

= Russian cruiser Bayan (1900) =

The cruiser Bayan (Russian : ?????) was the name ship of the four Bayan @-@ class armoured cruisers built for the Imperial Russian Navy in the first decade of the 20th century . The ship had to be built in France because there was no available capacity in Russia . Bayan was assigned to the First Pacific Squadron after completion and based at Port Arthur from the end of 1903 . She suffered minor damage during the Battle of Port Arthur at the beginning of the Russo @-@ Japanese War of 1904 ? 05 and supported destroyers as they patrolled outside the harbour . After bombarding Japanese positions in July 1904 , the ship struck a mine and was out of action for the next several months . Bayan was sunk during the Siege of Port Arthur and was then salvaged by the Japanese after the war .

Renamed Aso by the Imperial Japanese Navy (IJN) she served as a training ship after extensive repairs . The ship was converted into a minelayer in 1917 and was decommissioned in 1930 to serve as a target ship . She was eventually sunk as a target in 1932 .

= = Design and description = =

Unlike previous Russian armoured cruisers , the Bayan @-@ class ships were designed as scouts for the fleet . They were 449 feet 7 inches (137 @.@ 0 m) long overall and 443 feet (135 @.@ 0 m) between perpendiculars . They had a maximum beam of 57 feet 6 inches (17 @.@ 5 m) , a draft of 22 feet (6 @.@ 7 m) and displaced 7 @,@ 802 long tons (7 @,@ 927 t) . The ships had a crew of 573 officers and men .

The Bayan class had two vertical triple @-@ expansion steam engines , each driving a single propeller shaft using steam provided by 26 Belleville boilers . Designed for a total of 16 @,@ 500 indicated horsepower (12 @,@ 304 kW) intended to propel the cruisers at 21 knots (39 km / h ; 24 mph) , the engines actually developed 17 @,@ 400 ihp (13 @,@ 000 kW) during Bayan 's sea trials in October 1902 and drove the ship to a maximum speed of 20 @.@ 9 knots (38 @.@ 7 km / h ; 24 @.@ 1 mph) . She could carry a maximum of 1 @,@ 100 long tons (1 @,@ 118 t) of coal , which gave her a range of 3 @,@ 900 nautical miles (7 @,@ 200 km ; 4 @,@ 500 mi) at 10 knots (19 km / h ; 12 mph) .

Bayan 's main armament consisted of two 8 @-@ inch (203 mm) 45 @-@ calibre guns in single turrets fore and aft of the superstructure . Her eight 6 @-@ inch (152 mm) guns were mounted in casemates on the sides of the ship 's hull . Anti @-@ torpedo boat defence was provided by twenty 75 @-@ millimetre (3 @.@ 0 in) 50 @-@ calibre guns ; eight of these were mounted in casemates on the side of the hull and in the superstructure . The remaining guns were located above the six @-@ inch gun casemates in pivot mounts with gun shields . Bayan also mounted eight 47 @-@ millimetre (1 @.@ 9 in) and two 37 @-@ millimetre (1 @.@ 5 in) Hotchkiss guns . The ship had two submerged 15 @-@ inch (381 mm) torpedo tubes , one on each broadside .

The ship used Harvey armour throughout . Her waterline belt was 7 @.@ 9 inches (200 mm) thick over her machinery spaces . Fore and aft , it reduced to 3 @.@ 9 inches (100 mm) . The upper armour strake and the armour protecting the casemates was 2 @.@ 4 inches (60 mm) thick . The thickness of the armoured deck was 2 inches (50 mm) ; over the central battery it was a single plate , but elsewhere it consisted of a 1 @.@ 2 @-@ inch (30 mm) plate over two 0 @.@ 39 @-@ inch (10 mm) plates . The gun turret sides were protected by 5 @.@ 9 inches (150 mm) of armour and their roofs were 1 @.@ 2 inches thick . The barbettes were protected by armour plates 6 @.@ 7 @-@ inch (170 mm) thick . The sides of the conning tower were 6 @.@ 3 inches (160 mm) thick .

= = Construction and career = =

Bayan , named after the bard Boyan , had to be ordered in May 1898 from the French shipyard Forges et Chantiers de la Méditerranée in La Seyne @-@ sur @-@ Mer because there was no capacity available in Russian shipyards . The ship was laid down in February 1899 and launched on

12 June 1900 . Bayan was completed in February 1903 and , under the command of Captain 1st Rank Robert Wiren , made port visits in Greece , Italy and North Africa before sailing for Kronstadt . Arriving in April 1903 , she was only there for several months before departing for Port Arthur on 7 August . Together with the French @-@ built battleship Tsesarevich , Bayan arrived on 2 December and they were both assigned to the First Pacific Squadron .

On the night of 8 / 9 February 1904 , the IJN launched a surprise attack on the Russian fleet at Port Arthur . Bayan was not hit by the initial torpedo @-@ boat incursion and sortied the following morning when the Combined Fleet , commanded by Vice Admiral T?g? Heihachir? , attacked . T?g? had expected the surprise night attack by his ships to be much more successful than it was , anticipating that the Russians would be badly disorganized and weakened , but they had recovered from their surprise and were ready for his assault . The Japanese vessels had been spotted by the protected cruiser Boyarin , which was patrolling offshore , and alerted the Russian defences . T?g? chose to attack the Russian coastal defences with his main armament and engage the ships with his secondary guns . Splitting his fire proved to be a poor decision as the Japanese 8 @-@ inch (203 mm) and six @-@ inch guns inflicted inconsequential damage on the Russian ships , which concentrated all their fire on their opponents with some effect . Bayan suffered superficial damage from nine hits and numerous splinters ; 6 crewmen were killed and 35 injured . The ship fired 28 eight @-@ inch , 100 six @-@ inch and 160 seventy @-@ five @-@ millimetre shells during the battle .

The damage to Bayan was repaired in several days and subsequently the cruiser patrolled off Port Arthur . Together with the protected cruiser Novik , the ship sortied on 11 March 1904 to support the destroyer Steregushchiy . Under attack by Japanese destroyers , the ship was sunk before help arrived . Early on the morning of 13 April , the Russian destroyer Strashnii fell in with four Japanese destroyers in the darkness while on patrol . Once her captain realized his mistake , the Russian ship attempted to escape but failed after a Japanese shell struck one of her torpedoes and caused it to detonate . By this time Bayan had sortied to provide support , but was only able to rescue five survivors before a Japanese squadron of protected cruisers attacked . Vice Admiral Stepan Makarov led a force of two battleships and three cruisers out to support Bayan and also ordered the rest of the First Pacific Squadron to follow as soon as they could . In the meantime , the Japanese had reported the Russian sortie to T?g? and he arrived with all six Japanese battleships . Heavily outnumbered , Makarov ordered his ships to retreat and to join the rest of the squadron that was just exiting the harbour . Enroute , however , his flagship , Petropavlovsk , struck a naval mine and sank almost instantly .

Bayan sailed with the rest of the Pacific Squadron on 23 June in an abortive attempt to reach Vladivostok . The new squadron commander , Rear Admiral Wilhelm Vitgeft , ordered the squadron to return to Port Arthur when it encountered the Japanese fleet shortly before sunset , as he did not wish to engage his numerically superior opponents in a night battle . After bombarding Imperial Japanese Army positions on 27 July , the ship struck a mine and was under repair until September . After the death of Vitgeft during the Battle of the Yellow Sea on 10 August , Wiren was promoted to rear admiral and became the commander of the First Pacific Squadron . Bayan was subsequently trapped in Port Arthur and sunk at her mooring by five 28 @-@ centimetre (11 in) howitzer shells on 9 December .

= = = Japanese service = = =

After the war , Bayan 's wreck was refloated on 24 June and towed to Dairen . There she was given temporary repairs and commissioned as Aso (named after a volcano in Kumamoto Prefecture) on 22 August . The next day she was towed to Maizuru , Japan for permanent repairs that lasted until July 1908 . During this time , her boilers were replaced by Miyabara water @-@ tube boilers and she was rearmed with Japanese @-@ built weapons of the same size . Her 20 seventy @-@ five @-@ millimetre guns were replaced by 16 three @-@ inch guns .

On 7 September 1908 , Aso , together with the ex @-@ Russian protected cruiser Soya , was assigned to the Training Squadron . On 14 March 1909 they began a training cruise that took their

naval cadets to the West Coast of the United States and Canada and Hawaii before they returned to Yokosuka on 7 August . The next year the two ships made a cruise to Australia and Southeast Asia that last from 1 February to 3 July 1910 . They were briefly relieved of their assignment to the Training Squadron on 25 September before rejoining it on 1 April 1911 . The next training cruise lasted from 25 November 1911 to 28 March 1912 and took the cadets to the same destinations as the 1910 cruise . On 20 April 1912 , Aso was transferred away from the Training Squadron and she was refitted in March 1913 . During this refit , her eight 8-inch guns were replaced by a pair of six 6-inch guns and her torpedo tubes were removed . Aso and Soya were reassigned to the Training Squadron on 1 December 1914 and they made their last training cruise from 20 April to 23 August 1915 , during which they visited Rabaul , New Guinea , and Fremantle , Australia .

In 1917 , Aso was converted into a minelayer , with a capacity of 420 mines , although she was not formally reclassified as such until 1 April 1920 . Aso was stricken from the navy list on 1 April 1930 and renamed Hai Kan No. 4 . She was sunk on 4 August 1932 by two submarine torpedoes after serving as a target for the heavy cruisers Mikuma and Nachi .