

= Russian battleship Imperator Aleksandr II =

Imperator Aleksandr II (Russian : ?????????? ?????????? II) was a battleship built for the Imperial Russian Navy in the 1880s . She was an artillery training ship assigned to the Baltic Fleet by the time of the Russo - Japanese War of 1905 and was not sent to the Pacific as was most of the rest of the Baltic Fleet . She was inactive at Kronstadt during World War I , but her crew was active in the revolutionary movement . She was turned over to the Kronstadt port authority on 21 April 1921 before she was sold for scrap on 22 August 1922 . She was towed to Germany during the autumn of 1922 , but was not stricken from the Navy List until 21 November 1925 .

= = Description = =

Imperator Aleksandr II was named after the Emperor Alexander II of Russia . She was built by the New Admiralty Yard at Saint Petersburg . She was laid down in June 1885 , launched in July 1887 , and completed in June 1891 , although her trials lasted until the spring of 1892 .

She was 334 feet (101 @. @ 8 m) long at the waterline and 346 feet 6 inches (105 @. @ 6 m) long overall . She had a beam of 66 feet 11 inches (20 @. @ 40 m) and a draft of 25 feet 9 inches (7 @. @ 85 m) . She displaced 9 @, @ 244 long tons (9 @, @ 392 t) at load , over 800 long tons (813 t) more than her designed displacement of 8 @, @ 440 long tons (8 @, @ 575 t) .

Imperator Aleksandr II had two three @- @ cylinder vertical compound steam engines driving 17 @- @ foot (5 @. @ 2 m) screw propellers . Twelve cylindrical boilers provided steam to the engines . Her engines were built by Baltic Works and had a total designed output of 8 @, @ 500 indicated horsepower (6 @, @ 338 kW) . On trials , the powerplant produced 8 @, @ 289 ihp (6 @, @ 181 kW) , and a top speed of 15 @. @ 27 knots (28 @. @ 28 km / h ; 17 @. @ 57 mph) . She carried 967 long tons (983 t) of coal that provided a range of 4 @, @ 400 nautical miles (8 @, @ 100 km) at a speed of 8 knots (15 km / h ; 9 @. @ 2 mph) and 1 @, @ 770 nautical miles (3 @, @ 280 km) at a speed of 15 knots (28 km / h ; 17 mph) .

The main armament of the Imperator Aleksandr II @- @ class ships was a pair of 12 @- @ inch (305 mm) Obukhov Model 1877 30 @- @ calibre guns mounted in a twin barbette mount forward . The four 9 @- @ inch (229 mm) Obukhov Model 1877 35 @- @ calibre guns were on center @- @ pivot mounts in casemates at the corners of the citadel , the hull being recessed to increase their arcs of fire ahead or behind . The eight 6 @- @ inch (152 mm) Model 1877 35 @- @ calibre guns were mounted on broadside pivot mounts . Four were fitted between the 9 @- @ inch guns and could traverse a total of 100 ° . The others were mounted at each end of the ship where they could fire directly ahead or astern . The ten 47 @- @ millimetre (1 @. @ 9 in) Hotchkiss revolving cannon were mounted in hull embrasures of the ship , between the nine and six @- @ inch guns to defend against torpedo boats . Four 37 @- @ millimetre (1 @. @ 5 in) Hotchkiss revolving cannon were mounted in each fighting top . Imperator Aleksandr II carried five above @- @ water 15 @- @ inch (381 mm) torpedo tubes . Two in the bow , one on each side of the stempost , one tube on each broadside and a tube in the stern . Smaller 14 @- @ inch (356 mm) torpedo tubes could be mounted in four of the ship 's cutters . 36 mines could also be carried .

= = History = =

Imperator Aleksandr II served in the Baltic Fleet and represented Russia , along with the cruiser Rurik , at the opening of the Kiel Canal in June 1895 . She ran aground in Vyborg Bay later that year , but sustained little damage . She joined the Mediterranean Squadron in August 1896 and supported Russian interests during the Cretan Revolt of 1897 . She returned to Kronstadt in September 1901 . She was reboilered in December 1903 and modified in 1904 to serve as an artillery school ship . Her crew refused to suppress the mutinous garrison of Fort Konstantin defending Kronstadt in August 1906 . She was assigned to the Artillery Training Detachment in 1907 . She spent most of World War I in Kronstadt where her crew was active in the revolutionary movement . She was renamed Zarya Svobody (???? ???????? ? Dawn of Freedom) in May 1917 .

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Conway 's says that she was reconstructed in France between 1902 and 1904 , with her torpedo tubes removed and her six and nine @-@ inch guns exchanged for five 8 @-@ inch (200 mm) 45 calibre guns and eight six @-@ inch 45 calibre guns . Her revolver cannon were also exchanged for ten three @-@ pounder guns . Arbazov confirms that the torpedo tubes were removed and says that she had her nine @-@ inch guns replaced by five 8 @-@ inch , the fifth being placed at the stern , the old six @-@ inch guns were exchanged for newer , more powerful models , and four 47 @-@ mm and four 120 @-@ mm guns were added on the upper deck , presumably replacing the old revolver cannon .