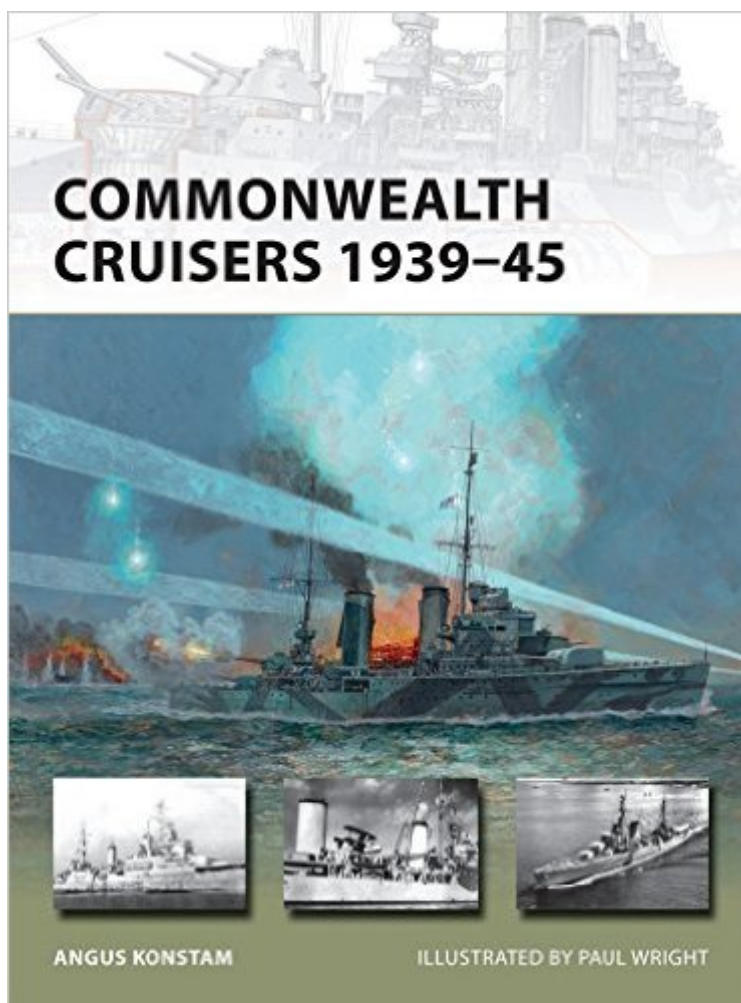


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# Commonwealth Cruisers 1939-45 (New Vanguard)



## Synopsis

In the early 20th century Britain's largest colonies established their own small naval presence, and their ships fought alongside the Royal Navy during World War I. These fleets were expanded slightly during the inter-war years, and in 1939 the Royal Australian Navy, the Royal Canadian Navy and the Royal New Zealand Navy willingly joined the fight on behalf of the British Commonwealth. For the most part these small navies consisted of a few cruisers and destroyers, designed to protect territorial waters and to protect local sea lanes. However, these warships and their crews soon found themselves involved in a global war, and consequently were called upon to fight wherever they were needed, against the Germans, the Italians and the Japanese. At the start of the war the Royal Australian Navy was the largest of these Commonwealth navies, but the problems of supplying its wartime needs from the far side of the world hindered its expansion. From late 1941 it also found itself fighting a very different war from the British, and found itself working closely with the US Navy to contain the Japanese in the Pacific. Here it was supported by the smaller Royal New Zealand Navy - while both of these Commonwealth fleets had fought with distinction in the Atlantic and the Mediterranean, it was in the Pacific Theater that they would make their mark. Geography meant that the Royal Canadian Navy was thrust into the forefront of the Battle of the Atlantic, and while its fleet expanded rapidly during the war, its sailors also earned a reputation for commitment, professionalism and cheerfulness which helped overcome many of the tribulations of this gruelling naval campaign. The RCN ended the war as the largest of these three Commonwealth fleets. This book tells the story of these small cruiser forces, and the men who served the Allied cause so well during the long and brutal war at sea.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

In the early 20th Century, Great Britain began to consider fostering navies in its largest and most capable dominions, Australia, New Zealand, and Canada. This intent, which eventually took the form of light cruisers, remained underdeveloped until the outbreak of the Second World War.

"Commonwealth Cruisers", an Osprey New Vanguard Series book by Angus Konstam, explores the several classes of "light" cruisers manned and operated by the Australian, New Zealand, and Canadian navies, and their fates. This is an extremely concise introduction to an often overlooked topic of the Second World War. The author provides a brief introduction to each of the three navies, and devotes subsequent chapters to describing in some detail the various classes of light cruisers provided by the British Royal Navy to its dominions. The construction of these light cruisers was driven in interesting ways by the limitations of the various naval treaties signed between the two world wars. The text is accompanied by a nice selection of period photographs, diagrams, and modern illustrations. The concluding pages of the book provide a brief discussion of the very valuable contributions of the Commonwealth cruisers to the Allied war effort. The discussion on the various classes of cruisers is likely to interest a keen student of the British and Dominion Navies during the Second World War. The general reader may find it tedious, especially given the limited space devoted to Dominion naval combat actions in the Pacific, Mediterranean and other theaters of war. Recommended.

A nifty booklet by Osprey. They have published two others on British Heavy and Light Cruisers, this one seems to be a hybrid of both books. Mr. Konstam does an excellent job in giving the read a little bit of everything inside 64 pages the photo and illustrations at great and adds to the book. Also the book is used as a vehicle to introduce the, The Commonwealth Navies that fought with The Royal Navy during WW2.

This is a highly focused book on the various classes of cruisers used by Britain's closely related countries that were once colonies. The technological design features of the cruisers are clearly defined; these features are common to the British Navy since the Commonwealth cruisers were transferred from the Royal Navy. This is a good reference to have on hand.

A Great Osprey Publishing book. So little is written about the Commonwealth's contributions during WWII. Without going into depth, this book does give a good overview. The ship data and brief history's are spot on. I enjoyed it very much and it has now launched me on a quest to not only learn more about these ships but to start trying to acquire a few models of them.

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