

= SM U 4 (Austria Hungary) =

SM U 4 or U IV was a U 3 class submarine or U boat built for and operated by the Austro Hungarian Navy (German : Kaiserliche und Königliche Kriegsmarine or K.u.K. Kriegsmarine) before and during the First World War . The submarine was built as part of a plan to evaluate foreign submarine designs , and was the second of two boats of the class built by Germaniawerft of Kiel , Germany .

U 4 was authorized in 1906 , begun in March 1907 , launched in November 1908 , and towed from Kiel to Pola in April 1909 . The double hulled submarine was just under 139 feet (42 m) long and displaced between 240 and 300 tonnes (260 and 330 short tons) , depending on whether surfaced or submerged . The design of the submarine had poor diving qualities and several modifications to U 4 's diving planes and fins occurred in her first years in the Austro Hungarian Navy . Her armament , as built , consisted of two bow torpedo tubes with a supply of three torpedoes , but was supplemented with a deck gun , the first of which was added in 1915 .

The boat was commissioned into the Austro Hungarian Navy in August 1909 , and served as a training boat ? sometimes making as many as ten cruises a month ? through the beginning of the First World War in 1914 . At the start of that conflict , she was one of only four operational submarines in the Austro Hungarian Navy U boat fleet . Over the first year of the war , U 4 made several unsuccessful attacks on warships and captured several smaller vessels as prizes . In July 1915 , she scored what Conway 's All the World 's Fighting Ships , 1906 ? 1921 calls her greatest success when she torpedoed and sank the Italian armored cruiser Giuseppe Garibaldi , the largest ship hit by U 4 during the war .

In mid May 1917 , U 4 was a participant in a raid on the Otranto Barrage which precipitated the Battle of Otranto Straits . In a separate action that same month , U 4 sank her second largest ship , the Italian troopship Perseo . She scored her final success in July 1917 with the sinking of a French tug . In total , U 4 sank twelve ships totaling over 18 ,000 gross register tons (GRT) . She survived the war as Austria Hungary 's longest serving submarine , was ceded to France as a war reparation , and scrapped in 1920 .

= = Design and construction = =

U 4 was built as part of a plan by the Austro Hungarian Navy to competitively evaluate foreign submarine designs from Simon Lake , Germaniawerft , and John Philip Holland . The Austro Hungarian Navy authorized the construction of U 4 (and sister ship , U 3) in 1906 by Germaniawerft of Kiel , Germany . U 4 was laid down on 12 March 1907 and launched on 20 November 1908 . After completion , she was towed via Gibraltar to Pola , where she arrived on 19 April 1909 .

U 4 's design was an improved version of Germaniawerft 's design for the Imperial German Navy 's first U boat , U 1 , and featured a double hull with internal saddle tanks . The Germaniawerft engineers refined the design 's hull shape through extensive model trials .

U 4 was 138 feet 9 inches (42 m) long by 14 feet (4 .3 m) abeam and had a draft of 12 feet 6 inches (3 .81 m) . She displaced 240 tonnes (260 short tons) surfaced and 300 tonnes (330 short tons) submerged . She was armed with two bow 45 centimeter (17 .7 in) torpedo tubes , and was designed to carry up to three torpedoes .

= = Early career = =

After U 4 's arrival at Pola in April 1909 , she was commissioned into the Austro Hungarian Navy on 29 August 1909 as SM U 4 . During the evaluation of the U 3 class conducted by the Navy , the class ' poor diving and handling characteristics were noted . To alleviate the diving problems , U 4 's fins were changed in size and shape several times , and eventually , the front diving planes were removed and a stationary stern flap was affixed to the hull . U 4 served as a training boat between 1910 and 1914 and made as many as ten cruises per

month in that capacity .

= = World War I = =

= = = 1914 ? 1916 = = =

At the beginning of World War I , she was one of only four operational submarines in the Austro-Hungarian Navy . On 27 September 1914 , U @-@ 4 began operating reconnaissance cruises out of the naval base at Cattaro under the command of Linien-Schiffsleutnant Hermann Jüstel . U @-@ 4 attacked the cruiser Waldeck @-@ Rousseau on 17 October , but the French vessel escaped without serious damage . In late November , U @-@ 4 seized the 13 GRT Albanian sailing vessel Fiore del Mar as a prize off Montenegro . U @-@ 4 received her first radio set the following month .

U @-@ 4 's next success was the capture of three Montenegrin boats on 19 February 1915 . Rudolph Singule , who was to become U @-@ 4 's most successful commander , assumed command of the boat in April 1915 . Around the same time , the boat was equipped with a 3 @. @ 7 @-@ centimeter (1 @. @ 5 in) quick firing (QF) deck gun . On 24 May , in the Gulf of Drin , U @-@ 4 unsuccessfully attacked an Italian Lombardia @-@ class cruiser , but on 9 June , Singule spotted the British cruiser Dublin escorting a convoy along the Montenegrin coast . Despite a screen of six destroyers , U @-@ 4 was able to torpedo Dublin off San Giovanni de Medua . Twelve men on Dublin died in the attack , but the cruiser made her way safely , albeit damaged , back to port .

On 18 July , U @-@ 4 chanced upon an Italian squadron of ships shelling the railroads at Dubrovnik . Singule selected the Italian armored cruiser Giuseppe Garibaldi as a target and torpedoed her . Giuseppe Garibaldi ? at 7 @, @ 234 GRT , the largest ship sunk by U @-@ 4 ? sank with a loss of 53 men ; 525 men survived . Conway 's All the World 's Fighting Ships , 1906 ? 1921 calls the sinking of Giuseppe Garibaldi as U @-@ 4 's greatest success . In August , she was sent out to search for her missing sister ship , U @-@ 3 , which was overdue , having been sunk on 13 August by the French destroyer Bisson . In November , U @-@ 4 made an unsuccessful attack on a British Topaze @-@ class cruiser . In early December , U @-@ 4 dispatched two small Albanian vessels in the Gulf of Drin . The 10 GRT sailing vessel Papagallo was sunk , and the Gjovadje was taken as a prize . New periscopes and a new gyrocompass were installed on U @-@ 4 later in the month . On 3 January 1916 , operating again near the Gulf of Drin , Singule and U @-@ 4 seized another Albanian sailing vessel , Halil , and sank two smaller boats .

In early February , U @-@ 4 sank the 475 GRT French patrol vessel Jean Bart 6 nautical miles (11 km) southwest of Cape Laghi , off Durazzo . Just five days later , U @-@ 4 made an unsuccessful attack on a British Birmingham @-@ class cruiser . Over 26 and 27 March , U @-@ 4 participated in a search for the lost Austro-Hungarian submarine U @-@ 24 . Three days later , U @-@ 4 sank the British schooner John Pritchard Of Carnar with explosive charges off the island of Antipaxos . In July , U @-@ 4 was outfitted with a new 66 mm / 26 (2 @. @ 6 in) deck gun , which equaled the main gun planned for the U @-@ 20 class , under construction at the time .

On 2 August , U @-@ 4 missed an Italian Nino Bixio @-@ class cruiser in a torpedo attack , and three days later , was missed by two torpedoes in an attack by an enemy submarine . A week later , U @-@ 4 successfully torpedoed and sank the Italian schooner Ponte Maria off Brindisi and weathered another unsuccessful enemy submarine attack . Two days later , on 14 August , U @-@ 4 closed out her busy month of August by attacking the British steamer Inverbervie off Cape Nau . Some two months later , U @-@ 4 sank the Italian tanker Margaretha at position 40 ° 1 ' N 17 ° 44 ' E. Margaretha , originally the J.M.Lennard & Sons ship Atilla , went down without any reported loss of life on 13 October .

= = = 1917 ? 1918 = = =

In early May 1917 , U @-@ 4 sank the steamer Perseo ? the second largest ship sunk by the boat

? in the Ionian Sea . Although Perseo was serving as an Italian troop transport at the time , there are no reports of casualties in the 4 May attack . In mid @-@ May 1917 , U @-@ 4 participated in a support role in a raid on the Otranto Barrage that precipitated the Battle of Otranto Straits . On the night of 14 / 15 May , the Austro @-@ Hungarian cruisers Helgoland , Saida , and Novara attacked the drifters that deployed the anti @-@ submarine nets that formed part of the Barrage , sinking 14 , damaging 5 , and taking 72 prisoners . Destroyers Csepel and Balaton were sent to simultaneously attack Italian transports shuttling between Italy and Valona , and sank an Italian destroyer and a munitions ship . U @-@ 4 , which was posted near Valona , was a part of a force of three U @-@ boats intended to intercept British and Italian ships responding to the attacks ; the other two were the Austro @-@ Hungarian U @-@ 27 (assigned to patrol between Brindisi and Cattaro) and the German UC @-@ 25 (assigned to mine Brindisi) . A squadron of British cruisers and Italian and French destroyers joined the battle against the Austro @-@ Hungarian cruisers on 15 May . Several ships on each side were damaged by the time the engagement was broken off . As a result of the attacks the drifter line of the Barrage was moved farther south and maintained only during the day , a success for the Central Powers . U @-@ 4 did not take any offensive action during the raid and ensuing battle .

On 30 May at Corfu , U @-@ 4 torpedoed and sank the French passenger steamer SS Italia , in operation by the French Navy as an armed boarding ship . On 19 June , U @-@ 4 scored a triple victory when she sank the French steamers Edouarde Corbière and Cefira and the Greek ship Kerkyra off Taranto . U @-@ 4 sank what would be her final ship on 12 July , when she torpedoed the French tug Berthilde off Cape Stilo . In September , U @-@ 4 received a new bulwark on her conning tower .

U @-@ 4 arrived at Pola for the final time on 1 November 1918 and was there at the war 's end . She was ceded to France as a war reparation and scrapped in 1920 . U @-@ 4 was the longest serving Austro @-@ Hungarian submarine , and sank a total of 18 @,@ 264 GRT enemy shipping during the war .