

= SM U 16 (Austria Hungary) =

SM U 16 or U XVI was a U 10 class submarine or U boat of the Austro Hungarian Navy (German : Kaiserliche und Königliche Kriegsmarine or K.u. K. Kriegsmarine) during World War I. U 16 was constructed in Germany and shipped by rail to Pula where she was assembled and completed in September 1915 . She was commissioned in October 1915 .

For most of her career , U 16 operated in the Adriatic out of Kotor patrolling off the Albanian coast . The U boat sank one small sailing ship in November and seized another in December . U 16 carried Field Marshal Svetozar Borojew of the Austro Hungarian Army as an observer while performing diving tests after engine repairs in January 1916 . A water leak in March flooded U 16 's batteries and put the U boat out of action for about six weeks of repairs . While operating off Vlora in mid October 1916 , U 16 sank an Italian destroyer acting as a convoy escort . U 16 was sunk in the ensuing action , but sources are not clear on the exact cause of her sinking . In all U 16 sank three ships with a combined tonnage of 711 . She was the only U 10 class submarine sunk during the war .

= = Design and construction = =

U 16 was a small , coastal submarine that displaced 125 @ 5 long tons (127 @ 5 t) surfaced and 140 @ 25 long tons (142 @ 50 t) submerged . She featured a single shaft , a single 60 bhp (45 kW) Daimler diesel engine for surface running , and a single 120 shp (89 kW) electric motor for submerged travel . U 16 was capable of up to 6 @ 5 knots (12 @ 0 km / h ; 7 @ 5 mph) while surfaced and 5 @ 5 knots (10 @ 2 km / h ; 6 @ 3 mph) while submerged at a diving depth of up to 50 metres (160 ft) . She was designed for a crew of 17 officers and men .

U 16 was equipped with two 45 cm (17 @ 7 in) torpedo tubes located in the front and carried a complement of two torpedoes . Although most members of the class were outfitted with a 37 mm / 23 (1 @ 5 in) quick @ firing (QF) gun to supplement their armament in October 1916 , it is not known whether this upgrade had yet taken place on U 16 by the time of her sinking during that month .

U 16 was ordered by the Austro Hungarian Navy on 1 April 1915 and laid down at AG Weser in Bremen on later in the month . When completed , the submarine was broken down into sections , loaded onto railcars , and shipped on 20 August to the Austro Hungarian Navy 's main base at Pula . After completing the eight @ day journey , the sections were riveted together . Though there is no specific mention of how long it took for U 16 's sections to be assembled , a sister boat , the German Type UB I submarine UB 3 , shipped to Pula from Germany in mid @ April 1915 , was assembled in about two weeks . U 16 was delivered to the Austro Hungarian Navy on 29 September .

= = Operational history = =

SM U 16 was commissioned into the Austro Hungarian Navy on 6 October under the command of Linienschiffsleutnant Eugen Hornyák Edler von Horn . Over the next month U 16 patrolled off Rimini and the Po estuary before heading to Kotor . There , U 16 's second commander , Linienschiffsleutnant Orest Ritter von Zopa , assumed command on 18 November . The U boat departed the next day to patrol off Albania . Near Cape Rodoni , von Zopa stopped and boarded Fiore Albania , an Albanian sailing ship . Finding nothing amiss , the commander sent Fiore Albania on her way . Three days later , von Zopa and U 16 scored their first success , when they sank the 25 GRT Italian sailing vessel Unione in the Gulf of Drin . Later the same day , a torpedo attack on two cargo ships in the harbor at Shëngjin netted no results . With her supply of torpedoes expended , U 16 returned to Kotor on 24 November .

U 16 set out on her next patrol on 3 December , but had to return to fix a broken

gyrocompass , and was underway for Albania the next day . On 5 December , the sailboat Xephanie was stopped , searched , and allowed to proceed . Near the same location , U @-@ 16 next encountered Fione Albania again . When stopped this time , the 62 @-@ ton ship had Montenegrin soldiers , weapons , and ammunition aboard . The vessel was seized as a prize and taken back to Kotor . U @-@ 16 attempted two more Albanian patrols at the end of December . The first , departing Kotor on 19 December , was cut short by severe weather that forced the submarine back to port . The next attempt , on 25 December , ended when U @-@ 16 suffered engine problems . U @-@ 16 sailed for Pula on 27 December for more extensive engine repairs at the naval base there .

U @-@ 16 's repairs were complete by 9 January 1916 when the submarine departed Pula for diving tests with Field Marshal Svetozar Borojevi? of the Austro @-@ Hungarian Army on board as an observer . With the tests apparently successful , U @-@ 16 returned to Kotor on 18 January to resume Albanian patrols . Off Durrës on 4 February , von Zopa and U @-@ 16 launched a torpedo attack on the steamer Assyria being escorted by the Italian destroyers Animoso and Garibaldino . The torpedo 's aim was true , but it failed to detonate when it hit the ship . A few days later , a British Falmouth @-@ class cruiser attacked the U @-@ boat . On 11 March , a valve on U @-@ 16 leaked and water flooded into the boat , inundating the batteries , which released chlorine gas . The U @-@ boat made it back to Kotor and underwent repairs that kept the boat out of action until the end of April .

From late April to early September , U @-@ 16 patrolled the Adriatic between Vlorë , Brindisi , and the Straits of Otranto . Twice during this time U @-@ 16 attacked French destroyers , but missed on both attempts . In mid June , von Zopa launched torpedoes against a cargo ship without result . U @-@ 16 put in at Kotor on 3 September for a general overhaul that lasted for about a month . When the repairs were complete , U @-@ 16 set out for another Albanian patrol on 9 October . The submarine made a detour to Djenovic on 11 October to replace another faulty gyrocompass , but quickly resumed her journey to the Vlorë area . After discovering an Italian convoy on 17 October , von Zopa torpedoed and sank one of the convoy escorts , the Italian destroyer Nembo . In the ensuing action , U @-@ 16 was sunk , but sources disagree on the exact manner .

Conway 's All the World 's Fighting Ships , 1906 ? 1921 reports that the Italian steamer Bormida , one of the convoyed ships , rammed and damaged U @-@ 16 , causing U @-@ 16 's crew to scuttle their ship due to the severity of the damage . Uboat.net 's U @-@ Boat War in World War I reports that Nembo herself rammed U @-@ 16 before going down , while Robert Grant and Gordon Smith give another possible fate for U @-@ 16 : that Nembo 's depth charges detonated and sank the submarine while Nembo was sinking . Smith reports that 11 men aboard U @-@ 16 , including her commanding officer von Zopa , lost their lives in the sinking , and that two survivors were picked up . U @-@ 16 was the only boat of her class to be sunk during the war .

= = Ships sunk or damaged = =