= Russian monitor Admiral Spiridov =

The Russian monitor Admiral Spiridov was the name ship of her class of monitors built for the Imperial Russian Navy in the late 1860s . The ship was assigned to the Baltic Fleet upon completion and remained there for her entire career . Aside from an accidental collision her service was uneventful . The sister ships were reclassified as coast @-@ defense ironclads in 1892 before they became training ships in 1900 . Admiral Spiridov was stricken from the Navy List in 1907 and became a coal @-@ storage barge . Her ultimate fate is unknown .

= = Design and description = =

The Admiral Spiridov @-@ class monitors were significantly larger than their predecessors , the Charodeika class , and were 254 feet (77 @.@ 4 m) long at the waterline . They had a beam of 43 feet (13 @.@ 1 m) and a maximum draft of 21 feet (6 @.@ 4 m) . The ships were designed to displace 3 @,@ 196 long tons (3 @,@ 247 t) , but turned out to be overweight and actually displaced 3 @,@ 505 to 3 @,@ 587 long tons (3 @,@ 561 to 3 @,@ 645 t) . Their crew consisted of 280 officers and crewmen . The Admiral Spiridov class had a single two @-@ cylinder horizontal direct @-@ acting steam engine , which drove a single propeller using steam provided by four rectangular fire @-@ tube boilers . The engine was designed to produce a total of 2 @,@ 000 indicated horsepower (1 @,@ 500 kW) , which gave the ship a speed of 9 @.@ 1 knots (16 @.@ 9 km / h ; 10 @.@ 5 mph) from 2 @,@ 060 ihp (1 @,@ 540 kW) when she ran her initial sea trials in 1871 . Two years later , Admiral Spiridov ran them again , this time reaching 10 @.@ 2 knots (18 @.@ 9 km / h ; 11 @.@ 7 mph) . The ship carried 280 long tons (280 t) of coal which gave her a range of 1 @,@ 400 nautical miles (2 @,@ 600 km ; 1 @,@ 600 mi) at full speed . She was fitted with three masts in a light fore @-@ and @-@ aft rig to steady her and aid in maneuvering .
The monitors were ultimately designed to be armed with four Obukhov 9 @-@ inch rifled guns , a pair in each turret . In 1874 ? 75 the guns were replaced by a single 11 @-@ inch (279 mm) gun . During the Russo @-@ Turkish War of 1877 ? 78 , a 9 @-@ inch mortar was fitted to attack the thin deck armor of enemy ships , but accuracy was poor and they were later removed , probably in the early 1880s . Admiral Spiridov retained her original guns until 1902 , although a more powerful 11 @-@ inch gun may have been installed after that date . Light guns for use against torpedo boats were added to the Admiral Spiridov @-@ class ships during the Russo @-@ Turkish War when a pair of 4 @-@ pounder 3 @.@ 4 @-@ inch (86 mm) guns were mounted on the roofs of each gun turret . A variety of other small guns are known to have been fitted , but details are lacking . The ships could also carry 12 to 15 mines .
The hull of the Admiral Spiridov @-@ class monitors was completely covered by wrought @-@ iron armor that was 5 @.@ 5 to 6 @.@ 5 inches (140 to 165 mm) thick amidships and thinned to 3 @.@ 25 inches (83 mm) aft and 3 @.@ 5 inches (89 mm) forward of the main belt . The turrets had 6 inches of armor , except around the gun ports , where it thickened to 6 @.@ 5 inches . The conning tower was 5 inches (127 mm) thick and the deck armor was in two layers with a total thickness of 1 inch .

= = Construction and service = =

Admiral Spiridov , named for Admiral Grigory Spiridov , was ordered on 4 June 1865 from the Semiannikov & Poletika Shipyard , Saint Petersburg , although the formal keel @-@ laying was not until 20 November 1866 . Construction was delayed by changes to the design and late deliveries of components . She was launched on 28 August 1868 and then transferred to Kronstadt for fitting out as the shallow waters around Saint Petersburg prevented deep @-@ draft ships from being completed . This added more delays as the dockyard there lacked the equipment to efficiently fit out the ships , and she officially entered service in 1869 at the cost of 1 @,@ 177 @,@ 500 rubles .
The ship was assigned to the Baltic Fleet upon completion , but she was not fully equipped until around 1872 and her trials continued until 1873 . Admiral Spiridov accidentally rammed the monitor

Admiral Lazarev in Kronstadt harbor in 1871 , but was only slightly damaged . Steam @-@ powered steering gear was installed in the ship in 1887 and she was reclassified as a coast @-@ defense ironclad on 13 February 1892 . By this time , her role in Russian war plans was to defend the Gulf of Riga against an anticipated German amphibious landing . In 1900 , Admiral Spiridov was assigned to the Kronstadt Engineering School as a training ship . She was transferred to the Port of Kronstadt on 31 March 1907 for disposal . The ship was stricken on 14 August and Admiral Spiridov became a stationary coal @-@ storage barge . Her subsequent fate is unknown . One source suggests that she and her sister Admiral Chichagov , and the two Admiral Lazarev @-@ class monitors , were used as floating piers for the railroad bridge over the Svir River during the construction of the Saint Petersburg ? Murmansk Railroad in 1916 before being scrapped in the 1920s .