

= Japanese aircraft carrier Unry? =

The Japanese aircraft carrier Unry? (?? , Cloud Dragon) was the lead ship of her class of fleet aircraft carriers built for the Imperial Japanese Navy (IJN) during World War II . She was commissioned in mid @-@ 1944 , but fuel and aircrew shortages limited her use to Japanese waters . The impending American invasion of Luzon caused the IJN to order her to transport aircraft and supplies to the Philippines in December . The ship was torpedoed and sunk by the American submarine USS Redfish in the East China Sea during the voyage .

= = Design and description = =

The last purpose @-@ built Japanese carrier construction during World War II was a group of vessels based on an improved Hiry? design , but with individual units differing in detail reflecting the changing circumstances as the conflict in the Pacific approached its conclusion . Unry? was ordered , under the provisional name of # 302 , as part of the Rapid Naval Armaments Supplement Programme of 1941 . The ship was one of 16 Unry? @-@ class aircraft carriers planned , although only three were completed before the end of the war .

Unry? had a length of 227 @. @ 35 meters (745 ft 11 in) overall . She had a beam of 22 meters (72 ft 2 in) and a draft of 8 @. @ 73 meters (28 ft 8 in) . She displaced 20 @, @ 450 metric tons (20 @, @ 130 long tons) . Her crew consisted of 1 @, @ 595 officers and men .

The ship used the same turbines and boilers as used in the heavy cruiser Suzuya . These consisted of four geared steam turbine sets with a total of 152 @, @ 000 shaft horsepower (113 @, @ 000 kW) , each driving one shaft , using steam provided by eight Kampon Type B water @-@ tube boilers . The ship had a designed speed of 34 knots (63 km / h ; 39 mph) . Unry? carried 3 @, @ 670 metric tons (3 @, @ 610 long tons) of fuel oil which gave her a range of 8 @, @ 000 nautical miles (15 @, @ 000 km ; 9 @, @ 200 mi) at 18 knots (33 km / h ; 21 mph) . She had two funnels on the starboard side , each angled below the horizontal . They were fitted with a water @-@ cooling system to reduce the turbulence caused by hot exhaust gases .

= = = Flight deck arrangements = = =

Unry? 's flight deck was 216 @. @ 9 meters (711 ft 7 in) long and had a maximum width of 27 meters (88 ft 7 in) . A small island was mounted well forward on the starboard side and contained the ship 's bridge and air operations control center . It was fitted with a small tripod mast that mounted one of the ship 's radar antennas . The ship was designed with two superimposed hangars that were served by two aircraft elevators , each 14 by 14 meters (46 by 46 ft) ; the center elevator as used in Hiry? was deleted to simplify construction and reduce stress in the hull . The elevators had a maximum capacity of 7 @, @ 000 kilograms (15 @, @ 000 lb) and took 19 seconds to go from the lower hangar to the flight deck . Unry? was fitted with hydraulically operated Type 3 arresting gear with nine cables . She also mounted three Type 3 crash barricades . No aircraft catapult was fitted . The ship mounted a retractable crane on the starboard side of the flight deck , just aft of the rear elevator . Unry? carried 397 @, @ 340 liters (87 @, @ 400 imp gal ; 104 @, @ 970 U.S. gal) of aviation gasoline for her aircraft .

The ship 's air group was originally intended to consist of 12 Mitsubishi A6M Zero fighters , plus 3 in storage , 27 Aichi D3A Val dive bombers , plus 3 in reserve , and 18 Nakajima B5N " Kate " torpedo bombers plus 2 in crates . Amagi 's hangars could not accommodate so many aircraft so 11 planes were planned to be permanently carried on the flight deck . In 1943 the air group was revised to consist of 18 Mitsubishi A7M " Sam " fighters (+ 2 in storage) , 27 Yokosuka D4Y " Judy " dive bombers and 6 Nakajima C6N " Myrt " reconnaissance aircraft . Of these , the C6Ns were intended to be carried on the flight deck . When the ship commissioned in 1944 , neither the A7M nor the C6Ns were yet in service , so the air group was reconfigured to consist of 27 Zeros , 12 D4Ys , 3 of which were to be the reconnaissance version , and 9 Nakajima B6N " Jill " torpedo bombers . By this time , however , the shortage of carrier @-@ qualified aircrew was such that they were ordered to

operate from shore bases and Unry? never embarked her full air group .

== Armor , armament and sensors ==

Unry? 's waterline armored belt was 46 millimeters (1 @. @ 8 in) thick over her machinery spaces , but this increased to 140 millimeters (5 @. @ 5 in) over her magazines . Her deck armor above the machinery was 25 millimeters (0 @. @ 98 in) thick , but the armor above the magazines was 56 millimeters (2 @. @ 2 in) thick .

The ship 's primary armament consisted of a dozen 40 @-@ caliber 12 @. @ 7 cm (5 in) Type 89 anti @-@ aircraft (AA) guns in twin mounts on sponsons on the ship 's sides . Unry? was initially equipped with 16 triple 25 mm (1 in) Type 96 and 3 single Type 96 AA gun mounts , most on sponsons along the sides of the hull . These guns were supplemented by six 28 @-@ round AA rocket launchers . Shortly after completion , another 4 triple and 13 single 25 mm mounts were added . For defense against submarines , the carrier was fitted with six depth charge throwers and carried between six and ten depth charges for them . A Type 3 sonar and a Type 93 hydrophone were fitted to detect any submarines .

Two Type 94 high @-@ angle fire @-@ control directors , one on each side of the ship , were fitted to control the Type 89 guns . Each director mounted a 4 @. @ 5 @-@ meter (14 ft 9 in) rangefinder . Six Type 95 directors controlled the 25 mm guns and the 12 cm rocket launchers . Early warning was provided by two Type 2 , Mark 2 , Model 1 air search radars . One of these was mounted on the top of the island while the other retracted into the port side of the flight deck , between the two elevators . In addition , Unry? had two smaller Type 3 , Mark 1 , Model 3 early @-@ warning radars , one mounted on the tripod mast on the island and the other on the starboard aft retractable radio mast .

== Construction and career ==

Unry? was laid down at Yokosuka Naval Arsenal on 1 August 1942 and launched on 25 September 1943 . Upon commissioning on 6 August 1944 , she was assigned to the 3rd Fleet . She underwent shakedown and trials within Tokyo Bay through mid @-@ September , and was then transferred to Kure Naval District , from which she made numerous training runs around the Seto Inland Sea until December . From 30 October to 7 November , she served briefly as the flagship of Vice Admiral Jisaburo Ozawa ? s Mobile Fleet . Eight days later , the Mobile Fleet was disbanded and the ship was transferred to Carrier Division 1 . Later that month , some A6Ms and B6Ns were embarked .

== Final voyage ==

On 13 December 1944 , thirty Yokosuka MXY7 ?hka kamikaze rocket planes were loaded aboard Unry? for transport to Manila in the Philippines . Four days later , on 17 December 1944 , Unry? departed Kure , Hiroshima escorted by the destroyers Shigure , Hinoki , and Momi under the overall command of Captain Konishi . Her maiden sea voyage was a vain attempt to reinforce the garrison on the island of Luzon just prior to the Allied landings there .

On 19 December 1944 , Unry? was torpedoed and sunk by the submarine USS Redfish . Redfish fired four torpedoes , one of which hit directly under the carrier 's bridge on the starboard side at 16 : 35 . The hit stopped the vessel dead in the water as it severed the main steam line , flooded two boiler rooms , started several fires and gave the ship a 3 @-@ degree list . Just as the carrier began to get underway , another torpedo struck at 16 : 50 on the starboard side abreast the forward elevator and the highly volatile forward aviation gasoline tanks . The resulting explosion caused the warheads of the Ohka kamikaze planes stored on the lower hangar deck to detonate and essentially blew the bow off the ship . The ship listed to 30 degrees very quickly and the order to abandon ship was given . With a 90 @-@ degree list , the ship sank bow @-@ first to the bed of the East China Sea in just seven minutes at position 29 ° 59 ? N 124 ° 03 ? E. Casualties were very heavy with 1 @, @ 238 officers , crewmen and passengers losing their lives . Only 145 men survived to be

rescued by Shigure , which returned to Sasebo , Nagasaki on 22 December . Unry? was struck from the Navy List on 20 February 1945 .