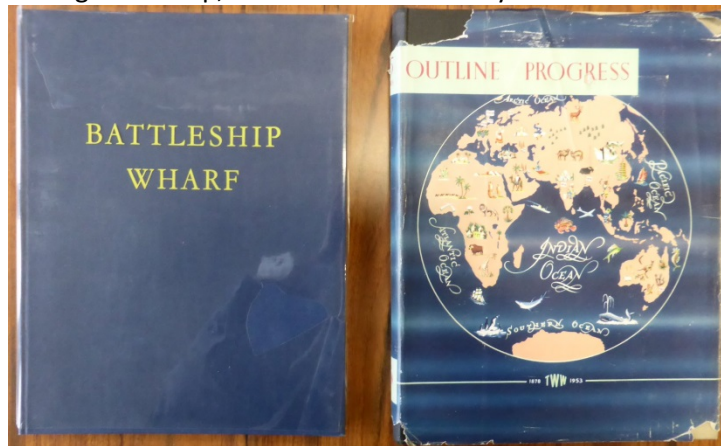


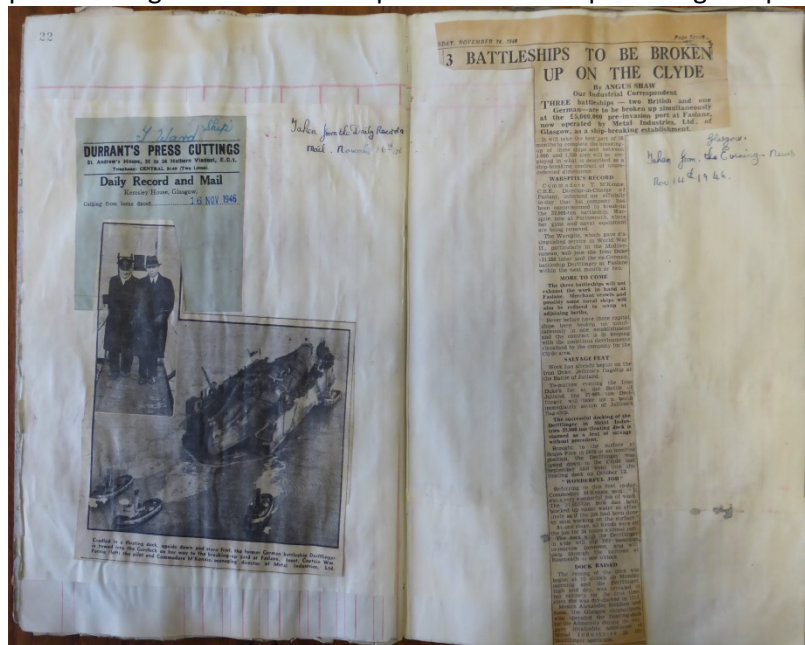
Marine Technology Special Collection, Newcastle University, United Kingdom

The shipbreaking collection

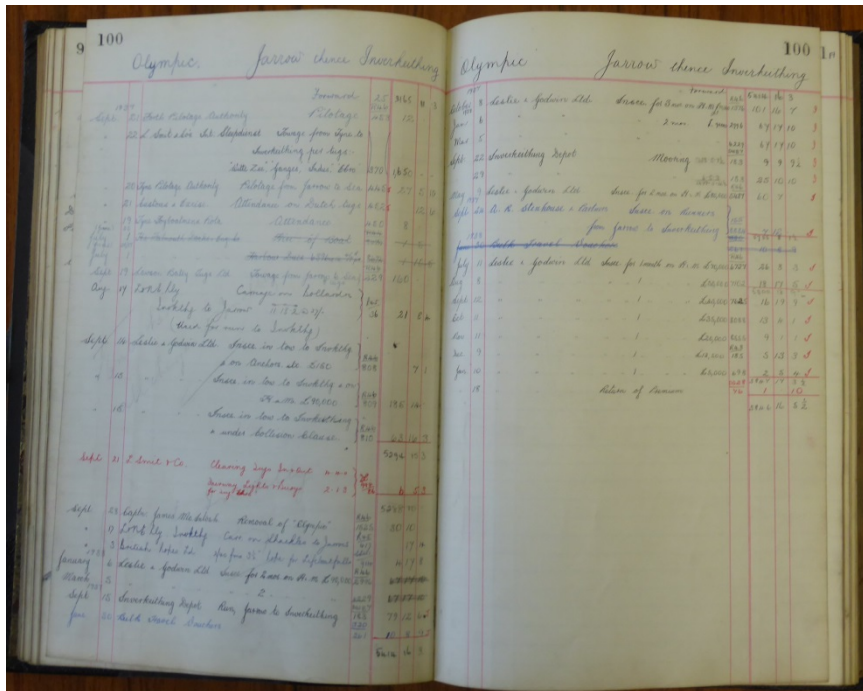
The shipbreaking archive is the most substantial in the UK. It holds records of many of the major British shipbreakers who operated between the 1940s and the 1980s, when the British industry substantially closed down. It includes records of T W Ward Ltd, who had shipbreaking yards at Inverkeithing, Briton Ferry, Milford Haven, Preston, Barrow and Grays (Essex). Ward produced publicity material from its headquarters in Sheffield, such as 'Outline of Progress' (below) which also described its other divisions including land scrap, secondhand machinery and cement making.



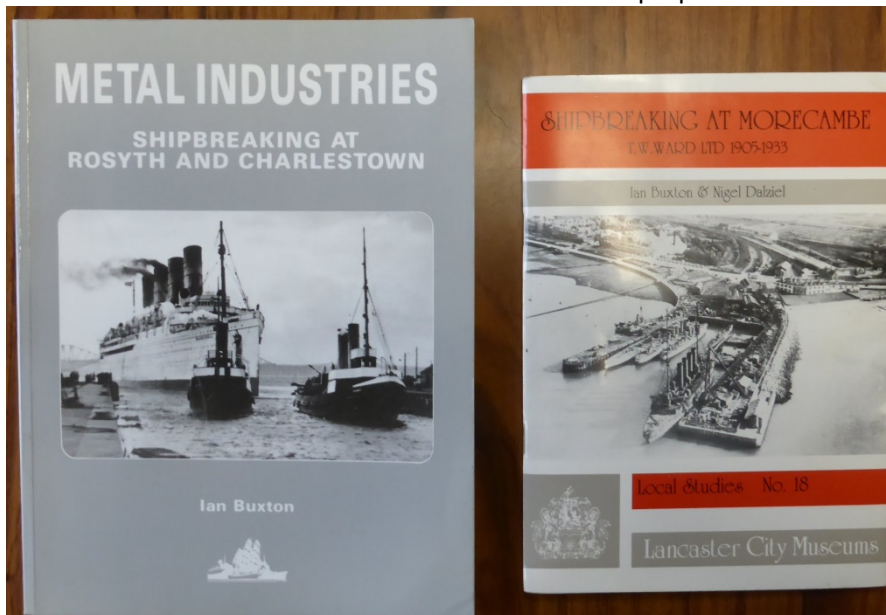
Its press cuttings books include reports on other shipbreaking companies.



'Battleship Wharf' is a privately published history of Hughes Bolckow of Blyth from its start to 1960. We have many of the HB 'outturn ledgers' which record all the materials recovered from a demolished ship. One page (below) shows the famous sloop *Calliope* broken up in 1951, which survived the Samoa hurricane of 1889. She later became a naval reserve training ship on the Tyne.



Published booklets on shipbreaking yards include Metal Industries at Rosyth and Charlestown (1923-62) and Ward at Morecambe. Ian Buxton was able to preserve material when such companies closed down, which have enabled such accounts to be prepared.



Metal Industries and Ward were the two largest British shipbreakers. We are fortunate have many records of both, including MI's successor company, Shipbreaking Industries Ltd which operated at Faslane, now the Royal Navy's submarine base on the Clyde. In the latter case, we have many ledgers including Directors Board Minutes and outturn records. Files include many accounting records, annual reports, costs and profits for individual ships, photographs albums and correspondence files. The photographs can be viewed by visiting us. The policy on copying photographs is outlined in xxxx.

There are records of other companies, including information on the ships they broke up, although less substantial than Ward or MI/SI. These include John Cashmore at Newport, Arnott Young at Dalmuir and Shipbreaking Queenborough Ltd, operating at both Queenborough on the Medway and Cairnryan.

How to contact the Collection

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