



CLYDEBANK BATTLECRUISERS

Forgotten Photographs from
John Brown's Shipyard

Ian Johnston

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Between 1906 and 1920 the Clydebank shipyard of John Brown & Sons built five battlecruisers, each one bigger than the last, culminating in the mighty Hood, the largest warship of her day. If Tiger is regarded as a modification of the Lion class design, this represents every step in the evolution of these charismatic, and controversial, ships. Like most shipyards of the time, Clydebank employed professional photographers to record the whole process of construction, using large-plate cameras that produced pictures of stunning clarity and detail; but unlike most shipyard photography, Clydebank's collection has survived, although very few of the images have ever been published. For this book some two hundred of the most telling of these were carefully selected, and scanned to the highest standards, depicting in unprecedented detail every aspect of the building and fitting out of Inflexible, Australia, Tiger, Repulse and Hood.

Probably more has been written about battlecruisers than any other warship type, and as model-making subjects they have a devoted following, so any new book has to make a real contribution. This pictorial collection, with its lengthy and informative captions, and an authoritative introduction by Ian Johnston, offers ship modellers and enthusiasts a wealth of visual information simply unobtainable elsewhere.

IAN JOHNSTON was brought up in a shipbuilding family, although his own career was in graphic design. A lifetime's interest in ships and shipbuilding has borne fruit in a number of publications, including *Ships for a Nation*, a history of John Brown's, and *Beardmore Built*, the story of another great Clydeside yard.

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