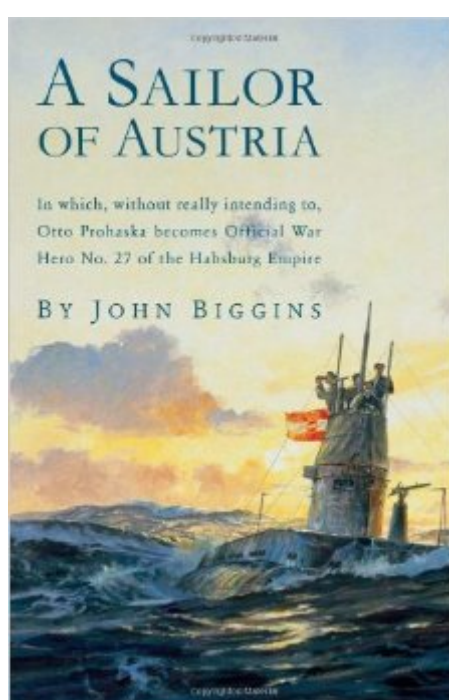


The book was found

# A Sailor Of Austria: In Which, Without Really Intending To, Otto Prohaska Becomes Official War Hero No. 27 Of The Habsburg Empire (The Otto Prohaska Novels)



## Synopsis

In this ironic, hilarious, and poignant story, Otto Prohaska is a submarine captain serving the almost-landlocked Austro-Hungarian Empire. He faces a host of unlikely circumstances, from petrol poisoning to exploding lavatories to trigger-happy Turks. All signs point to the total collapse of the bloated empire he serves, but Otto refuses to abandon the Habsburgs in their hour of need.

## Book Information

Series: The Otto Prohaska Novels (Book 1)

Paperback: 376 pages

Publisher: McBooks Press (September 1, 2005)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 159013107X

ISBN-13: 978-1590131077

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 1 x 8.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 15.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (178 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #845,760 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #168 inÂ Books > Literature & Fiction > World Literature > Canadian #1064 inÂ Books > Literature & Fiction > Action & Adventure > Sea Adventures #2682 inÂ Books > Literature & Fiction > Genre Fiction > Historical > Military

## Customer Reviews

Ignore the Kirkus Review and see what readers have to say. This is an extraordinary book. I read it perhaps two years ago, but it is unforgettable. One of the most enjoyable reads I've ever had. And a most unusual story. The life of a submariner in the Austro-Hungarian navy in the first world war? I think I learned a lot (the author is a scholar specializing in the history of that region) and it was a terribly amusing but realistic tale. I loaned it to a colleague with a love for sea stories, and he read it immediately and voraciously and was upset to find it was out-of-print as he wanted to send copies to friends. I rarely read books twice, but this is one I'd like to return to again and again.

Wonderful debut historical novel set in the Austro-Hungarian Empire circa WWI. The book is presented as the memoirs of a Polish Czech who served in the royal navy as a submarine commander. The bulk of the book focuses on his exploits in the fledgling submarine corps patrolling the Adriatic. Biggins is masterful at depicting the cramped life and sketchy technology of the earliest submarines. The detailed descriptions of combat are as gripping and engaging as anything in "The

Hunt for Red October", with the added bonus that Biggins can actually write. It is a very strong historical novel which manages to depict a confusing time and place with total believability. Highly recommended for those interested in Central Europe circa WWI and those interested in military history. Followed by The Emperor's Coloured Coat and The Two-Headed Eagle.

Most naval fiction is Napoleonic. Most of what's left is of the US and can range from the American Revolution to modern times. That takes care of about 95% of all that is out there. Most of the rest falls into a few types as well but this book is completely different. Little is ever written of the First World War and even less is ever written of Austria. When you have a story that involves Austrian U boats in the First World War, you know you have found something very different from average. This is such a book. Even better, it is interesting and well written. The book is a reminiscence of Otto Prohaska, an officer of the Habsburg monarchy. U Boats are still fairly new and are considered experimental. Otto does a good job of proving the technology and has a series of adventures in doing so. One of these involves trying to transport a live camel on a U Boat. The book has a sense of humor. It brings out some little known information about a neglected part of a seldom written of war. It is outstanding all around.

One of my favourite novels of the past decade. I think I've read it more than a dozen times and the appeal never fades. Not a conventional war story by any means, the book it most closely reminds me of, strangely, is Joseph Heller's classic "Catch 22". Although the books are poles apart, they are both concerned with the absurdity of war, but whereas "Catch 22" is black and manic, "A Sailor of Austria" is gently sardonic. Biggins accurately conveys the crumbling pretensions of the Austro-Hungarian empire and the utter meaninglessness of its military efforts in this tepid backwater of the War to end all Wars. Part of the allure of the story for me was the very obscurity of the campaign Biggins is describing. Prior to reading this I had no idea that Austro-Hungary even had a navy, let alone a submarine fleet. The depth of Biggin's research is obvious and extremely impressive. His hero and narrator, Otto Prohaska, is a likeable sea-dog, with a healthy cynicism regarding the doddering Empire he serves, but whose loyalty to that same crumbling edifice remains steadfast until it literally falls to pieces around him. The final scenes aboard his submarine as the Austro-Hungarian flag is taken down for the last time and his crew prepares to break up are among the the most moving in the book. The book has plenty more to recommend it - humour, romance, intrigue, in short a must-read for anyone interested in war and the sea.

This is my first review ever and probably my last but I was delighted to see this work reissued after a long hiatus. This rather "obscure" author is in my view far superior to better known historical-fiction genre authors such as Cornwell (the Sharpe series), let alone Clancy. In a nutshell, not only does Biggins place you into the WWI submarine service, he transports you into the Austro-Hungarian Empire and Navy with an accuracy and amusing flair rarely found. Alas, the set-up as an aging mariner in the UK is a bit tiresome but this is rapidly followed by his saga. I have read 3 other Biggins books; this is his first and best. I found it abandoned by a local library; for a while it was available online for a considerable price, so this is a bargain. Even though my military background is considerable, I needed to conduct some research to fully appreciate the nuances of this great saga of WWI. Don't hesitate to go to Wikipedia, e.g., to get a better feel for the now defunct Austro-Hungarian Empire and its military. I HIGHLY and UNRESERVEDLY RECOMMEND THIS BOOK to anyone with an interest in naval history, the First World War or simply good prose by a vastly underrated author. As you read this saga, you must ask how better the world today might be if this Empire were still intact!

[Download to continue reading...](#)

A Sailor of Austria: In Which, Without Really Intending to, Otto Prohaska Becomes Official War Hero No. 27 of the Habsburg Empire (The Otto Prohaska Novels) Tropics of Vienna: Colonial Utopias of the Habsburg Empire (Austrian and Habsburg Studies) Alone through the Roaring Forties (The Sailor's Classics #5) (Sailor's Classics Series) Mundaka Upanishad: What is that, knowing which, everything becomes known? Don't Go to the Cosmetics Counter Without Me: A unique, professionally sourced guide to thousands of skin-care and makeup products from today's hottest ... and discover which products really work! Opium War, 1840-1842: Barbarians in the Celestial Empire in the Early Part of the Nineteenth Century and the War by Which They Forced Her Gates Intending Death: The Ethics of Assisted Suicide and Euthanasia Counted Cross Stitch Pattern: "Flash Boy Superhero" Comic Book Hero For Kids With 9 Alphabets To Personalize Your Hero (Kids Are Heroes Series) Vietnam War: The Vietnam War in 50 Events: From the First Indochina War to the Fall of Saigon (War Books, Vietnam War Books, War History) (History in 50 Events Series Book 6) World War 2 History's 10 Most Incredible Women: World War II True Accounts Of Remarkable Women Heroes (WWII history, WW2, War books, world war 2 books, war history, World war 2 women) Pierrot lunaire. Albert Giraud - Otto Erich Hartleben - Arnold Schoenberg: A Collection of Musicological and Literary Studies (La Republique des Lettres) Lobscouse and Spotted Dog: Which It's a Gastronomic Companion to the Aubrey/Maturin Novels A Graveyard Called Two Bits: How to Succeed at War without Really Dying What Really Matters for Struggling Readers: Designing

Research-Based Programs (3rd Edition) (What Really Matters Series) I Really, Really Want It: Celebrity. It's a killer. 50 Maths Ideas You Really Need to Know (50 Ideas You Really Need to Know Series) What He REALLY Means When He Says... - The Ultimate Guide to Understanding Men, Knowing What They REALLY Think and How to Read Their Minds in Every Situation World War 1: World War I in 50 Events: From the Very Beginning to the Fall of the Central Powers (War Books, World War 1 Books, War History) (History in 50 Events Series) World War 1: Soldier Stories: The Untold Soldier Stories on the Battlefields of WWI (World War I, WWI, World War One, Great War, First World War, Soldier Stories) World War 2: World War II in 50 Events: From the Very Beginning to the Fall of the Axis Powers (War Books, World War 2 Books, War History) (History in 50 Events Series Book 4)

[Dmca](#)