

= Russian battleship Petropavlovsk (1894) =

Petropavlovsk (?????????????) was the lead ship of the Petropavlovsk class of pre-dreadnought battleships built for the Imperial Russian Navy . She displaced 11,854 long tons (12,044 t) at full load and was 369 feet (112.5 m) long overall , and mounted a main battery of four 12-inch (305 mm) guns in two twin turrets . Petropavlovsk participated in the Boxer Rebellion , and during the Russo-Japanese War was the flagship of the First Pacific Squadron , taking part in battles against the Imperial Japanese Navy . On 13 April 1904 , the battleship was sunk after striking two mines near Port Arthur . 652 men and 27 officers died , including the Vice Admiral Stepan Makarov and renowned war artist Vasily Vereshchagin . The loss of Petropavlovsk and Makarov greatly hindered the Russians in the war .

= Design =

The first design for Petropavlovsk and her sister ships of the Petropavlovsk class was approved in January 1891 . She was to be an improved version of the battleship Imperator Nikolai I , but with most of her armament in barbets , including four 12-inch (305 mm) guns . The class was designed with a displacement of 10,960 long tons (11,136 t) at full load . She had a full waterline belt , and the upper hull featured a tumblehome . Imperator Nikolai I was chosen as a starting point for the design because of her good seakeeping and seaworthiness . Some characteristics were copied from the French battleship Brennus and the American Indiana-class battleships , such as the flush-deck hull and Brennus ' high freeboard .

Following a redesign of the class , Petropavlovsk ceased to resemble Imperator Nikolai I. The armor plating was changed before construction , and plans for the armament were modified while the ship was being built . The barbets were replaced with turrets , including wing turrets for some of the secondary 6-inch (152 mm) guns modeled after those on Brennus , with electric hoists . The propulsion was based on the machinery on Georgii Pobedonosets . Petropavlovsk had nickel-steel armor imported from the United States .

= Characteristics =

Petropavlovsk displaced 11,842 long tons (12,032 t) and was 376 feet (114.6 m) long overall . She had a beam of 70 feet (21.3 m) and a maximum draft of 28 feet 3 inches (8.6 m) . She was powered by 16 cylindrical boilers with coal-burning furnaces , and had bunkers for 1,050 long tons (1,070 t) of coal . This gave her a range of 3,750 nautical miles (6,940 km) at a cruising speed of 10 knots (19 km / h) . She had a crew of 662 .

The ship 's main armament was a battery of four 12-inch (305 mm) guns in two twin turrets . Her secondary armament was a battery of 12 6-inch (152 mm) guns . She had also 10 47-millimeter (1.9 in) guns , 28 37-millimeter (1.5 in) anti-torpedo boat guns , and six 14-inch (356 mm) torpedo tubes , four of which were submerged .

= Service history =

= Early years =

In October 1897 Petropavlovsk sailed from Saint Petersburg to Kronstadt to be outfitted . In 1898 the guns were fitted ; later the battleship moved to Liepaja , returning to Kronstadt in 1899 . On 5 October 1899 Petropavlovsk was transferred to the Far Eastern , East Asia Squadron . Aleksandr Kolchak , who was the chief of the watch on board , was to have conducted hydrology experiments in the northern Pacific ocean . However , when the ship arrived in the Mediterranean , Kolchak accepted a position with Eduard Toll 's expedition and left the vessel . Petropavlovsk reached Port

Arthur on 28 April 1900 , becoming the flagship of Vice Admiral Skrydlov and the East Asia Squadron . In 1900 the ship took part in the suppression of the Boxer Rebellion in China . In October 1902 Rear Admiral Oskar Victorovich Stark took command of the East Asia Squadron and raised his flag on Petropavlovsk .

= = = Russo @-@ Japanese War = = =

In early February 1904 the Japanese Navy launched a surprise attack on the Russian fleet at Port Arthur . The squadron was attacked by a flotilla of Japanese torpedo boat destroyers . The Russians were not prepared for the attack and confusion ran rampant throughout the harbor 's interior . Petropavlovsk escaped damage during the torpedo attack , but was lightly damaged in an engagement the next day against the Japanese fleet (she was hit by one 6 @-@ inch and two 12 @-@ inch shells) , killing one and wounding four . Petropavlovsk fired twenty 12 @-@ inch and sixty @-@ eight 6 @-@ inch shells at the Japanese battleships , but none hit . As a result of the damage incurred in the attack by Tsesarevich and the subsequent lengthy repair @-@ time , Makarov was compelled to choose as his flagship Petropavlovsk against his better judgement (he viewed the former as sturdier than the latter) .

= = = Sinking = = =

Having failed to blockade or bottle up the Russian squadron at Port Arthur by sinking blockships in the harbor 's channel , the Japanese under Admiral Togo formulated a new plan . Ships were to mine the entrance from the harbor and then lure the Russians into the minefield in the hopes of sinking a number of Russian warships . Under cover of four detachments of torpedo boat destroyers , the minelayer Koru @-@ Maru began to lay mines near the entrance to Port Arthur on the night of 31 March . The Japanese were observed by Admiral Makarov , who believed that they were Russian destroyers whom he had ordered to patrol that area .

On 13 April 1904 (31 March old style) , Strashnii , a Russian destroyer , was intercepted by Japanese destroyers . A sea battle erupted between the opposing destroyers . Makarov immediately dispatched the cruiser Bayan to assist Strashnii . After Bayan had informed on presence of enemy cruisers on the site , Makarov decided to lead main forces in order to seek battle with the surrounding enemy warships and rescue more survivors from Strashnii . He led two battleships (Petropavlovsk and Poltava) , four cruisers and a group of destroyers into the Yellow Sea .

However , the Japanese retreated beyond Port Arthur 's gunfire support range , and had been reinforced by main forces of six battleships . At 0850 , Makarov turned around to head back to the harbor and join with three other battleships that had just left . After the squadron had united and turned back towards the enemy , about two miles from the shore , on 9 @.@ 42 Petropavlosk detonated a Japanese @-@ laid mine on her port side . Petropavlovsk sank , taking 27 officers and 652 men , including Admiral Makarov and war artist Vasily Vereshchagin with her . A monument was constructed in Saint Petersburg in 1913 to honor Stephan Makarov after Japanese divers identified his remains inside the wreck of Petropavlovsk and gave him a burial at sea .