

= Soviet cruiser Molotov =

Molotov (Russian : ???????) was a Project 26bis Kirov @-@ class cruiser of the Soviet Navy that served during World War II and into the Cold War . She supported Soviet troops during the Siege of Sevastopol , the Kerch @-@ Feodosiya Operation and the amphibious landings at Novorossiysk at the end of January 1943 .

The ship was extensively modernized between 1952 and 1955 . She was renamed Slava (Russian : ????? , Glory) in 1957 after Vyacheslav Molotov fell out of favour . Slava was reclassified as a training ship in 1961 before being sold for scrap in 1972 .

= = Description = =

Molotov and her sister Maxim Gorky had heavier armor and were slightly improved from the first two Kirov @-@ class cruisers of Project 26 , and were thus designated Project 26bis .

She was 187 meters (614 ft) long at the waterline , 191 @. @ 4 meters (628 ft) long overall , with a beam of 17 @. @ 66 meters (57 ft 11 in) and a draft between 5 @. @ 87 to 6 @. @ 3 meters (19 ft 3 in to 20 ft 8 in) . She displaced 8 @, @ 177 metric tons (8 @, @ 048 long tons) at standard load and 9 @, @ 728 metric tons (9 @, @ 574 long tons) at full load .

Her steam turbines produced a total of 129 @, @ 750 shaft horsepower (96 @, @ 750 kW) during her sea trials , reaching a maximum speed of 36 @. @ 72 knots (68 @. @ 01 km / h ; 42 @. @ 26 mph) , just shy of her designed speed of 37 knots , mainly because she was overweight by 900 metric tons (890 long tons) . Molotov normally carried 650 metric tons (640 long tons) of fuel oil , 1 @, @ 660 metric tons (1 @, @ 630 long tons) at full load and 1 @, @ 750 metric tons (1 @, @ 720 long tons) at overload . This gave her a range of 4 @, @ 220 nautical miles (7 @, @ 820 km ; 4 @, @ 860 mi) at 18 knots (33 km / h ; 21 mph) .

Molotov carried nine 180 @-@ millimeter (7 @. @ 1 in) 57 @-@ calibre B @-@ 1 @-@ P guns in three electrically powered MK @-@ 3 @-@ 180 triple turrets . Her secondary armament consisted of nine single 100 @-@ millimeter (3 @. @ 9 in) 56 @-@ calibre B @-@ 34 anti @-@ aircraft guns fitted on each side of the rear funnel . Her light AA guns consisted of six semi @-@ automatic 45 @-@ millimeter (1 @. @ 8 in) 21 @-@ K AA guns and four DK 12 @. @ 7 @-@ millimeter (0 @. @ 50 in) machine guns . Six 533 @-@ millimeter (21 @. @ 0 in) 39 @-@ Yu torpedo tubes were fitted in two triple mountings .

Molotov was the first Soviet ship to carry radar , a Redut @-@ K air warning system , which she used for the entire war . Soviet @-@ designed Mars @-@ 1 gunnery radar systems were added by 1944 .

= = Wartime modifications = =

By 1943 three of Molotov 's 45 mm semi @-@ automatic guns were replaced with twelve fully automatic 37 @-@ millimeter (1 @. @ 5 in) 70 @-@ K AA guns with one thousand rounds per gun and two extra DK machine guns . Her aircraft catapult was removed in 1942 to make room for more light AA guns .

In 1943 an improved ZK @-@ 1a catapult was fitted and successfully test @-@ launched a Supermarine Spitfire fighter . However , in 1947 the concept was abandoned and the catapult was removed .

= = World War II = =

Molotov was laid down at the Marti South , Nikolayev on 14 January 1937 , launched on 4 December 1939 and was completed on 14 June 1941 . As the only ship in the Soviet Navy with radar Molotov remained in Sevastopol for the initial period of Operation Barbarossa to provide air warning . The advance of German troops into the Crimea in late October 1941 forced her to transfer to Tuapse where she continued to provide air warning . However , the ship did bombard German

troops near Feodosiya with nearly 200 180 mm shells on 9 November before returning to Tuapse . Molotov helped to carry the 386th Rifle Division from Poti to Sevastopol between 24 and 28 December 1941 . While off @-@ loading troops on 29 December her stern was damaged by German artillery and she shelled Axis positions in retaliation , firing 205 180 mm and 107 100 mm shells . The ship evacuated 600 wounded upon her departure on 30 December .

Molotov reprised her role as a transport during the first week of January . Her bow was damaged during a heavy storm in Tuapse when she was thrown against the jetty on 21 ? 22 January 1942 . The ship spent most of the next month under repair , although her bow could not be straightened ; the residual damage reduced her speed by several knots . She made a number of bombardment sorties in support of Soviet troops on the Kerch Peninsula until 20 March when she returned to Poti for more permanent repairs . On 12 June Molotov transported 2998 men of the 138th Rifle Brigade to Sevastopol , shelling German positions while unloading . She evacuated 1065 wounded and 350 women and children as she departed . On 14 ? 15 June the ship returned , carrying 3855 reinforcements in company with other ships , bombarded German positions again , and evacuated 2908 wounded and refugees . On 2 August , while returning from another bombardment mission near Feodosiya , 20 metres (66 ft) of her stern was blown off by Heinkel He 111 torpedo bombers of 6 . / KG 26 acting in concert with Italian MAS torpedo boats . The damage reduced her speed to 10 knots (19 km / h ; 12 mph) and Molotov had to be steered by her engines . Molotov was under repair at Poti until 31 July 1943 and used the stern of the incomplete Chapayev @-@ class cruiser Frunze , the rudder of the incomplete cruiser Zheleznyakov , the steering gear from the cruiser Kaganovich and the steering sensor from the submarine L @-@ 25 . The loss of three destroyers to German air attack on 6 October 1943 resulted in Stalin 's order that forbade the deployment of large naval units without his express permission ; this meant the end of Molotov 's active participation in the war .

= = Postwar career = =

Molotov was refitted in November 1945 to repair the last of her wartime damage . She suffered a fire in the shell handling room for Turret # 2 on 5 October 1946 that had to be extinguished by flooding the magazine and handling room at the cost of 22 dead and 20 wounded . The ship served as the test bed for the radars intended for the Chapayev and Sverdlov @-@ class cruisers during the late 1940s . Molotov 's postwar modernization began in 1952 and lasted until 28 January 1955 .

As part of this modernization Molotov received a radar suite composed of Gyuys for air search , Rif for surface search , Zalp for main @-@ armament gunnery and Yakor ' for anti @-@ aircraft gunnery . All of her light anti @-@ aircraft guns were replaced by eleven twin gun water @-@ cooled 37 mm V @-@ 11 mounts and her 100 mm guns were reinstalled on fully powered B @-@ 34USMA mountings . Her anti @-@ aircraft fire @-@ control system was replaced by a Zenit @-@ 26 with SPN @-@ 500 stabilized directors . In addition she lost her torpedo tubes , anti @-@ submarine weapons , boat cranes and all remaining aircraft equipment . This cost 200 million rubles , between half and three @-@ quarters the cost of a new Project 68bis Sverdlov @-@ class cruiser .

On 29 October 1955 the ship participated in rescue efforts after an explosion sank the ex @-@ Italian battleship Novorossiysk . Five of her own men were lost when the battleship capsized almost three hours after the explosion . She was renamed Slava on 3 August 1957 after Vyacheslav Molotov was purged from the government after an unsuccessful coup against Nikita Khrushchev that same year . She was reclassified as a training cruiser on 3 August 1961 . Slava was deployed to the Mediterranean between 5 ? 30 June 1967 to show Soviet support of Syria during the Six @-@ Day War . She returned to the Mediterranean between September ? December 1970 where the ship assisted the Kotlin @-@ class destroyer Bravyi after the latter 's collision with the aircraft carrier HMS Ark Royal on 9 November 1970 . Slava was sold for scrap on 4 April 1972 .