

= Russian monitor Smerch =

Smerch (Russian : ?????) was a monitor built for the Imperial Russian Navy in the early 1860s . She was designed by the British shipbuilder Charles Mitchell and built in Saint Petersburg . The ship spent her entire career with the Baltic Fleet . She ran aground and sank shortly after she entered service in 1865 . Smerch was refloated and repaired shortly afterwards . She became a training ship sometime after 1892 and was stricken from the Navy List in 1904 . The ship was hulked five years later and renamed Blokshiv No. 2 . She was in Finland when that country declared its independence in 1918 , but was returned to the Soviets after the Treaty of Brest @-@ Litovsk was signed . Blokshiv No. 1 , as the ship was now known , was sunk by German artillery fire in 1941 . She was salvaged the following year and remained in service until she was stricken in 1959 and subsequently broken up .

= = Design and description = =

The Russian Admiralty Board had previously licensed the design of the Passaic class from the United States and wished to compare the John Ericsson @-@ designed gun turrets of those ships with the turrets designed by the British inventor Captain Cowper Coles . The board therefore commissioned Mitchell to design a twin @-@ turret monitor based on the Danish ironclad Rolf Krake and to build it in the shipyard that he had modernized for the board in Saint Petersburg , Russia .

Smerch was 188 feet 8 inches (57 @.@ 5 m) long at the waterline . She had a beam of 38 feet 2 inches (11 @.@ 6 m) and a maximum draft of 12 feet (3 @.@ 7 m) . The ship was designed to displace 1 @,@ 460 long tons (1 @,@ 480 t) , but turned out to be overweight and actually displaced 1 @,@ 560 long tons (1 @,@ 590 t) . Smerch was fitted with a double bottom that could be flooded in combat to reduce her freeboard . Her crew numbered 11 officers and 122 enlisted men in 1867 and 12 officers and 143 crewmen in 1875 .

She had a freeboard of only 2 ? 2 @.@ 5 feet (0 @.@ 6 ? 0 @.@ 8 m) and her deck was often awash in any sort of moderate sea . Smerch rolled heavily and was fitted with three telescoping iron pole masts , probably fore @-@ and @-@ aft rigged , that were used to steady the ship rather than for propulsion .

= = = Propulsion = = =

The ship had two simple horizontal direct @-@ acting steam engines , built by Maudslay , Sons and Field of London . The engines had a bore of 36 inches (0 @.@ 91 m) and a stroke of 18 inches (0 @.@ 46 m) and each drove a single 7 @-@ foot @-@ 10 @-@ inch (2 @.@ 39 m) propeller . Steam was provided by three rectangular fire @-@ tube boilers at a pressure of 1 @.@ 7 atm (172 kPa ; 25 psi) . The engines produced a total of 800 indicated horsepower (600 kW) which gave Smerch a maximum speed of about 8 @.@ 3 knots (15 @.@ 4 km / h ; 9 @.@ 6 mph) when she ran her sea trials from 12 to 17 June 1865 . The ship also had a small donkey boiler for the small steam engine that powered the ventilation fans , the main water pump and rotated the aft turret . Another such engine probably rotated the forward turret . She carried 110 long tons (112 t) of coal which gave her a range of 600 ? 800 nmi (1 @,@ 100 ? 1 @,@ 500 km ; 690 ? 920 mi) .

= = = Armament = = =

Smerch was initially armed with four 60 @-@ pounder 7 @.@ 72 @-@ inch (196 mm) smoothbore muzzle @-@ loading guns , a pair in each turret . Various deckhouses and ventilation hatches prevented the turrets from firing directly forward or aft , so each turret could bear approximately 145 ° to each side , although this changed slightly over time as changes were made to the ship . In 1867 these were replaced by two Krupp 8 @-@ inch (200 mm) rifled breech @-@ loading guns . Only one gun could fit in the turrets so the old gun ports were plated over and new ones cut in each turret . Three years later , the Krupp guns were replaced by Obukhov 9 @-@ inch (

229 mm) rifled guns . They were replaced in their turn in 1876 by two longer , more powerful 9 @-@ inch Obukhov guns . The ship carried 120 rounds for each gun . A furnace for the molten iron required by Martin 's incendiary shells was fitted between the turrets .

Light guns for use against torpedo boats are not known to have been fitted aboard the ship before the 1870s when Smerch received four 4 @-@ pounder 3 @.@ 4 @-@ inch (86 mm) guns , one 45 @-@ millimeter (1 @.@ 8 in) Engström quick @-@ firing (QF) gun , and a .65 @-@ inch (17 mm) Gatling gun . At some point the ship received four QF 37 @-@ millimeter (1 @.@ 5 in) Hotchkiss revolving cannon . They were mounted on the turret tops and probably replaced the older 4 @-@ pounders .

= = = Armor = = =

Smerch had a complete waterline belt of wrought iron that was 4 @.@ 5 inches (114 mm) thick amidships and thinned to 4 inches (102 mm) at the ends of the ship . It was 7 feet (2 m) high and completely covered the hull to 4 feet 6 inches (1 m) below the waterline . The armor was backed by 8 inches of teak . The circular turrets were protected by armor 4 @.@ 5 inches thick and the area around the gun ports was reinforced by 1 @.@ 5 @-@ inch (38 mm) plates to give a total thickness of 6 inches (152 mm) . The walls of the ship 's oval conning tower were also 4 @.@ 5 inches thick . Her deck was 1 inch (25 mm) thick .

= = Construction and service = =

Smerch (Waterspout) was ordered on 25 June 1863 and construction began on 13 August at the Admiralty Shipyard , Saint Petersburg , although the formal keel @-@ laying was not until 1 December . She was launched on 23 June 1864 and completed in 1865 at the cost of 554 @,@ 100 rubles . The ship spent her career with the Baltic Fleet . Smerch struck an uncharted rock off the Finnish coast on 4 August in shallow water and sank . Using pontoons , she was refloated on 1 September and repaired . Little is known of her service other than she was extensively refitted in 1882 and 1889 which included replacement of much of the plating of her hull bottom . The ship was reclassified as a coast @-@ defense ironclad on 13 February 1892 and subsequently became a training ship .

The ship was stricken from the Navy List on 20 February 1904 and turned over to the Port of Kronstadt for disposal . Smerch was renamed Blokshiv (Hulk) No. 2 on 27 October 1909 and converted into a mine storage hulk . She was abandoned in April 1918 as the Soviets abandoned Finland , but was returned to them the following month according to the terms of the Treaty of Brest @-@ Litovsk . The hulk was renamed Blokshiv No. 3 in 1923 and later as Blokshiv No. 1 on 1 January 1932 . She was sunk by German artillery on 7 October 1941 in Kronstadt harbor and was stricken on 6 March 1942 . The hulk was salvaged in mid @-@ 1942 and reentered service on 8 December . She was renamed BSh @-@ 1 on 16 May 1949 , stricken for the last time on 2 April 1959 , and subsequently scrapped .