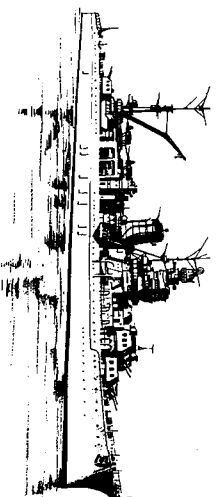


# AGANO 阿賀野

JAPANESE LIGHT CRUISER



ITEM 31314



Illustration by Kihachiro Ueda

## WATER LINE SERIES

### A SHORT HISTORY OF THE AGANO

It was said that the Agano class ranked as one of the most aesthetically pleasing warships in the Japanese Navy during the Second World War. Their beauty was not only skin deep; they were also superior in quality, striking power, defence and performance. The main duties of a light cruiser were to protect the capital ships from being attacked by enemy destroyers and also head destroyers of the torpedo boat flotillas to torpedo the main strength ships of the enemy. Light cruisers of 5,500 ton displacement, for example the Kuma and the Nagara class of warships, acted as flagships of torpedo boat flotillas. This class of light cruiser had sufficient relative performance when matched with Class II destroyers of the Minekaze and Momi type, but became outdated with the appearance of higher performance destroyers and were unable to lead the new torpedo boat flotillas. The new destroyers had a top speed of between 34-38 knots. The cruisers had a top speed of 35-38 knots at the time of completion, but this dropped down to around 33 knots after remodeling. The light cruisers, too, were no match for the destroyers in terms of seakindness and range. Enemy naval destroyers improved their armour and the 14 cm guns of the light cruisers became relatively obsolete against it. The new destroyers carried eight or nine 61 cm torpedo tubes, but the light cruisers only had four on each side. The light cruisers did not have sufficient space for installing command or communication equipment. It was their additional disadvantage that they could only carry one seaplane for reconnoitring duties. Consequently, the necessity to build new light cruisers with a performance surpassing the new high performance destroyers became a high priority. The Third Naval Replacement Program (commonly called

the "Maru Von Program") commenced in 1939 to address these problems. Thus the Agano, the Noshiro, the Yahagi and the Sakawa of the Agano Class appeared, designed specifically to become the flagships of the new torpedo flotillas. A concentrated effort was made to increase the maneuverability by making the hull smaller and lighter, enhancing the seakindness, improving communications and reconnoitring ability and also strengthening the torpedo armament.

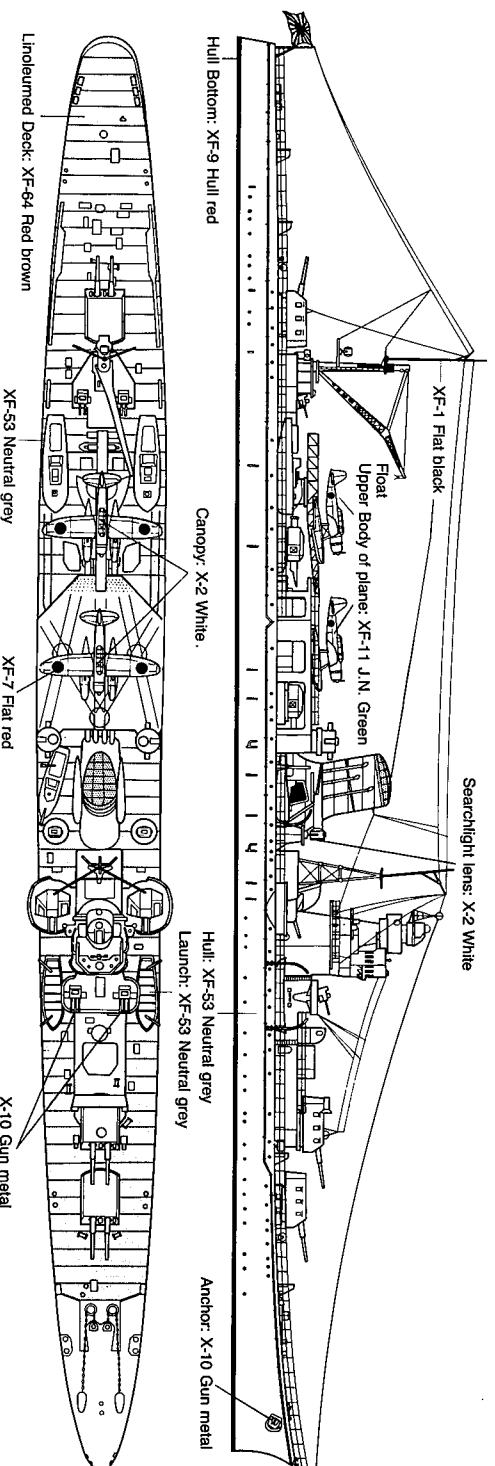
The Agano was laid down in the Sasebo naval dockyard on June 18<sup>th</sup>, 1940, launched October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1941 and completed October 31<sup>st</sup>, 1942. Sent to Kure, the Agano became the flagship of the 10<sup>th</sup> Squadron in the 3<sup>rd</sup> fleet and went to Truk Island on December 1<sup>st</sup>, 1942. The 10<sup>th</sup> Squadron was a torpedo boat flotilla consisting of destroyers of the Kaguro, Yugumo and Atsuzuki types. The Agano further strengthened the fighting power of the 10<sup>th</sup> Squadron. The Agano first saw battle when supporting the Reduction of the Wake which began on December 16<sup>th</sup>, 1942. It subsequently remained at Truk Island until May 1943 and returned to Kure on May 8<sup>th</sup> for repairs. On July 8<sup>th</sup> the Agano transported army troops from Ulina to Rabaul and remained in Truk and Marshall waters. On October 31<sup>st</sup> the Agano went to Rabaul with supplies and the next day the Americans began landing on Bougainville Island. Orders were issued to destroy the enemy fleet and transport ships and the Agano immediately left Rabaul for Bougainville waters along with the heavy cruisers Myoko and Haguro, the light cruiser Sendai and the destroyers Hatsukaze, Wakatsuki, Nagatami, Shigure, Shiratsuyu and Samidare. Unfortunately for the Japanese fleet, the American fleet accurately detected the Japanese fleet movement by radar and delivered fierce attacks against the Japanese ships. The Japanese fleet managed only to damage the light cruiser Denver and the destroyers Foote and Spence. The Agano was subjected to concentrated fire and received a number of near misses, but was not damaged and managed to return to Rabaul safely. This was the battle of Bougainville. The Agano also came away unscathed when enemy ship-based aircraft attacked Rabaul on November 5<sup>th</sup>. The ship al-

ways seemed to be blessed with good luck. However its luck ran out on November 11<sup>th</sup> when the Agano was attacked again by enemy ship-based aircraft and hit by a torpedo. Damage control by the crew enabled the Agano to cruise under its own steam and headed for Truk under the convoy escort of the destroyer Uranami. At about 7 a.m. the next morning, the Agano was torpedoed near her central boiler room which crippled her completely. The Agano was towed by its fellow ship, Noshiro, to Truk. Here it underwent temporary repairs for three months and on February 15<sup>th</sup>, 1944 left Truk for Japan under the convoy of Okaze and the submarine destroyer No.28 to undergo more extensive repairs. On February 16<sup>th</sup>, 1944 at 4:44 p.m. The Agano was hit by two out of four torpedoes launched from the American submarine Skate. Despite the valiant effort of the crew's damage control to contain the situation, fire and flooding gradually spread throughout the ship. At 9 p.m. the crew was ordered to abandon ship. Listing to starboard, the elegant vessel finally went to the bottom at 1:50 a.m. on February 17<sup>th</sup> 1944 at lat. 10° 10' N and long. 151° 40' E to the north of Truk Island.

The picture represents the Agano leaving Truk Island for the South Seas at sunrise. Its consorts are the aircraft carrier Ryunho and the destroyer Ayanami.

### Specifications

Standard Displacement : 6,652 tons  
 Wateline Length : 172 m  
 Maximum Breadth : 15.2 m  
 Horsepower : 100,000 hp  
 Speed : 35 knots  
 Armament : six 15 cm guns and four 8 cm AA guns.  
 Eight 61 cm torpedo tubes  
 Aircraft : Type Zero Reconnaissance seaplane  
 Date of Completion : October 31<sup>st</sup>, 1942 at the Sasebo naval dockyard



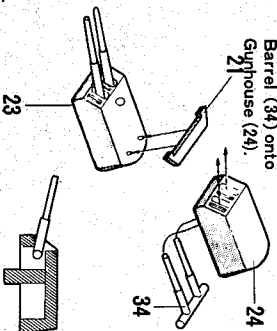
# AGANO 阿賀野

Name plate

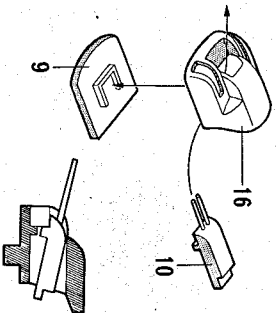
Read Before You Start Your Assembly Work:  
 ★When cutting Parts off the runner, be sure to do so carefully with the aid of a pair of nippers, a knife or the like.  
 ★When gluing two parts together, always try to apply adhesives sparingly onto both surfaces.

# WATER LINE SERIES

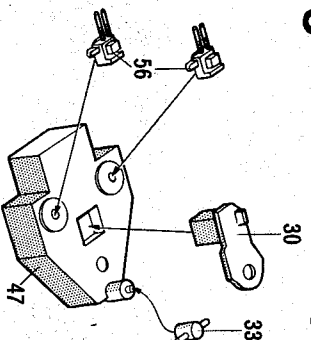
**1 Construction of Main Guns**  
 One Main Gun with Part 21 and two without Part 21 will have to be constructed. Don't glue Gun Barrel (34) onto Gunhouse (24).



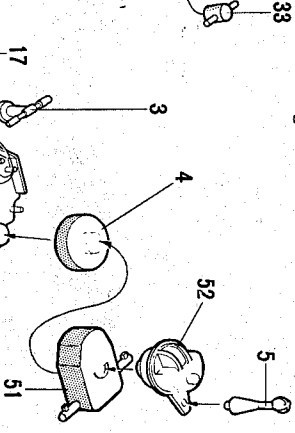
**2 Construction of Anti-Aircraft Guns.**  
 Two of these will have to be constructed.



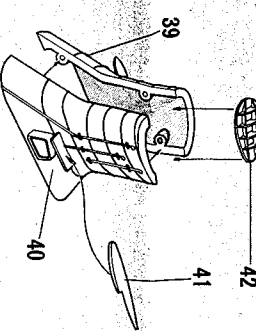
**3 Construction of Rear Bridge**



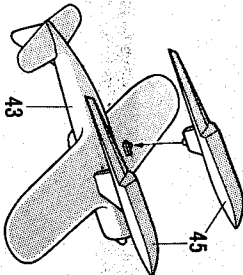
**4 Construction of Bridge**  
 First glue 53 onto 49, and then in order construct Bridge, as shown in the figure below.



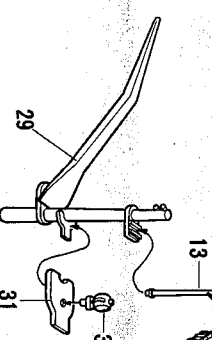
**5 Construction of Funnel**



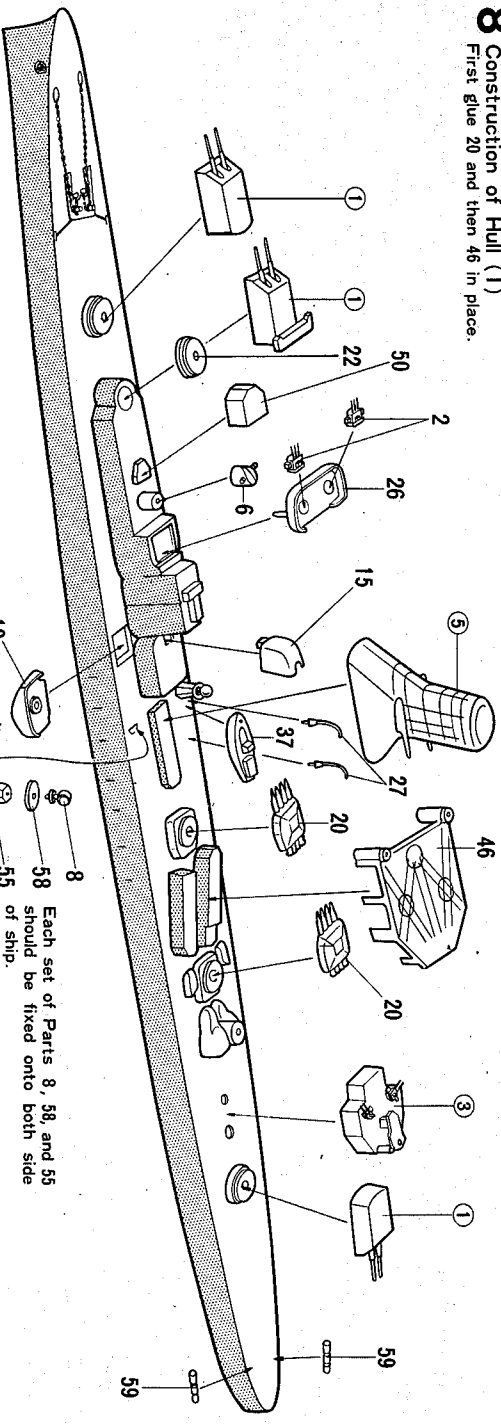
**6 Construction of Planes**



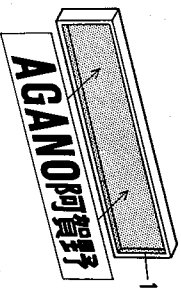
**7 Construction of Antenna**  
 Fix Antenna onto Hull after adhesive dry up.



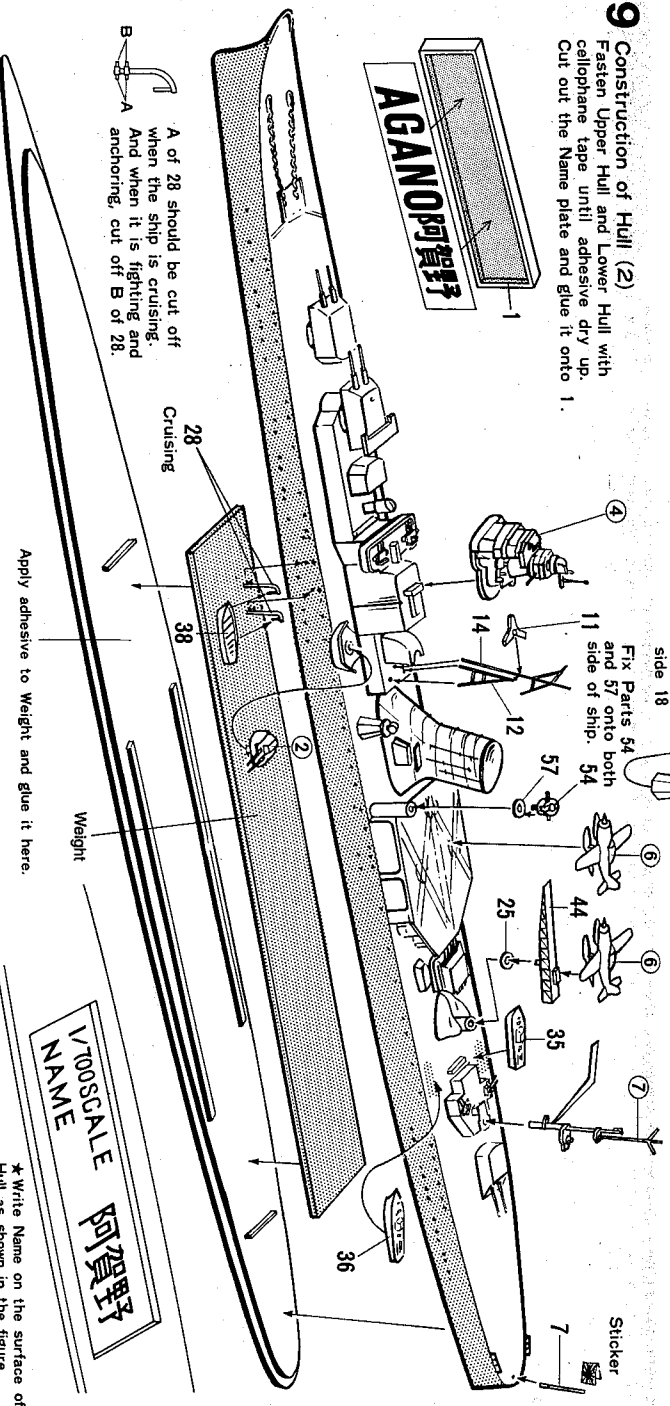
**8 Construction of Hull (1)**  
 First glue 20 and then 46 in place.



**9 Construction of Hull (2)**  
 Fasten Upper Hull and Lower Hull with cellophane tape until adhesive dry up. Cut out the Name plate and glue it onto 1.



A of 28 should be cut off when the ship is cruising. And when it is fighting and anchoring, cut off B of 28.



Apply adhesive to Weight and glue it here.

NAME V100SCALE 阿賀野

★ Write Name on the surface of Hull as shown in the figure.

31314 WIL Agano Light Cruiser (1067026)