

= Yugoslav submarine Osvetnik =

The Yugoslav submarine Osvetnik (Avenger) was the first of the Osvetnik class diesel electric submarines built by Ateliers et Chantiers de la Loire , Nantes , France for the navy of the Kingdom of Serbs , Croats and Slovenes (later Yugoslavia) . She was launched in 1929 , and was built to a partial double hull Simonot design similar to the French Circé class . She was armed with six 550 mm (22 in) torpedo tubes , one 100 mm (3 @ 9 in) gun , and one 40 mm (1 @ 6 in) anti aircraft gun , and could dive to 80 metres (260 ft) .

Prior to World War II she participated in several cruises to Mediterranean ports . During the German led Axis invasion of Yugoslavia in April 1941 , she was captured by Italian forces at the Bay of Kotor . Initially designated N1 , her armament was changed and her conning tower modified . Due to her age and shallow diving depth , when she was commissioned into the Regia Marina as Francesco Rismondo her service was limited to training and experimentation . She was scuttled off the island of Corsica by the Germans shortly after her capture in September 1943 following the Italian surrender .

= = Description and construction = =

Yugoslav naval policy in the interwar period lacked direction until the mid 1920s , although it was generally accepted that the Adriatic coastline was effectively a sea frontier that the naval arm was responsible for securing with the limited resources made available to it . In 1926 , a modest ten year construction program was initiated to build up a force of submarines , coastal torpedo boats , torpedo bombers and conventional bomber aircraft to perform this role . The Osvetnik class submarines were one of the acquisitions aimed at developing a naval force capable of meeting this challenge .

Osvetnik was built for the Kingdom of Serbs , Croats and Slovenes (later Yugoslavia) by the Ateliers et Chantiers de la Loire company at Nantes , France . Her partial double hull design , was based on a Simonot design , similar to the French Circé class . Her Serbo Croatian name translates as " Avenger " . Along with her sister submarine Smeli , she had an overall length of 66 @ 5 m (218 ft 2 in) , a beam of 5 @ 4 m (17 ft 9 in) , and a surfaced draught of 3 @ 8 m (12 ft 6 in) . Her surfaced displacement was 630 long tons (640 t) , or (809 long tons (822 t) submerged , and her crew consisted of 43 officers and enlisted men . She had an operational depth of 80 m (260 ft) .

She had two shafts driven by two MAN (Maschinenfabrik) diesel engines (when surfaced) or two Nancy electric motors (when submerged) , and carried 25 tonnes (25 long tons) of fuel oil . The diesel engines were rated at 1 @ 480 bhp (1 @ 100 kW) and the electric motors at 1 @ 000 shp (750 kW) , and she was designed to reach a top speed of 14 @ 5 knots (26 @ 9 km / h ; 16 @ 7 mph) under diesel power while surfaced , and 9 @ 2 knots (17 @ 0 km / h ; 10 @ 6 mph) on her electric motors when submerged . She was armed with six 550 mm (22 in) torpedo tubes (four bow @ mounted , two stern @ mounted) , one 100 mm (3 @ 9 in) gun , and one 40 mm (1 @ 6 in) anti aircraft gun . She had a surfaced radius of action of 3 @ 500 nautical miles (6 @ 500 km ; 4 @ 000 mi) at 9 knots (17 km / h ; 10 mph) , and 75 nautical miles (139 km ; 86 mi) at 5 knots (9 @ 3 km / h ; 5 @ 8 mph) submerged .

= = Service history = =

Osvetnik was the first of her class , and the third submarine of the navy of the Kingdom of Serbs , Croats and Slovenes , which subsequently became the Royal Yugoslav Navy . She and her sister submarine Smeli arrived in the Bay of Kotor on 9 December 1929 . In 1932 , the British naval attaché reported that Yugoslav ships engaged in few exercises , maneuvers or gunnery training due to reduced budgets . In September 1933 , Osvetnik and the British designed submarine Nebojša cruised the southern part of the central Mediterranean . In August 1935 , Osvetnik visited Malta , this time in company with the British designed submarine Hrabri . In August 1936 ,

Nebojša and Osvetnik visited the Greek island of Corfu .

When the German led Axis invasion of Yugoslavia began on 6 April 1941 , she was located in the Bay of Kotor on the southern Adriatic coast along with the three other submarines of the flotilla . On 10 April , Osvetnik and Hrabri received orders for an operation against the Italian enclave of Zara on the Dalmatian coastline , but the mission did not proceed . She was subsequently captured by the Italian XVII Corps at the Bay of Kotor .

Still in good condition , she was taken as war booty , and initially designated N1 . She was refitted and modernised at Pola in the upper Adriatic , which involved the replacement of some of her armament and modifications to her conning tower . After these modifications , her displacement was 665 long tons (676 t) (822 long tons (835 t) submerged) . She was commissioned by the Italians as the Bajamonti class Francesco Rismondo , named after Francesco Rismondo , a Dalmatian born Italian hero of World War I. Despite her submerged stability and good diving rate , her age and shallow diving depth meant that she was only used for training and experimentation . On 14 September 1943 , she was captured by the Germans at Bonifacio at the southern tip of the island of Corsica , and they scuttled her four days later .

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