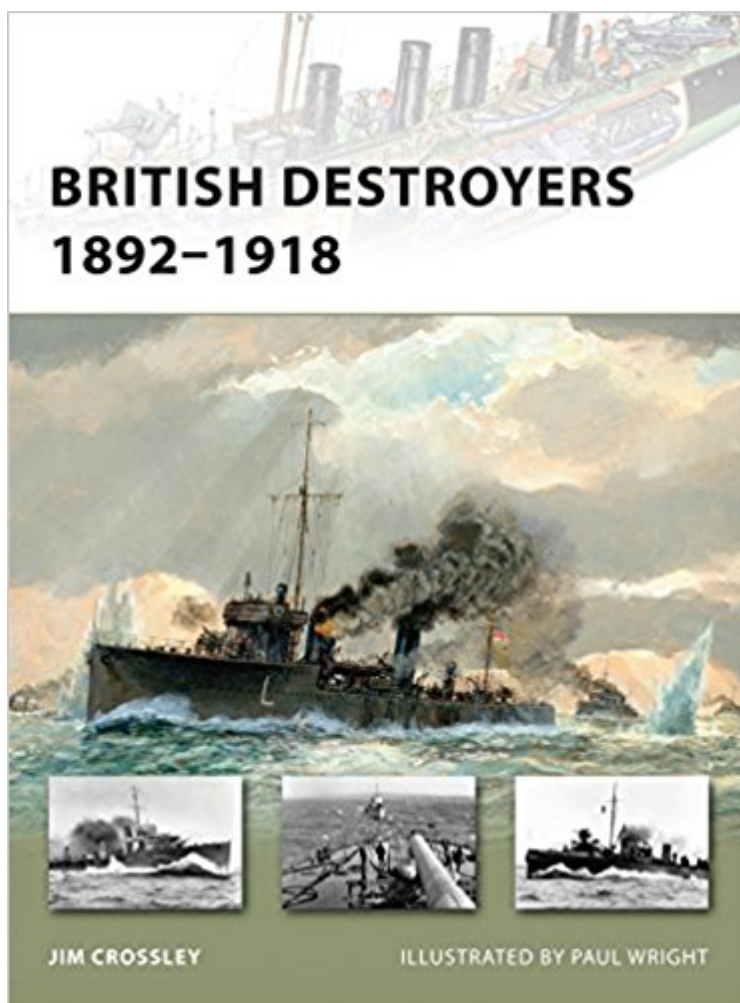


The book was found

British Destroyers 1892–1918 (New Vanguard)



Synopsis

This book recounts the history of the first destroyers of the Royal Navy, which revolutionised this service and changed the way war was fought at sea. Moreover, between 1892, when the first destroyers were laid down, and 1918 destroyers evolved radically from 27 knot, 250-ton ships into 35 knot, 1,530-ton ships. All these ships were involved in some form during World War I; the smaller, original destroyers in an auxiliary support role and the newer larger destroyers at some of the greatest sea battles of the war. Indeed, this book will highlight the role destroyers played in the North Sea during the crucial battles to control the Heligoland Bight as well as the major fleet action at the battle of Jutland in 1916. Complete with a detailed description of the technical evolution of each class of destroyer from the 27-knotters to the Tribal and Marksman classes, this book offers a complete overview of the vessels that helped to maintain Britain's supremacy at sea.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

“Would I have bought this book from the title? No. Would I have bought this book if I knew how well it was done? Yes! ... I really liked this book even though I have no intention of building these ships. The topic is important for understanding evolution of naval warfare, but also as a window on technological evolution and how rapidly, and sometimes too quickly, that technology is applied to war machines. Recommended as 'light reading' for naval warfare enthusiasts and erstwhile modelers of early British destroyers.”
— Luke R Bucci, IPMS/USA

(December 2009) “It really is an excellent book on a most interesting subject and one that I

am positive you will find to be of interest. One that will be pulled from the shelves time after time and one I can highly recommend to you. — Scott Van Aken, *Modeling Madness* (October 2009) — “[A] solid pick for such (military history) collections... Jim Crossley’s *British Destroyers 1892-1918*, telling of new designs of the Royal Navy’s destroyers and how they changed the way sea war was fought. — The Bookwatch (January 2010)

Jim Crossley is a leading authority on the destroyers of World War I. He has an understanding of the intricacies of naval design and is passionate about the history of these key vessels. The author lives in Norfolk, England.

I will be getting what I can of the warship series. I have interested with warship design for a period of time and enjoy the illustration showing the profile and plan views of the various ships, but wish those items were larger.

Great little book about these numerous great little ships. Excellent plates as well.

This well written book provides an interesting explanation of how the ‘destroyer’ came to be, of the early successes and failures in the various aspects of the early designs and of the evolution of this type prior to and during WWI. It was an excellent addition to the New Vanguard series and well worth the price.

A good book showing several class of destroyers in service in Royal navy between the end of XIX century and the end of the WWII, a good source for modellers and students.

British Destroyers 1892-1918 by Jim Crossley, in Osprey’s New Vanguard series, provides an excellent summary of the Royal Navy’s destroyers in the First World War era. The volume is geared toward technical details, but also provides sufficient information about the operations of British destroyers in the First World War, as well as some nice artwork. Both in terms of research and graphics, this is an appealing volume. Overall, *British Destroyers 1892-1918* provides an excellent introduction to its subject. The volume begins with an introduction noting how the Royal Navy’s requirement for destroyers arose from the need to counter foreign torpedo boats. Based upon French hyping of the capabilities of early torpedoes, the British Admiralty became alarmed that their main battle fleet could be incapacitated by a surprise torpedo attack. Fast, gun-armed destroyers

were developed to counter the torpedo boat threat but soon began acquiring torpedo launchers themselves. The author goes into each class of British destroyer, discussing their design, main characteristics and operational service. He also discusses gun armament and flotilla leaders. The volume has three color plates of British destroyers, plus a beautiful cutaway of HMS Hornet. The second part of the volume covers the destroyers in combat in the First World War and provides tables on strength (by class) in 1914, wartime construction and losses (by cause). He then discusses the action off the Texel in October 1914, destroyers at Jutland in 1916, the Dover patrol and convoy escort duty. There are also three color battle scenes of destroyers in action. Although a short volume, the author manages to pack in a good amount of information and readers should gain considerable insight into the operations of light naval forces in the First World War.

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