



Illustration Kihachiro Ueda

## WATER LINE SERIES

The TAKAO was built after the MYOKO in 1932. Four ships (TAKAO, ATAGO, CHOKAI, MAYA) belong to the TAKAO type. The TAKAO and the MYOKO were almost indistinguishably designed, but some improvements were made on the former. The TAKAO differs from the MYOKO in the following points.

- ① A torpedo tube on the middle deck was moved to the upper deck to minimize damages.
- ② The storage for projectiles and gunpowder is better protected.
- ③ Electric welding was partly adopted. Light metals were used wherever possible to reduce weight.
- ④ The elevation of the main gun was raised to 70 degrees to make anti-aircraft firings possible.
- ⑤ The bridge was enlarged to reach over both sides of the ship rubbers.

All of the four TAKAO type cruisers were completed in 1932, when the Japanese Navy decided to hold twelve heavy cruisers. In 1930, while the TAKAO type cruisers were being constructed, the London Disarmament Conference was convened, under

the pressure of the America and England intending to cut down Japanese heavy cruisers. The real American and British intention was to keep the Japanese holding to 60%.

Since the TAKAO was designed as a fleet flagship, she has an amazingly huge bridge structure. She has less (by two) anti-aircraft guns than the Myoko type, but the angle of her main gun was raised to 75 degrees. She was completely remodelled in 1939. The upper structure became more compact and the types and the positions of the front and the rear masts were changed.

A new type of a firing directing device was used on her top, and 13 millimeter machine guns were newly installed on the both sides.

Especially, the adoption of new model 93 type oxygen torpedoes drastically increased her torpedo strength. The CHOKAI and the MAYA were not remodelled at that time, but the latter was partly remodelled at the end of 1945. One of the main gun turret was removed and the anti-aircraft strength was fundamentally intensified.

### War history of TAKAO

She participated in the South Sea operation as one of the action South Squadrons. She participated in the Port Darwin attack on Jan.19,1942. She also participated in the Aleutian reduction strategies, the South Pacific battle and the third Solomon battle.

She was bombed and damaged on Nov. 5, 1943

during the first Labaul air raids by the American carrier striking force. She participated in the sea battle off the coast of Mariana.

She participated in the sea battle off the coast of Leyte as one of the heavy cruiser squadrons of the Kurita fleet, but she was damaged by two torpedoes of the enemy submarine Darter off the coast of Parawan. Since then it was assigned to at the Seletar Naval port in Singapore and worked as an anti-air raid battery.

On July 31, 1945, it was destroyed by the torpedo attacks by the British mini submarine XE No. 3 while being stationed in Singapore.

The war ended while she was still unable to act. She was disposed of at the Straits of Malacca.

Main date of TAKAO,	
Heavy Cruiser	
Standard displacement	11,350 ton
Official displacement	12,986 ton
Water line length	201.67 meters
Maximum width	18.03 meters
Speed	34 knot
Main gun	20.3 x 10
High angle gun	12 x 4
Power	130,000 horse power
Launching tube	61 x 8
Air plane	Sea scout x 2, Catapult x 2
Date of completion	May 31, 1932 Yokosuka
Date of submersion	October 29, 1946 Straits of Malacca

### PAINTING

The body of Japanese war ships was painted bluish dark gray, called war painting.

This painting was adopted at the end of 1903 right before the Russo-Japanese war. It remained unchange until the end of the World War. II.

It is almost identical with the color of the present marine self-defense ships. Toward the end of the World War, II, aircraft carriers only were painted with light green. Dazzle painting of light and dark gray was sometimes used.

The bottom below the water line is dark red,

called maroon. The decks of destroyers and light cruisers are boarded and are painted identically with the body.

Iron plates, or linoleum or wooden boards are used for heavy cruisers.

The linoleum and wooden board decks were not painted. The decks of war ships and the flight decks of most of the aircraft carriers were boarded. The top of a chimney was painted black. The rear mast was painted black for 9m from the location corresponding to the top of the chimney. Its lower part was also painted black

at the width corresponding to the bottom of the black part of the chimney. We recommend to paint the Imperial crest of the chrysanthemum in gold and the gun base and the cover of campus such as a cutter in white. A brass plate bearing her name in Hiragana was fitted at the tail. It was painted in the color of the main body during wars. A name is written from the right.

At the beginning of the war, the ships belonging to the combined fleet had a white front mast and a white mast top for identifications.



