

= SM U 32 (Austria Hungary) =

SM U 32 or U XXXII was a U 27 class U boat or submarine for the Austro Hungarian Navy . U 32 , built by the Hungarian firm of Ganz Danubius at Fiume , was launched in May 1917 and commissioned in June .

U 32 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 .

In her service career U 32 hit five ships of 6 @ 788 gross register tons (GRT) , sinking four and damaging one . At Pola at war 's end , the boat was handed over to Italy and scrapped in 1920 .

= = 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 Austro Hungarian Navy agreed to the proposal and purchased the plans from AG Weser of Bremen .

U 32 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 32 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 32 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 27 was ordered from Ganz Danubius on 12 October 1915 . She was laid down on 18 July 1916 at Fiume and launched on 11 May 1917 .

= = Service career = =

After launching , the U boat made her way to Pola , where , on 29 April 1917 , SM U 32 was commissioned into the Austro Hungarian Navy under the command of Linienschiffleutnant Gaston Vio . Vio , a 30 @ year @ old native of Fiume , was a first @ time submarine commander . Vio and U 32 began their first patrol on 3 July when they sailed from Pola for a

Mediterranean deployment . East of Manfredonia two days later , an enemy submarine launched a spread of three torpedoes at U @-@ 32 but the Austro @-@ Hungarian submarine avoided them all . Two days later , U @-@ 32 had an at @-@ sea rendezvous with the German U @-@ boat UC @-@ 52 . The following day , Vio failed to hit a steamer in the Gulf of Taranto .

On 15 July , U @-@ 32 launched torpedoes against the British steamer Incemore . Hit 225 nautical miles (417 km) east @-@ southeast of Malta , the 3 @,@ 060 @-@ ton ship was en route from Marseilles to Salonika when she was attacked . Incemore was damaged but continued on her way ; no one aboard the steamer was killed in the attack . The U @-@ boat docked in Cattaro to end her first patrol four days later .

The next Mediterranean patrol for U @-@ 32 began on 14 August . Sister boat U @-@ 40 met up with her at sea on 29 August . Two days later , U @-@ 32 stopped a Greek sailing vessel , Agios Georgios and examined her , but let her go on her way . Vio put in his boat at Cattaro on 4 September , ending the boat 's second patrol . On 12 October , U @-@ 32 departed Cattaro for Durazzo , arriving the next day . On the 18th , the submarine departed there for Brindisi , screening for a sortie by the Austro @-@ Hungarian cruiser Helgoland and a destroyer group . When U @-@ 32 reached Brindisi the following day , she was greeted by Italian torpedo boats which dropped five depth charges over her . After putting in at Cattaro on the 19th , she quickly departed for Pola to repair damage to her conning tower .

After two months of repairs at Pola , U @-@ 32 set out on 27 December but had to return with engine problems . She departed for the Mediterranean the following day and cruised between Alexandria and Malta , but returned to Cattaro in late January 1918 without success . Another patrol beginning in late February was similarly fruitless and U @-@ 32 returned to Cattaro empty @-@ handed again on 26 March .

While at Cattaro , Vio was relieved of command on 24 April and replaced by Linienerschiffleutnant Otto Kasseroller , who had formerly been in command of U @-@ 2 . Kasseroller was a 31 @-@ year @-@ old Salzburg native . On 8 May , U @-@ 32 began her first cruise with Kasseroller at the helm . Five days out , the Greek sailing ship Julia was stopped near Cape Matapan . After allowing Julia 's crew to board a lifeboat , Kasseroller sank Julia with fire from the U @-@ boat 's deck gun . After the 48 @-@ ton ship was sunk , U @-@ 32 towed the lifeboat close to the shore . As a result , none of the Greek ship 's crew died in the attack .

A week later , on 20 May , U @-@ 32 sank two more Greek sailing ships : the 58 @-@ ton Agios Dionysios , and the 30 @-@ ton Angeliki . The following day Kasseroller torpedoed a British steamer . Chatham , of 3 @,@ 592 gross register tons (GRT) , was headed from Karachi to Marseilles with grain and onions when U @-@ 32 sent her down 80 nautical miles (150 km) from Cape Matapan . Continuing her most successful patrol , U @-@ 32 met with the German UB @-@ 48 off the coast of Africa on 3 June , but returned to Cattaro on the 6th .

During the remainder of June and into July , U @-@ 32 patrolled in the Adriatic out of Cattaro , calling at the Albanian ports of Durazzo and San Giovanni di Medua . Continuing this same duty into August , U @-@ 32 was forced to crash dive to avoid an attack by another submarine on 19 August . Five days later an airplane attacked the U @-@ boat , dropping a total of five bombs . After the attack , U @-@ 32 made her way to Cattaro and , in early September , headed back to Pola . After making a stop at Fiume , the submarine docked at Pola on 13 September and remained there through the end of the war . She was ceded to Italy as a war reparation , and scrapped in 1920 . In total , U @-@ 32 sank four ships and damaged one other ship , hitting a combined total of 6 @,@ 788 GRT .

= = Ships sunk or damaged = =

* damaged but not sunk