

YAHAGI 矢矧

JAPANESE LIGHT CRUISER

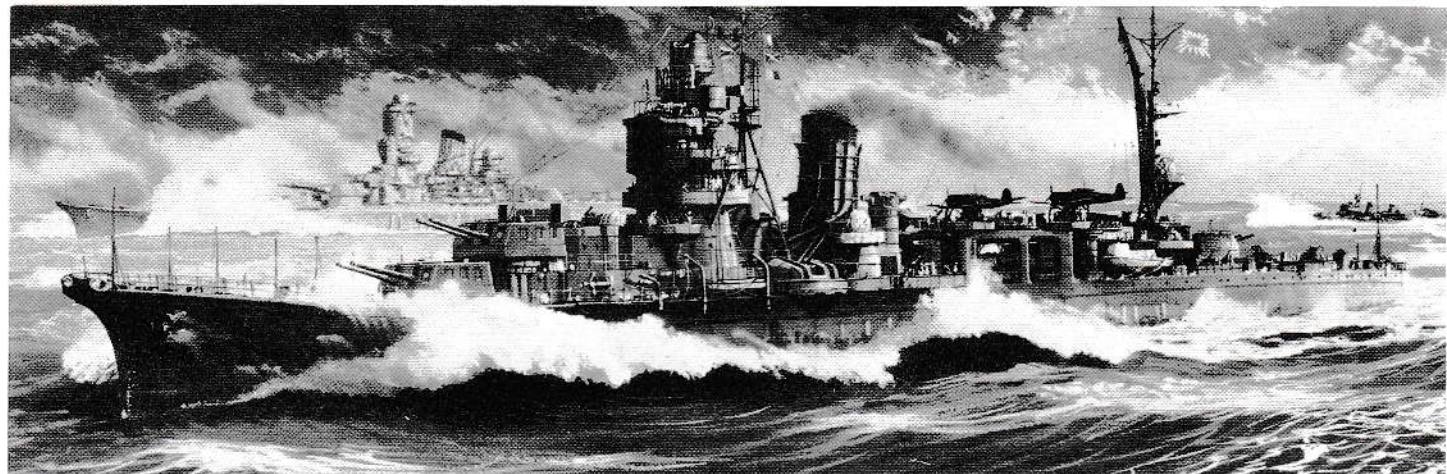
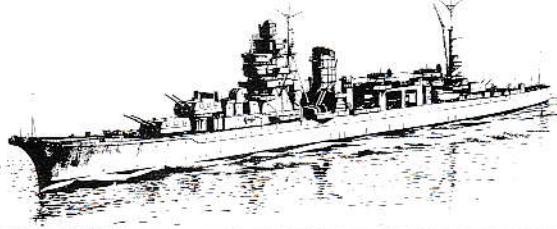


Illustration by Kihachiro Ueda

WATER LINE SERIES

A SHORT HISTORY OF THE YAHAGI

From 1928 to 1932, the Japanese Navy completed many Fubuki special type destroyers in quick succession. They were well specified destroyers with an excellent performance. At this time it became evident that conventional light cruisers of the 5,500 ton class were insufficient in performance to act as flagships to lead the torpedo boat flotillas. New light cruisers became a necessity. To fill the requirement, the 132nd to 135th vessels were planned under the "Maru Yon Program" (the Fourth Naval Replacement Program) and were later designated the Agano, Noshiro, Yahagi and Sakawa respectively. Under the Arms Reduction Treaty the Mogami and Tone Type vessels were officially listed as light cruisers, but were heavy cruisers in specification. This meant for the first time in 18 years, since the construction of the Yubari, the Japanese Navy was to embark in the construction of light cruisers. The overall general versatility of these light cruisers lead to many requests by the navy. A basic plan with the following specifications was finally accepted: standard displacement of 6,600 tons or between 7,700-7,800 tons at the time of official testing; an armament of three 15 cm double main guns and two 61 cm quartet torpedo tubes and a speed of 35 knots. To make the light cruisers smaller and lighter the 15.5 cm guns were replaced with a 15 cm calibre. The main guns incorporated manual ammunition hoists for loading. The gun turrets were of a simple construction, similar to that found on destroyers. The main guns were capable of high elevations and could be used in anti-aircraft roles too, therefore the light cruisers carried only two long barrelled 8 cm high-an-

gle double guns. The torpedo tubes were the most notable feature in the armament. Two 61 cm quartet tubes were mounted on the centre line of the hull for the first time in Japanese light cruisers. Eight torpedoes could be launched to either side at a time. Equipment made it possible to fire the next set of torpedoes almost immediately. Japanese light cruisers, in contrast to those of other powers, had more torpedoes and fewer guns. This was because the Japanese light cruisers had to make torpedo attacks as leaders of the torpedo-boat flotillas. A low resistance hull employing the Barba's bow was combined with an engine developing 100,000 hp gave the Yahagi a top speed of 35 knots. The Japanese light cruisers were superior in protection to the light cruisers of other powers. The Yahagi, the third vessel of the Agano Type to have these features, was laid down in the Sasebo naval dockyard on November 11th, 1941 and was completed 25 months later on December 29th, 1942. Since the Yahagi was the latest vessel and the tide of war was against Japan, it did not undergo any major conversions, but extra machine guns were added. It is reported that the machine guns numbering only six at the time of completion, were increased to fifty-two by July 1944. The Yahagi was rumoured to have even more machine guns at the time of the Kikusui Operation in April 1945. In the meantime, the Yahagi employed radars and by July 1944 had three Model 3 radars comprising one No.1 Type 1, one No.2 Type 1 and two No.2 Type 2's.

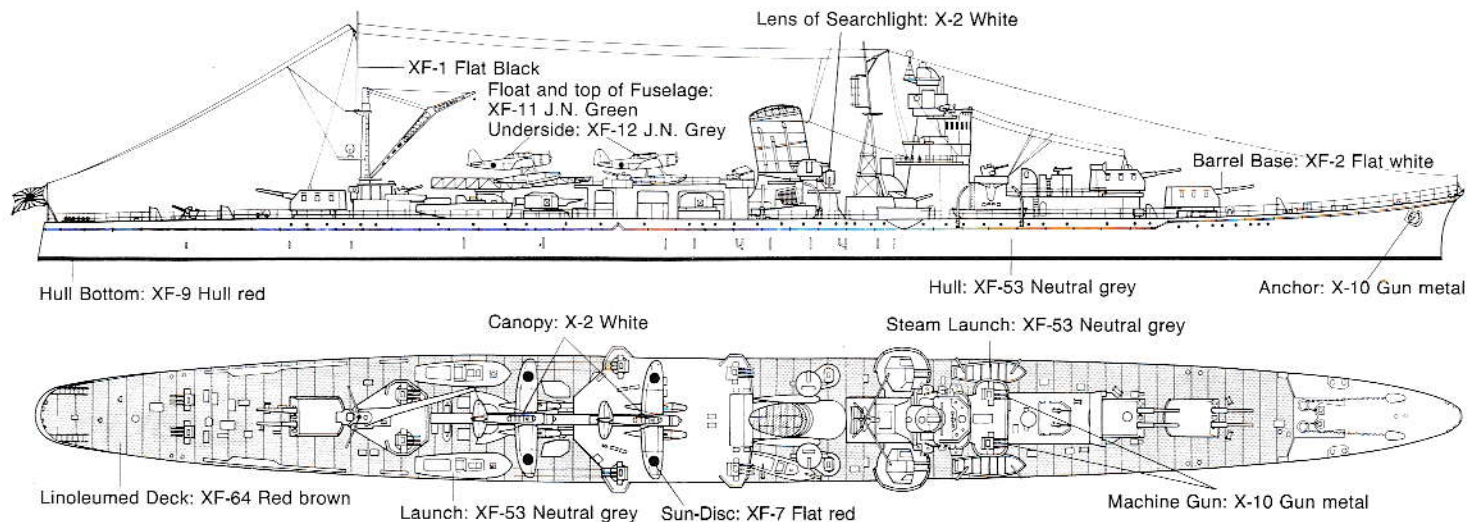
The Yahagi first saw battle in June 1944 in a battle off the Mariana Islands where it served as the flagship of the 10th Squadron in command of the 10th Destroyer Flotilla (Asagumo and Kazagumo), the 17th Destroyer Flotilla (Isokaze, Urakaze, Yukikaze and Tanikaze) and the 16th Destroyer Flotilla (Hatsuzuki, Wakatsuki, Akizuki and Suzutsuki) and escorted the 1st Air Fleet. In October, the Yahagi took part in the Battle of the Philippine Sea, as a member of Kurita's Fleet. In the Kikusui Operation of April 1945, the Yahagi at the head of eight destroyers (Isokaze, Suzutsuki,

Hamakaze, Asagiri, Kasumi, Hatsushimo, Fuyutsuki and Yukikaze), along with the battleship Yamato, sailed to Okinawa on a special mission. It turned out to be the ship's last. The Yahagi left Tokuyama with the Yamato on April 6th, 1945. The next day at 7 a.m. after passing through the Straits of Oshima, the squadron made a ring formation around the Yamato with the Yahagi leading. At approximately 10 a.m. two enemy seaplanes appeared and began to shadow the squadron. An inevitable enemy attack was now only a matter of time. At 12:40 p.m. approximately 200 aircraft engaged the squadron for their first attack and the Yahagi was hit by a torpedo and became un navigable. At 1:20 p.m. the enemy engaged for a second time with about 130 enemy aircraft. The Yahagi was severely damaged by a total of seven torpedoes and twelve bombs. The Isokaze came broadside to receive the flag, but the Yahagi began to list to the starboard and at 2:05 p.m. capsized stern-down at lat. 30°47' N. and 128°08' E. Thus the Yahagi ended its short life of only 15 months. It was a signal record that a light cruiser of the 7,800 ton class had endured 8 torpedoes and 12 bombs without initially sinking and illustrates its competent design.


The picture on the package illustrates the Yahagi escorting the Yamato to Okinawa during the Kikusui Operation. The Yahagi is seen here navigating at a speed of 25 knots with the destroyer Yukikaze at its stern.

SPECIFICATIONS OF THE LIGHT CRUISER YAHAGI

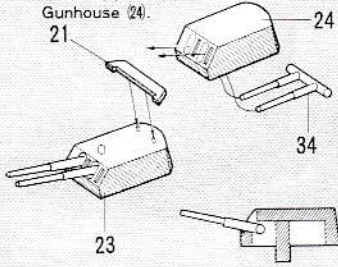
Displacement : 7,710 tons
 Waterline Length : 172.0 m
 Maximum Breadth : 15.2 m
 Horsepower : 100,000 h.p.
 Maximum Speed : 35 knots
 Armament : Six 15 cm main guns and four 8 cm AA guns
 Torpedo tubes : Eight 61 cm tubes
 Aircraft : Type 0 Reconnaissance seaplanes
 Date of Completion : December 29th, 1943,
 at Sasebo Naval Dockyard



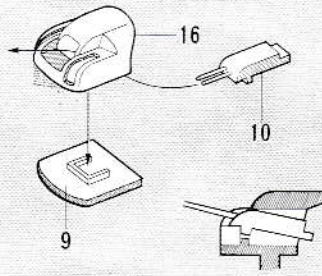
Read Before You Start Your Assembly Work:
 ★When cutting Parts off the runner, be sure to do so carefully with the aid of a pair of nippers, a knife or the like.
 ★When gluing two parts together, always try to apply adhesives sparingly onto both surfaces.

 Name plate

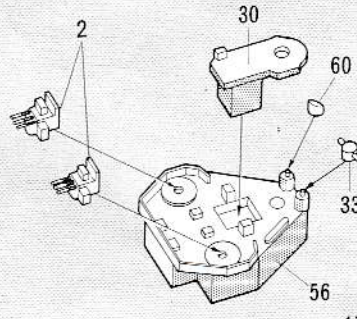
1 Construction of Main Guns
 One Main Guns with Part 21 and two without Part 21 will have to be constructed. Don't glue Gun Barrel (34) onto Gunhouse (24).



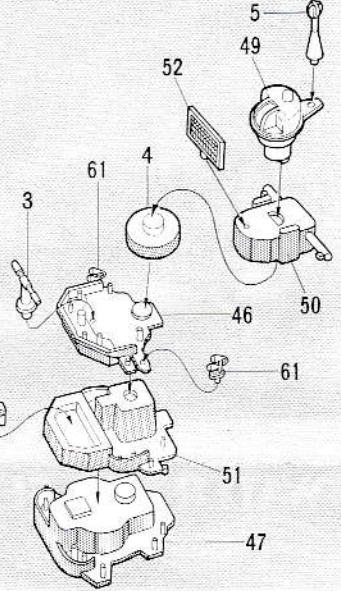
2 Construction of Anti-Aircraft Guns.
 Two of these will have to be constructed.



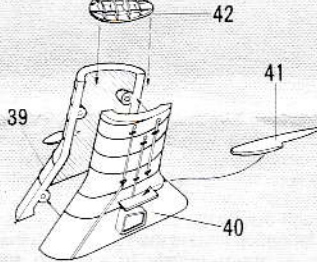
3 Construction of Rear Bridge



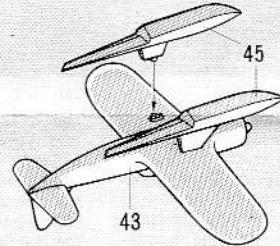
4 Construction of Bridge
 First glue 51 onto 47, and then in order construct Bridge, as shown in the figure below.



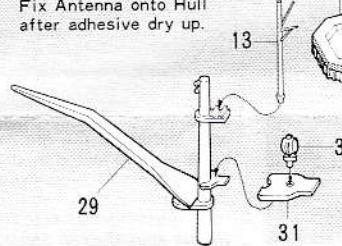
5 Construction of Funnel



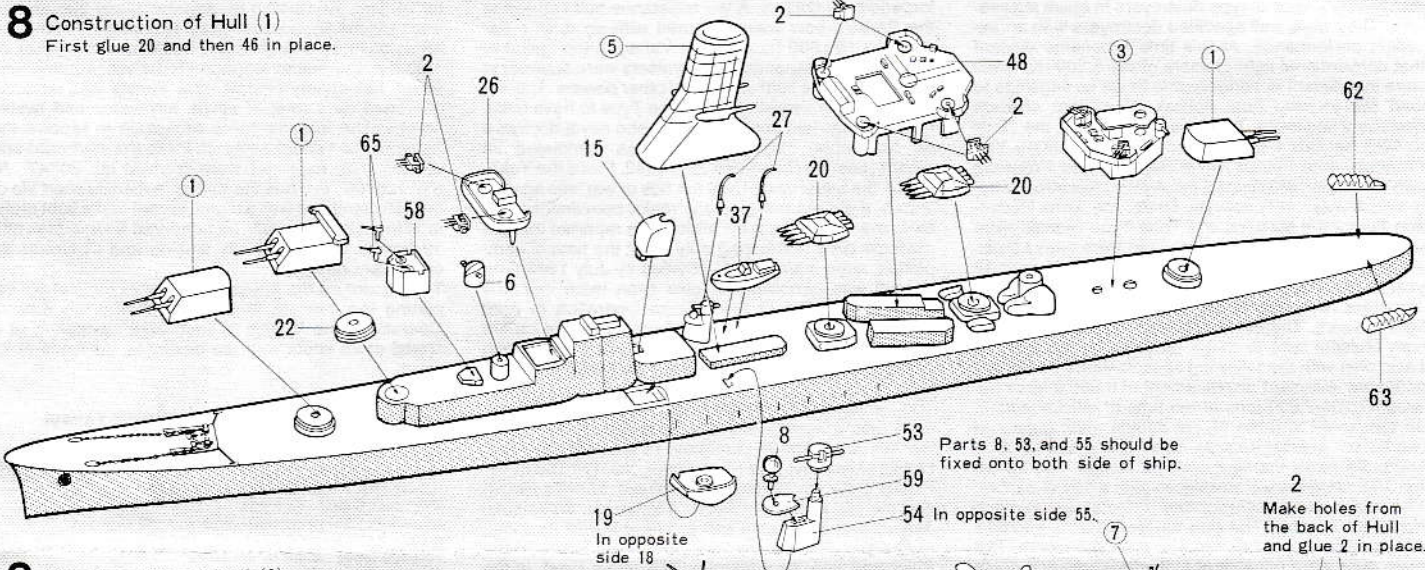
6 Construction of Planes



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 cellophan tape until adhesive dry up. Cut out the Name plate and glue it onto 1.

