



Naval Gunnery Directors

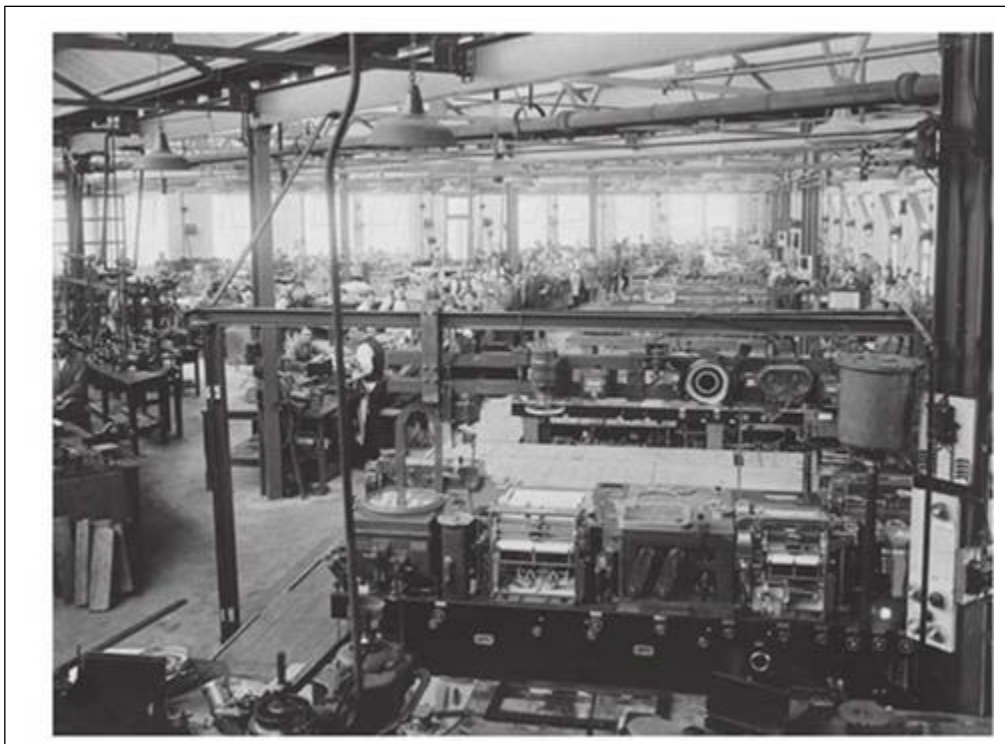
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The Lewisham site of Elliott Bros made naval gunnery tables, which were mechanical analogue computers, which were manufactured until after the Second World War. A special 'bombproof' Admiralty building was constructed for this work. On larger ships, these 'tables' took the form of massive mechanical analogue calculators, weighing several tonnes, in which range and elevation of surface targets were set up on hand-wheels. The Fire Control Table (FCT) then 'computed' the necessary settings for each gun, based upon own ship's course and speed, enemy ship's estimated course and speed, and predetermined wind and ballistics information. The resulting gun bearings and elevations were communicated to the gun crews. HMS Belfast was one of the larger warships in the invasion fleet in Normandy and it used the Elliott Analogue Fire Control Table The AFCT MK 1 was fitted to HMS Nelson and Rodney in the early 1920s, while battleships Warspite, Valiant, and Queen Elizabeth, and the battlecruiser Renown, received Mk VII tables in the late 1930s. Battleships of the King George V class received a Mk IX table, while Vanguard received the final variant, the Mk X. Elliott's factory at Lewisham had been manufacturing fire-control equipment for the Royal Navy since just before the First World War and it did transfer to Rochester briefly after WWII.



The photograph, taken in the 1920s, shows an Admiralty Fire Control Table (AFCT) being tested in the foreground. AFCTs were large electromechanical analogue computers

HMS Belfast Fire Control Table

