, while others were deliberately or accidentally sunk, with nobody on board, in the years following the war.

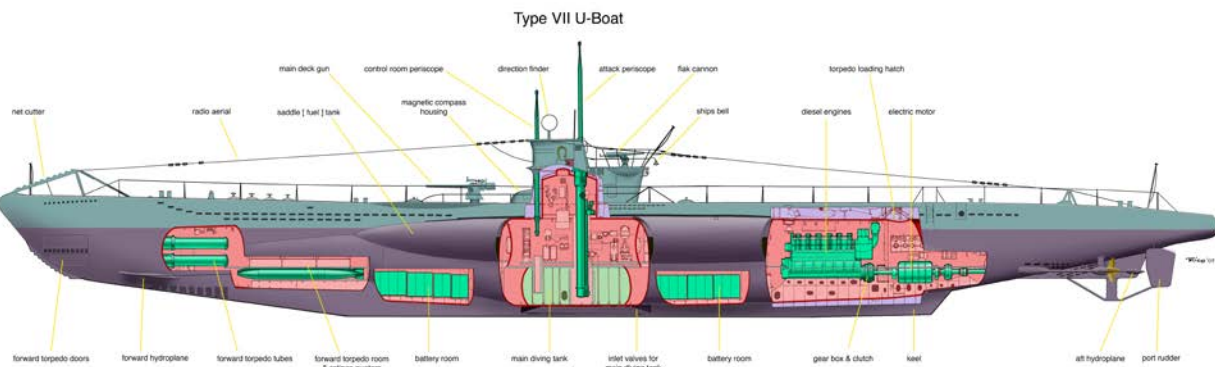
Schematic Images

The following has been taken from an article published in Diver Magazine in 2007. It is available online at: http://www.divernet.com/Wrecks/159276/anatomy_of_a_submarine_wreck.html

The article author was Dr. Innes McCartney. The images are reproduced here with kind permission of artist Rico Oldfield. The article contains further useful information on submarine features including underwater photographs.



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Identifying Features to Look for on the Seabed

Dr. Innes McCartney in his 2014 book *The Maritime Archaeology of a Modern Conflict: Comparing the Archaeology of German Submarine Wrecks to the Historical Text*, outlines a range of features to look out for on submarine sites. We have created a summary of his points below to help guide diving survey of submarines:

- Number of torpedo tubes
- Distribution of torpedo tubes
- Tubes – are they through the pressure hull or mounted on top?
- Tube doors – are they open or closed?

- Number of periscopes
- Distribution of periscopes

- Number of hatches
- Distribution of hatches
- Type of hatches (torpedo-loading, deck, conning tower)
- Hatches – are they open or shut?

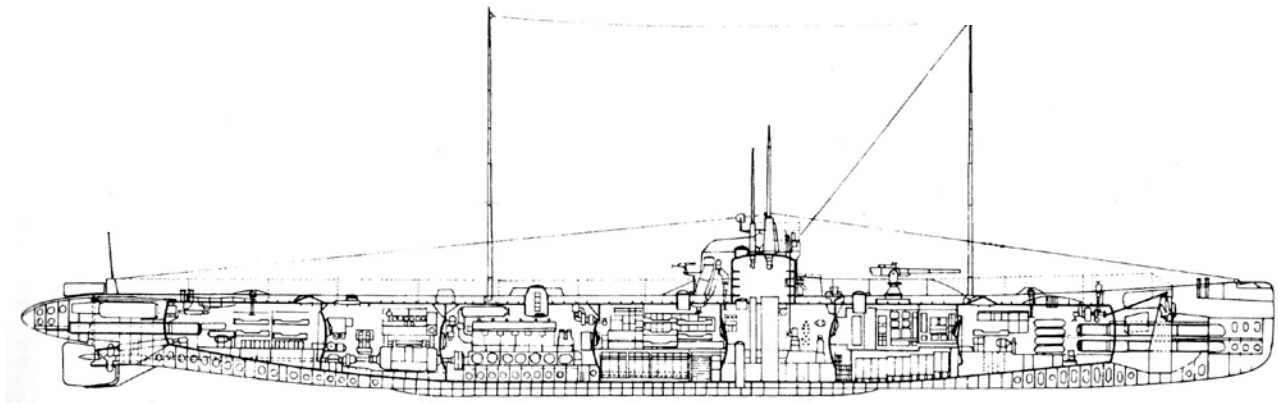
- Number of deck guns
- Type of deck guns (88mm & 105mm most common)
- Distribution of deck guns

- Propellers – present/absent
- Condition of propellers
- Propeller Hub - shipyard stamp/ID

- Presence/amount of ready-use ammunition containers stored on deck
- Presence/absence of mines in chutes
- Damage
- Unusual features
- Viewing window in conning tower (FWW feature)
- Anchor



A Form for recording the main features/detail of wrecked submarines is available from the *Forgotten Wrecks* website.



Project 25 Type 87 U-boat from Rössler, E. 2001.

Only 6 of these commissioned during First World War: U87, U88, U90, U91, U92

References: Lloyd C., 1975, *Atlas of Maritime History* Country Life