

= Russian battleship Georgii Pobedonosets =

Georgii Pobedonosets ( Russian : ??????? ???????????? Saint George the Victorious ) was a battleship built for the Imperial Russian Navy , the fourth and final ship of the Ekaterina II class . She was , however , only a half @-@ sister to the others as her armor scheme was different and she was built much later than the earlier ships . She participated in the pursuit of the mutinous battleship Potemkin in June 1905 , but her crew mutinied themselves . However , loyal crew members regained control of the ship the next day and they ran her aground when Potemkin threatened to fire on her if she left Odessa harbor . She was relegated to second @-@ line duties in 1908 . She fired on SMS Goeben during her bombardment of Sevastopol in 1914 , but spent most of the war serving as a headquarters ship in Sevastopol . She was captured by both sides during the Russian Civil War , but ended up being towed to Bizerte by the fleeing White Russians where she was eventually scrapped .

= = Design and development = =

Georgii Pobedonosets was originally intended as a version of Sinop rearmed with three 12 @-@ inch ( 300 mm ) and four 9 @-@ inch ( 230 mm ) guns , but this changed when the decision was made to provide her with three twin 12 @-@ inch turrets rather than the barbettes used by her sisters . The turrets were significantly heavier than the barbette mountings so the armour scheme was revised in compensation . However this revised design was still deemed overweight and rejected . The Naval Ministry held a competition for a replacement , but these were rejected by the Naval Technical Committee in turn . So a modified version of Sinop , with barbettes , was chosen again as the most readily available choice . The height of her armour was lowered to reduce the overweight condition of her half @-@ sisters . Other changes were made while building , but they came early in the process and did not seriously delay her completion past her contractual date of 13 September 1893 . These changes included smaller mountings for her main guns that eliminated the sponsons needed in her sisters for the forward barbettes , the substitution of 35 @-@ calibre guns for the older 30 @-@ calibre guns and steel armor imported from Schneider et Cie of France replaced the compound armour used in her half @-@ sisters .

Georgii Pobedonosets was 347 feet 6 inches ( 105 @.@ 9 m ) long at the waterline and 339 feet 4 inches ( 103 @.@ 4 m ) long overall . She had a beam of 68 feet 11 inches ( 21 @.@ 0 m ) and a draft of 27 feet 11 inches ( 8 @.@ 5 m ) . She displaced 11 @, @ 032 long tons ( 11 @, @ 209 t ) at load , over 700 long tons ( 710 t ) more than her designed displacement of 10 @, @ 280 long tons ( 10 @, @ 440 t ) .

She had two 3 @-@ cylinder vertical triple expansion steam engines driving screw propellers 16 feet 5 inches ( 5 @.@ 0 m ) in diameter . Sixteen cylindrical boilers provided steam to the engines . The engines and boilers were both imported from Maudslay and Sons of the United Kingdom and were 114 long tons ( 116 t ) overweight . The engines had a total designed output of 10 @, @ 000 indicated horsepower ( 7 @, @ 500 kW ) , but they only produced 9 @, @ 843 ihp ( 7 @, @ 340 kW ) on trials and gave a top speed of 16 @.@ 5 knots ( 30 @.@ 6 km / h ; 19 @.@ 0 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 ) .

Her main armament consisted of three pairs of 12 @-@ inch ( 305 mm ) Obukhov Model 1886 35 @-@ calibre guns mounted in two twin barbette mounts side by side forward and one aft of the superstructure . They had a maximum elevation of 15 ° and could depress to ? 2 ° . 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 ° . Their rate of fire was one round every four minutes , fifty seconds , including training time . They fired a 731 @.@ 3 @-@ pound ( 331 @.@ 7 kg ) shell at a muzzle velocity of 2 @, @ 090 ft / s ( 640 m / s ) to a range of 11 @, @ 600 yards ( 10 @, @ 600 m ) at maximum elevation . They also had a ' heavy ' shell available that weighed 1 @, @ 003 lb ( 455 kg

) that was fired at a velocity of 2 @, @ 000 ft / s ( 610 m / s ) although the range is not available .

The seven 6 @-@ inch ( 152 mm ) Model 1877 35 @-@ calibre 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 ) single @-@ barrelled Hotchkiss guns were mounted on the battery deck to defend the ship against torpedo boats . Ten 37 @-@ millimeter ( 1 @. @ 5 in ) Hotchkiss guns were mounted in the fighting top . She carried seven above @-@ water 14 @-@ inch ( 356 mm ) torpedo tubes , three tubes on each broadside and a tube in the stern .

In contrast to her half @-@ sisters the armour used on Georgii Pobedonosets was steel . The belt armor had a maximum thickness of 16 inches ( 410 mm ) which reduced , in 2 @-@ inch ( 51 mm ) steps , down to 6 inches ( 150 mm ) forward and down to 8 inches ( 200 mm ) aft . Its height was reduced by 1 foot ( 0 @. @ 30 m ) in comparison to the other ships of the class to 7 feet ( 2 @. @ 1 m ) to reduce weight . However this left only six inches of her belt above her load waterline as she was still overweight , a decrease of 7 inches ( 180 mm ) from her half @-@ sisters . The deck armour was 2 @. @ 25 inches ( 57 mm ) outside the citadel and reduced to 1 @. @ 5 inches ( 38 mm ) over it .

= = Service history = =

Georgii Pobedonosets was named after Saint George the Victorious . She was built by the Russian Steam Navigation Company ( RoPIT ) at Sevastopol . She was laid down on 5 May 1891 , launched on 9 March 1892 , and completed in 1893 , although her trials lasted until mid @-@ 1895 . She spent her career in the Black Sea Fleet . She began her trials in September 1893 , but they were not completed until the middle of 1895 .

In 1905 , Georgii Pobedonosets briefly joined the Potemkin mutiny . On 29 June 1905 , the ship was one of eight vessels ( three battleships , a cruiser and four torpedo boats ) sent to capture the Potemkin in Odessa . The next day the fleet approached Potemkin , then suddenly retreated . She then followed them , deliberately goading the officers to order the sailors to fire on their comrades . The crew of Georgii Pobedonosets refused : " We won 't fire ! We won 't man the guns ! We refuse to engage the Potemkin . " Her sailors cheered the rebel sailors ' bravery . Dorofey Koshuba , a member of the revolutionary sailors ' organisation Tsentral'ka , broke into the armoury , ordered Captain Ilya Guzevich to halt the ship , pushing him away when he refused . The ship halted , Guzevich pleaded with the sailors to go to Sevastopol , even offering to let the 70 revolutionaries onto Potemkin . Afanasi Matushenko , the leader of Potemkin 's crew , arrived with several revolutionaries who made a speech that inspired the sailors to arrest the officers . This was enough to make his second @-@ in @-@ command , Lieutenant Grigorkov , blow his own brains out . Apart from this , the seizure was bloodless . The sailors elected a committee ( Koshuba and nine others ) , locked the officers in the stateroom and ripped off their epaulettes . The officers were put ashore in Odessa . It was decided that the petty officers should be put ashore too the next day . Senior Boatswain A. O. Kuzmenko became captain .

The next day , however , loyal crew members regained control of the ship and they ran her aground and surrendered to the authorities . In August 1905 , 75 mutineers were tried . Koshuba and two others were executed and 19 sailors got 185 years of hard labour .

In 1907 , the Naval General Staff made a proposal for a radical reconstruction that was similar to the proposals to reconstruct Chesma and Sinop made before the Russo @-@ Japanese War that involved cutting her down by one deck and replacing her armament with two twin @-@ gun turrets equipped with 12 @-@ inch 40 @-@ calibre guns and the compound armor replaced by Krupp armor . This new proposal differed from the older one in that eight 120 @-@ millimeter ( 4 @. @ 7 in ) guns replaced the ten six @-@ inch guns originally planned . This was rejected as she still would have lacked the speed to stay with the main fleet and the hull protection required to withstand high @-@ explosive shell fire .

She became a training ship in 1908 and her 6 @-@ inch 35 @-@ calibre guns were replaced by modern 6 @-@ inch 45 @-@ calibre guns . She was modified as a harbour guard ship in 1911 and her 12 @-@ inch guns were removed . Six more six @-@ inch guns were added for a total of

fourteen . She fired three rounds , missing each time , at the German battlecruiser Goeben during her bombardment of Sevastopol on 29 October 1914 , but spent the bulk of World War I as a static headquarters ship in Sevastopol . After the Russian Revolution , she joined the Red Black Sea Fleet in December 1917 . She was captured by the Germans in 1918 in Sevastopol and was handed over to the Allies in December 1918 . The British sabotaged her engines on 25 April 1919 . She was captured by both sides in the Russian Civil War , but eventually became part of Wrangel 's fleet and was towed to Bizerte in 1920 . She was sold for scrap between 1930 and 1936 .