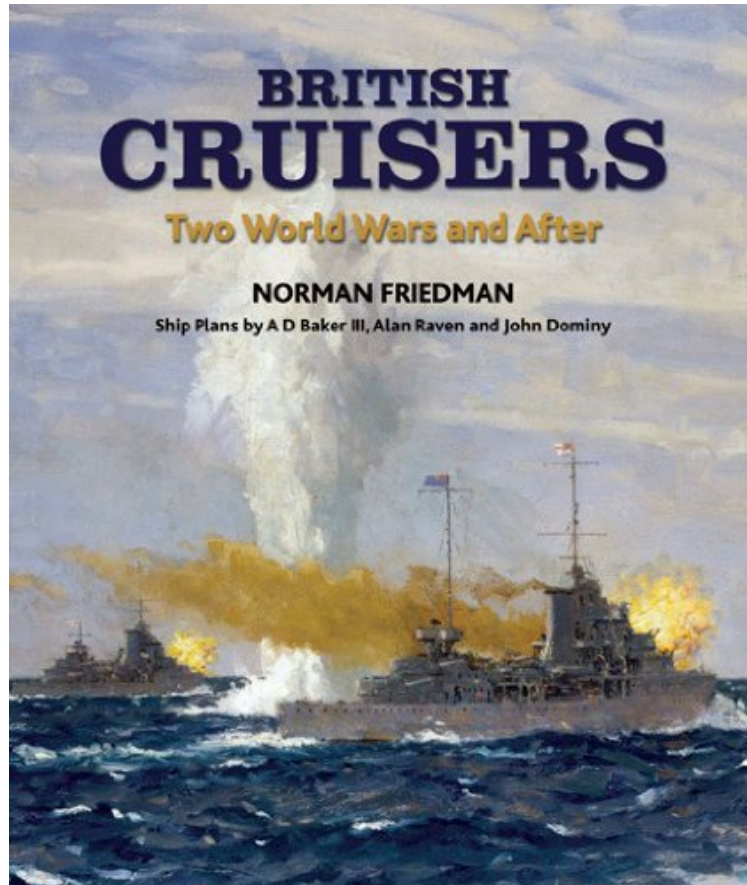


British Cruisers: Two World Wars and After

Norman Friedman

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#602840 in Books Friedman Norman 2011-02-15 Original language: English PDF # 1 11.50 x 9.75 x 1.50l, 4.70 #File Name: 1591140781320 pages British Cruisers Two World Wars and After | File size: 75.Mb

Norman Friedman : British Cruisers: Two World Wars and After before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised British Cruisers: Two World Wars and After:

24 of 25 people found the following review helpful. Friedman delivers once again By Jim Davis This kind of book is author Norman Friedman's bread and butter, a design history of a particular class of warship of one nation over an extended period. This book covers British cruisers from the pre World War I "Town" class through the Invincible "through deck cruisers" of recent times. An appendix covers the cruiser sized fast minelayers. Cruiser designs offered for export are covered at the ends of chapters by heavily captioned builder's drawings. As is typical of Friedman's book it's a pretty dense read; it is literally packed with information. This is not the sort of book that can be read in small segments over a long period of time. Neither is it one that can be comfortably read at a few sittings. The book has 11 chapters and one chapter like appendix; my recommendation is to allot time for a chapter at a time. The book is of a size makes reading any other way than sitting at a desk or a table something of a chore. The book is structured in such a way that the reader feels he is reading three books at the same time. There is the main text, the very extensive (sometimes page long) captions to the drawings and photos, and the copious notes. In fairness, it's hard to see what

else could have been done. The line drawings are of universally high quality. They are always presented left to right across the page. This makes them somewhat small. Cruisers are of a size that drawings from bottom of page to top of page would be more satisfactory like in the author's book on US cruisers. No doubt space was a consideration. Both plan and deck views are included. More inboard profiles would have been welcome. As it is, the builder's drawings of designs for export are the most detailed in this regard. The photos are adequately but not outstandingly reproduced. Some are very small making it hard to pick out details, some are two page spreads. There is not much in the way of on board closeups. It will no doubt be wondered how this book compares with Raven and Roberts' *British Cruisers of World War II*. The current book is much more comprehensive and the coverage extends both earlier and later than the earlier book. On the other hand the photos and drawings in Raven and Roberts are better reproduced, larger, and include more closeup views. One also appreciates that Raven and Roberts tabularized a lot designs in their main text; Friedman prefers to describe designs one at a time. In short, the general enthusiast will no doubt prefer Friedman but the modeller will probably appreciate Raven and Roberts more. This book is highly recommended. It will no doubt be the definitive book on the subject. Friedman is working on a book covering British cruisers of the earlier period but it will also cover the battlecruisers given their armored cruiser antecedents. I can hardly wait.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Probably the 'last word' on RN Cruisers. By Customer This is an enormously comprehensive volume of that most successful of WW2 British warships - the cruiser. The wealth of detail actually illustrates the enormous experience and care lavished on these ships which led to their surprising success during the war against opponents who were clearly superior - on paper. A minor cavil is the sometimes overwhelming detail on the office disputes between DNC, DofE, DofA and etc. Why not just say "After some dispute in the Admiralty.... (Hopefully over a pink gin and cigars) ...such and such was decided. Also I'm certain there should be more mention of the nation's budget constraints. In the 20's and 30's, Britain was far from being a rich country. More seriously, there is a great amount of detail on defensive armour but not sufficient information on offensive weapons. Main armament and torpedoes are covered well but secondary and close range AA are not well explained or assessed. The photos are prolific and perhaps very meaningful. The RN cruisers are in no way spectacular in appearance. None have the bristling guns and turrets of Mogami or Brooklyn and they just don't have the racy lines of the Italians. They look like working ships, which lived long enough to change their details and appearance and just keep working; which they did. Don't let these criticisms put you off the book because, in the end, every student of naval history will call this volume "The Book".

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. *British Cruisers: 2 World Wars and After* By deerhunter Friedman covers them all in this one. A must have if your serious about your facts

With the world's largest merchant fleet and extensive overseas territories during most of the twentieth century, the Royal Navy depended on the cruiser to defend Britain's trade routes and police the empire. In this handsomely illustrated book, the noted ship historian Norman Friedman provides insights into the cruiser's development and Britain's efforts to come to terms with the competing demands of quality and quantity. The first book to offer a comprehensive explanation of the policy background, it presents an entirely original picture of cruiser development. The book's final chapters cover post-war modernizations, plans for missile-armed ships, and the process that turned the through-deck cruiser into the Invincible-class light carrier. With detailed appendixes of ship data and extensive photos and ship plans by A.D. Baker III, Alan Raven, Paul Webb, and John Dominy, the work matches the high standards set by Friedman's book on British destroyers.

“An essential work for anyone interested in the Royal Navy and modern naval operations.” ? The NYMAS “...We enthusiastically recommend *British Cruisers* for those who are interested in the history of the British, Australian or New Zealand navies, and technology buffs interested in the history of radar, communications, and electronics in naval weapons systems.” ? iThe Northern Mariner “...An extraordinarily detailed account of the development of Royal Navy cruisers... This is a towering work, and one which any reader with even a passing interest in British cruiser development will want to own.” ? Warship 2012

About the Author Norman Friedman is a prominent naval analyst and the author of more than thirty books covering a range of naval subjects, from warship histories to contemporary defense issues. He is a longtime columnist for *Proceedings* magazine and lives in New York City.