

= HMS Phoenix (N96) =

HMS Phoenix was a Parthian @-@ class submarine of the Royal Navy , launched in 1929 . She was the eighteenth warship of the Royal Navy to use the name Phoenix . She served on the China Station from her commissioning until the start of the Second World War . Phoenix was then relocated to the Mediterranean Sea and was sunk by the Italian torpedo boat Albatros on 16 July 1940 .

= = Design = =

The Parthian class was designed as an improvement of the earlier Odin class ; the new class was larger , built with a raked stem , and given a shield to cover the 4 @-@ inch gun . The class had a design flaw in that the riveted external fuel tanks leaked , leaving an oil trail on the surface . Phoenix was fitted with a four @-@ cycle blast @-@ injection eight @-@ cylinder diesel engine , which provided 4 @, @ 640 horsepower (3 @, @ 460 kW) ; submerged propulsion was provided by a 1 @, @ 635 horsepower (1 @, @ 219 kW) electric motor . Phoenix was 289 feet (88 @. @ 1 m) long with a breadth of 30 feet (9 @. @ 1 m) and displaced 2 @, @ 040 long tons (2 @, @ 070 t) of water while submerged .

All submarines of the Parthian @-@ class were outfitted with eight 21 @-@ inch torpedo tubes , one QF 4 @-@ inch (102 mm) Mk XII deck gun , and two machine guns . The class was the first to be outfitted with the Mark VIII torpedo . Phoenix had six tubes in the bow and two tubes at the stern . Submarines of the Parthian class were designed for a complement of 53 officers and men . Phoenix had a crew of 56 .

= = History = =

Phoenix was laid down at Cammell Laird shipyard in 1928 . The ship was the 18th in a series of British warships named after the mythical phoenix , and had the motto Resurgam (Latin for " I will rise again ") Phoenix was originally deployed on the China Station as part of the 4th submarine flotilla . Ships of the China Station were tasked with trade protection and were used as a symbol of British power . In later September 1935 , Phoenix , HMS Pandora , HMS Osiris , HMS Oswald , and the depot ship HMS Medway were ordered to travel to the Mediterranean . While in the Mediterranean , the ships participated in naval exercises including the crash dive manoeuvre . Eight months later , the small group was ordered back to Hong Kong . In April 1940 , the flotilla , along with Medway , was ordered to the Mediterranean Sea to support naval operations there and the 1st submarine flotilla was established .

= = = Service in the Second World War = = =

Phoenix was stationed in Alexandria and patrolled the Aegean Sea and waters around the Dodecanese from 14 June to July 1940 . In July 1940 , Phoenix , under the command of Lt Cdr Gilbert Hugh Nowell , and Rorqual were given the task of screening a convoy of British ships bringing supplies from Malta to Alexandria . Phoenix made a contact report on 8 July after sighting the Italian battle fleet . Admiral Andrew Cunningham ordered his ships to cut off the Italian fleet from their base at Taranto , which led to the Battle of Calabria . Phoenix fired torpedoes at two Italian battleships , Giulio Cesare and Conte di Cavour , but missed both targets . While off the coast of Augusta , Sicily , Phoenix fired torpedoes at the Italian torpedo boat Albatros , but missed her . Albatros counter @-@ attacked and sank Phoenix with depth charges . All hands were lost .