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John Roberts. *The Battlecruiser Hood: Anatomy of the Ship*. Oxford, UK: Osprey Publishing, www.ospreypublishing.com, 2020. (Originally published 1982.) 128 pp., illustrations. US \$24.00, CDN \$32.50, paper; ISBN 978-1-47284-606-8.

This work is the new Osprey reprinting of John Robert's revised 2001 edition of his 1982 entry into the *Anatomy of the Ship* book series, covering the famed Royal Navy Battlecruiser HMS *Hood*. Etched into public memory as the ship that exploded with a near total loss of life during the hunt for *Bismarck*, *Hood*'s construction occurred before the full breadth of knowledge gained from the Battle of Jutland was fully understood, leaving her flawed, despite several revisions to her design. Her relative newness also lowered her position on the queue for reconstruction and overhaul, seeing the ship serve "without major improvement despite her known defects" (7). Robert's technical drawings and detailed rendering of ship spaces allows for a visualization of *Hood* on a level often not achieved, allowing for a better understanding of her construction and arrangement in the decades leading up to her eventual destruction.

The work is nominally divided into three sections, with the 'Introduction' serving as the primary textual analysis section, covering the origins of the *Hood*'s design, the changes made during construction, a service- history timeline, her loss, and relevant analysis for each of the later drawing sections. Tables are included with proposed and actual design particulars, along with data on displacement, stability, protection, armament, fire control, and equipped boats. Some interesting comparative analysis is laid out in the drawing-related texts, such as comparing the unique modifications of the 15-inch MK II guns compared to their Mk I forbearers, the armor effectiveness of the *Hood* versus the earlier *Queen Elizabeth* class, and the functionality of the non-standard geared Browns Curtis turbines installed aboard the *Hood* (12, 13, 16). Finally, a detailed listing of 1920 to 1941 modifications to the *Hood* rounds out the analysis. This is followed by a brief photographic section with exterior shots and some interior views of ship, with notes in the descriptions pointing out details and modifications visible in the images.

The main body of the work is naturally the drawings. Covering 93 out of 127 pages, these scale renderings are subdivided into 12 sections, descending in level of detail from the overall general ship arrangement to individual pieces of machinery, armament, and fittings. As stated on the section's opening page, the scale of the drawings varies based on what is being depicted, primarily in divisible scales from the General Arrangement's 1:600 to offer the best

visualization possible, with the scale choice often noted in the headings (35). Most impressive of all, is Robert's three-dimensional perspective work, which reveals ship construction not seen on the original Admiralty drafts. His views of the double bottom hull are strikingly accurate compared to the most recent imagery from the wreck, and the detailed amidships structure cross-section is possibly one of the most impressive and concise depictions of the *Hood's* armour layout and protective measures (51, 60). Humanizing features such as typical mess and quarters arrangements are just as fascinating as the detailed treatment of ship machinery and armament. While these are all strictly black and white drawings, the absence of colour in no way affects their effectiveness, and the inclusion of colour profiles on the back cover to illustrate vessel paint schemes in 1939 is appreciated.

Given that this edition was published after the 2012 and 2015 expeditions to the wreck, the "Loss of the *Hood*" section could be expanded and redressed to reflect the findings of the survey teams. The introduction's tables are all concentrated in and after the General Arrangement and Hull Structure section, while Tables 1-4 on proposed designs and construction legends would be best served by appearing earlier in the sections on design and construction. Finally, the inclusion of higher resolution photographs, wreck images, and more surviving interior photographs, such as the RPPCs of the sick bay, fore-engine room controls, chapel, or images held by the HMS *Hood* Association would lend another level of visual information to the ship's layout and appearance. Citing the pages of drawings related to each photo in the captions would also help with their effectiveness. These are minor possible additions, however, and in no way detract from the impressive nature of the work as it currently stands.

The Battlecruiser Hood remains an impressive and insightful study into one of the most famous casualties of the modern Royal Navy. The *Hood's* high pre-war profile, much like that of the USS *Arizona*, increased the devastation of her loss and ensured continuous debate as to what exactly went wrong to ensure such a quick and violent demise. Roberts' extensive work on transforming the data from assorted documentation and official blueprints into accurate two- and three-dimensional drawings is a commendable guide to the vessel's construction and internal components, making this a valuable resource for scholars and hobbyists interested in the *Hood's* design, sinking, and wreckage remains.

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