

= SM U @-@ 17 ( Austria @-@ Hungary ) =

SM U @-@ 17 or U @-@ XVII 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 @-@ 17 was laid down in Germany in April 1915 and shipped in sections by rail to Pola in August , where she was assembled . She was delivered to the Austro @-@ Hungarian Navy at the end of September and commissioned in October 1915 .

U @-@ 17 primarily operated from Cattaro , patrolling off the Italian and Albanian coasts . The submarine had several opportunities to sink merchant ships and warships throughout the war , but sank only one Italian destroyer in July 1916 as part of an effort to disrupt the Otranto Barrage . At the end of the war , U @-@ 17 was undergoing repairs at Pola . She was handed over to Italy as a war reparation and scrapped in 1920 .

= = Design and construction = =

U @-@ 17 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 @-@ 17 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 @-@ 17 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 @-@ 17 '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 .

U @-@ 17 was ordered by the Austro @-@ Hungarian Navy on 1 April 1915 and laid down at AG Weser in Bremen later that month . When completed , the submarine was broken down into sections , loaded onto railcars , and shipped to the Austro @-@ Hungarian Navy 's main base at Pola on 30 August . After completing the four @-@ day journey , the sections were riveted together . Though there is no specific mention of how long it took for U @-@ 17 '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 @-@ 17 was delivered to the Austro @-@ Hungarian Navy on 30 September .

= = Operational history = =

SM U @-@ 17 was commissioned into the Austro @-@ Hungarian Navy on 6 October under the command of Linienschiffsleutnant Frank Skopinic . The boat patrolled the Italian coast out of Pola for most of the next two months , interrupted by engine repairs in mid November . On 9 December , Skopinic was succeeded as U @-@ 17 's commanding officer by Linienschiffsleutnant Zdenko Hudecek .

By the end of December , U @-@ 17 was operating from Cattaro and patrolling off the Albanian and Montenegrin coasts . Hudecek and U @-@ 17 made two unsuccessful attacks on enemy destroyers in January . On 23 February , Hudecek attempted an attack on a cargo ship off Durazzo , but was discovered and depth charged . Two days later the submarine put in to Cattaro to replace a broken gyrocompass with a new magnetic compass . In mid @-@ March , U @-@ 17 shifted to patrol off the Italian coast once again and was attacked by air on 15 March off Brindisi . The Italian patrols continued until late May , when U @-@ 17 was sent to patrol in the Ionian Sea . Duty in the Straits of Otranto followed in June , as part of the plan to disrupt the Otranto Barrage . On 12 June , the submarine attempted an attack on an Italian Orfeo @-@ class torpedo boat ; the torpedo boat survived and repaid U @-@ 17 by dropping several depth charges nearby . On 10 July , U @-@ 17 torpedoed and sank the 680 @-@ metric @-@ ton ( 750 @-@ short @-@ ton ) Italian destroyer

Impetuoso , The Italian ship had been guarding drifters , small fishing vessels with anti @-@ submarine nets stretched between them as part of the Otranto Barrage . Impetuoso was the only ship sunk by U @-@ 17 . The U @-@ boat continued patrols in the Adriatic throughout the remainder of 1916 . U @-@ 17 was depth charged by a destroyer off Fano on 14 September . Two days later , a failed attack on a steamer resulted in another depth charging of U @-@ 17 , this time by an Orfeo @-@ class torpedo boat . In early October , an air attack by two airplanes damaged U @-@ 17 .

The year 1917 was uneventful for U @-@ 17 . The submarine resumed patrols off Albania in January . In May , the U @-@ boat had to crash dive near Valona when a bomber appeared overhead and dropped its payload . A foray to Bari in July provided another opportunity to attack a steamer , but the torpedoes missed their mark . On 16 August , U @-@ 17 , by now under the command of Linien-schiffsleutnant Hermann Rigele , attempted a torpedo attack on a cargo ship off Saseno . At the end of October , U @-@ 17 escaped damage from a torpedo attack by an enemy submarine near Cape Menders , Albania . A month later , the submarine was once again attacked by air , surviving two bombs dropped from a single airplane .

In the first part of June 1918 , U @-@ 17 patrolled off the coast of Italy , but had returned to Cattaro on 12 June . Two weeks later , the boat set out for Pola to undergo repairs . At the end of the war , the ship 's repairs remained unfinished . U @-@ 17 , at Pola with six other Austro @-@ Hungarian submarines , was ceded to Italy as a war reparation . U @-@ 17 was broken up at Pola by the Italians in 1920 .