

= Yugoslav destroyer Dubrovnik =

Dubrovnik was a flotilla leader built for the Royal Yugoslav Navy by Yarrow Shipbuilders in Glasgow between 1930 and 1931 . She was one of the largest destroyers of her time . Resembling contemporary British designs , Dubrovnik was a fast ship with a main armament of four Czechoslovak 140 mm (5.9 in) guns in single mounts . Intended to be the first of three flotilla leaders built for Yugoslavia , she was the only one completed . During her service with the Royal Yugoslav Navy , Dubrovnik undertook several peacetime cruises through the Mediterranean , the Turkish Straits and the Black Sea . In October 1934 , she conveyed King Alexander to France for a state visit , and carried his body back to Yugoslavia following his assassination in Marseille .

During the German led Axis invasion of Yugoslavia in April 1941 , Dubrovnik was captured by the Italians . After a refit , which included the replacement of some of her weapons and the shortening of her mainmast and funnels , she was commissioned into the Royal Italian Navy as Premuda . In Italian service she was mainly used as an escort and troop transport . In June 1942 , she was part of the Italian force that attacked the Allied Operation Harpoon convoy attempting to relieve the island of Malta . In July 1943 , she broke down and put in to Genoa for repair and a refit . Premuda was the most important and effective Italian war prize ship of World War II .

At the time of the Italian surrender to the Allies in September 1943 , Premuda was still docked in Genoa , and was seized by Germany . Plans to convert her into a radar picket for night fighters were abandoned . In August 1944 , following the replacement of her armament , she was commissioned into the German Navy as a Torpedoboot Ausland (foreign torpedo boat) with the designation TA32 . The ship saw action shelling Allied positions on the Italian coast and laying naval mines . In March 1945 , she took part in the Battle of the Ligurian Sea against two Royal Navy destroyers , during which she was lightly damaged . She was scuttled the following month as the Germans retreated from Genoa .

= = Development = =

Following the demise of the Austro-Hungarian Empire and the creation of the Kingdom of Serbs , Croats and Slovenes (KSCS) , Austria-Hungary transferred the vessels of the former Austro-Hungarian Navy to the new nation . The Kingdom of Italy was unhappy with this , and convinced the Allies to share the Austro-Hungarian ships among the victorious powers . As a result , the only modern sea-going vessels left to the KSCS were 12 torpedo boats , and they had to build their naval forces from scratch . During the 1920s , many navies were pursuing the flotilla leader concept , building large destroyers similar to the World War I Royal Navy V and W class destroyers . In the interwar French Navy , these ships were known as contre-torpilleurs , and were intended to operate with smaller destroyers , or as half-flotillas of three ships . The idea was that such a half-flotilla could defeat an Italian light cruiser of the Condottieri class . The Navy of the KSCS decided to build three such flotilla leaders , ships that would have the ability to reach high speeds and with a long endurance . The long endurance requirement reflected Yugoslav plans to deploy the ships into the central Mediterranean , where they would be able to operate alongside French and British warships .

At the time the decision was made , French shipyards were heavily committed to producing vessels for the French Navy . So , despite its intention to develop a French concept , the KSCS engaged Yarrow Shipbuilders in Glasgow , Scotland to build the ships . Unlike the French , who preferred to install guns of their own manufacture , Yarrow was happy to order the guns from the Czechoslovak firm Skoda . The initial Yarrow design was based on an expanded version of the British Shakespeare class , with five Skoda 14 cm / 56 naval guns . Excessive top weight resulted in the deletion of one of the guns , to be replaced with a seaplane mounting . The final version replaced the seaplane mounting with improved anti-aircraft armament . The intention to build three flotilla leaders was demonstrated by the fact that Yarrow ordered a total of 12 140 mm (5.9 in) guns , four per ship . In the late summer of 1929 , the KSCS (the Kingdom of

Yugoslavia from 3 October 1929) signed a contract with Yarrow for a destroyer named Dubrovnik . Soon after she was ordered , the onset of the Great Depression meant that only one ship of the planned half @-@ flotilla was ever built .

= = Description and construction = =

Dubrovnik was similar in many respects to the British destroyers being manufactured at the same time , having a square box @-@ like bridge , a long forecastle , and a sharp raked stem similar to the later Tribal @-@ class . Her rounded stern was adapted for minelaying . She had an overall length of 113 @.@ 2 metres (371 ft 5 in) , with a 10 @.@ 67 m (35 ft) beam and a mean draught of 3 @.@ 58 m (11 ft 9 in) (maximum draught of 4 @.@ 1 m (13 ft 5 in)) . Her standard displacement was 1 @,@ 880 long tons (1 @,@ 910 t) , (2 @,@ 400 long tons (2 @,@ 439 t) at full load) . Dubrovnik had two Parsons geared steam turbines , each driving a single propeller shaft . Steam for the turbines was provided by three Yarrow water @-@ tube boilers , located in separate boiler rooms , and the turbines were rated at 48 @,@ 000 shp (36 @,@ 000 kW) . As designed , the ship had a maximum speed of 37 knots (69 km / h ; 43 mph) . In 1934 , under ideal conditions , she achieved a maximum speed of 40 @.@ 3 knots (74 @.@ 6 km / h ; 46 @.@ 4 mph) . A separate Curtis turbine , rated at 900 shp (670 kW) , was installed for cruising , with which she could achieve a range of 7 @,@ 000 nautical miles (13 @,@ 000 km ; 8 @,@ 100 mi) at 15 knots (28 km / h ; 17 mph) . She carried 470 tonnes (460 long tons) of fuel oil .

Her main armament consisted of four ?koda 140 mm (5 @.@ 5 in) L / 56 superfiring guns in single mounts , two forward of the superstructure and two aft . For air defence , Dubrovnik had twin @-@ mounted ?koda 83 @.@ 5 mm (3 @.@ 29 in) L / 55 guns , and six ?koda 40 mm (1 @.@ 6 in) / L67 anti @-@ aircraft guns , arranged in two twin mounts and two single mounts . She was also equipped with two triple 533 mm (21 in) torpedo tubes , two depth charge throwers and two depth charge rails , two ?koda 15 mm (0 @.@ 59 in) machine guns and 40 mines . Her crew comprised 20 officers and 220 ratings . She was laid down on 10 June 1930 , and was launched on 11 October 1931 .

= = Service history = =

= = = Dubrovnik = = =

Dubrovnik was completed at the Yarrow shipyards in Glasgow in 1932 , at which time her main guns and light anti @-@ aircraft guns had been installed . After sailing to the Bay of Kotor in the southern Adriatic , she was fitted with her heavy anti @-@ aircraft guns . She was commissioned with the Royal Yugoslav Navy in 1932 , and her captain was Armin Pavi? . In late September 1933 , the ship left the Bay of Kotor and sailed through the Turkish Straits to Constan?a on the Black Sea coast of Bulgaria , where she embarked King Alexander and Queen Maria of Yugoslavia . She then visited Balci? in Romania and Varna in Bulgaria , before returning via Istanbul and the Greek island of Corfu in the Ionian Sea , arriving back at the Bay of Kotor on 8 October . On 6 October 1934 , King Alexander left the Bay of Kotor on board Dubrovnik for a state visit to France , arriving in Marseille on 9 October . He was killed that same day by a Bulgarian assassin , and Dubrovnik conveyed his body back to Yugoslavia , escorted by French , Italian and British ships . Soon after , Vladimir ?a?kijevi? replaced Pavi? as captain . In August 1935 , Dubrovnik visited Corfu and Bizerte in the French protectorate of Tunisia . In August 1937 , Dubrovnik visited Istanbul and the Greek ports of Mudros in the northern Aegean Sea and Piraeus near Athens .

In April 1941 , Yugoslavia entered World War II when it was invaded by the German @-@ led Axis powers . At the time , Dubrovnik was still under the command of ?a?kijevi? and was assigned as flagship of the 1st Torpedo Division , along with the three smaller Beograd @-@ class destroyers , Beograd , Ljubljana and Zagreb .

== Premuda ==

The Italians captured Dubrovnik in the Bay of Kotor on 17 April 1941 ; she had been damaged by Yugoslav civilians prior to her seizure . Dubrovnik was sailed to Taranto in southern Italy on 21 May , where she underwent repairs and a refit . She was renamed Premuda , after the Dalmatian island near which an Italian motor torpedo boat had sunk the Austro-Hungarian dreadnought Szent István in June 1918 . Her aft deckhouse and emergency bridge was removed and replaced with an anti-aircraft platform , and her mainmast and funnels were shortened . Her twin 83 mm (3 in) L / 55 anti-aircraft guns were replaced by a 120 mm (4 in) / L15 howitzer firing star shells for illumination , while the six 40 mm (1 in) / L67 anti-aircraft guns were replaced by four Breda Model 35 20 mm (0 in) / L65 machine guns in single mounts . Later in her Italian service , the 120 mm (4 in) howitzer was replaced by a twin Breda 37 mm (1 in) / L54 anti-aircraft gun mount . In Italian service , her crew consisted of 13 officers and 191 enlisted ranks .

Premuda was commissioned in the Italian Navy (Italian : Regia Marina) in February 1942 . Later that month she rescued British prisoners of war who survived the sinking of the SS Ariosto , an Italian ship ferrying them from Tripoli to Sicily . In early June , the Italian submarine Alagi fired on Premuda , mistaking her for a British destroyer due to her similarities with a British H-class destroyer . The attack missed Premuda and struck the Navigatori-class destroyer Antoniotto Usodimare , sinking her . From 12-16 June 1942 , Premuda took part in operations against the Allied Operation Harpoon convoy attempting to reach the beleaguered island of Malta from Gibraltar . As part of the 10th Destroyer Flotilla , Premuda supported the Italian 7th Cruiser Squadron , comprising the light cruisers Eugenio di Savoia and Raimondo Montecuccoli . The force that attacked the Operation Harpoon convoy included most of the fighting power of the Italian Navy , including two battleships and two heavy cruisers . The Allied naval escort lost one cruiser , three destroyers and several merchant ships to a combination of air attacks , submarines and naval mines . One Italian battleship was damaged , and the Trento-class cruiser Trento was sunk . One of the other damaged Italian ships was the Navigatori-class destroyer Ugolino Vivaldi , and Premuda was tasked to tow her to safety in the harbour of Pantelleria , an island in the Strait of Sicily , under escort from the destroyer Lanzerotto Malocello .

On 6-7 January 1943 , Premuda and 13 other Italian destroyers transported troops to the Axis-held port of Tunis in North Africa , completing two more such missions over the next two months . On 17 July , she developed serious engine problems in the Ligurian Sea near La Spezia , and was brought to Genoa for a major boiler and engine overhaul . It was decided to rebuild her along the lines of the Navigatori-class , including a wider beam to improve her stability . As shells for her built main guns were in short supply , the decision was made to replace them with Italian-made 135 mm (5 in) / L45 guns in single mounts . The rebuild had not been completed when Italy surrendered to the Allies , and Premuda was seized by Germany at Genoa on 9 September 1943 . Premuda was the most important and effective Italian war prize ship of World War II .

== TA32 ==

When she was captured by the Germans , Premuda's new guns had not been completed . Their initial plans called for the ship to serve as a radar picket for night fighters , with three 105 mm (4 in) / L45 anti-aircraft guns in single mounts , Freya early warning radar , Würzburg gun-laying radar and a FuMO 21 surface fire control system . These plans were soon abandoned due to the German lack of destroyers and torpedo boats in the Mediterranean , and the decision was made to commission her as a Torpedoboot Ausland (foreign torpedo boat) with a DeTe radar instead of the Freya and Würzburg radar sets . Her armament was replaced with four 105 mm (4 in) / L45 naval guns , eight 37 mm (1 in) anti-aircraft guns and between thirty-two and thirty-six 20 mm (0 in) anti-aircraft guns in quadruple and twin mounts . The number of torpedo tubes was reduced from six to

three . The number of 37 mm (1 @. @ 5 in) anti @-@ aircraft guns was later increased to ten , in four twin and two single mounts . In German service , she had a total crew of 220 officers and men .

She was commissioned in the German Navy (German : Kriegsmarine) on 18 August 1944 , as TA32 , under the command of Kapitänleutnant Emil Kopka . She served in the Ligurian Sea with the 10th Torpedo Boat Flotilla , and was immediately committed to shelling Allied positions on the Italian coast , then scouting and minelaying tasks in the western Gulf of Genoa . On 2 October 1944 , TA32 , along with TA24 and TA29 , sailed towards Sanremo to lay mines , where they encountered the destroyer USS Gleaves . After exchanging fire , the three ships returned to Genoa without being hit . By mid @-@ March 1945 , TA32 , TA24 and TA29 were the only ships of the 10th Torpedo Boat Flotilla that remained operational . On the night of 17 ? 18 March 1945 , TA32 placed 76 naval mines off Cap Corse , the northern tip of Corsica , in an offensive minelaying operation , along with TA24 and TA29 . After being detected by a shore based radar , the ships were engaged by the destroyers HMS Lookout and HMS Meteor , in what would become known as the Battle of the Ligurian Sea . Outgunned , TA24 and TA29 were sunk , while TA32 managed to escape with light damage to her rudder , after firing a few rounds and making an unsuccessful torpedo attack . TA32 was finally scuttled at Genoa on 24 April 1945 , as the Germans retreated . Her wreck was raised and broken up in 1950 .

= = = Books = = =

= = = Periodicals = = =