



ADMIRALTY

GERMAN, ITALIAN AND
JAPANESE U-BOAT CASUALTIES
DURING THE WAR
STATISTICAL STATEMENT

*Presented by the First Lord of the Admiralty to Parliament
by Command of His Majesty
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LONDON
HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

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GERMAN, ITALIAN AND JAPANESE U-BOAT CASUALTIES DURING THE WAR

The accompanying tables have been compiled as a result of a joint British and American investigation, including examination of enemy records. They are intended to present the facts as at present known, and are liable to minor alterations as the full history of the war is pieced together.

2. The relative importance of the various forces which contributed to the Anti-U-Boat War should not be judged solely on the number of U-boats attributed to each of them. For instance, many ships, aircraft and minefields sank few U-boats, but their presence in a certain area discouraged the U-boats from approaching it, and forced them to frequent other areas where they could be more easily attacked or could do less harm to the Allied cause.

3. For each U-boat destroyed only one "kill" has been awarded. Fractional figures are caused by the attribution of the sinking of particular U-boats to more than one of the causes shown. In these cases credit is awarded equally between the causes responsible, irrespective of their relative importance.

4. *Notes amplifying table headings :*

"*British*" indicates all British, Dominion, Imperial and Allied (other than U.S.) forces under British operational control.

"*American*" indicates all U.S., and Allied (other than British, Dominion and Imperial) forces under U.S. operational control.

Dominion and Imperial Forces referred to in the two preceding paragraphs were those of Australia, Canada, New Zealand, South Africa and also of India.

The Allied Forces referred to above include those of Brazil, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, France, Greece, Holland, Norway and Poland.

Joint Attacks whether "Ship and Shore-Based Aircraft" or "Ship and Ship-Borne Aircraft", include all actions where ships and aircraft have co-operated in the location or destruction of a U-boat, irrespective of which unit actually achieved the "kill".

Bombing Raids, only include those operations in which a commissioned U-boat is known to have been destroyed. Many other U-boats were damaged whilst building.

Mining Casualties. In some cases U-boats were lost where there is good reason to believe that the cause was due to mines but where the evidence is insufficient to justify a firm decision. In these cases the "kill" has been divided between "Unknown Cause" and the appropriate category of mine.

"*Other Causes.*" These include collisions, scuttling in or near harbour as a result of Allied action during the war, accidental sinking by own mines, grounding and accidents, etc.

"*Unknown Causes.*" Apart from the "kills" shared with Mining as explained above, these include all those U-boats lost on operations whose destruction is confirmed, but the cause of whose fate remains unknown and whose loss is unlikely to have been directly attributable to Allied attack.

Nationality of U-boats. The nationality of U-boats is shown according to the nationality of the crew taken at the time of destruction. For example, Italian U-boats taken over and manned by Germans are included in German casualties, and German U-boats taken over and manned by Japanese are listed under Japanese casualties.

GERMAN U-BOAT CASUALTIES

	British							Total	American							Total	GRAND TOTAL	
	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945		1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945			
Ships	6	10½	25	27½	48	57	34½	208½	—	—	—	5½	11	10½	11½	38½	247	
Shore-based Aircraft ...	—	½	3	25½	83	51	34	197	—	—	—	10½	32	3	3	48½	245½	
Ship-borne Aircraft ...	—	1	—	1½	1	10½	1	15	—	—	—	—	23	6	—	29	44	
Ship and Shore-based Aircraft	—	2	1	3½	7	9	1½	24	—	—	—	1½	3	3	½	8	32	
Ship and Ship-borne Aircraft	—	—	—	—	2	5	—	7	—	—	—	—	1	5	—	6	13	
Submarines	1	2	1	2	5	6	2	19	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2	21	
Bombing Raids	—	—	—	—	—	8½	12½	21	—	—	—	—	1	13½	27½	42	63	
Naval Mines laid by Shore-based Aircraft	—	—	—	—	1	9	6	16	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	16	
Naval Mines laid by Ships	2	2	—	3	1½	2½	5½	16½	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	16½	
Total	9	18	30	63	148½	158½	97	524	—	—	—	17½	71	42	43½	174	698	
																	Other Causes	59½
																	Unknown Causes	23½
																		781

JAPANESE U-BOAT CASUALTIES

	British					Total	American					Total	GRAND TOTAL	
	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945		1941	1942	1943	1944	1945			
Ships	—	2½	1	2	—	5½	—	5½	13	30	11	65½	71	
Shore-based Aircraft ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	2	5	5	
Ship-borne Aircraft ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	3	5	9	9	
Ship and Shore-based Aircraft	—	½	½	—	—	1	—	1½	1½	—	—	3	4	
Ship and Ship-borne Aircraft	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	2	2	
Submarines	—	—	1	1	—	2	—	5	3	7	8	23	25	
Bombing Raids	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Naval Mines	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	2	3	4	
Total	—	4	2½	3	—	9½	1	13	19½	49	28	110½	120	
													Other Causes	5
													Unknown Causes	5
														130

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