

= Russian monitor Bronenosets =

Bronenosets ( Russian : ????????? ) was a Uragan @-@ class monitor built for the Imperial Russian Navy in the mid @-@ 1860s . The design was based on the American Passaic @-@ class monitor , but was modified to suit Russian engines , guns and construction techniques . The ship was only active when the Gulf of Finland was not frozen , but very little is known about her service . She was stricken in 1900 from the Navy List , converted into a coal barge in 1903 and renamed Barzha No. 324 . The ship was lost in a storm sometime during World War I .

= = Description = =

Bronenosets was 201 feet ( 61 @.@ 3 m ) long overall , with a beam of 46 feet ( 14 @.@ 0 m ) and a draft of 10 @.@ 16 ? 10 @.@ 84 feet ( 3 @.@ 1 ? 3 @.@ 3 m ) . She displaced 1 @,@ 500 ? 1 @,@ 600 long tons ( 1 @,@ 500 ? 1 @,@ 600 t ) and her crew numbered eight officers and 88 enlisted men in 1865 . They numbered 10 officers and 100 crewmen in 1877

The ship was fitted with a two @-@ cylinder horizontal direct @-@ acting steam engine built by Carr and MacPherson of Saint Petersburg . It drove a single propeller using steam that was provided by two rectangular boilers . Specific information on the output of the ship 's engine has not survived , but it ranged between 340 ? 500 indicated horsepower ( 254 ? 373 kW ) for all the ships of this class . During Bronenosets 's sea trials on 21 October 1864 , she reached a maximum speed of 7 @.@ 75 knots ( 14 @.@ 35 km / h ; 8 @.@ 92 mph ) and she was the fastest ship in the class . The ship carried a maximum of 190 long tons ( 190 t ) of coal , which gave her a theoretical endurance of 1 @,@ 440 nmi ( 2 @,@ 670 km ; 1 @,@ 660 mi ) at 6 knots ( 11 km / h ; 6 @.@ 9 mph ) .

Bronenosets was designed to be armed with a pair of 9 @-@ inch ( 229 mm ) smoothbore muzzle @-@ loading guns purchased from Krupp of Germany and rifled in Russia , but the rifling project was seriously delayed and the ship was completed with nine @-@ inch smoothbores . These lacked the penetration power necessary to deal with ironclads and they were replaced by license @-@ built 15 @-@ inch ( 380 mm ) smoothbore muzzle @-@ loading Rodman guns in 1867 ? 68 . The Rodman guns were replaced around 1876 with the originally intended nine @-@ inch rifled guns .

All of the wrought @-@ iron armor that was used in the Uragan @-@ class monitors was in 1 @-@ inch ( 25 mm ) plates , just as in the Passaic @-@ class ships . The side of the ship was entirely covered with three to five layers of armor plates , of which the three innermost plates extended 42 inches ( 1 @.@ 1 m ) below the waterline . This armor was backed by wooden beam that had a maximum thickness of 36 inches ( 914 mm ) . The gun turret was protected by eleven layers of armor and the pilothouse above it had eight layers of armor . Curved plates six layers thick protected the base of the funnel up to a height of 7 feet ( 2 @.@ 1 m ) above the deck . Unlike their predecessors , the Uragans were built without deck armor to save weight , but Bronenosets had 0 @.@ 5 @-@ inch ( 12 @.@ 7 mm ) plates added after completion .

= = Career = =

Construction of the ship began on 17 June 1863 at the Carr and MacPherson Shipyard in Saint Petersburg . Bronenosets was laid down on 24 December 1863 and she was launched on 24 March 1864 . She entered service on 6 June 1865 and cost a total of 1 @,@ 148 @,@ 000 rubles , almost double her contract cost of 600 @,@ 000 rubles . The ship was assigned to the Baltic Fleet upon completion and she , and all of her sister ships except Latnik , made a port visit to Stockholm , Sweden in July ? August 1865 while under the command of General Admiral Grand Duke Konstantin Nikolayevich .

Sometime after Bronenosets was completed , an armored ring , 5 inches ( 127 mm ) thick and 15 inches ( 381 mm ) tall , was fitted around the base of the turret to prevent splinters from jamming it . Later , an armored , outward @-@ curving bulwark was fitted around the top of the turret to protect any crewmen there . Three sponsons were later added , probably during the 1870s , to the upper

portion of the turret . Each sponson , one above the gun ports and one on each side of the turret , mounted a light gun , probably a 1 @. @ 75 @-@ inch ( 44 mm ) Engstrom gun , for defense against torpedo boats . A fourth gun was mounted on a platform aft of the funnel when a hurricane deck was built between the funnel and the turret , also probably during the 1870s .

Little is known about the ship 's career other than that she was laid up each winter when the Gulf of Finland froze . Bronenosets was reclassified as a coast defense ironclad on 13 February 1892 and turned over to the Port of Kronstadt for disposal on 6 July 1900 , although she was not stricken until 17 August . During 1903 , the ship was converted into a coal barge by the removal of her turret , her side armor , and its wooden backing , and by the division of her hull into three holds . She was redesignated as Barzha No. 34 , Barzha No. 51 and , in 1914 , Barzha No. 324 . The ship sank in a storm in the Gulf of Finland sometime during World War I.