

German Capital Ships of the Second World War, Siegfried Breyer, MirosЕ'aw Skwiot, Pen & Sword Books Limited, 2012, 1848321430, 9781848321434, . Few warship types have had as much written about them as the Kriegsmarine's capital ships, even though they were so few in number Đ²Đ," counting the so-called 'pocket battleships', only seven ships. Nevertheless, interest among warship enthusiasts remains high, despite the fact that no new source of information has been unearthed in decades. What has come to light, however, is a growing number of photographs, many from private albums and some that lay forgotten in obscure archives. These include many close-ups and onboard shots, of great value to modelmakers, and rare action photos taken during wartime operations. This book is a careful selection of the best of these, but on a grand scale, with around 100 images devoted to each ship, allowing in-depth coverage of its whole career, from launching and fitting out to whatever fate the war had waiting for it. For sake of completeness, there are even sections reproducing the various design studies that led to each class, while an appendix covers the uncompleted Graf Zeppelin, Germany's only attempt to build an aircraft carrier, the type that during the war clearly displaced the battleship as the capital ship of the world's navies. Essays on the technical background and design origins by the well-known expert Siegfried Breyer and explanatory captions by Miroslaw Skwiot draw out the full significance of this magnificent collection of photos..

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• Exceptional reference guide for modelers and historians This lavishly illustrated volume in the War Camera Photobooks series presents a detailed photo history of the heavy cruisers which served with the German Navy, the Kriegsmarine, during World War II. The heavy cruiser was a type of naval warship designed for long range, high speed and an armament of naval guns roughly 203mm caliber (8 inches). The heavy cruiser can be seen as a lineage of ship design from 1915 until 1945, although the term 'heavy cruiser' only came into formal use in 1930. The heavy cruiser's immediate precursors were the light cruiser designs of the 1900s and 1910s, rather than the armored cruisers of before 1905. With numerous aerial, close-up, profile and "in action" photographs, this book is an exceptional reference guide for both modelers and historians alike. About the Series This lavishly illustrated new series presents a detailed photo history of the key machines used during warfare. With aerial, close-up, plan view and profile photography, War Camera Photobooks are dedicated tributes to the supreme machinery of military technology.

From the huge 15-inch guns carried by the Bismarck to the smallest machine gun used by coastal forces, this comprehensive encyclopedia covers every German artillery piece mounted afloat during World War II. All marks and variations of these weapons are described individually, including their mountings and the ammunition fired, along with extensive tabular data. The feature that makes this book unique, however, is the range and detail of the illustrations, including close-up photos, three-view drawings, and computer-generated full-color representations of the guns from every angle, making this the most complete reference available.

The superb illustrations contribute very largely to its success. The photographs are supplemented by detailed plans and drawings of the main types of gun and mounting, and by computer - generated illustrations from all angles. These illustrations are in colour and include renderings of the badges mounted prewar on some individually named turrets. This book is essential reading for any student of naval guns, while anyone interested in the wartime German Navy will find a photographic record of the Kriegsmarine which rivals that in any other publication. Those who already have all four parts of the Polish/English bilingual edition may hesitate, but the hardback will certainly outlast them, and

for its size the book is very reasonably priced. (Warship - Naval Books pf the year) -- This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I'm reviewing this book from the perspective of someone who purchased the first three volumes of the four card cover volume AJ Press dual Polish/English language series on which this volume is based. The fourth AJ Press volume and this hardcover were published at roughly the same time. Interestingly, I found that I could buy the combined hardcover for about \$10 less than the fourth softcover volume. I decided to purchase the hardcover.

The hardcover is \*not\* an exact reprint of the English portions of the original card covers. The differences are not huge but significant. The English text has largely been rewritten by a native English speaker. It doesn't appear to have been retranslated. They seem to have taken the original, rather rough, translation and smoothed it over. This might be the source of some of the errors other reviewers note. All the graphics seem to have been reproduced in their entirety but at a somewhat smaller size. They still look superb. The photographs are \*not\* exactly the same. Some that appear in the card covers do not appear in the hard cover and vice versa. Some that do are reproduced at a smaller size in the hard cover. Reproduction standards are about the same.

Several errors may be found, including bore size of the Panzerschiffes' main armament and number of 40,6 cm guns built. Amusingly, the author claims that the 28 cm guns on the Panzerschiffes and those on the Scharnhorst class were the same except for bore size yet there are tables in the work that quite clearly show that the guns actually had exactly the same bore size but had significantly different lengths and weights. I would suspect that the tables were an editing change for the English version, as they seem suspiciously similar to those found in Whitley. Surprisingly for a book claiming to list all German naval guns of the WWII period, it does not account for the 28 cm and 17 cm guns that were on the two old battleships still in service during World War II. Seeing how one of these ships fired the first naval warshots of the war, it seems a odd omission.

The photographs alone make this book a great buy. Add to that the line drawings, top view, side view cross sections of gun turrets, the feed mechanisms, elevators and 3-D computer generated color views of the guns used by the Kriegsmarine, along with data of weight, dimensions of shells, guns and mounts, you have yourself an excellent book.

The book is divided into Heavy, Medium, 105-88mm and light guns. The photos are very clear, contrary to a lot of others I have seen of the German navy. Naturally, the focus is on the weapon, cannon or mount, but there is a lot more to it than just that. I also liked the fact that the author showed how the gun mount looked at time of launch vs. after a retro-fit.

You don't have to be just a naval buff to enjoy this, since many of the smaller caliber(if you want to call 88mm small) guns were also used by other branches of the German armed forces. This is especially true of the ubiquitous 20mm and 20mm quad mounts. As a modeler, I would absolutely recommend this book for those looking for extreme detail and color to help build & paint. As a navy buff, I absolutely recommend this book for its scope and breadth of the armament found on German ships.

This hugely comprehensive encyclopaedia covers every German artillery piece mounted afloat during the Second World War, from the huge 15-inch (380mm) guns carried by the Bismarck to the smallest machine gun used by coastal forces. All marks and variations of these weapons are described individually, including their mountings and the ammunition fired, with extensive tabular data, but the feature that makes this book unique is the range, precision and detail of the illustrations. Almost every known close-up photo of these weapons is included, usually reproduced large enough to see every detail, plus accurate three-view drawings perfect for modelling purposes. However, the most spectacular element of the illustration is provided by computer-generated full colour representations of the guns and their mountings, seen from every conceivably useful angle. The number of illustrations of all kinds totals well over 1000, making this the most thorough and complete reference available to modelmakers, enthusiasts and naval historians.

This is in all but a gunnery manule and a must for the model maker, very good drawings and pictures right across the board many of the weapons also featured in the german army and airforce. The standard of model making over the years by the interested person has been gaining levels of Excellence and long may it continue.

What do you get a very good book in short , illustrations, diagrams , photos and colour plates all clear easy to follow sharp a.nd they surrender excellent detail. being a collector of optical gear from WW2 / Kgm / RN this book does provide me with plenty of interesting photos above and beyond the actual primary subject matter.

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