

= SM U @-@ 15 (Austria @-@ Hungary) =

SM U @-@ 15 or U @-@ XV 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 @-@ 15 was constructed in Germany and shipped by rail to Pola where she was assembled and launched in April 1915 . She was commissioned in October 1915 . U @-@ 15 was the most successful boat of the U @-@ 10 class , sinking six ships totaling more than 8 @,@ 000 gross register tons (GRT) . The boat survived the war and was handed over to Italy as a war reparation and scrapped in 1920 .

= = Design and construction = =

U @-@ 15 was constructed at AG Weser in Bremen for the Austro @-@ Hungarian Navy and then shipped by rail in sections to Pola , where the sections were riveted together . Though there is no specific mention of how long it took for U @-@ 15 's sections to be assembled , a sister boat , the German Type UB I submarine UB @-@ 3 , shipped to Pola from Germany in mid @-@ April 1915 , was assembled in about two weeks . U @-@ 15 was launched in April .

U @-@ 15 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 59 bhp (44 kW) Daimler diesel engine for surface running , and a single 119 shp (89 kW) electric motor for submerged travel . U @-@ 15 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 @-@ 15 was equipped with two 45 cm (17 @.@ 7 in) torpedo tubes located in the front and carried a complement of two torpedoes . In October 1916 , U @-@ 15 's armament was supplemented with a 37 mm / 23 (1 @.@ 5 in) quick @-@ firing (QF) gun . This gun was replaced by a 47 mm / 23 (1 @.@ 9 in) QF gun in November 1917 .

= = Operational history = =

SM U @-@ 15 was commissioned into the Austro @-@ Hungarian Navy on 6 October under the command of Linienfahrleutnant Friedrich Schlosser . On 28 November , Linienfahrleutnant Friedrich Fährdrich was assigned to the first of two stints in command of the boat . On 18 December , Fährdrich and U @-@ 15 attacked and sank two Albanian sailing vessels near Lezhë . The Erzen , of 25 GRT , and the Figlio Prelogona , of 80 GRT , were both sunk at position 41 ° 47 ' N 19 ° 31 ' E. After being relieved by Linienfahrleutnant Franz Rzemienowsky von Trautenegg from late March to early May 1916 , Fährdrich resumed command on 10 May . One week later , on 17 May , U @-@ 15 torpedoed and sank the 2 @,@ 237 GRT Italian steamer Stura in the Adriatic some 18 nautical miles (33 km) east of Brindisi .

The following month , Fährdrich and the crew of U @-@ 15 scored their second double kill when they sank the Italian auxiliary cruiser Città di Messina (3 @,@ 495 GRT) and the French destroyer Fourche (745 GRT) . While about 20 nautical miles (37 km) east of Otranto on 23 June , U @-@ 15 torpedoed and sank Città di Messina . The escorting destroyer Fourche began a depth charge attack on U @-@ 15 and assumed success when an oil slick appeared on the surface . After the captain of Fourche turned his attentions to the rescue Città di Messina 's survivors , U @-@ 15 launched a single torpedo that struck Fourche amidships and sank her .

On 25 October , U @-@ 15 , back under the command of von Trautenegg , sank the 2 @,@ 207 GRT Italian steamer Polcevera , a sister ship to Stura (sunk by U @-@ 15 in May) . Polcevera was the last ship sunk by U @-@ 15 .

From October 1916 to the end of the fighting in November 1918 , U @-@ 15 's activities are unknown . U @-@ 15 was at Pola at the end of the war when Austria @-@ Hungary handed her over to Italy . U @-@ 15 was scrapped at Pola by 1920 .

