

= Russian battleship Potemkin =

The Russian battleship Potemkin (Russian : ????? ????????????????? , Kniaz Potemkin Tavricheskiy , " Prince Potemkin of Tauris ") was a pre @-@ dreadnought battleship built for the Imperial Russian Navy 's Black Sea Fleet . She became famous when the crew rebelled against the officers in June 1905 (during that year 's revolution) , now viewed as a first step towards the Russian Revolution of 1917 . The mutiny later formed the basis of Sergei Eisenstein 's 1925 silent propaganda film The Battleship Potemkin .

After the mutineers sought asylum in Constanța , Romania , and the Russians recovered the ship , her name was changed to Panteleimon . She accidentally sank a Russian submarine in 1909 and was badly damaged when she ran aground in 1911 . During World War I , Panteleimon participated in the Battle of Cape Sarych in late 1914 . She covered several bombardments of the Bosphorus fortifications in early 1915 , including one where she was attacked by the Turkish battlecruiser Yavuz Sultan Selim . Panteleimon and the other Russian pre @-@ dreadnoughts present drove her off before she could inflict any serious damage . The ship was relegated to secondary roles after the first dreadnought battleship entered service in late 1915 . She was by then obsolete and was reduced to reserve in 1918 in Sevastopol .

Panteleimon was captured when the Germans took Sevastopol in May 1918 and was handed over to the Allies after the Armistice in November 1918 . Her engines were destroyed by the British in 1919 when they withdrew from Sevastopol to prevent the advancing Bolsheviks from using them against the White Russians . She was abandoned when the Whites evacuated the Crimea in 1920 and was finally scrapped by the Soviets in 1923 .

= = Design and construction = =

= = = Planning = = =

Planning began in 1895 for a new battleship that would utilize a slipway slated to become available at the Nikolayev Admiralty Shipyard in 1896 . The Naval Staff and the commander of the Black Sea Fleet , Vice Admiral K. P. Pilkin , agreed on a copy of the Peresvet @-@ class battleship design , but they were overruled by General Admiral Grand Duke Alexei Alexandrovich . The General Admiral decided that the long range and less powerful 10 @-@ inch (254 mm) guns of the Peresvet class were inappropriate for the narrow confines of the Black Sea , and ordered the design of an improved version of the battleship Tri Sviatitelia instead . The improvements included a higher forecastle to improve the ship 's seakeeping qualities , Krupp cemented armour and Belleville boilers . The design process was complicated by numerous changes demanded by various departments of the Naval Technical Committee . The ship 's design was finally approved on 12 June 1897 , although design changes continued to be made that slowed the ship 's construction .

= = = Construction and sea trials = = =

Construction of Potemkin began on 27 December 1897 and she was laid down at the Nikolayev Admiralty Shipyard on 10 October 1898 . She was named in honour of Prince Grigory Potemkin , a Russian soldier and statesman . The ship was launched on 9 October 1900 and transferred to Sevastopol for fitting out on 4 July 1902 . She began sea trials in September 1903 and these continued , off and on , until early 1905 when her gun turrets were completed .

= = Description = =

Potemkin was 371 feet 5 inches (113 @.@ 2 m) long at the waterline and 378 feet 6 inches (115 @.@ 4 m) long overall . She had a beam of 73 feet (22 @.@ 3 m) and a maximum draught of 27 feet (8 @.@ 2 m) . She displaced 12 @,@ 900 long tons (13 @,@ 100 t) , 420 long tons (430 t)

more than her designed displacement of 12 @, @ 480 long tons (12 @, @ 680 t) . Potemkin 's crew consisted of 26 officers and 705 enlisted men .

== = Power == =

The ship had a pair of three @-@ cylinder vertical triple @-@ expansion steam engines , each of which drove one propeller , that had a total designed output of 10 @, @ 600 indicated horsepower (7 @, @ 900 kW) . Twenty @-@ two Belleville boilers provided steam to the engines at a pressure of 15 atm (1 @, @ 520 kPa ; 220 psi) . The eight boilers in the forward boiler room were oil @-@ fired and the remaining 14 were coal @-@ fired . During her sea trials on 31 October 1903 , she reached a top speed of 16 @. @ 5 knots (30 @. @ 6 km / h ; 19 @. @ 0 mph) . Leaking oil caused a serious fire on 2 January 1904 that caused the navy to convert her boilers to coal firing at a cost of 20 @, @ 000 rubles . She carried a maximum of 1 @, @ 100 long tons (1 @, @ 100 t) of coal at full load that provided a range of 3 @, @ 200 nautical miles (5 @, @ 900 km ; 3 @, @ 700 mi) at a speed of 10 knots (19 km / h ; 12 mph) .

== = Armament == =

The main armament consisted of four 40 @-@ calibre 12 @-@ inch (305 mm) guns mounted in twin gun turrets fore and aft of the superstructure . The electrically operated turrets were derived from the design of those used by the Petropavlovsk @-@ class battleships . These guns had a maximum elevation of + 15 ° and their rate of fire was very slow , only one round every four minutes during gunnery trials . They fired a 745 @-@ pound (337 @. @ 7 kg) shell at a muzzle velocity of 2 @, @ 792 ft / s (851 m / s) . At an elevation of + 10 ° the guns had a range of 13 @, @ 000 yards (12 @, @ 000 m) . Potemkin carried 60 rounds for each gun .

The sixteen 45 @-@ calibre , six @-@ inch (152 mm) Canet Pattern 1891 quick @-@ firing (QF) guns were mounted in casemates . Twelve of these were placed on the sides of the hull and the other four were positioned at the corners of the superstructure . They fired shells that weighed 91 @. @ 4 lb (41 @. @ 46 kg) with a muzzle velocity of 2 @, @ 600 ft / s (792 m / s) . They had a maximum range of 12 @, @ 602 yards (11 @, @ 523 m) when fired at an elevation of + 20 ° . The ship stowed 160 rounds per gun .

Smaller guns were carried for close @-@ range defence against torpedo boats . These included fourteen 50 @-@ calibre Canet QF 75 @-@ millimetre (3 @. @ 0 in) guns : four in hull embrasures and the remaining 10 mounted on the superstructure . The ship carried 300 shells for each gun . They fired an 11 @-@ pound (4 @. @ 9 kg) shell at a muzzle velocity of 2 @, @ 700 ft / s (820 m / s) to a maximum range of 7 @, @ 005 yards (6 @, @ 405 m) . She also mounted six 47 @-@ millimetre (1 @. @ 9 in) Hotchkiss guns . Four of these were mounted in the fighting top and two on the superstructure . They fired a 2 @. @ 2 @-@ pound (1 @. @ 00 kg) shell at a muzzle velocity of 1 @, @ 400 ft / s (430 m / s) .

Potemkin had five underwater 15 @-@ inch (381 mm) torpedo tubes : one in the bow and two on each broadside . She carried three torpedoes for each tube . While the model of torpedo in use changed over time , the first torpedo that the ship would have been equipped with was the M1904 . It had a warhead weight of 150 pounds (70 kg) and a speed of 33 knots (61 km / h ; 38 mph) with a maximum range of 870 yards (800 m) .

In 1907 , telescopic sights were fitted for the 12 @-@ inch and 6 @-@ inch guns . Either later that year , or in 1908 , 2 @. @ 5 @-@ meter (8 ft 2 in) rangefinders were installed . The bow torpedo tube was removed in 1910 ? 11 as was the fighting top . The following year , the main gun turret machinery was upgraded and the guns were modified to improve their rate of fire to one round every 40 seconds .

Two 57 @-@ millimetre (2 @. @ 2 in) anti @-@ aircraft (AA) guns were mounted on the ship 's superstructure on 3 ? 6 June 1915 and they were supplemented by two 75 mm AA guns , one on top of each turret , probably during 1916 . In February of that year , the ship 's four remaining torpedo tubes were removed . At some point during World War I , her 75 mm guns were also

removed .

== Protection ==

The maximum thickness of the Krupp cemented armour waterline belt was nine inches (229 mm) which reduced to eight inches (203 mm) abreast the magazines . It covered 237 feet (72 @. 2 m) of the ship 's length and two @-@ inch (51 mm) plates protected the waterline to the ends of the ship . The belt was 7 feet 6 inches (2 @. 3 m) high , of which 5 feet (2 m) was below the waterline , and tapered down to a thickness of five inches (127 mm) at its bottom edge . The main part of the belt terminated in seven @-@ inch (178 mm) transverse bulkheads .

Above the belt was the upper strake of six @-@ inch armour that was 156 feet (47 @. 5 m) long and closed off by six @-@ inch transverse bulkheads fore and aft . The upper casemate protected the six @-@ inch guns and was five inches thick on all sides . The sides of the turrets were ten inches (254 mm) thick and they had a two @-@ inch roof . The conning tower 's sides were nine inches thick . The nickel @-@ steel armour deck was two inches thick on the flat amidships , but 2 @. 5 inches (64 mm) thick on the slope connecting it to the armour belt . Fore and aft of the armoured citadel , the deck was three inches (76 mm) to the bow and stern . In 1910 ? 11 , additional one @-@ inch (25 mm) armour plates were added fore and aft ; their exact location is unknown , but they were probably used to extend the height of the two @-@ inch armour strake at the ends of the ship .

== Service ==

== The mutiny ==

During the Russo @-@ Japanese War of 1904 ? 05 , many of the Black Sea Fleet 's most experienced officers and enlisted men were transferred to the ships in the Pacific to replace losses . This left the fleet with primarily raw recruits and less capable officers . With the news of the disastrous Battle of Tsushima in May 1905 morale dropped to an all @-@ time low , and any minor incident could be enough to spark a major catastrophe . Taking advantage of the situation , plus the disruption caused by the ongoing riots and uprisings , the Central Committee of the Social Democratic Organization of the Black Sea Fleet , called " Tsentralka " , had started preparations for a simultaneous mutiny on all of the ships of the fleet , although the timing had not been decided .

On 27 June 1905 , Potemkin was at gunnery practice near Tendra Island off the Ukrainian coast when many enlisted men refused to eat the borscht made from rotten meat partially infested with maggots . The uprising was triggered when Ippolit Giliarovsky , the ship 's second in command , allegedly threatened to shoot crew members for their refusal . He summoned the ship 's marine guards as well as a tarpaulin to protect the ship 's deck from any blood in an attempt to intimidate the crew . Giliarovsky was killed after he mortally wounded Grigory Vakulinchuk , one of the mutiny 's leaders . The mutineers killed seven of the Potemkin 's eighteen officers , including Captain Evgeny Golikov , and captured the torpedo boat Ismail (No. 627) . They organized a ship 's committee of 25 sailors , led by Afanasi Matushenko , to run the battleship .

The committee decided to head for Odessa flying a red flag and arrived there later that day at 22 : 00 . A general strike had been called in the city and there was some rioting as the police tried to quell the strikers . The following day the mutineers refused to land armed sailors to help the striking revolutionaries take over the city , preferring instead to await the arrival of the other battleships of the Black Sea Fleet . Later that day the mutineers aboard the Potemkin captured a military transport , Vekha , that had arrived in the city . The riots continued as much of the port area was destroyed by fire . On the afternoon of 29 June , Vakulinchuk 's funeral turned into a political demonstration and the army attempted to ambush the sailors who participated in the funeral . In retaliation , the ship fired two six @-@ inch shells at the theatre where a high @-@ level military meeting was scheduled to take place , but missed .

The government issued an order to send two squadrons to Odessa either to force the Potemkin crew to give up or sink the battleship . Potemkin sortied on the morning of 30 June to meet the three battleships Tri Sviatitelia , Dvenadsat Apostolov , and Georgii Pobedonosets of the first squadron , but the loyal ships turned away . The second squadron arrived with the battleships Rostislav and Sinop later that morning , and Vice Admiral Aleksander Krieger , acting commander of the Black Sea Fleet , ordered the ships to proceed to Odessa . Potemkin sortied again and sailed through the combined squadrons as Krieger failed to order his ships to fire . Captain Kolonds of Dvenadsat Apostolov attempted to ram Potemkin and then detonate his ship 's magazines , but he was thwarted by members of his crew . Krieger ordered his ships to fall back , but the crew of Georgii Pobedonosets mutinied and joined Potemkin .

The following morning , loyalist members of Georgii Pobedonosets retook control of the ship and ran it aground in Odessa harbor . The crew of Potemkin , together with Ismail , decided to sail for Constan?a later that day where they could restock food , water and coal . The Romanians refused to provide the supplies , backed by the presence of their small protected cruiser Elisabeta , so the ship 's committee decided to sail for the small , barely defended port of Theodosia in the Crimea where they hoped to resupply . The ship arrived on the morning of 5 July , but the city 's governor refused to give them anything other than food . The mutineers attempted to seize several barges of coal the following morning , but the port 's garrison ambushed them and killed or captured 22 of the 30 sailors involved . They decided to return to Constan?a that afternoon .

Potemkin reached its destination at 23 : 00 on 7 July and the Romanians agreed to give asylum to the crew if they would disarm themselves and surrender the battleship . Ismail 's crew decided the following morning to return to Sevastopol and turn themselves in , but Potemkin 's crew voted to accept the terms . Captain Negru , commander of the port , came aboard at noon and hoisted the Romanian flag and then allowed the ship to enter the inner harbor . Before the crew disembarked , Matushenko ordered that the Potemkin 's Kingston valves be opened so Potemkin would sink to the bottom .

= = = Later service = = =

When Rear Admiral Pisarevsky reached Constan?a on the morning of 9 July , he found the Potemkin half sunk in the harbor and flying the Romanian flag . After several hours of negotiations with the Romanian Government , the battleship was handed over to the Russians . Later that day , the Saint Andrew 's flag was raised over the battleship . She was then easily refloated by the navy , but the salt water had damaged her engines and boilers . She left Constan?a on 10 July , having to be towed back to Sevastopol , where she arrived on 14 July . The ship was renamed Panteleimon (Russian : ?????????) , after Saint Pantaleon , on 12 October 1905 . Some members of Panteleimon 's crew joined a mutiny that began aboard the cruiser Ochakov in November , but it was easily suppressed as both ships had been earlier disarmed .

Panteleimon received an experimental underwater communications set in February 1909 . Later that year , she accidentally rammed and sank the submarine Kambala at night on 11 June , killing the 16 crewmen aboard the submarine .

While returning from a port visit to Constan?a in 1911 , Panteleimon ran aground on 2 October . It took several days to refloat her and make temporary repairs , and the full extent of the damage to her bottom was not fully realized for several more months . The ship participated in training and gunnery exercises for the rest of the year ; a special watch was kept to ensure that no damaged seams were opened while firing . Permanent repairs , which involved replacing her boiler foundations , plating , and a large number of her hull frames , lasted from 10 January to 25 April 1912 . The navy took advantage of these repairs to overhaul her engines and boilers .

= = = World War I = = =

Panteleimon , flagship of the 1st Battleship Brigade , accompanied by the pre @-@ dreadnoughts Evstafi , Ioann Zlatoust , and Tri Sviatitelia , covered the pre @-@ dreadnought Rostislav while she

bombarded Trebizond on the morning of 17 November 1914 . They were intercepted the following day by the Ottoman battlecruiser Yavuz Sultan Selim (the ex @-@ German SMS Goeben) and the light cruiser Mıdilli on their return voyage to Sevastopol in what came to be known as the Battle of Cape Sarych . Despite the noon hour the conditions were foggy ; the capital ships initially did not spot each other . Although several other ships opened fire , hitting the Goeben once , Panteleimon held fire because her turrets could not see the German ships before they disengaged .

Tri Sviatitelia and Rostislav bombarded Ottoman fortifications at the mouth of the Bosphorus on 18 March 1915 , the first of several attacks intended to divert troops and attention from the ongoing Gallipoli Campaign , but fired only 105 rounds before sailing north to rejoin Panteleimon , Ioann Zlatoust and Evstafi . Tri Sviatitelia and Rostislav were intended to repeated the bombardment the following day , but were hindered by heavy fog . On 3 April , Yavuz Sultan Selim and several ships of the Turkish navy raided the Russian port at Odessa ; the Russian battleship squadron sortied to intercept them . The battleships chased Yavuz Sultan Selim the entire day , but were unable to reach effective gunnery range and were forced to break off the chase . On 25 April Tri Sviatitelia and Rostislav repeated their bombardment of the Bosphorus forts . Tri Sviatitelia , Rostislav and Panteleimon bombarded the forts again on 2 and 3 May . This time a total of 337 main gun rounds were fired in addition to 528 six @-@ inch shells between the three battleships .

On 9 May 1915 , Tri Sviatitelia and Panteleimon returned to bombard the Bosphorus forts , covered by the remaining pre @-@ dreadnoughts . Yavuz Sultan Selim intercepted the three ships of the covering force , although no damage was inflicted by either side . Tri Sviatitelia and Pantelimon rejoined their consorts and the latter scored two hits on Yavuz Sultan Selim before she broke off the action . The Russian ships pursued her for six hours before giving up the chase . On 1 August , all of the Black Sea pre @-@ dreadnoughts were transferred to the 2nd Battleship Brigade , after the more powerful dreadnought Imperatritsa Mariya entered service . On 1 October the new dreadnought provided cover while Ioann Zlatoust and Pantelimon bombarded Zonguldak and Evstafi shelled the nearby town of Kozlu . The ship bombarded Varna twice in October 1915 ; during the second bombardment on 27 October , she entered Varna Bay and was unsuccessfully attacked by two German submarines stationed there .

Panteleimon supported Russian troops in early 1916 as they captured Trebizond and participated in an anti @-@ shipping sweep off the northwestern Anatolian coast in January 1917 that destroyed 39 Ottoman sailing ships . On 13 April 1917 , after the February Revolution , the ship was renamed Potemkin @-@ Tavricheskiy (Russian : ????????? @-@ ?????????????) , and then on 11 May renamed Borets za svobodu (Russian : ????? ?? ????????? ? Freedom Fighter) .

= = Reserve and decommissioning = = =

She was placed in reserve in March 1918 and was captured by the Germans at Sevastopol in May . They handed the ship over to the Allies in December 1918 after the Armistice . The British wrecked her engines on 19 April 1919 when they left the Crimea to prevent the advancing Bolsheviks from using her against the White Russians . Thoroughly obsolete by this time , the ship was captured by both sides during the Russian Civil War , but was abandoned by the White Russians when they evacuated the Crimea in November 1920 . Borets za svobodu was scrapped beginning in 1923 , although she was not stricken from the Navy List until 21 November 1925 .

= = Legacy = =

The immediate effects of the mutiny are difficult to assess . It may have influenced Tsar Nicholas II 's decisions to end the Russo @-@ Japanese War and accept the October Manifesto , as the mutiny demonstrated that his régime no longer had the unquestioning loyalty of the military . The mutiny 's failure did not stop other revolutionaries from inciting insurrections later that year , including the Sevastopol Uprising . Vladimir Lenin , leader of the Bolshevik Party , called the 1905 Revolution , including the Potemkin mutiny , a " dress rehearsal " for his successful revolution in 1917 . The Communists seized upon it as a propaganda symbol for their party and unduly emphasized their role

in the mutiny . In fact , Matushenko explicitly rejected the Bolsheviks because he and the other leaders of the mutiny were Socialists of one type or another and cared nothing for Communism .

The mutiny was memorialized most famously by Sergei Eisenstein in his 1925 silent film Battleship Potemkin , although the French silent film " La Révolution en Russe " (" Mutiny on a Man @-@ of @-@ War in Odessa " or " Revolution in Odessa " , 1905) , directed by Ferdinand Zecca or Lucien Nonguet (or both) , was the first film to depict the mutiny , preceding Eisenstein 's far more famous film by 20 years . Filmed shortly after the Bolshevik victory in the Russian Civil War of 1917 ? 22 , with the derelict battleship Dvenadsat Apostolov standing in for the broken @-@ up Potemkin , Eisenstein recast the mutiny into a predecessor of the November Revolution of 1917 that swept the Bolsheviks to power . He emphasized their role , and implied that the mutiny failed because Matushenko and the other leaders were not better Bolsheviks . Eisenstein made other changes to dramatize the story , ignoring the major fire that swept through Odessa 's dock area while Potemkin was anchored there , combining the many different incidents of rioters and soldiers fighting into a famous sequence on the steps (today known as Potemkin Stairs) , and showing a tarpaulin thrown over the sailors to be executed .

In accordance with the Marxist doctrine that history is made by collective action , not individuals , Eisenstein forbore to single out any person in his film , but rather focused on the " mass protagonist " . Soviet film critics hailed this approach , including the dramaturge and critic , Adrian Piotrovsky , writing for the Leningrad newspaper " Krasnaia gazeta " :

The hero is the sailors ' battleship , the Odessa crowd , but characteristic figures are snatched here and there from the crowd . For a moment , like a conjuring trick , they attract all the sympathies of the audience : like the sailor Vakulinchuk , like the young woman and child on the Odessa Steps , but they emerge only to dissolve once more into the mass . This signifies : no film stars but a film of real @-@ life types .

Similarly , theatre critic Alexei Gvozdev wrote in the journal Artistic Life (Zhizn ikusstva) : " In Potemkin there is no individual hero as there was in the old theatre . It is the mass that acts : the battleship and its sailors and the city and its population in revolutionary mood . "