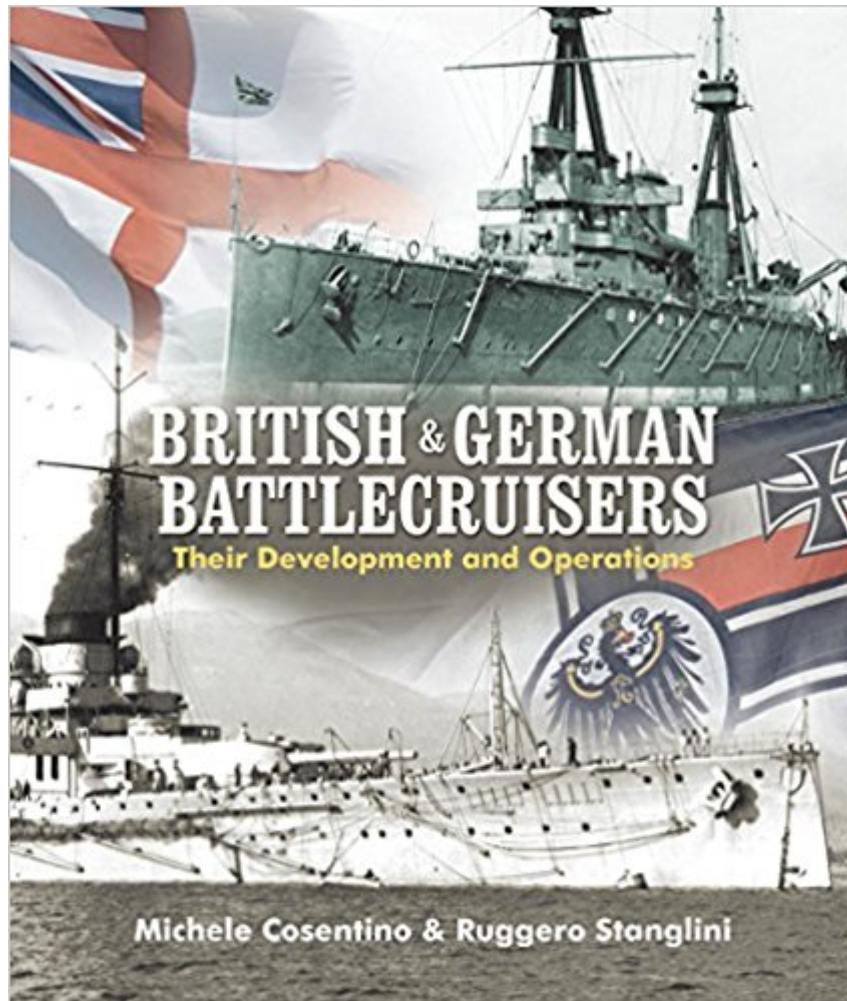


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# British And German Battlecruisers: Their Development And Operations



## Synopsis

The authors of *British and German Battlecruisers* have detailed the fast and formidably-armed battlecruisers developed before and during World War I in a way that has never been attempted before. They begin by looking at the relationship and rivalry between Great Britain and Germany and how foreign policy, strategic and tactical considerations, economic, industrial and technological developments, as well as naval policies led to the commencement of the battlecruiser programs in both countries. Chapters are then devoted to the development of the ships in each country, to design and construction, protection, propulsion plants, weapons, fire control, and communication systems. Particular focus is paid to the innovative aspects of the designs and their strengths and weaknesses. These ships eventually clashed in the North Sea at Dogger Bank, in January 1915, and while neither side suffered losses, the differences in their design and handling were apparent. These differences would be starkly highlighted a year later at Jutland when three British ships were destroyed. This is a major new work for naval enthusiasts everywhere.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Not only does this book give very detailed coverage of all British and German WW I battlecruisers, it also covers armored cruisers, their predecessors, and the political environment that led to the creation of the battlecruiser. In addition, it also covers US, Japanese and Russian WW I era battlecruisers as well as projected French and Austro-Hungarian battlecruisers. The only possible improvement would have been to cover the post-WW I Japanese Amagi and British G-3 class ships

in order to have complete coverage of all battlecruisers.

Worthy Book! Authors have done a fine job of compiling available data to give a very readable, one volume coverage of both British and German Battlecruisers, a superb reference for the reader who is unfamiliar with these magnificent ships. For the well read enthusiast, a couple of cautions: There are few photos that are unfamiliar to me, most have seen frequent publication in recent years. Don't buy this expecting many "ah ha" moments. The plans are adequate, well executed, sufficient detail except as a modeling reference. The plans are laid out across pages in every instance; meaning much of the artwork falls into the "gutter" between the pages, this disappointed me. Smaller plans on one page only would be MUCH preferred! Well recommended with only the above reservations!

The authors of this book are both highly regarded in Italy for their coverage of naval matters; Cosentino is an especially prolific writer on Italian naval subjects, as is Stanglini. This book addresses British and German battlecruisers, and while it is a departure from their usual focus on Italian ships, it is nevertheless an outstanding work. The amount of detail presented is staggering and is virtually encyclopedic. There seems to be nothing that these authors have missed; they cover British and German naval policies, building programs, design philosophies, personalities (political and military) involved in these programs, technical comparisons, operational employment and effectiveness, a brief comparison with battlecruisers of other nations, all supported by superb photographs, drawings, tables and a series of color plates detailing battles and operations in which the various battlecruisers participated. This is an impressive piece of work and belongs on the bookshelf of anyone interested in WWI naval history and operations, battlecruisers in general, or the Royal Navy or Kaiserliche Marine.

I have received the book today and "at a first glance already" one only word has come to my mind: "Outstanding"! Over the years, many books have been written on the very interesting (and controversial) matters of battlecruisers, their characteristics and their employment in WWI. Nevertheless, all the books published up to now "and even those of British authors in most part" have only dealt with specific hints: battlecruisers' technical aspects, or their operational history, as well as the ships of a single nation and so on. What the educated naval reader (and even those in the "top" area of the naval readership) lacked up to now, was an overall comparison of both German and British ship types, with in-deep research of the decisional and political processes that brought to the building of this fine and fascinating ships, not to say of an even more in-deep

technical description of each single class, also comprehensive of not-completed or only projected classes. The text itself deserves much attention and every chapter is very interesting and detailed: as it happened for other Seaforth's books by Italian authors, the editorial and language consultancy of Lt.Col Ralph Riccio proved fundamental for the very good outcome of the final work. Iconography relies on a great number of photographs and schemes, and the line drawings are among the book's best features. The book is completed with a final colour section, with very clear and detailed maps of all the battles and naval encounters in which British and German Battlecruisers fought during the Great War.

a good, solid, stable, condensation of the basic data regarding the CB development in the world. Although naturally concentrated on the British and German vessels, its coverage of other country projects is good for a single volume and even managed to squeeze some really interesting new data such as the Austro-Hungarian projects. All in all, it provides a good and effective first stop. Special point as to be made to the very good diagramation and design of the book. This makes it nice to check it or just simply browse it just for the pleasure of it.

GREAT book! It's more than just a discussion and tabulation of things like displacement, armament, armor thicknesses, machinery horsepower and speed, and so forth -- although it does include all those things. It also discusses the tactical, naval strategic, and political reasoning behind developing and constructing these ships. The fact that some of the thinking turned out to be wrong is just part of the story, such as the inadequate armor on the British battle cruisers and the weak ammunition handling. There is also extensive discussion on the industrial capabilities and armaments development in Britain and Germany at the time. There is also included much information on the financial situation of the two countries and the amounts of money spent on their respective navies and particularly on the battlecruiser construction. Finally, every battle deployment of the British and German battlecruisers is discussed. The last chapter then provides a brief description of the battlecruisers built or contemplated by other countries such as Russia, Japan, the US, France, and Austria - Hungary.

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