

= Russian battleship Chesma (1886) =

Chesma (Russian : ????? , sometimes transliterated as Tchesma) was the second ship of the Ekaterina II @-@ class battleships built for the Imperial Russian Navy in the 1880s . When the ship was completed she proved to be very overweight which meant that much of her waterline armor belt was submerged . Russian companies could not produce the most advanced armour and machinery desired by the Naval General Staff , so they were imported from the United Kingdom and Belgium . Chesma spent her career as part of the Black Sea Fleet .

When the crew of the battleship Potemkin mutinied in June 1905 , the ship 's crew was considered unreliable and she did not participate in the pursuit of the Potemkin . Chesma did , however , escort Potemkin as Sinop towed her back to Sevastopol from Constan?a , Romania , where Potemkin had sought asylum . Chesma was turned over to the Sevastopol port authorities before being stricken on 14 August 1907 . Before she was fully dismantled the Naval Ministry decided to use her hull for full @-@ scale armour trials . She was re @-@ designated as Stricken Vessel Nr. 4 on 22 April 1912 before being used as a gunnery target . Afterwards the ship served as a torpedo target for the destroyers of the Black Sea Fleet . During these attacks Chesma settled to the bottom of the Bay of Tendra and was eventually scrapped during the mid @-@ 1920s .

= = Design and description = =

Chesma was 331 feet 8 @.@ 5 inches (101 @.@ 1 m) long at the waterline and 339 feet 3 inches (103 @.@ 4 m) long overall . She had a beam of 68 feet 11 inches (21 @.@ 0 m) and a draft of 28 feet 10 inches (8 @.@ 8 m) more than 28 inches (710 mm) than designed . She displaced 11 @,@ 396 long tons (11 @,@ 579 t) at load , over 1 @,@ 200 long tons (1 @,@ 200 t) more than her designed displacement of 10 @,@ 181 long tons (10 @,@ 344 t) .

Chesma had two 3 @-@ cylinder vertical compound steam engines imported from the Belgian Cockerill company . Fourteen cylindrical boilers , also imported from Cockerill , provided steam to the engines . The engines had a total designed output of 9 @,@ 000 indicated horsepower (6 @,@ 700 kW) , but they produced 9 @,@ 059 ihp (6 @,@ 755 kW) on trials and gave a top speed of almost 16 knots (30 km / h ; 18 mph) . At full load she carried 900 long tons (910 t) of coal that provided her a range of 2 @,@ 800 nautical miles (5 @,@ 200 km ; 3 @,@ 200 mi) at a speed of 10 knots (19 km / h ; 12 mph) and 1 @,@ 367 nautical miles (2 @,@ 532 km ; 1 @,@ 573 mi) at 14 @.@ 5 knots (26 @.@ 9 km / h ; 16 @.@ 7 mph) .

She differed from her sister ships mainly in her main armament . She had six 12 in (305 mm) Model 1886 35 @-@ caliber guns mounted in twin barbette mounts , two forward , side by side , and one aft . Each of the forward mounts could traverse 30 ° across the bow and 35 ° abaft the beam , or a total of 155 ° . The rear mount could traverse 202 ° . They had a range of elevation from ? 2 ° to + 15 ° . Chesma 's guns were mounted on unbalanced turntables and they caused her to list when the guns were trained to one side . Traversing all the guns as far as they could go to one side produced a list of 7 @.@ 6 ° and made it very difficult for the turntable machinery to rotate the guns back to the fore @-@ and @-@ aft position . This problem had been anticipated and water tanks had been added to counteract the list , but they proved to be virtually useless because they took up to two hours to fill . The problem was partially cured in 1892 when the equipment was rearranged on the turntable to improve their balance , but more thorough solutions to the problem were either deemed too expensive or inadequate . Their rate of fire was reportedly one round every fifteen to seventeen minutes , including training time . Sixty rounds per gun were carried . The main guns were mounted very low , (only 4 feet 6 inches (1 @.@ 37 m)) above the main deck , and caused extensive damage to the deck when fired over the bow or stern . They fired a ' light ' shell that weighed 731 @.@ 3 lb (331 @.@ 7 kg) or a ' heavy ' shell that weighed 1 @,@ 003 lb (455 kg) . The ' light ' shell had a muzzle velocity of 2 @,@ 090 ft / s (640 m / s) while the ' heavy ' shell could only be propelled at a velocity of 2 @,@ 000 ft / s (610 m / s) . The ' light ' shell had a maximum range of 11 @,@ 600 yards (10 @,@ 600 m) when fired at an elevation of 15 ° .

The seven 6 @-@ inch (152 mm) Obukhov Model 1877 35 @-@ caliber guns were mounted on

broadside pivot mounts in hull embrasures , except for one gun mounted in the stern in the hull . The eight 47 @-@ millimeter (1 @.@ 9 in) five @-@ barreled revolving Hotchkiss guns were mounted in small embrasures in the hull to defend the ship against torpedo boats . Four 37 @-@ millimeter (1 @.@ 5 in) five @-@ barreled revolving Hotchkiss guns were mounted in the fighting top . She carried seven above @-@ water 14 @-@ inch (356 mm) torpedo tubes , one tube forward on each side , able to bear on forward targets , two other tubes were mounted on each broadside forward and aft of the central citadel ; the seventh tube was in the stern .

= = History = =

Chesma was named after the Russian victory at the Battle of Chesma in 1770 . She was built by the Russian Steam Navigation Company (RoPIT) at Sevastopol . She was laid down in late June 1883 , launched on 18 May 1886 , and completed on 29 May 1889 . She served with the Black Sea Fleet until 1907 . She was inactive in 1895 , probably for mechanical problems . Chesma conducted trials in 1902 with towing spherical observation balloons and she was re @-@ boilered the following year . Plans were made for a radical reconstruction to be done while her boilers were being replaced . The rebuilding involved cutting her down by one deck and replacing her armament with two twin @-@ gun turrets equipped with 12 @-@ inch 40 @-@ caliber guns and ten 6 @-@ inch 45 @-@ caliber guns between the turrets in an armoured citadel that used Krupp armor . This proved to be too expensive and it was cancelled , but not before the armor and turrets had been ordered . Her turrets were used to equip the pre @-@ dreadnought Ioann Zlatoust , then under construction .

When the crew of the battleship Potemkin mutinied in June 1905 , Chesma 's crew was considered unreliable , and she did not participate in the pursuit of Potemkin . She escorted Potemkin as Sinop towed her back to Sevastopol from Constan?a , Romania , where Potemkin had sought asylum .

The ship was turned over to the Sevastopol port authorities before being stricken on 14 August 1907 . Before she was fully dismantled the Naval Ministry decided to use her hull for full @-@ scale armour trials . She was re @-@ designated as Stricken Vessel Nr. 4 on 22 April 1912 . Chesma was fitted with a replica of the armour system used in the Gangut @-@ class battleships to test its effectiveness . She was towed into position and given a 7 ° list to simulate the descent angle of shells fired at long range . Ironically her own guns were used against her as Ioann Zlatoust anchored 750 meters (2 @, @ 460 ft) away and fired 12 @-@ inch , 8 @-@ inch (203 mm) and 6 @-@ inch shells with reduced charges to simulate shells fired from approximately 16 @, @ 000 ? 18 @, @ 000 yards (15 @, @ 000 ? 16 @, @ 000 m) away . These revealed significant weaknesses in the support structure for the armour plates and in the deck protection , but the Gangut @-@ class ships were too far along in construction to incorporate fixes . Afterwards she served as a torpedo target for the destroyers of the Black Sea Fleet . During these attacks she settled to the bottom of the Bay of Tendra and was eventually scrapped during the mid @-@ 1920s .