

Contents

Foreword

Abbreviations

GREAT BRITAIN (including Empire Forces)

Introduction	2
The Royal Navy in 1922	7
Capital ships	14
Monitors	17
Aircraft carriers	17
Cruisers	26
Cruiser-minelayers	36
Destroyers	37
Escort destroyers	45
Submarines	47
Sloops	55
Frigates	58
Other escorts	62
Coastal forces	67
Amphibious warfare ships	72
Miscellaneous vessels	78
Auxiliary warships	81

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Introduction	86
The US Navy in 1922	90
Capital ships	97
Aircraft carriers	100
Cruisers	112
Destroyers	124
Destroyer escorts	135
Submarines	141
Patrol frigates	148
Minelayers	149
Minesweepers and patrol craft	150
Submarine-chasers	152
PT boats	154
Gunboats	155
Seaplane tenders	156
Amphibious warfare ships	158
US Coast Guard	164

JAPAN

Introduction	167
The Japanese Navy in 1922	171
Capital ships	178
Aircraft carriers	179

Cruisers	186
Destroyers	192
Submarines	199
Escorts, patrol boats	205
Minelayers	207
Minesweepers	209
Submarine-chasers	210
Miscellaneous vessels	211

GERMANY

Introduction	218
The German Navy in 1922	222
Capital ships	224
Aircraft carriers	226
Cruisers	227
Destroyers	232
Ex-enemy destroyers	236
Torpedo-boats	237
Submarines	239
Escorts	245
Minesweepers	245
Commerce raiders	246
S-Boats	248
Motor minesweepers	250
Miscellaneous vessels	252
Fighter direction ships	254

FRANCE

Introduction	255
The French Navy in 1922	257
Capital ships	259
Aircraft carriers	261
Cruisers	262
Destroyers	267
Torpedo-boats	271
Submarines	272
Escorts	276
Coastal craft	278

ITALY

Introduction	280
The Italian Navy in 1922	284
Capital ships	289
Aircraft carriers	290
Cruisers	291
Destroyers	298
Torpedo-boats, destroyer escorts	302
Submarines	304
Coastal forces	312
Miscellaneous vessels	316

SOVIET UNION

Introduction	318
The Soviet Navy in 1922	322

Capital ships	325
Cruisers	326
Flotilla leaders	329
Destroyers	330
Submarines	332
Escorts	338
Guardships	339
Minesweepers	340
Motor torpedo-boats	341
Submarine-chasers	343
Miscellaneous vessels	344
<hr/>	
EASTERN EUROPE	
Poland	347
Estonia	351
Latvia	353
Czechoslovakia	354
Hungary	355
Yugoslavia	355
Romania	359
Bulgaria	362
<hr/>	
SCANDINAVIA	
Finland	363
Sweden	368
Norway	377
Denmark	381
<hr/>	
WESTERN EUROPE	
Belgium	385
The Netherlands	385
Portugal	396
<hr/>	
THE MEDITERRANEAN	
Spain	398
Greece	404
Turkey	406
Egypt	409
<hr/>	
THE MIDDLE AND FAR EAST	
Persia	409
Siam	410
China	411
Manchukuo	414
<hr/>	
LATIN AMERICA	
Mexico	414
Colombia	415
Venezuela	415
Brazil	416
Paraguay	418
Uruguay	419
Argentina	419
Chile	422
Peru	423

MINOR NAVAL FORCES

Albania	424
Austria	424
Cuba	424
Dominican Republic	425
Ecuador	425
Eire	425
Iceland	425
Iraq	425

Foreword

This volume is the second of a series begun by *Conway's All the World's Fighting Ships 1860-1905*, which dealt with a period for which there was little existing published material. Therefore it was only necessary to explain how – rather than why – the subject was covered. For the 1922-46 period there are already many reference books on warships, and so a few words about the aims of this volume are in order.

Available published works fall into three basic categories, all of which have some positive disadvantages from the point of view of the student or enthusiast:

1. Yearbooks and annuals. These have virtually no access to primary sources; they are also subject to security restrictions and, often, intentionally misleading official information put out for propaganda purposes. Yearbooks naturally concentrate on what is new, and so there is rarely any incentive to correct data in retrospect.

2. Pocket-books on navies or ship types. These are little more than fleet-lists, with no space to devote to the design background or general naval developments.

3. Monographs and detailed studies. This category contains many fine works of extreme importance in their own right, but by no means all navies and ship types have benefited from such studies (very few of the smaller navies have been covered, and even US cruisers are still without a definitive technical history). Therefore, even if an avid enthusiast could afford to collect all available books, there would still be gaps in their coverage.

Consequently the first aim of this book is to provide, in a single manageable volume, all the information that would otherwise require almost a library of naval reference works.

The second aim concerns the quality of the information: each volume of this series involves a major revaluation of published information with the advantage of hindsight, as well as the wide-scale use of unpublished sources, many of them available only recently.

No warship is merely a collection of data, and this book's third aim is to back the bare technical details, wherever possible, with notes on the history and rationale of the design. Judgements on the quality of a ship can only be made with reference to her designer's intentions, and similarly the policy of a navy cannot be understood outside the political and economic context in which it operated. These factors are covered in the introduction to each country.

SCOPE

The period covered is from the Washington Treaty to the end of the wartime building programmes. In some ways this volume is more comprehensive than its predecessor. The concern is still predominantly with *fighting ships*, but the exclusions have been less rigid. Riverine and lake vessels have been included, as have many very small craft, such as MTBs, and even special attack craft like Italian 'chariots' or Japanese 'Shinyo' suicide boats, the criterion for inclusion being their relative historical importance. This has also dictated the inclusion of some purpose-built auxiliaries (many of which have interesting technical features) as well as significant conversions from warships. In many

cases, the vessels of non-naval government agencies (coastguard, army, police or fishery protection services) have been omitted, or relegated to the Minor Naval Forces section at the end of the book. All important designs and uncompleted warships have been included.

NEW FEATURES

Compared with the 1860-1905 volume, the most obvious new feature is the greatly expanded notes and illustrations to the tables of ships extant at the beginning of the period. This was necessary because the Washington Treaty forced the major powers to extensively rebuild many capital ships in lieu of new construction, while the pace of technological advance during the war years meant that older ships had to be more frequently, and more radically, refitted. These developments belong here rather than the 1906-21 volume which will cover the details of the ships as built.

Apart from more detailed coverage, this volume has much new material to offer, in both text and illustration. For example, Eastern European sources have been widely used for those countries now in the Communist bloc, while many previously unpublished photos have been provided by a collector in the USSR. Many of the smaller navies have been adequately covered for the first time; this is particularly true of countries like Finland, which suffered from war-inspired security restrictions on the release of information. However, new information is not confined to the small or obscure navies: the US section contains for the first time succinct design histories of all significant warship classes entirely compiled from official records, while even the much-studied Royal Navy affords a few surprises, such as the projected cruiser designs of 1939-45, or the 'oil-drum' protective systems of the armed merchant cruisers.

ORGANISATION

The major naval powers – those with a modern battlefleet – come first. Thereafter countries are grouped geographically, to facilitate comparisons between neighbouring navies. Finally there is a short section outlining minor naval forces, few of which have any claim to being real navies. Dominion and Commonwealth navies are to be found under 'Great Britain', usually under the British classes to which most of them belonged.

The order within each country is standard: a general introduction, followed by a statement of its fleet in 1922, then the post-1922 classes in type and chronological order. The type-divisions are conventional (Capital Ships, Aircraft Carriers, Cruisers, etc) in descending order of importance, but where a classification is very general (such as Coastal Forces) each class heading may be followed by a more precise designation (such as *MTB*, *MGB* or *ML*).

ILLUSTRATIONS

Classes of ship of cruiser size and upwards are usually represented by both a photograph and a line drawing; wherever possible these are complementary – representing either different sister-ships, or the same