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Naval Weapons of World War Two

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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.

PAUL G. HALPERN
Naval War College

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.

Many of the drawings in the French and Italian sections are originals, while none exist in the chapter on Japan. The Russian section, as might be expected, contains relatively little specific information. The few drawings, apparently created exclusively for the book, do not approach those in the European and U.S. sections in quality or in information.

One-fourth of the book is devoted to Great Britain while the U.S. section covers two-thirds as much. The latter provides an excellent complement to the Naval Institute's recent volume on battleships, cruisers, and destroyers, with details of each class's armament components. Much of this deals specifically with the designs rather than the reasons for their development. All torpedo summaries, while good, suffer from too few torpedo cutaways. Where is the famous Mk 24 "mine," the first truly successful homing torpedo?

In summary, *Naval Weapons of World War Two* covers the physical details of the weapons systems that influenced the development of so many combatants that are of interest to historians and others. This volume is not perfection and may elicit a number of reasoned responses to some of the points about which the author speculates. Thus, a second edition, especially if it included comparable details on the Japanese Navy, would be of great benefit and a welcome contribution to this body of knowledge.

RICHARD F. CROSS III
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Heatley, C.J., III. *The Cutting Edge*.

Annapolis, Md.: Naval Institute Press, 1986. 152pp. \$38

This is the one—this is the one for all the armchair aviators, amateur aviators, poor folks with lead wings, naval aviators, warp drivers, fast burners, and all those who know they have got the right stuff. C.J. "Heater" Heatley is a Navy fighter pilot, and superb photographer whose pictures inspired the movie *Topgun*. He must have the only optically true canopy in the Navy, for his photographs—taken through his canopy with a hand-held 35mm camera—are without blemish and are magnificent. There are so many grand photographs beautifully reproduced in this book that you will find yourself saturated at first and only on the second or third pass realize that each in its own way is a small masterpiece. My favorite is an F-14 climbing through a humid sky with rarefaction condensation waves forming over the wings. Picking yours will be a delightful chore.

Everything photogenic in carrier aviation is here—the people, the sky, the clouds, the sea, the ships, and the planes. All the good ones are here: F-18s, F-14s, A-6s, A-7s, S-3s, E-2Cs, CODs, and choppers. The aerial photographs of Russian aircraft could be sold to them to facilitate their lagging recruitment. Accepting the cliché about a picture being worth a thousand words, Heatley skillfully weaves lean text, from the pilots and crew, between his photographs. Since I cannot show you the photographs with this review, you will have to settle for a few of the best words.