

= SM U 27 (Austria Hungary) =

SM U 27 or U XXVII was the lead boat of the U 27 class of U boats or submarines for the Austro Hungarian Navy . U 27 was built by the Austrian firm of Cantiere Navale Triestino (CNT) at the Pola Navy Yard and launched on 19 October 1916 . She was commissioned on 24 February 1917 .

She had a single hull and was just over 121 feet (37 m) in length . She displaced nearly 265 metric tons (261 long tons) when surfaced and over 300 metric tons (295 long tons) when submerged . Her two diesel engines moved her at up to 9 knots (17 km / h) on the surface , while her twin electric motors propeller her at up to 7 @ 5 knots (13 @ 9 km / h) while underwater . She was armed with two bow torpedo tubes and could carry a load of up to four torpedoes . She was also equipped with a 75 mm (3 @ 0 in) deck gun and a machine gun .

During her service career , U 27 sank the British destroyer Phoenix , damaged the Japanese destroyer Sakaki , and sank or captured 34 other ships totaling 14 @, 386 GRT . U 27 was surrendered at Pola at war 's end and handed over to Italy as a war reparation in 1919 . She was broken up the following year . Conway 's All the World 's Fighting Ships , 1906 ? 1921 calls U 27 Austria Hungary 's " most successful submarine " .

= = Design and construction = =

Austria Hungary 's U boat fleet was largely obsolete at the outbreak of World War I. The Austro Hungarian Navy satisfied its most urgent needs by purchasing five Type UB I submarines that comprised the U 10 class from Germany , by raising and recommissioning the sunken French submarine Curie as U 14 , and by building four submarines of the U 20 class that were based on the 1911 Danish Havmanden class .

After these steps alleviated their most urgent needs , the Austro Hungarian Navy selected the German Type UB II design for its newest submarines in mid 1915 . The Germans were reluctant to allocate any of their wartime resources to Austro Hungarian construction , but were willing to sell plans for up to six of the UB II boats to be constructed under license in Austria Hungary . The Navy agreed to the proposal and purchased the plans from AG Weser of Bremen .

U 27 displaced 264 metric tons (260 long tons) surfaced and 301 metric tons (296 long tons) submerged . She had a single hull with saddle tanks , and was 121 feet 1 inch (36 @ 91 m) long with a beam of 14 feet 4 inches (4 @ 37 m) and a draft of 12 feet 2 inches (3 @ 71 m) . For propulsion , she had two shafts , twin diesel engines of 270 bhp (200 kW) for surface running , and twin electric motors of 280 shp (210 kW) for submerged travel . She was capable of 9 knots (16 @ 7 km / h) while surfaced and 7 @ 5 knots (13 @ 9 km / h) while submerged . Although there is no specific notation of a range for U 27 , the German UB II boats , upon which the U 27 class was based , had a range of over 6 @, 000 nautical miles (11 @, 000 km) at 5 knots (9 @ 3 km / h) surfaced , and 45 nautical miles (83 km) at 4 knots (7 @ 4 km / h) submerged . U 27 class boats were designed for a crew of 23 ? 24 .

U 27 was armed with two 45 cm (17 @ 7 in) bow torpedo tubes and carried a complement of four torpedoes . She was also equipped with a 75 mm / 26 (3 @ 0 in) deck gun and an 8 mm (0 @ 31 in) machine gun .

After intricate political negotiations to allocate production of the class between Austrian and Hungarian firms , U 27 was ordered from Cantiere Navale Triestino (CNT) on 12 October 1915 . She was laid down by early 1916 at the Pola Navy Yard , and launched on 19 October .

= = Service career = =

After her completion , U 27 was commissioned into the Austro Hungarian Navy on 24 February 1917 under the command of Linien-schiffsleutnant Robert Teufl von Fernland . Previously in command of U 11 , von Fernland was 31 @- year @- old native of Vienna . In April , von Fernland and U 27 both achieved their first kills . On 12 April , U 27 encountered the

3 @, @ 756 @-@ ton Greek steamship Niritos sailing from Genoa for Port Said . About 5 nautical miles (9 @. @ 3 km ; 5 @. @ 8 mi) off Augusta , Sicily , U @-@ 27 shelled and sank the 11 @-@ year @-@ old Greek ship . Four days later , von Fernland torpedoed another Greek steamer , the 2 @, @ 976 @-@ ton Zinovia . Carrying coal from Barry for Taranto , Zinovia was sent to the bottom 5 nautical miles (9 @. @ 3 km) from Cape Rizzuto .

In mid @-@ May 1917 , U @-@ 27 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 @-@ 27 , which was assigned to patrol between Brindisi and Cattaro , 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 @-@ 4 (which was posted near Valona) 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 @-@ 27 did not take any offensive action during the raid and ensuing battle .

On 9 June , U @-@ 27 sank Roland , a French sailing ship , off the Greek island of Cerigo . Two days later , von Fernland torpedoed the Japanese destroyer Sakaki between Cerigotto and Meles . Sakaki was one of eight Kaba @-@ class destroyers that were part of the Japanese contribution to the Allied effort in the Mediterranean . Although the Japanese ships often performed escort service for British troop convoys , Helgason does not report whether Sakaki was engaged in that duty when she was attacked . Even though 68 Japanese sailors perished in the attack , nearly two @-@ thirds the complement of a typical Kaba class ship , Sakaki remained afloat , was repaired , and remained in service . On 29 December , Linienschiffsleutnant Josef Holub replaced von Fernland as commander of U @-@ 27 . Holub , a 32 @-@ year @-@ old native of Galicia , had previously been in command of U @-@ 21 and U @-@ 22 . Holub recorded his first victory with U @-@ 27 in January 1918 . While near Marca , Sirocco , the U @-@ boat torpedoed and sank the Italian steamer Andrea Costa on 22 January . The 3 @, @ 991 @-@ ton Andrea Costa had sailed from Rangoon , but was sunk just short of her destination of Malta . A little more than four months would pass before Holub and U @-@ 27 would score their next success .

From late April to early May , U @-@ 27 sank six small ships ? five Greek and one Italian ? including three on one day , 6 May . All of the ships with reported tonnages were under 50 tons . U @-@ 27 torpedoed the British destroyer Phoenix at 09 : 18 on 14 May with the loss of one stoker and one artificer . Phoenix had been attached to the group of ships patrolling the Otranto Barrage when she was torpedoed amidships on the starboard side . Although she survived the initial attack , Phoenix was listing badly and taking on large quantities of water . An attempt was made by Australian destroyer Warrego to tow Phoenix to safety but by 12 : 45 she was in danger of capsizing and her crew were removed . Phoenix eventually sank at 13 : 10 in position 40 ° 23 ' 30 " N 19 ° 14 ' 00 " E . From 3 to 11 July , U @-@ 27 sank another ten ships , the largest reported being the 67 @-@ ton sailing vessel Giuseppino Padre . U @-@ 27 dispatched three of the ships on 3 July , and sank two each on 10 and 11 July . On 13 August , U @-@ 27 attacked the 2 @, @ 209 @-@ ton British steamer Anhui . The 15 @-@ year @-@ old ship was en route from Famagusta to Port Said , when U @-@ 27 torpedoed her 2 nautical miles (3 @. @ 7 km) off Crete . Four persons on Anhui died when the ship with her general cargo went down .

U @-@ 27 's next victims were all encountered in mid @-@ September . On 11 September , the French sailing ship Antoinette was seized as a prize and towed into the port of Beyrouth . Starting three days later , Holub and U @-@ 27 sent an additional ten small ships to the bottom , including the final six all on 20 September . Except for the two largest ships ? the 113 @-@ ton Agios Nicolas and the 103 @-@ ton Theologos ? none were over 60 tons .

At the war 's end , U @-@ 27 was in port at Pola . The U @-@ boat was surrendered to Italy as a

war reparation in 1919 and was scrapped at Fiume in 1920 . In addition to the sinking and damaging of two destroyers , she sank or captured 34 merchant ships totaling 14 @, @ 386 GRT . Conway 's All the World 's Fighting Ships , 1906 ? 1921 calls U @-@ 27 Austria @-@ Hungary 's " most successful submarine " .

= = Ships sunk or damaged = =

* damaged but not sunk

* * captured as a prize