

= SM U 28 (Austria Hungary) =

SM U 28 or U XXVIII was a U 27 class U boat or submarine for the Austro Hungarian Navy . U 28 , built by the Austrian firm of Cantieri Navale Triestino (CNT) at the Pola Navy Yard , was launched in January 1917 and commissioned in June .

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 propelled 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 28 sank the British Q ship Bradford City and nine other ships , sending a combined tonnage of 47 @, 743 GRT to the bottom . U 28 was surrendered at Venice in 1919 , 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 28 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 28 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 28 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 .

After intricate political negotiations to allocate production of the class between Austrian and Hungarian firms , U 28 was ordered from Cantieri Navale Triestino (CNT) on 12 October 1915 . She was laid down by early 1916 at the Pola Navy Yard , and launched on 8 January 1917 .

= = Service career = =

After her completion , U 28 was commissioned into the Austro Hungarian Navy on 26 June 1917 under the command of Linien-schiffsleutnant Zdenko Hudeček . Previously in command of U 17 , Hudeček was a 30 @ year @ old native of Theresienstadt (present @ day Terezín in the Czech Republic) . Four days after the U boat 's commissioning , Hudeček achieved his first kill at the helm of U 28 . On 30 June , while on patrol about 40 nautical miles (74 km) east of Malta , U 28 came upon the 4 @, 809 @ ton British steamer Haigh Hall

. The turret hull ship was carrying wheat from Bombay to Naples when torpedoed and sunk by Hudebek . Three days later , the British India passenger ship Mongara met the same fate . Even though escorted by an Italian destroyer and a trawler , Mongara was torpedoed and sunk by U @-@ 28 just 1 @. @ 5 nautical miles (2 @. @ 8 km) from the breakwater at Messina . The 8 @, @ 205 @-@ ton liner ? the largest ship sunk by U @-@ 28 ? was en route from Sydney to London when she went down , but was spared any loss of life in the attack . In eight days in commission , U @-@ 28 's tally was over 13 @, @ 000 tons , already exceeding the totals of all four U @-@ boats of the U @-@ 20 class .

The following month , U @-@ 28 sank the 3 @, @ 881 @-@ ton collier Maston 35 nautical miles (65 km) from Cape Spartivento , Calabria , on 13 August , killing two men of the British ship 's crew . Three days after Maston went down , U @-@ 28 sank Bradford City , a 3 @, @ 683 @-@ ton British Q ship in the Straits of Messina , with no loss of life . Bradford City , operating under the pseudonym Saros , had been particularly detached to the Straits to hunt U @-@ 28 and had ignored orders to proceed to port from officers unaware of her naval status . After the torpedo struck , the ship 's " panic party " had taken to the boats in the hope of luring her attacker to the surface , but the arrival of the French naval trawler Hiver drove U @-@ 28 away before the gun crews aboard Bradford City could engage the submarine . Bradford City sank within 30 minutes off San Remo . In October , U @-@ 28 closed out her 1917 list of victims with Bontnewydd , a British steamer sunk 60 nautical miles (110 km) north @-@ northeast of Susa . The 3 @, @ 296 @-@ ton steamer was sailing in ballast from Marseilles for Karachi .

In January 1918 , U @-@ 28 sank an additional three ships . Bosforo , an Italian steamer of 2 @, @ 723 tons headed for Salonika , was sent to the bottom near Cape Spartivento on 12 January . The following day , U @-@ 28 dispatched the British steamer Rapallo 1 @. @ 5 nautical miles (2 @. @ 8 km) south of Cape Peloro . One sailor aboard the one @-@ year @-@ old ship died in the attack , which occurred while the ship was headed to Messina in ballast . On 21 January , West Wales , a collier headed from Barry to Alexandria , was sunk 140 nautical miles (260 km) from Malta , taking her load of coal and two of her crew to the bottom .

On 8 March , U @-@ 28 attacked two ships , sinking one of them . The first ship , Mitra , a 5 @, @ 592 @-@ ton tanker was hit by U @-@ 28 but was able to make port in Malta with her cargo of oil . Later in the month , U @-@ 28 sank Uganda 32 nautical miles (59 km) from Linosa , killing one sailor in the attack . The 1905 British ship was carrying cotton and cottonseed from Alexandria for London when the attack occurred . Three days later , Stolt Nielsen , a 5 @, @ 684 @-@ ton steamship , was sent to the bottom 38 nautical miles (70 km) from Malta . Carrying a general cargo for the Admiralty when she went down , the British ship turned out to be the final ship to be sunk by U @-@ 28 .

At the war 's end , U @-@ 28 was surrendered to Italy at Venice in 1919 . Later awarded to Italy as a war reparation , she was scrapped at Venice in 1920 . In her 18 @-@ month career , U @-@ 28 sank ten ships with a combined tonnage of 44 @, @ 743 , and damaged an eleventh .

= = Ships sunk or damaged = =

* damaged but not sunk