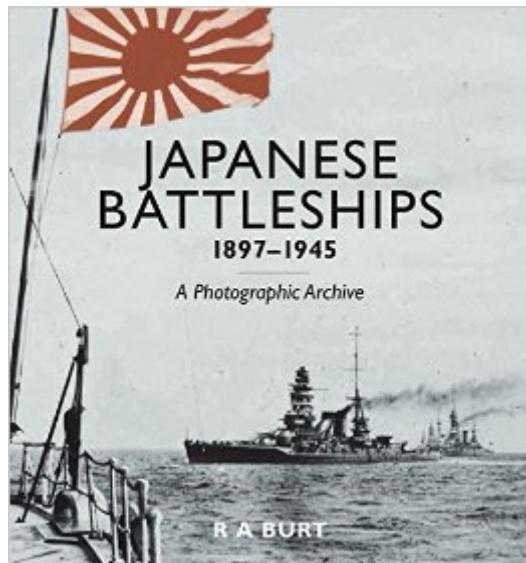


The book was found

Japanese Battleships, 1897-1945: A Photographic Archive



Synopsis

This unprecedented photographic collection contains 125 stunning black and white photographs of the battleships of the Imperial Japanese Navy. The remarkable images, some very rare, constitute an archive that is almost without equal in the West. The book begins with the launch of Japan's first contemporary battleship, Yashima, and concludes with the final destruction of the fleet in the Pacific in 1945. In between these two milestones, Japan constructed the third largest navy in the world. All of the fleet's dreadnoughts saw action in World War II but only the Nagato survived the conflict. She subsequently became a test target in the Bikini A-bomb tests in 1946.

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 starsÂ See all reviewsÂ (12 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

Excellent collection of photos. Each class of Japanese battleship is described, including what later would be classified as armored cruisers. Each class or individual ship contains a paragraph (quarter of a page or so) describing ship characteristics: dimensions, displacement, armament, armor thickness, installed machinery horsepower, speed, and so forth. There are other books that contain more photos of the various classes of Japanese battleships but this book describes all the classes in one volume. Other books that contain significant numbers of additional photos of Japanese battleships are Japanese Battleships Volume I by Skwiot (2010) and Warship Pictorial IJN Nagato Class Battleships by Wiper (2012).

As posted, RA Burt is known for his trilogy on British Battleships (1889 to HMS Vanguard) -- those are superb books along the set written by John Roberts. The title of this is "A Photographic Archive"

-- it is a textbook format book of photos. The narrative consists of a short table of essential data (length, displacement, guns, etc.) and extensive captions for each photo. It is not a "ship type" book with extensive analysis & commentary. It's obvious while Burt has "knowledge", he did not have citations of sources, original research and bibliography or the 200+ pages of narrative needed for an "analysis" or "ship type" type book. All the information is conveyed via the photo captions, containing commentary of evolving appearance of the ships. The author's objective appears to publish photos that are unique (ships as completed, modernized or altered significantly) or within "combat" context (last photo before sunk, or sinking as attacked by US aircraft or submarine). The "combat" photos are blurry as often they were taken afar or from the attacking aircraft. There are some side profile drawings of ships, but they are poorly drawn; a few side profiles have details, and I think there is only 1 deck plan (which Burt himself drew). Because there are few books on the IJN (best is the Watts/Gordon) any new books are welcomed (e.g., Mark Stille book), but this one by Burt is a lower-effort and NOT a seminal piece. I bought this recently because the selling price dropped below 50% of list (flash sale perhaps). In the \$30+ range, I would not have bothered adding it to my library.

Let me start by giving this first note. I own and love the British Battleships series by R.A. Burt, they are extremely detailed with numerous line drawings, photos and a wealth of information. This book on the other hand, while has great photos of Japanese battleships is lacking in everything else. The book is short, has no actual pages of information, just photos with detailed captions. I'm giving it a 4 star rating cause I love photos.

This book is not up to the caliber of previous offerings by this author. The text is sparse; the ships' histories are cursory; and the photographs are mediocre.

Far to many poor quality photographs.

Everything I expected. Well written.

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