

= SM U 40 (Austria Hungary) =

SM U 40 or U XL was a U 27 class U boat or submarine for the Austro Hungarian Navy . U 40 , built by the Austrian firm of Cantiere Navale Triestino (CNT) at the Pola Navy Yard , was launched in April 1917 and commissioned in August .

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 ; 10 mph) on the surface , while her twin electric motors propelled her at up to 7 @ 5 knots (13 @ 9 km / h ; 8 @ 6 mph) 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 40 sank three ships and damaged two others , sending a combined tonnage of 9 @, 838 GRT to the bottom . U 40 was at Fiume at war 's end and was surrendered at Venice in March 1919 . She was granted to Italy as a war reparation and broken up the following year .

= = 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 40 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 40 in Conway 's All the World 's Fighting Ships , 1906 ? 1921 , 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 40 was armed with two 45 cm (17 @ 7 in) bow torpedo tubes and could carry 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 .

U 40 was ordered from Cantiere Navale Triestino (CNT) after funds for her purchase were raised and donated to the Austro Hungarian Navy by the Österreichischen Flottenverein . She was laid down on 8 August 1916 at the Pola Navy Yard , and launched on 21 April 1917 .

= = Service career = =

U 40 underwent diving trials on 3 July 1917 , reaching a depth of 50 metres (160 ft) . One month later , on 4 August , the SM U 40 was commissioned into the Austro Hungarian Navy under the command of Linien-schiffsleutnant Johann Krsnjavi . Previously in command of U 11 , Krsnjavi was a 30 @- year @- old native of Djakovo (the present @- day ?akovo in Croatia) .

U @-@ 40 departed on her first patrol on 5 August , sailing through the Brioni islands . Two days out , the submarine came under attack by two aircraft . Bombs from the two planes damaged one of U @-@ 40 's fuel tanks but the U @-@ boat was able to continue to her Mediterranean patrol area . There , east of Malta , she unsuccessfully attacked a steamer on the 15th . Four days later ? a little more than two weeks after the U @-@ boat 's commissioning ? Krsnjavi and U @-@ 40 achieved their first kills . Gartness , a British steamer of 2 @,@ 422 gross register tons (GRT) , was transporting manganese ore , lead , and arsenic from Ergasteria for Middlesbrough when torpedoed by U @-@ 40 some 140 nautical miles (260 km) southeast of Malta . The ship 's master and twelve other crewmen were killed in the attack .

Ten days later , after a rendezvous with sister boat U @-@ 32 in the Ionian Sea , U @-@ 40 damaged the collier Clifftower in a torpedo attack . Clifftower , carrying a load of coal from Newcastle , suffered no casualties in the attack . After successfully passing through the Otranto Barrage on 31 August , U @-@ 40 concluded her first patrol when she docked at Cattaro on 3 September . On 15 October , U @-@ 40 set out from Cattaro on her next patrol . She spent two days , 16 to 18 October , patrolling off Durazzo . Departing there , she headed for her assigned patrol area off Port Said . On 20 October , two aircraft from Corfu forced Krsnjavi to make an emergency dive , but the U @-@ boat escaped damage . On 25 October , U @-@ 40 encountered a severe storm that damaged one of her fuel tanks . Three days later , Krsnjavi ordered the boat back to port when the gyrocompass broke . The boat made Cattaro on 1 November and underwent repairs there over the next five weeks .

Departing from Cattaro on her third patrol on 10 December , Krsnjavi steered the boat to her patrol area : cruising the Mediterranean between Alexandria and Malta . The first day of the new year brought U @-@ 40 's next success . On 1 January 1918 , the 5 @,@ 134 GRT Sandon Hall , a British steamer headed from Basra to London with a cargo of linseed oil and dates , was sent to the bottom 22 nautical miles (41 km) north @-@ northeast of Linosa . A torpedo attack two days later on another steamer produced no result . Having exhausted her supply of torpedoes , U @-@ 40 headed back to port . On 6 January , the U @-@ boat 's deck gun was used to destroy a floating mine . The following day the boat was fired upon by three drifters of the Otranto Barrage but safely returned to Cattaro on 8 January .

After two month at Cattaro , Krsnjavi lead U @-@ 40 out on her fourth patrol on 5 March . The U @-@ boat came under attack on consecutive days while headed into the Mediterranean . On 9 March , two destroyers forced her to crash dive , while the following day a pair of aircraft did the same . Nine days later , U @-@ 40 torpedoed the Canadian steamer Lord Ormonde , but only damaged the 3 @,@ 914 @-@ ton ship . On 20 March , U @-@ 40 sent the Greek cargo ship Antonios M. Theophilatos and her load of ammunition to the bottom . U @-@ 40 launched an unsuccessful torpedo attack on a steamer in a convoy on 23 March . U @-@ 40 ended her patrol on 2 April at Cattaro . Gibson and Prendergast report on the claim of the Italian torpedo boat Ardea that she had depth charged and sunk U @-@ 40 in the Adriatic on 26 April . As Gibson and Prendergast note , U @-@ 40 did not sink that day , discrediting the report . U @-@ 40 did depart from Cattaro for Pola at the end of May to undergo repairs for the next two months .

U @-@ 40 departed from Pola on 5 August , but developed a leak a few days out and put in at Cattaro on 10 August . The U @-@ boat returned to Pola about two weeks later and remained there until October . While at Pola , command of U @-@ 40 passed to Linienachtsleutnant Wladimir Pfeifer on 19 September . The 27 @-@ year @-@ old native of Leskovec (in present @-@ day Slovenia) , was previously in command of U @-@ 17 and had , like Krsnjavi , also served a stint as commander of U @-@ 11 . On 19 October , U @-@ 40 departed Pola and eventually arrived at Fiume , where she remained through the end of the war . The U @-@ boat was taken to Venice on 23 March 1919 , where she was surrendered to the Italians as a war reparation . She was scrapped at Venice the following year . In her 15 @-@ month service career , U @-@ 40 sank three ships with a combined tonnage of 9 @,@ 838 , and damaged two others .

= = Ships sunk or damaged = =

* damaged but not sunk