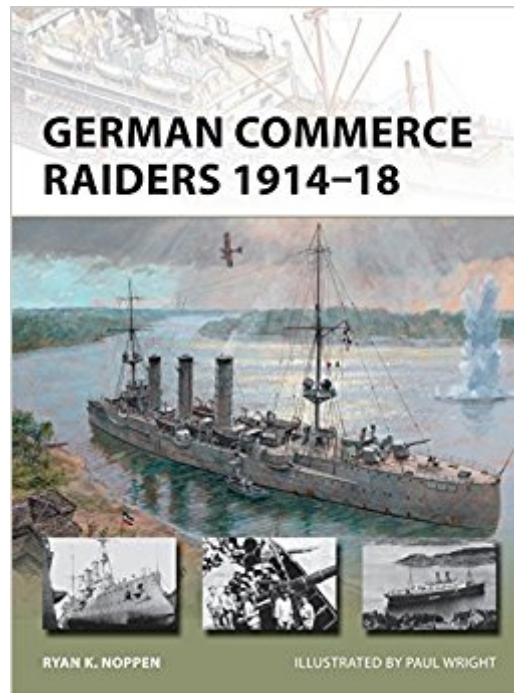




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German Commerce Raiders 1914-18 (New Vanguard)



Synopsis

This is the story of Germany's commerce raiders of World War I, the surface ships that were supposed to starve the British Isles of the vast cargoes of vital resources being shipped from the furthest reaches of the Empire. To that end pre-war German naval strategists allocated a number of cruisers and armed, fast ocean liners, as well as a complex and globe-spanning supply network to support them - known as the Etappe network. This book, drawing on technical illustrations and the author's exhaustive research, explains the often overlooked role that the commerce raiders played in World War I. Whilst exploring the design and development of the ships, it also describes their operational history, how they tied up a disproportionate amount of the British fleet on lengthy pursuits, and how certain raiders such as the SMS Emden were able to wreak havoc across the oceans.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

". . . this is a valuable book." - Northern Mariner

Ryan Noppen is a military author and aviation analyst originally from Kalamazoo, Michigan. A Master of Arts holder from Purdue University, he specialized in the history of aviation, completing a major thesis on German trans-Atlantic aviation in the interwar years. He has worked as a subject matter expert for a defense firm on projects involving naval and aviation logistics, and has taught several college courses on the World Wars. The author lives in Grand Rapids, MI.

This volume has technical and operational detail on German conventional surface ships and armed merchant cruisers employed to raid Entente shipping in the Great War. The strength of this book is that it provides an excellent overview of the German supply, intelligence and command organization. Most books on the topic of German commerce raiding focus on the exploits of individual ships, without providing adequate context to understand strategy or operations.

Basic information on the raiders of the time without great operational detail. But still quite a lot of information as to be expected in Vanguard books.

filled in a lot of blanks in my history. They did more than I thought

I knew these commerce raiders existed but little else about them. This effort fills in the gap by providing the basics of the ships' technical data, conversion process and combat record.

The subject was limited but still a good read for maritime warfare readers. If you fall under this then this book is for you

Color plates are excellent as usual, but this book does not contain a single map. Given that the military actions described took place all over the globe in some of the more obscure theaters of World War I, this is baffling.

very informative outline on obscure subject

Brief but excellent history of the German Great War surface raiders.

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