

= Japanese aircraft carrier Amagi =

Amagi (??) was a Unry? @-@ class aircraft carrier built for the Imperial Japanese Navy during World War II . Named after Mount Amagi , and completed late in the war , she never embarked her complement of aircraft and spent the war in Japanese waters . The ship capsized in July 1945 after being hit multiple times during airstrikes by American carrier aircraft at Kure Naval Base . Amagi was refloated in 1946 and scrapped later that year .

= = 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 . Amagi was ordered , under the provisional name of # 5001 , as part of the Kai @-@ Maru 5 Program of 1942 . This was a massive naval construction program intended to replace losses suffered at the Battle of Midway and focused on aircraft and aircraft carriers . The ship was one of 16 Unry? @-@ class aircraft carriers planned , although only three were completed before the end of the war .

Amagi 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 Unry? @-@ class carriers 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) driving four shafts 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) . Amagi 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 = = =

Amagi '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 . Amagi 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 . Amagi 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 three in storage , 27 Aichi D3A Val dive bombers , plus three in reserve , and 18 Nakajima B5N " Kate " torpedo bombers plus two in crates . Amagi 's hangars could not accommodate so many aircraft so eleven 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 six 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 , three of which were to be the reconnaissance version , and nine 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 Amagi never embarked her air group .

= = = Armor , armament and sensors = = =

Amagi 's waterline armored belt was 46 millimeters (1 @. @ 8 in) thick over her machinery spaces and 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 Type 89 anti @- @ aircraft (AA) guns in twin mounts on sponsons on the ship 's sides . Amagi was initially equipped with 16 triple 25 mm Type 96 and three single AA gun mounts , most on sponsons along the sides of the hull . By the end of the war , the ship mounted 22 triple and 23 single mounts . These guns were supplemented by six 12 cm (4 @. @ 7 in) 28 @- @ round AA rocket launchers . For defense against submarines , the carrier was fitted with six depth charge throwers and carried between six and ten depth charges for them .

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 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 , Amagi had two smaller Type 3 , Mark 1 , Model 3 air search radars , one mounted on the tripod mast on the island and the other on the aft starboard retractable radio mast .

= = Service = =

Amagi 's keel was laid down by Mitsubishi in Nagasaki , on 1 October 1942 . She was launched on 15 October 1943 and completed on 10 August 1944 . The ship was transferred among a number of ports on the Inland Sea until she arrived in Kure in February 1945 and was ordered to be camouflaged . Her intended air group , Air Group 601 , was committed to the Battle of Iwo Jima about that same time . Amagi was briefly refitted from 10 to 24 February . On 19 March , the ship was attacked by aircraft from Task Force 58 and lightly damaged by one bomb that struck the edge of the flight deck . On 13 April , the ship was permanently moored at an island in Kure harbor and extensively camouflaged .

This did not prevent the aircraft from Task Force 38 from locating and attacking the ship on 24 July . She was hit twice and near @- @ missed multiple times . A 500 @- @ pound (230 kg) bomb detonated near the rear funnel , severely damaging it , but doing little other damage aside from blowing a small hole in the starboard hull . A 2 @, @ 000 @- @ pound (910 kg) bomb penetrated the flight deck and detonated in the upper hangar , between the elevators . The explosion blew a 50 @- @ meter (160 ft) section of a hangar wall overboard and the walls of the upper hangar deck were bulged and perforated multiple times . The flight deck between the elevators was bulged up and buckled for a length of 200 feet (61 @. @ 0 m) and the forward elevator was dropped to the bottom of its shaft . It also blew a 25 @- @ foot (7 @. @ 6 m) hole in the upper hangar deck . Fragments from the explosion penetrated into the bowels of the ship , penetrating bulkheads and decks below . Fragments from near @- @ misses penetrated the sides of the port hull and caused the forward bomb magazine , two boiler rooms , and the aft port engine room to flood .

The captain ordered the ship abandoned later in the day , and the carrier was still afloat in the evening , albeit with a slight list to port and down by the bow . Over the next couple of days , more compartments in the ship flooded and she settled on the bottom of the harbor . Another attack on 28 July hit her several more times and the resulting damage from those hits and more near @- @ misses to port caused the ship to list further to port . This gradually increased through the next day until Amagi capsized at 10 : 00 on the morning of 29 July with part of her flight deck falling overboard . The losses among the ship 's crew are unknown , but were supposedly light .

The ship was stricken from the Navy List on 30 November and salvage work began on 5 December

. The holes in the ship 's hull had to be sealed to pump the water out and decrease her draft . The remains of her flight deck and upper hangar could not be made watertight and were removed using dynamite . pontoons were used to right the ship and she was refloated on 31 July 1946 . The salvage job was conducted by the Hitachi Zosen facility in Kure and they scrapped the ship afterward . The job was completed by 12 December 1947 .