

= Russian monitor Tifon =

Tifon ( Russian : ????? ) was an 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 . Spending her entire career with the Baltic Fleet , the ship was only active when the Gulf of Finland was not frozen , but very little is known about her service . She was struck from the Navy List in 1900 , converted into a storage hulk for mines in 1909 and renamed Blokshiv No. 3 . The ship was bandoned by the Soviets in Finland in 1918 ; although retroceded to the Soviets in 1922 , she was later scrapped by the Finns .

= = Description = =

While the Uragans were extensively modified by the Russians , they did retain the single twin @-@ gun turret and low freeboard of the original Passaic @-@ class design . Tifon 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 8 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 the Baird Works 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 Tifon 's sea trials on 19 June 1865 , she reached a maximum speed of 6 @. @ 7 knots ( 12 @. @ 4 km / h ; 7 @. @ 7 mph ) . 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 full speed .

Tifon 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 the Krupp smoothbore guns . 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 Rodmans 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 . 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 Tifon was modified for the addition of 0 @. @ 5 @-@ inch ( 12 @. @ 7 mm ) armor plates after completion , although it is unknown if they were ever fitted . They were , however , manufactured and then placed in storage .

= = Construction and career = =

Construction of the ship began on 13 June 1863 at the New Admiralty Shipyard in Saint Petersburg . Tifon was laid down on 1 December 1863 and she was launched on 27 May 1864 . She entered service in 1865 and cost a total of 1 @, @ 105 @, @ 800 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 Tifon 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 . Tifon 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 . Tifon was converted into a mine storage hulk in 1909 and renamed Blokshiv No. 3 on 27 October of that year . She was abandoned by the Soviets in Helsingfors ( Helsinki ) when they were forced to withdraw from Finland in April 1918 according to the terms of the Treaty of Brest @-@ Litovsk , but she was later returned by the Finns in 1922 . The ship was subsequently broken up in Finland .