

= Kii @-@ class battleship =

The Kii @-@ class battleship was a planned class of four fast battleships to be built for the Imperial Japanese Navy ( IJN ) during the 1920s . Only two of the ships received names . They were intended to reinforce Japan 's " eight @-@ eight fleet " of eight battleships and eight battlecruisers after the United States announced a major naval construction program in 1919 . However , after the signing of the Washington Naval Treaty in 1922 , work on the ships was suspended ; one pair was cancelled in November 1923 and the other in April 1924 .

= = Design and background = =

By 1918 , the Navy had gained approval for an " eight @-@ six " fleet of eight battleships and six battlecruisers , all ships under eight years old . However , having four large battleships ( two each of the Nagato and Tosa classes ) and four Amagi @-@ class battlecruisers on order put an enormous financial strain on Japan , which was spending about a third of its national budget on the Navy . Despite this , the IJN gained approval of the " eight @-@ eight @-@ eight " plan in 1920 after American President Woodrow Wilson announced plans in 1919 to re @-@ initiate the 1916 plan for ten additional battleships and six battlecruisers . The Japanese response was to plan the construction of eight additional fast battleships in the Kii and the Number 13 classes .

Designed by Captain Yuzuru Hiraga , the Kii class was based largely on the preceding Amagi @-@ class battlecruisers , which were in turn based on a less @-@ armored Tosa @-@ class design . The only major difference between the Kiis and Amagis was their speed and armor ? the Amagis were .25 knots ( 0 @.@ 46 km / h ; 0 @.@ 29 mph ) faster , and the Kiis had a thicker belt . Despite this lineage , the Kiis were classified as " fast battleships " by the Japanese , as they had decided to end the distinction between " battleship " and " battlecruiser . "

= = = Description = = =

The ships had a length of 234 @.@ 9 meters ( 770 ft 8 in ) between perpendiculars and 250 @.@ 1 meters ( 820 ft 6 in ) overall . They had a beam of 30 @.@ 8 meters ( 101 ft 1 in ) and a draft of 9 @.@ 7 meters ( 31 ft 10 in ) . The normal displacement of the battleships was 42 @,@ 600 metric tons ( 41 @,@ 900 long tons ) .

The class was intended to be equipped with four Gijutsu @-@ Hombu geared steam turbines , each of which drove one propeller shaft . The turbines were designed to produce a total of 131 @,@ 200 shaft horsepower ( 97 @,@ 800 kW ) , using steam provided by 19 Kampon oil @-@ fired water @-@ tube boilers , to reach a maximum speed of 29 @.@ 75 knots ( 55 @.@ 10 km / h ; 34 @.@ 24 mph ) .

The primary armament of the Kii class was ten 45 @-@ caliber 41 @-@ centimeter guns in five twin @-@ gun turrets , two fore and three aft of the superstructure . This gun fired a 1 @,@ 000 @-@ kilogram ( 2 @,@ 200 lb ) shell at a muzzle velocity of 790 meters per second ( 2 @,@ 600 ft / s ) . The secondary battery consisted of 16 single 50 @-@ caliber 14 @-@ centimeter guns was mounted in casemates in the superstructure . The manually operated guns had a maximum range of 19 @,@ 750 meters ( 21 @,@ 600 yd ) at an elevation of + 35 ° and fired at a rate up to 10 rounds per minute . The ships ' anti @-@ aircraft defenses consisted of four single 45 @-@ caliber 12 @-@ centimeter 10th Year Type anti @-@ aircraft guns mounted around the single funnel . Each of these guns had a maximum elevation of + 75 ° and a maximum rate of fire of 10 ? 11 rounds per minute . They could fire a 20 @.@ 41 @-@ kilogram ( 45 @.@ 0 lb ) projectile with a muzzle velocity of 825 ? 830 m / s ( 2 @,@ 710 ? 2 @,@ 720 ft / s ) to a maximum height of 10 @,@ 000 meters ( 32 @,@ 808 ft ) . The Kii class was also fitted with eight 61 @-@ centimeter ( 24 in ) above @-@ water torpedo tubes , four on each broadside .

The ships would have been protected by a waterline belt of armor 293 millimeters ( 12 in ) thick , sloped 15 ° outwards at the top to increase its ability to resist penetration at short range . The belt armor was designed to be able to defeat 16 @-@ inch ( 410 mm ) shells from a distance of 12 @,@

000 ? 20 @,@ 000 meters ( 13 @,@ 000 ? 22 @,@ 000 yd ) . The main battery turrets and barbettes would have had between 280 ? 229 millimeters ( 11 ? 9 in ) of armor plating , and the conning tower would have had been protected by armor 356 millimeters ( 14 in ) thick . The decks would have been 120 millimeters ( 5 in ) thick . The Kii @-@ class battleships would have had a torpedo bulkhead 75 millimeters ( 3 in ) thick , which connected at the top to a 38 @-@ millimeter ( 1 @.@ 5 in ) splinter deck beneath the main deck .

= = Construction = =

Two ships were ordered on 12 October 1921 , and two more were ordered later that year . Kii was allocated to Kure Naval Arsenal , Kure , with a projected completion date of November 1923 , and Owari was allocated to the Yokosuka Naval Arsenal , Yokosuka , with completion in September . Two more unnamed ships , Numbers 11 and 12 , were assigned to Kawasaki in Kobe and Mitsubishi in Nagasaki , respectively . The ships ' keel laying was stopped on 5 February because the terms of the Washington Naval Treaty that forbade the construction of all battleships over 35 @,@ 000 long tons ( 36 @,@ 000 t ) . Numbers 11 and 12 were formally canceled on 19 November 1923 ; Kii and Owari followed on 14 April 1924 .