

= German cruiser Lützow (1939) =

Lützow was a heavy cruiser of Nazi Germany 's Kriegsmarine , the fifth and final member of the Admiral Hipper class , but was never completed . The ship was laid down in August 1937 and launched in July 1939 , after which the Soviet Union requested to purchase the ship . The Kriegsmarine agreed to the sale in February 1940 , and the transfer was completed on 15 April . The vessel was still incomplete when sold to the Soviet Union , with only half of her main battery of eight 20 @. @ 3 cm (8 @. @ 0 in) guns installed and much of the superstructure missing .

Renamed Petropavlovsk in September 1940 , work on the ship was delayed by poor German @-@ Soviet co @-@ operation in crew training and provision of technical literature to enable completion of the ship , which was being carried out in the Leningrad shipyards . Still unfinished when Germany invaded the Soviet Union in June 1941 , the ship briefly took part in the defense of Leningrad by providing artillery support to the Soviet defenders . She was heavily damaged by German artillery in September 1941 , sunk in April 1942 , and raised in September 1942 . After repairs were effected , the ship was renamed Tallinn and used in the Soviet counter @-@ offensive that relieved Leningrad in 1944 . After the end of the war , the ship was used as a stationary training platform and as a floating barracks before being broken up for scrap sometime between 1953 and 1960 .

= = Construction = =

Lützow was ordered by the Kriegsmarine from the Deschimag shipyard in Bremen . Lützow was originally designed as a light cruiser version of the Admiral Hipper class heavy cruisers , armed with twelve 15 cm (5 @. @ 9 in) guns instead of the Admiral Hipper 's eight 20 @. @ 3 cm (8 @. @ 0 in) guns . The Kriegsmarine decided , however , to complete the ship identically to Admiral Hipper on 14 November 1936 . Her keel was laid on 2 August 1937 , under construction number 941 . The ship was launched on 1 July 1939 , but was not completed .

Lützow was 210 meters (690 ft) long overall and had a beam of 21 @. @ 80 m (71 @. @ 5 ft) and a maximum draft of 7 @. @ 90 m (25 @. @ 9 ft) . The ship had a design displacement of 17 @, @ 600 t (17 @, @ 300 long tons ; 19 @, @ 400 short tons) and a full load displacement of 20 @, @ 100 t (19 @, @ 800 long tons ; 22 @, @ 200 short tons) . Lützow was powered by three sets of geared steam turbines , which were supplied with steam by twelve ultra @-@ high pressure oil @-@ fired boilers . The ship 's top speed was 32 knots (59 km / h ; 37 mph) , at 132 @, @ 000 shaft horsepower (98 @, @ 000 kW) . As designed , her standard complement consisted of 42 officers and 1 @, @ 340 enlisted men .

Lützow 's primary armament was eight 20 @. @ 3 cm (8 @. @ 0 in) SK L / 60 guns mounted in four twin gun turrets , placed in superfiring pairs forward and aft . Her anti @-@ aircraft battery was to have consisted of twelve 10 @. @ 5 cm (4 @. @ 1 in) L / 65 guns , twelve 3 @. @ 7 cm (1 @. @ 5 in) guns , and eight 2 cm (0 @. @ 79 in) guns . The ship also would have carried a pair of triple 53 @. @ 3 cm (21 @. @ 0 in) torpedo launchers abreast of the rear superstructure . The ship was to have been equipped with three Arado Ar 196 seaplanes and one catapult . Lützow 's armored belt was 70 to 80 mm (2 @. @ 8 to 3 @. @ 1 in) thick ; her upper deck was 12 to 30 mm (0 @. @ 47 to 1 @. @ 18 in) thick while the main armored deck was 20 to 50 mm (0 @. @ 79 to 1 @. @ 97 in) thick . The main battery turrets had 105 mm (4 @. @ 1 in) thick faces and 70 mm thick sides .

= = Service history = =

In October 1939 , the Soviet Union approached Germany with a request to purchase the then unfinished Admiral Hipper @-@ class cruisers Lützow , Seydlitz , and Prinz Eugen , along with plans for German capital ships , naval artillery , and other naval technology . The Kriegsmarine denied the request for Seydlitz and Prinz Eugen , but agreed to sell Lützow , as well as 38 cm (15 in) gun turrets and other weaponry . The price for the heavy cruiser was set at 150 million Reichsmarks , nearly double the original cost of the vessel , which was 83 @, @ 590 @, @ 000 Reichsmarks . Complete technical specifications , the results of engine trials , and spare parts were

included in the sale . Eighty percent of the material was to be provided within twelve months of the transfer , with the remainder to be provided within fifteen months . Lützow was renamed " L " , her original contract name , for the transfer to the Soviet Union .

In February 1940 , when the agreement was concluded , Lützow was fitting @-@ out in Bremen . Her main battery guns had been transferred to the German army and placed on railway mountings ; they had to be dismantled and returned to Bremen . The ship was then towed to Leningrad on 15 April by a private German towing company . The two navies agreed that Germany would be responsible for naval escort , which included destroyers and smaller vessels . Rear Admiral Otto Feige was placed in command of the operation Feige then led an advisory commission assigned to assist the Soviet effort to complete the ship .

At the time the ship arrived in Leningrad , only the two forward gun turrets had been installed and the bridge superstructure was incomplete . The only secondary guns installed were the 3 @. @ 7 cm anti @-@ aircraft guns . The Soviet Navy renamed the ship Petropavlovsk on 25 September 1940 , and designated the construction effort to complete the ship Projekt 83 . The vessel 's design provided the basis for a planned heavy cruiser , designated Projekt 82 , although this ship was canceled before work began . Training for the Soviet crew of the ship proved to be contentious ; the Soviets wanted their personnel trained in Germany , while the Germans preferred sending instructors to the Soviet Union . Language barriers and inexperience with international training missions also hampered the training effort .

Sea trials for Petropavlovsk were scheduled to begin sometime in late 1941 , and according to the training program , the Soviet crew would not begin training until a month before the trials . It was decided that Soviet officers would train at German naval schools in the Fall of 1941 , and that five officers would train aboard Seydlitz when the ship was commissioned for trials . German instructors would also be sent to Leningrad to train engine @-@ room personnel . At the time of the commissioning of Petropavlovsk , the relevant German training and technical manuals would be sent to the Soviet Navy , albeit in German only .

By the time Germany invaded the Soviet Union in June 1941 , Petropavlovsk was still incomplete . She was nevertheless used as a floating battery in the defense of Leningrad in August of that year . Several other ships , including the cruiser Maxim Gorky , joined Petropavlovsk in shelling the advancing Germans . On 7 September , the ship fired on German forces encircling the city ; she fired forty salvos from her forward main battery turrets ? the only two operational ? expending some 700 rounds of ammunition during the attack . On 17 September 1941 , the ship was disabled by German heavy artillery ; after being hit 53 times , the ship was forced to beach herself to avoid sinking .

On 4 April 1942 , the I Fliegerkorps launched a major attack on the Soviet naval forces in Leningrad : 62 Ju 87s , 33 Ju 88s , and 37 He 111s struck the ships in the harbor . Petropavlovsk was hit once , suffering serious damage . The Soviet Navy raised the ship on 17 September 1942 and towed her to the Neva where she was repaired . Renamed Tallinn in 1943 , the ship returned to service to support the Soviet counter @-@ offensive to relieve the Siege of Leningrad in 1944 . The ship was never completed , and was used as a stationary training ship after the end of the war . She was later used as a floating barracks in the Neva , and renamed Dniepr in 1953 . The date of her disposal is uncertain ; Erich Gröner reports the ship survived until being broken up for scrap in 1960 , while Conway 's All the World 's Fighting Ships states that the vessel was scrapped in 1958 ? 59 . Tobias Philbin reports that the ship was broken up in 1953 .