

= Japanese cruiser Nisshin =

Nisshin (〓) , also transliterated as Nissin , was a Kasuga 〓-〓 class armored cruiser of the Imperial Japanese Navy , built in the first decade of the 20th century by Gio . Ansaldo & C. , Sestri Ponente , Italy , where the type was known as the Giuseppe Garibaldi class . The ship was originally ordered by the Argentine Navy during the Argentine ? Chilean naval arms race , but the lessening of tensions with Chile and financial pressures caused the Argentinians to sell her before delivery . At this time tensions between the Empire of Japan and the Russian Empire were rising , and the ship was offered to both sides before she was purchased by the Japanese .

During the Russo 〓-〓 Japanese War of 1904 ? 05 , Nisshin participated in the Battle of the Yellow Sea and was damaged in the subsequent Battle of Tsushima . In addition she frequently bombarded the defenses of Port Arthur . The ship played a limited role in World War I and was used to escort Allied convoys and search for German commerce raiders in the Indian Ocean and Australasia . In 1918 , Nisshin was deployed to the Mediterranean and then escorted the surrendered German submarines allocated to Japan from Britain to Japan after the war . She became a training ship in 1927 and was sunk as a target ship in 1936 . Her wreck was later refloated and used as a target again in 1942 .

= = Background = =

Nisshin was the last of the 10 Giuseppe Garibaldi 〓-〓 class armored cruisers to be built . The first ship had been completed in 1895 and the class had enjoyed considerable export success , with the base design being gradually improved over the years . The last two ships of the class were ordered on 23 December 1901 by the Argentine Navy in response to the order by Chile for two second 〓-〓 class battleships . The possibility of war between Argentina and Chile , however , abated before the vessel was completed , and a combination of financial problems and British pressure forced Argentina to dispose of Mariano Moreno and her sister ship Bernardino Rivadavia . The Argentine government attempted to sell the ships to Russia , but negotiations failed over the price demanded by the Argentinians . The Japanese government quickly stepped in and purchased them due to increasing tensions with Russia despite the high price of ¥ 14 〓 , 937 〓 , 390 (£ 1 〓 , 530 〓 , 000) for the two sisters . Already planning to attack Russia , the government delayed their surprise attack on Port Arthur that began the Russo 〓-〓 Japanese War until the ships had left Singapore and could not be delayed or interned by any foreign power .

= = Design and description = =

Nisshin had an overall length of 111 〓 . 73 meters (366 ft 7 in) , a beam of 18 〓 . 71 meters (61 ft 5 in) , a molded depth of 12 〓 . 1 meters (39 ft 8 in) and a deep draft (ship) of 7 〓 . 35 meters (24 ft 1 in) . She displaced 7 〓 , 700 metric tons (7 〓 , 600 long tons) at normal load . The ship was powered by two vertical triple 〓-〓 expansion steam engines , each driving one shaft , using steam from 8 coal 〓-〓 fired Scotch marine boilers . Designed for a maximum output of 13 〓 , 500 indicated horsepower (10 〓 , 100 kW) and a speed of 20 knots (37 km / h ; 23 mph) , Nisshin barely exceeded this , reaching a speed of 20 〓 . 15 knots (37 〓 . 32 km / h ; 23 〓 . 19 mph) during her sea trials on 6 November 1903 despite 14 〓 , 896 ihp (11 〓 , 108 kW) produced by her engines . She had a cruising range of 5 〓 , 500 nautical miles (10 〓 , 200 km ; 6 〓 , 300 mi) at 10 knots (19 km / h ; 12 mph) . Her complement consisted of 560 officers and enlisted men .

Her main armament consisted of four 8 〓-〓 inch / 45 Type 41 guns , in twin 〓-〓 gun turrets fore and aft of the superstructure . Ten of the quick 〓-〓 firing (QF) 6 〓-〓 inch / 40 Type 41 guns that comprised her secondary armament were arranged in casemates amidships on the main deck ; the remaining four guns were mounted on the upper deck . Nisshin also had ten QF 3 〓-〓 inch / 40 Type 41 guns and six QF 3 〓-〓 pounder Hotchkiss guns to defend herself against torpedo boats . She was fitted with four submerged 457 mm (18 〓 . 0 in) torpedo tubes , two on each side .

The ship's waterline armor belt had a maximum thickness of 150 millimeters (5 @. @ 9 in) amidships and tapered to 70 millimeters (2 @. @ 8 in) towards the ends of the ship . Between the main gun barbettes it covered the entire side of the ship up to the level of the upper deck . The ends of the central armored citadel were enclosed by transverse bulkheads 120 millimeters (4 @. @ 7 in) thick . The forward barbette , the conning tower , and gun turrets were also protected by 150 @-@ millimeter armor while the aft barbette only had 100 millimeters (3 @. @ 9 in) of armor . Her deck armor ranged from 20 to 40 millimeters (0 @. @ 8 to 1 @. @ 6 in) thick and the six @-@ inch guns on the upper deck were protected by gun shields .

= = Construction and career = =

The ship's keel was laid down on 29 March 1902 with the temporary name of San Roca and she was launched on 9 February 1902 and renamed Mariano Moreno by the Argentinians . The vessel was sold to Japan on 30 December 1903 and renamed Nisshin on 1 January 1904 . Nisshin and her newly renamed sister Kasuga were formally turned over to Japan and commissioned on 7 January . The sisters departed Genoa on 9 January under the command of British captains and manned by British seamen and Italian stokers . When they arrived at Port Said , Egypt , five days later , they encountered the Russian protected cruiser Aurora and reached Suez on the 16th , accompanied by the British armored cruiser King Alfred . The Japanese ships reached Singapore on 2 February where they were slightly delayed by a coolie strike .

= = = Russo @-@ Japanese War = = =

Nisshin and Kasuga reached Yokosuka on 16 February just as Japan initiated hostilities with its surprise attack on Port Arthur , and began working up with Japanese crews . The sisters were assigned to reinforce the battleships of the 1st Division of the 1st Fleet under the overall command of Admiral T?g? Heihachir? on 11 April . In an effort to block the Russian ships in Port Arthur , Togo ordered a minefield laid at the mouth of the harbor on 12 April and Kasuga and Nisshin were tasked to show themselves " as a demonstration of our power " . T?g? successfully lured out a portion of the Russian Pacific Squadron , including Vice Admiral Stepan Makarov 's flagship , the battleship Petropavlovsk . When Makarov spotted the five Japanese battleships and Kasuga and Nisshin , he turned back for Port Arthur and his flagship ran into the minefield just laid by the Japanese . The ship sank in less than two minutes after one of her magazines exploded , and Makarov was one of the 677 killed . In addition to this loss , the battleship Pobeda was damaged by a mine . Emboldened by his success , T?g? resumed long @-@ range bombardment missions , making use of the long @-@ range capabilities of Nisshin and Kasuga 's guns to blindly bombard Port Arthur on 15 April from Pigeon Bay , on the southwest side of the Liaodong Peninsula , at a range of 9 @. @ 5 kilometers (5 @. @ 9 mi) . The engagements were not entirely one @-@ sided as the battleship Peresvet scored a hit on Nisshin that same day . In early May , the sisters fired at ranges up to 18 kilometers (11 mi) although this proved to be ineffective .

On 15 May , the battleships Yashima and Hatsuse were sunk by Russian mines . With a third of Japan 's battleships lost , T?g? decided to use Nisshin and Kasuga in the line of battle together with his four remaining battleships . The first test of this decision would have occurred on 23 June when the Pacific Squadron sortied in an abortive attempt to reach Vladivostok , but the new squadron commander , Rear Admiral Wilgelm Vitgeft , ordered the squadron to return to Port Arthur when it encountered the Japanese battleline (including Nisshin and Kasuga) shortly before sunset , as he did not wish to engage his numerically superior opponents in a night battle . On 27 July , the sisters forced a Russian force of one battleship and several cruisers and gunboats to return to port because of long @-@ range gun fire after they sortied to provide fire support to the Russian Army .

They participated in the Battle of the Yellow Sea on 10 August , but only played a minor role as they were generally in the rear of the Japanese battleline . For the brief amount of time when T?g? reversed course , Nisshin was at the head of the battleline and was hit three times during the battle , losing 14 crewmen killed and 25 wounded . After the battle the sisters returned to Pigeon Bay where

they engaged the Russian fortifications .

At the subsequent Battle of Tsushima on 26 May 1905 , Nisshin was flagship of Vice Admiral Misu Sotaro , and was sixth and last in the line of battle , following Kasuga . At about 14 : 10 , Nisshin opened fire on the Oslabya , the lead ship in the second column of the Russian fleet at a range of 7 ,000 yards (6 ,400 m) . At 14 : 40 Nisshin received her first hit as a Russian 12 -inch (305 mm) shell cut her forward right 8 -inch gun in half . Between 14 : 57 and 15 : 05 , the Japanese fleet reversed course to block the Russian northward movement , which put Nisshin as the first ship in the battle line . At 15 : 00 , a 12 -inch shell punched through the armor belt of Nisshin one foot below the waterline and flooded a coal bunker . Another 12 -inch shell hit the belt about three feet above the waterline but did not penetrate . At 15 : 06 , the Russian protected cruiser Zhemchug attempted to close for a torpedo attack but was driven off by fire from Nisshin , Kasuga and the armored cruiser Iwate at 3 ,300 yards (3 ,000 m) . At 15 : 30 , the Japanese line again reversed course , placing Nisshin at the rear again . Another 12 -inch hit struck the ship but without any significant damage . At 16 : 05 , a 9 -inch (229 mm) hit on the forward turret sent splinters into the conning tower , wounding Misu . Nisshin was hit again at 17 : 20 by another 12 -inch shell , which cut the left 8 -inch gun of her aft turret in half . As daylight was dying , Nisshin was hit yet again at 19 : 00 by another 12 -inch shell that severed the barrel of her forward left 8 -inch gun , leaving only a single gun operable . The surviving Russian ships were located near the Liancourt Rocks by the Japanese the following morning and Togo reached them about 10 : 00 . Heavily outnumbering the Russians , he opted for a long range engagement to minimize any losses and Kasuga opened fire at the obsolete Imperator Nikolai I at a range of 9 ,100 meters (10 ,000 yd) and the Russians surrendered shortly afterwards .

Nisshin fired 181 eight -inch shells during the battle . In return she received the second largest number of hits after Togo 's flagship , the battleship Mikasa , which was struck over 40 times . Nisshin was hit by 13 shells , including 6 twelve -inch , 1 nine -inch , 2 six -inch and 4 unidentified . During the battle , the newly commissioned Ensign Isoroku Yamamoto , later Commander in Chief of the Combined Fleet in World War II , was badly wounded and lost two fingers on his left hand .

Shortly after the battle , Nisshin was assigned to the 3rd Fleet for the invasion and occupation of Sakhalin in July ? August . On 2 September 1911 , the ship escorted the ex -Russian hospital ship Anegawa to Vladivostok to be returned to the Russians . In November 1912 , a boiler exploded aboard the ship , killing 20 crewmen . At the start of 1914 , she was overhauled with her boilers replaced by 12 Kampon Type 1 water -tube boilers .

== World War I and subsequent history ==

As part of the search for the German East Asia Squadron and other commerce raiders the British Admiralty requested in mid -September 1914 that the Japanese forces in the South Pacific be reinforced to deal with the threats posed by the Germans and the cruiser was ordered south . Nisshin struck an uncharted rock off Sandakan on 12 October and was forced to put into Singapore for repairs . After their completion the ship was assigned to the Second South Seas Squadron based at Truk . In February 1915 , the ship visited the occupied colonies of German Samoa and German New Guinea . Nisshin served as the flagship of Destroyer Squadron (Suiraisentai) 1 from 13 December 1915 to 13 May 1916 , 12 September to 1 December 1916 and then of Suiraisentai 2 from 28 March to 13 April 1917 . After the incursion of the German commerce raider SMS Wolf into the Indian Ocean in March 1917 , the Admiralty requested that the Japanese government reinforce its ships already present , there and in Australian waters . Nisshin was sent south in response and escorted Allied shipping between Colombo , Ceylon and Fremantle , Australia in April ? May .

In 1918 , the ship was sent to the Mediterranean to reinforce the Second Special Mission Squadron as it escorted Allied troop convoys across the Mediterranean . In November , she became the flagship of Rear Admiral Kato Satomi , the squadron commander , as the bulk of the squadron sailed to Constantinople , arriving on 6 December . The ship then sailed to Portland to escort the

surrendered German submarines allocated to Japan back home . She arrived on 5 January 1919 and the squadron departed for Malta at the end of March . After refitting some of the submarines there , the squadron arrived at Yokosuka on 18 June .

In 1924 two of her 3 in / 40 guns were removed , as were all of her QF 3 @-@ pounder Hotchkiss guns , and a single 8 cm / 40 3rd Year Type anti @-@ aircraft gun was added . Nisshin became a training vessel and depot ship in 1927 at Yokosuka Naval District until stricken from the naval register on 1 April 1935 . Renamed Hai @-@ Kan No. 6 , she was sunk as a target ship during live @-@ fire exercises at the Kamegakubi Naval Proving Ground off Kure in the Inland Sea in 1936 . Her wreck was later raised , and , on 18 January 1942 , it was towed by the battleship Mutsu as a target for the battleship Yamato with her new 18 @.@ 1 inch guns off Kurahashi , Hiroshima . The hulk was sunk for a second , and final , time during this exercise .