

= Croatian patrol boat ?olta (OB @-@ 02) =

?olta (pennant number OB @-@ 02) is a Mirna @-@ class patrol boat in service with the Croatian Navy . Completed during the 1980s as Mukos (P? @-@ 176) , it was the sixth ship of a class that was being built for the Yugoslav Navy in the Kraljevica Shipyard .

During the Croatian War of Independence , Mukos was part of a tactical group tasked with enforcing a naval blockade of the city of Split . On 14 November 1991 , Croatian Navy commandos disabled the vessel with an improvised torpedo , leaving the vessel drifting and abandoned by her crew . The crippled ship was then tugged away by Croatian locals to the nearby island of ?olta . She was subsequently repaired and entered service with the Croatian Navy as ?olta . As of 2014 , ?olta remains in service with the Croatian Coast Guard , an integral part of the navy .

= = Design and construction = =

?olta was laid down as Mukos (P? @-@ 176) in the Kraljevica Shipyard as the sixth ship in a class of patrol boats that were being built for the Yugoslav Navy (JRM) . It was launched on 18 November 1982 . She measures 32 m (105 ft) in length , has a draught of 2 @.@ 7 m (8 @.@ 9 ft) , a 6 @.@ 75 m (22 @.@ 1 ft) beam and a standard displacement of 125 tonnes (123 long tons) or 142 tonnes (140 long tons) when full .

Powered by two SEMT Pielstick 12PA4 200VGDS diesel engines that spin two propellers , ?olta has a maximum speed of 29 @.@ 5 ? 30 knots (54 @.@ 6 ? 55 @.@ 6 km / h ; 33 @.@ 9 ? 34 @.@ 5 mph) and a continuous speed of 28 knots (52 km / h ; 32 mph) . She has a range of 600 nautical miles (1 @,@ 100 km ; 690 mi) at 15 knots (28 km / h ; 17 mph) and an autonomy of four to five days that can be extended to eight days during wartime .

The ship 's original armament consisted of a single Bofors 40 mm D70 gun mounted on the ship 's bow , a quadruple Strela 2 launcher behind the bridge and a quad 20 mm M @-@ 75 gun on the stern . Eight MDB @-@ MT3 depth charges could be carried for anti @-@ submarine warfare duties . Located on the sides were two double @-@ barrel 128 mm illumination launchers . Sensors included a Racal Decca RM 1216 A surface search radar and a Simrad SQ 3D / SF sonar .

= = Service = =

During its service in the Yugoslav Navy , Mukos was part of the border patrol detachment . In November 1991 , during the Croatian War of Independence , Mukos was part of the " Ka?tela " tactical group that was tasked with enforcing a naval blockade of the port of Split and the surrounding islands . On 14 November , at around 17 : 30 , while on patrol in the Split strait between the islands of Bra? and ?olta , Mukos was hit with an improvised torpedo launched by special forces of the Croatian Navy (HRM) , effectively starting the Battle of the Dalmatian Channels . The HRM command constructed the torpedo from a small outboard motor boat loaded with explosives . A former missile technician from the Yugoslavian navy had , while receiving training on Saab missiles in Sweden , picked up some remote control plane parts in a hobby store . Handed over to HRM , the gear yielded the ability to remotely control the unmanned vessel . The explosion ripped a hole in the forward section of the hull , causing the bow to flood and killing three crew members . The remaining crew was rescued by a Shershen @-@ class torpedo boat Pionir II (T? @-@ 224) while Mukos itself was left adrift .

During the evening of 15 November the ship was tugged away by a Croatian fishing ship to the nearby Ne?ujam cove , where the vessel was beached to prevent her from sinking . In the early hours of the same day , the remaining JRM ships opened fire in retaliation for damaging Mukos . As Yugoslav forces left the area , the ship was towed to an overhauling shipyard in ?ibenik on the night of 17 / 18 November , after being salvaged by HRM divers with the help of Brodospas . The ship was repaired and renamed ?olta , entering service with the HRM on 15 May 1992 with Mile Tomas in command .

The Croatian Coast Guard was formed in October 2007 , and ?olta was assigned to the 1st Division

, based in Split . During the same year the ship underwent a modernisation that included the installation of a new Sperry Marine radar , gyrocompass and GPS . A second refit that occurred sometime between 2007 and 2013 included the deletion of the Strela launcher and the stern 20 mm M @-@ 75 gun to create space needed for a RHIB and a hydraulic crane used to lower it into the sea . The pennant number was changed from OB @-@ 62 to OB @-@ 02 .