

= Tegetthoff @-@ class battleship =

The Tegetthoff class (sometimes erroneously named the Viribus Unitis class) was the sole class of dreadnought battleship built for the Austro @-@ Hungarian Navy . Four ships were built , Viribus Unitis , Tegetthoff , Prinz Eugen and Szent István . Three of the four were laid down in Trieste , with Szent István being built at Rijeka , to incorporate both parts of the dual monarchy into the construction of the ships . The smaller size of the shipyards in Rijeka meant that Szent István was built three years after her sisters , with slightly different characteristics .

The first three ships , Viribus Unitis , Tegetthoff and Prinz Eugen were joined by their sister in 1915 , when they bombarded the Italian installations at Ancona . The Tegetthoffs attempted to sortie through the Otranto Barrage with the support of lighter ships in 1918 , but failed after Szent István was sunk . After the transfer to State of Slovenes , Croats and Serbs , Viribus Unitis was sunk by Italian frogmen , and Tegetthoff and Prinz Eugen were transferred to Italy and France , respectively .

= = Characteristics = =

= = = Dimensions = = =

The ships had an overall length of 152 metres (498 ft 8 in) , a beam of 27 @.@ 90 metres (91 ft 6 in) , and a draught of 8 @.@ 70 metres (28 ft 7 in) at deep load . They displaced 20 @, @ 000 tonnes (19 @, @ 684 long tons) at load and 21 @, @ 689 tonnes (21 @, @ 346 long tons) at deep load .

= = = Propulsion = = =

The propulsion consisted of four Parsons steam turbines , each of which was housed in a separate engine @-@ room . The turbines were powered by twelve Babcock & Wilcox boilers . The turbines were designed to produce a total of 27 @, @ 000 shaft horsepower (20 @, @ 134 kW) , which was theoretically enough to attain her designed speed of 20 knots (23 mph ; 37 km / h) , but no figures from her speed trials are known to exist . She carried 1 @, @ 844 @. @ 5 tonnes (1 @, @ 815 @. @ 4 long tons) of coal , and an additional 267 @. @ 2 tonnes (263 @. @ 0 long tons) of fuel oil that was to be sprayed on the coal to increase its burn rate . At full capacity , she could steam for 4 @, @ 200 nautical miles (7 @, @ 800 km) at a speed of 10 knots (12 mph ; 19 km / h) .

= = = Armament = = =

Each ship had an armament consisting of twelve 305 @-@ millimetre (12 in) / 45 @-@ caliber K 10 guns in four triple turrets mounted on the center @-@ line , forward and aft of the superstructure . Their secondary armament consisted of twelve 150 @-@ millimetre (5 @. @ 91 in) / 50 K 10 guns mounted in casemates amidships . Eighteen 70 @-@ millimetre (3 in) / 50 K 10 guns were mounted on open pivots on the upper deck above the casemates . Three more 66 @-@ mm K 10 guns were mounted on the upper turrets for anti @-@ aircraft duties . Four 530 @-@ millimetre (21 in) submerged torpedo tubes were fitted , one each in the bow , stern and on each broadside ; twelve torpedoes were carried .

= = = Armor = = =

The waterline armour belt of the Tegetthoff class measured 280 millimetres (11 in) thick between the midpoints of the fore and aft barbettes and thinned to 150 millimetres (5 @. @ 9 in) further towards the bow and stern , but did not reach either the bow or the stern . It was continued to the bow by a small patch of 110 ? 130 @-@ millimetre (4 ? 5 in) armour . The upper armour belt had a

maximum thickness of 180 millimetres (7 @. @ 1 in) , but it thinned to 110 millimetres (4 @. @ 3 in) from the forward barbette all the way to the bow . The casemate armour was also 180 millimetres (7 @. @ 1 in) thick . The sides of the main gun turrets , barbettes and main conning tower were protected by 280 millimetres (11 in) of armour , except for the turret and conning tower roofs which were 60 to 150 millimetres (2 to 6 in) thick . The thickness of the decks ranged from 30 to 48 millimetres (1 to 2 in) in two layers . The underwater protection system consisted of the extension of the double bottom up to the lower edge of the waterline armour belt , with a thin 10 @- @ millimetre (0 @. @ 4 in) plate acting as the outermost bulkhead . It was backed by a torpedo bulkhead that consisted of two layered 25 @- @ millimetre plates . The total thickness of this system was only 1 @. @ 60 metres (5 ft 3 in) which made it incapable of containing a torpedo warhead detonation or mine explosion without rupturing .

= = = Variations = = =

Szent István , built at Fiume , differed from her half @- @ sisters mainly in her machinery . She only had two shafts and two turbines , unlike the four shaft arrangement of the other ships of her class . External differences included a platform built around the fore funnel which extended from the bridge to the after funnel and on which several searchlights were installed . A further distinguishing feature was the modified ventilator trunk in front of the mainmast . She was the only ship of her class not to be fitted with torpedo nets .

= = Ships = =

= = Construction = =

The Austro @- @ Hungarian government ordered the construction of a new fleet in 1908 , following the announcement of the start of construction of the first dreadnought for the Regia Marina (the Italian navy) , Dante Alighieri . The ships of this class were among the first ships to utilize triple gun turrets for their main armament , the first one being the Italian battleship Dante Alighieri , which the Austro @- @ Hungarian ships were supposed to act against in a war ; as for the Italian ship , this choice made it possible to deliver a heavier broadside than other dreadnoughts of a similar size . The triple turrets were built at the Škoda Works , in Plzeň , Bohemia (Czech republic) , and was available at short notice because Škoda were already working on a design for an order for the Russian navy .

The first unit was to bear the name of Wilhelm von Tegetthoff , an Austrian naval admiral of the 19th century , but Franz Joseph I wanted it to be named after his personal motto , Viribus Unitis (Latin for " With united forces ") . In any event , the class name remained Tegetthoff .

The first three ships were built at the Stabilimento Tecnico Triestino yard , Trieste , but as a condition of agreeing to the construction and financing of the new fleet , the Hungarian parliament insisted that one of the battleships be built at the Hungarian facility , the Danubius yard at Fiume ? Rijeka (pronounced : riiyeca) , now Croatia . However , the Danubius shipyard had until then never built anything larger than a destroyer , therefore delayed construction as the yard was extended in preparation for the dreadnought . For this reason the final ship , delivered seventeen months late , was given a Hungarian name ? named Szent István after Saint Stephen , the first king and patron saint of Hungary .

= = Service history = =

= = = World War I = = =

The assistance of the Austro @- @ Hungarian fleet was called upon by the German Mediterranean

Division , which consisted of the battlecruiser SMS Goeben and light cruiser SMS Breslau . The German ships were attempting to break out of Messina , where they had been coaling prior to the outbreak of war ? British ships had begun to assemble off Messina in an attempt to trap the Germans . By this time , the Austro @-@ Hungarians had not yet fully mobilized their fleet , though the three Radetzky's and three Tegetthoff's , along with several cruisers and smaller craft , were available . The Austro @-@ Hungarian high command , wary of instigating war with Great Britain , ordered the fleet to avoid the British ships , and only to support the Germans openly while they were in Austro @-@ Hungarian waters . On 7 August , when the Germans broke out of Messina , the Austro @-@ Hungarian fleet , including the Tegetthoff @-@ class battleships , sailed as far south as Brindisi , before returning to port .

After the breakout , the Austro @-@ Hungarian navy saw very little action , spending much of its time in its base at Pola (now Pula , Croatia) . The navy 's general inactivity was partly caused by a lack of coal , which became a problem as the war progressed , and partly by a fear of mines in the Adriatic (which also kept the Italian navy in port for most of the war) . They did , however , leave Pola to bombard Ancona in May 1915 . On 23 May 1915 , four hours after the Italian declaration of war reached the main Austro @-@ Hungarian naval base at Pola , the members of the Tegetthoff class and the rest of the fleet departed to bombard the Italian coast . The Austro @-@ Hungarian ships bombarded the important naval base at Ancona , and later the coast of Montenegro , without opposition ; by the time Italian ships arrived on the scene , the Austro @-@ Hungarians were safely back in Pola .

== = Otranto Raid = = =

In 1918 Admiral Miklós Horthy de Nagybánya became rear admiral of the fleet , and he determined to use the fleet to attack the Otranto Barrage . On 8 June 1918 he took Viribus Unitis and Prinz Eugen south with a small supporting flotilla ; on the evening of 9 June , Szent István and Tegetthoff followed . In trying to make maximum speed in order to catch up , Szent István 's turbines started to overheat and speed had to be reduced to 12 knots (22 km / h ; 14 mph) . When an attempt was made to raise more steam in order to increase to 16 knots (30 km / h ; 18 mph) Szent István produced an excess of smoke , attracting the attention of a pair of patrolling Italian torpedo boats at 3 @. 20 a.m. on 10 June . MAS @-@ 21 attacked Tegetthoff , but one of her torpedoes failed to leave the launch tube and the other failed to explode . MAS @-@ 15 however succeeded in striking Szent István with two torpedoes at 3 : 31 a.m. Tegetthoff returned to the scene to take Szent István in tow . An attempt to beach the ship on nearby Molat Island (northwest of Zara) was considered , but the ship was taking on too much water . At 6 : 12 am , with the pumps unequal to the task , Szent István capsized , taking 89 of her crew with her . The last half @-@ hour of the sinking was filmed in stages from Tegetthoff (one of only two battleship sinkings on the high seas to ever be filmed , the other being that of the British battleship HMS Barham in the Second World War) . Fearing further attacks by torpedo boats or destroyers from the Italian navy , his element of surprise now compromised , Admiral Horthy called off the attack and the fleet returned to base for the remainder of the war .

== = Post @-@ war = = =

After it was clear that Austria @-@ Hungary had lost World War I , the Austrian government decided to give Viribus Unitis , along with much of the Austro @-@ Hungarian fleet , to the newly formed State of Slovenes , Croats and Serbs . This move would have avoided handing the fleet to the Allies , since the new state had declared neutrality . Following the transfer , she was renamed Yugoslavia .

On 1 November 1918 , the transfer being still unknown , two men of the Regia Marina , Raffaele Paolucci and Raffaele Rossetti , rode a primitive manned torpedo (nicknamed the Mignatta or " leech ") into the Austro @-@ Hungarian naval base at Pola . Using limpet mines , they then sank Viribus Unitis , as well as the freighter Wien .

Traveling down the rows of Austrian battleships , the two men encountered Viribus Unitis at around 4 : 40 am . Rossetti placed one canister of TNT on the hull of the battleship , timed to explode at 6 : 30 am . He then flooded the second canister , sinking it on the harbor floor close to the ship . This second canister exploded close to the Austrian freighter Wien , resulting in her sinking . The men had no breathing sets , and therefore had to keep their heads above water . They were discovered and taken prisoner just after placing the explosives under the battleship 's hull . The Italians did not know that the Austrian government had handed over Viribus Unitis , along with most of the Austro - Hungarian fleet , to the newly created State of Slovenes , Croats and Serbs . The two man team were captured and taken aboard Viribus Unitis , where they informed the new captain of the battleship what they had done but did not reveal the exact position of the explosives . Vukovi? then arranged for the two prisoners to be taken safely to the sister ship Tegetthoff , and ordered the evacuation of the ship . The explosion did not happen at 6 : 30 as predicted and Vukovi? returned to the ship with many sailors (believing mistakenly that the Italians had lied) . He therefore remained on his ship and went down with her and 300 ? 400 of her crew when the mines exploded shortly afterwards at 6 : 44 . Following the explosion , the battleship sank in 15 minutes . The two Italian crew were interned for a few days until the end of the war and were honored by the Kingdom of Italy with the Gold Medal of Military Valor .

On 4 November Italian troops entered Pola and seized Tegetthoff and Prinz Eugen . The Italians kept Tegetthoff for their own use , although they broke her up in 1924 following the Washington Naval Treaty of 1922 , but she had first featured in the movie Eroi di nostri mari (Heroes of our seas) about the sinking of Szent István . Prinz Eugen became French property ? they removed the main armament for inspection and used the ship to test aerial bombardment attacks , before she was finally used as a target ship by the battleships Paris , Jean Bart , and France , and sunk in the Atlantic .