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Fletcher-Class Destroyers.

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authors, by examining the early stages of European naval and maritime development, illuminate the limited effect of naval power on land power.

This is a short, very readable book that gives to the naval specialist both a broad perspective and stimulation for further research in the field, as well as insight into a highly technical aspect of scholarship for the general student of medieval history.

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Raven, Allan. *Fletcher-Class Destroyers*. Annapolis, Md.: Naval Institute Press, 1986. 158pp. $21.95

Watton, Ross. *The Battleship Warspite*. Annapolis, Md.: Naval Institute Press, 1987. 120pp. $21.95

Allan Raven begins a new series, "Warship Design Histories," with this volume on *Fletcher*-class destroyers of the Second World War. His format is similar to the "Anatomy of the Ship" series except that the snbject is an entire class rather than a single ship.

A brief introduction, complete with tables and sketches of design proposals, is followed by more than 90 photographs, frequently superb and clearly reproduced. Next are line drawings mixed with photographs which observe the "Anatomy of the Ship" formula for general arrangement plans, fittings and equipment, propellers, shafting and rudders, antennas, weapons and associated equipment, fire control equipment, and camouflage and funnel designs. The drawings, while excellent, are fewer in number and the keyed captions less extensive than in the "Anatomy of the Ship" series.

Raven concludes by listing the 175 *Fletcher*-class destroyers and their builders along with the dates they were laid down and commissioned. It is a pity the list could not have been expanded somewhat to include the fate of each ship. The emphasis, however, is clearly on design and materiel rather than on operational history and the class as a whole, at the expense of individual ships.

The now solidly established "Anatomy of the Ship" series has chosen for its ninth subject what is undoubtedly one of the most famous warships of the 20th century. H.M.S. *Warspite* incurred damage from mines, aircraft, and a radio-controlled glider bomb in a career that spanned the two World Wars, including a harrowing time at the Battle of Jutland where her steering mechanism broke down; extensive reconstruction during the interwar period; the second Battle of Narvik in 1940; the Mediterranean and Cape Matapan in 1941; D-day; and finally, at the conclusion of her career, providing support for the landing at Walcheren in November 1944.

Watton, who previously completed the cruiser *Belfast* volume in the same series, has matched his high standards with this work on the *Warspite*. The book adheres to the usual series format, with nine pages of introductory text followed by a

brief outline of the ship's career, but the emphasis is on materiel rather than history. The succeeding 22 pages carry photographs (the core of the book) and line drawings which are a distinctive feature of this series and provide the reader with a detailed view of the ship's anatomy. These include general arrangements and deck plans, machinery, hull construction, superstructure, armament, fire control equipment, fittings, ship's boats, and aircraft. Also included is information on camouflage schemes. The line drawings are keyed, sometimes in great detail, but generally clear even to those without a technical background. Oblique drawings are also provided for perspective.

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Campbell, John. *Naval Weapons of World War Two*. Annapolis, Md.: Naval Institute Press, 1986. 403pp. $34.95

Recently I needed some definitive physical descriptions of World War II 40mm and 20mm guns. Norman Friedman's U.S. section of *Destroyer Weapons*, as well as other library references, provided pictures but no plan and profile drawings. John Campbell's *Naval Weapons of World War Two*, which unevenly remedies this deficiency, is an easy-to-use, Jane's-sized volume. Organized by country, it starts with Great Britain (the original was produced by Conway Press of that country) and works down by navy size through the United States, Japan, Germany, France, Italy, and the Soviet Union. These chapters are followed by a section on "Other Countries" which mainly covers weapons unique to the smaller nations and often based on U.S., British, and Swedish designs. Each of the major country chapters contain technical descriptions of guns, gun design, gun mountings, fire control, specific heavy, medium, and light caliber guns and their turrets or mountings, automatic guns, torpedoes, antisubmarine weapons, mines, bombs, rockets, and missiles such as they then were. Much of this is backed up by official descriptions and drawings, some of the latter rendered useless because of significant reduction without touch-up.

As might be expected, the British and U.S. chapters are very thorough, particularly the former. My problem with the 40mm and 20mm guns, for example, is solved by reproductions of official plans for the 40mm quads and twins and the 20mm singles. Regrettably, there are statistics but no drawings of the infamous 1.1-inch antiaircraft quad upon which the United States planned to rely as the war started. The sections on turret design are intriguing, for this is a little-known area of sophisticated design, construction, and testing which dictated the success of a particular class of warship. There were, necessarily, few large caliber designs, and the expertise, such as it was, could only be maintained by a handful of the larger, more affluent nations.

Germany and Italy are well-covered; France and Japan less so.