

= Russian cruiser Bayan ( 1907 ) =

Bayan ( Russian : ????? ) was the third of the four Bayan @-@ class armoured cruisers built for the Imperial Russian Navy in the early 1900s . The ship was assigned to the Baltic Fleet . She was modified to lay mines shortly after World War I began . Bayan laid mines herself and provided cover for other ships laying minefields . The ship fought several inconclusive battles with German ships during the war , including the Battle of Åland Islands in mid @-@ 1915 . She also participated in the Battle of Moon Sound during the German invasion of the Estonian islands in late 1917 , where she was damaged . Bayan was decommissioned in 1918 and sold for scrap in 1922 .

= = Design and description = =

Bayan was 449 @.@ 6 feet ( 137 @.@ 0 m ) long overall . She had a maximum beam of 57 @.@ 5 feet ( 17 @.@ 5 m ) , a draught of 26 feet ( 7 @.@ 9 m ) and displaced 7 @, @ 750 long tons ( 7 @, @ 870 t ) . The ship had a crew of 568 officers and men . Bayan was named in honor of the earlier Russian cruiser captured by the Japanese during the Russo @-@ Japanese War . Both ships were named for the legendary bard , Boyan .

The ship had two vertical triple @-@ expansion steam engines with a designed total of 16 @, @ 500 indicated horsepower ( 12 @, @ 304 kW ) , but they developed 19 @, @ 320 indicated horsepower ( 14 @, @ 410 kW ) on sea trials and drove the ship to a maximum speed of 22 @.@ 55 knots ( 41 @.@ 76 km / h ; 25 @.@ 95 mph ) . Steam for the engines was provided by 26 Belleville boilers . She could carry a maximum of 1 @, @ 100 long tons ( 1 @, @ 118 t ) of coal , although her range is unknown .

Bayan 's main armament consisted of two 8 @-@ inch ( 203 mm ) 45 @-@ calibre guns in single turrets fore and aft . Her eight 6 @-@ inch ( 152 mm ) guns were mounted in casemates on the sides of the ship 's hull . Anti @-@ torpedo boat defense was provided by twenty @-@ two 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 . Two guns were astern , in the admiral 's apartments , and the remaining twelve guns were located on upper deck amidships ( eight above the six @-@ inch gun casemates ) , in pivot mounts with gun shields . The ship also had two submerged 450 @-@ millimetre ( 18 in ) torpedo tubes , one mounted on each broadside .

In early 1916 , eight of the ship 's 75 mm guns in the central casemate were removed , and in early 1917 , the rest were removed as well . By early 1917 , an additional eight @-@ inch gun was fitted on the centreline forward of the mainmast ( it was supposed to be protected with a gun shield , but the photos do not confirm this ) . In addition , four more six @-@ inch guns were added on an upper deck , two on each broadside . In early 1917 , Bayan was also fitted with two anti @-@ aircraft 76 mm Lender guns , mounted to the sides of the after turret .

The ship used Krupp armour throughout . Her waterline belt was 175 millimetres ( 6 @.@ 9 in ) thick over her machinery spaces , reducing to 90 millimetres ( 3 @.@ 5 in ) towards lower edge . Fore and aft , it reduced to 100 millimetres ( 3 @.@ 9 in ) . The upper belt and the casemates were 60 millimetres ( 2 @.@ 4 in ) thick . The armour deck was 50 millimetres ( 2 in ) thick ; over the central battery it was a single plate , but elsewhere it consisted of a 30 @-@ millimetre ( 1 @.@ 2 in ) plate over two 10 @-@ millimetre ( 0 @.@ 39 in ) plates . The gun turrets were protected by 132 millimetres ( 5 @.@ 2 in ) of armour and the conning tower had walls 136 millimetres ( 5 @.@ 4 in ) thick .

= = Service = =

Bayan was built by the Admiralty Shipyard in Saint Petersburg . Construction began on 15 August 1905 , although she was ceremonially laid down only on the day of her launching 15 August 1907 . Bayan was completed in early 1911 and commissioned on 14 July 1911 . She spent her entire career with the Baltic Fleet .

When World War I began , Bayan was assigned to the First Cruiser Brigade . Shortly after the start

of the war , in December 1914 Bayan was modified to carry up to 110 mines . She laid her first mines in early December when she was one of a group of ships that mined the northern and western entrances to the Gulf of Danzig . The following month , she provided cover as other cruisers laid minefields in the western Baltic Sea , near Bornholm and Rügen Islands on the night of 12 January 1915 . Together with her sister Admiral Makarov and two protected cruisers , she fought a brief and inconclusive action with the light cruiser SMS München during the night of 6 / 7 May while covering a minelaying sortie off Libau .

On 2 July , the ship participated in the Battle of Åland Islands when intercepted and decoded wireless signals informed the Russians that a small German force was at sea to lay a minefield off the Åland Islands . Rear Admiral Mikhail Bakhirev was already at sea with Admiral Makarov , Bayan , Rurik , the protected cruisers Bogatyr and Oleg , and the destroyer Novik en route to bombard Memel . Rurik and Novik got separated from the others in fog , but the rest of the force encountered the light cruiser SMS Augsburg and a number of destroyers escorting the minelayer SMS Albatross . The Russians concentrated on Albatross , which was forced to run aground in Swedish territorial waters , while the faster Augsburg escaped to the south . The Russian cruisers were low on ammunition when they encountered two more German cruisers and broke off the action after Bayan and the armoured cruiser SMS Roon exchanged hits . Bayan fired 40 eight @-@ inch rounds and was hit with one 210 mm round amidships , which caused superficial damage and wounds to two crewmen . Roon lost her wireless aerial due to a near miss ; the Russians reported more hits , but not confirmed .

= = = Battle of Moon Sound = = =

In 1917 , Bayan was the flagship of Vice Admiral Bakhirev , who now commanded the naval forces defending the Gulf of Riga . During Operation Albion , the invasion of the Estonian islands of Saaremaa ( Ösel ) , Hiiumaa ( Dagö ) and Muhu ( Moon ) , in October 1917 , the ship defended the southern entrance to Moon Sound on 17 October . When the German minesweepers began clearing the minefields guarding the entrance , they were attacked by Bayan and the predreadnought Grazhdanin , while the predreadnought Slava engaged the dreadnoughts König and Kronprinz defending the minesweepers . Slava was hit multiple times by the German ships and Bakirev ordered his forces to withdraw . Bayan was the last ship to withdraw , but she was hit once by a 30 @.@ 5 @-@ centimetre ( 12 @.@ 0 in ) shell from König before she moved out of range . The shell penetrated the deck near the forward turret and started a fire among the flammable material in the cable compartment that was not extinguished until the next day . Fragments from the shell destroyed a bulkhead and loosened some plates of the ship 's bottom . The location of the fire near the forward magazine forced it to be flooded as a precaution . Between the leaky plates and the flooded magazine , the ship took about 1 @,@ 000 long tons ( 1 @,@ 000 t ) aboard and her draught forward increased to 26 feet ( 7 @.@ 9 m ) . The shell killed five men and wounded three more . Despite her increased draught , Bayan was able to pass through the dredged channel connecting the northern and southern parts of Moon Sound later that day . When the general withdrawal was ordered the following day , the ship sailed for Finland .

She was paid off in 1918 and did not participate in the Russian Civil War . Bayan was sold for scrap in 1922 and broken up in Stettin .