

## Part V - The Croatian Navy in World War II

The maritime Croats had long been good sailors, and were the largest contingent in the old Austro-Hungarian Navy. In World War II they created a Navy which had a few boats provided by the Germans. The Navy expanded in fall 1943 when it received vessels of the former Royal Yugoslav Navy which had been under the control of Italy since April 1941. Some Croatian sailors served on German ships while still part of the Croatian Navy.

The naval commander until late 1943 was Djuro Jakcin; he was succeeded by Edgar Angeli for most of 1944, and then by Nikola Steinfl for 1945.

The Navy consisted in late 1943 of...

- Torpedo boat **T.7** (ex Yugoslav "T.7")
- Training cruiser **Zniam** (ex Yugoslav "Dalmacija")
- Mine tender **Mosor** (ex Yugoslav "Mosor")
- River monitors **Bosna** and **Sava** (ex Yugoslav "Morava" & "Sava")
- 6 x river motor boats (3 of which deserted to the partisans)

The following German boats were manned exclusively by Croats:

- Torpedo boat **TA.48** (ex Yugoslav "T.3")
- 8 x "KM" class torpedo boats (one of which deserted to the partisans)
- Armed steamers **G.102** and **G.104**

There was also a Naval Infantry Bn with its HQ at Zemun (later moved to Zagreb).

Finally, there was (incredibly) a Croatian naval detachment operating on the Sea of Azov in 1941-42; it consisted of 47 small boats (including sail boats). Although the officers were Croats from the Army, the men were recruited elsewhere. Per Peter Gosztony, "Thus was 'Internationalism' fully implemented: Ukrainian youths served on former Soviet boats in half-German uniforms under the command of Croatian soldiers on the Sea of Azov." The force was reckoned in German records as the "23rd Mine-Sweeping Flotilla", and in 1943 also included a coastal battery. In May 1944 it was sent home and then based at Trieste as a torpedo boat flotilla; by Nov 1944 the men had become mutinous, so the Germans disbanded the flotilla to keep it from defecting.

## Part VI - The Campaign of 1995

Independent Croatia emerged from Yugoslavia in 1992. The initial units raised by the independent state were 4 active and 18 National Guard Bdes (in the beginning, many of the