

= Russian ironclad Kniaz Pozharsky =

The Russian ironclad Kniaz Pozharsky (Russian : ????? ?????????) was an iron @-@ hulled armored frigate built for the Imperial Russian Navy during the 1860s . She was the first Russian armored ship to leave European waters when she cruised the Pacific Ocean in 1873 ? 75 . The ship did not participate in the Russo @-@ Turkish War of 1877 ? 78 , and remained in the Baltic Sea until 1879 ? 80 , when she made another cruiser to the Pacific . Kniaz Pozharsky was assigned to the Baltic Fleet for the rest of her career . She mainly served as a training ship after her refit in 1885 until she was hulked in 1909 and probably scrapped in 1911 .

= = Design and description = =

Originally classified as an armored corvette , Kniaz Pozharsky was redesignated as an armored frigate on 20 November 1866 . She was laid out as a central battery ironclad with the armament concentrated amidships . The ship was fitted with a ram and her crew numbered approximately 495 officers and enlisted men .

Kniaz Pozharsky was 272 feet 8 inches (83 @.@ 1 m) long at the waterline . She had a beam of 49 feet (14 @.@ 9 m) and a draft of 24 feet 6 inches (7 @.@ 5 m) . The ship was designed to displace 4 @,@ 506 long tons (4 @,@ 578 t) , but displaced 5 @,@ 138 long tons (5 @,@ 220 t) as built , an increase of over 600 long tons (610 t) . Kniaz Pozharsky was fitted with a double bottom and was considered to be a steady gun platform and a good sea boat .

= = = Propulsion = = =

The ship had a simple horizontal direct @-@ acting steam engine driving a single two @-@ bladed propeller . Steam was provided by eight cylindrical boilers . The engine produced 2 @,@ 835 indicated horsepower (2 @,@ 114 kW) during sea trials which gave the ship a maximum speed around 11 @.@ 7 knots (21 @.@ 7 km / h ; 13 @.@ 5 mph) . Kniaz Pozharsky carried a maximum of 600 long tons (610 t) of coal which gave her an economical range of 3 @,@ 000 nautical miles (5 @,@ 600 km ; 3 @,@ 500 mi) . She was ship @-@ rigged with three masts and a maximum sail area of 27 @,@ 000 square feet (2 @,@ 508 m²) . To reduce drag while under sail her funnel was retractable and her propeller could be hoisted into the hull .

= = = Armament = = =

Kniaz Pozharsky was armed with eight Obukhov 9 @-@ inch (229 mm) breech @-@ loading guns . In an attempt to provide axial fire , the sides of the hull at the upper deck level were cut away in front of and behind the battery . While providing better coverage than the traditional broadside layout , this still left a considerable area on which no gun could bear .

The solid shot of the 20 @-@ caliber gun weighed approximately 300 pounds (136 kg) , while the gun itself weighed 14 @,@ 908 pounds (6 @,@ 762 kg) . The gun had a muzzle velocity of 1 @,@ 276 ft / s (389 m / s) and was credited with the nominal ability to penetrate 9 @.@ 3 inches (236 mm) of wrought iron armor at the muzzle .

Watts and Gardiner credit the ship with three spar torpedoes as well as three towed torpedoes , but these are not mentioned by Wright or Silverstone .

= = = Armour = = =

Figures for Kniaz Pozharsky 's armor protection vary between sources . They agree that she had a complete waterline belt of wrought iron that had a total height of 11 feet (3 m) with 5 feet (1 @.@ 5 m) below the waterline . Thicknesses for the belt are quoted from 100 to 114 millimeters (3 @.@ 9 to 4 @.@ 5 in) thick . The guns were protected by a section of 114 @-@ millimeter armor , 80 feet (24 @.@ 4 m) long ; no information on any armored transverse bulkheads is available . The armor

was backed by 17 or 18 inches (432 or 457 mm) of teak .

= = Service = =

Kniaz Pozharsky was laid down on 30 November 1864 at the Mitchell Shipyard in Saint Petersburg with the name of Pozharsky , but it was changed before she was launched on 12 September 1867 . Sources differ on when the ship entered service ; they give either 1870 or 1873 . About 1873 Kniaz Pozharsky became the first Russian armored ship to deploy to the Pacific , but returned to the Baltic Fleet in 1875 . She remained in the Baltic Sea during the Russo @-@ Turkish War and the ensuing war scare with Great Britain . The ship made another cruise to the Pacific in 1879 ? 80 . Kniaz Pozharsky served as the flagship during the fleet maneuvers of 1884 and she was reviewed by Tsar Alexander III of Russia . The ship was extensively refitted the following year and received new boilers , her propeller was fixed in place and her retractable funnel was replaced by two fixed funnels .

Kniaz Pozharsky was rearmed during the refit , but sources differ on the light guns fitted . Her 9 @-@ inch guns were replaced by new , more powerful 35 @-@ caliber 8 @-@ inch (203 mm) guns , likely the 12 @-@ 74 long tons (12 @-@ 94 t) model with a muzzle velocity of 1 @-@ 796 ft / s (547 m / s) . Two 6 @-@ inch (152 mm) , 23 @-@ caliber guns were also fitted , possibly as chase guns . Wright and Watts agree that eight 4 @-@ pounder guns and four quick @-@ firing guns of unspecified size were added ; Silverstone does not mention the four quick @-@ firers , but Gardiner says that four 83 @-@ 4 @-@ millimeter (3 @-@ 3 in) guns were fitted . The ship was reclassified as a " cruiser of the 1st rank " in 1892 and her light armament was modified by the substitution of four 47 @-@ millimeter (1 @-@ 9 in) Hotchkiss guns for four of the 4 @-@ pounders and the addition of six 37 @-@ millimeter (1 @-@ 5 in) Hotchkiss guns . Two above @-@ water 15 @-@ inch (381 mm) torpedo tubes were also added at this time .

After her refit , Kniaz Pozharsky served mostly as a training ship with the Naval School Division , although she was not formally reclassified as a school ship until 24 March 1906 . After she was reclassified her armament was reduced to a single 6 @-@ inch gun , four 4 @-@ pounders , two 47 @-@ millimeter and six 37 @-@ millimeter Hotchkiss guns . The ship was hulked on 27 October 1909 and renamed Blokshiv No. 1 . She was struck from the Navy List on 14 April 1911 and probably scrapped shortly afterward because the elderly monitor Lava was renamed as Blokshiv No. 1 that same day .