

British Battleships 1914-18: The Super Dreadnoughts - The Ultimate Guide

When World War I erupted in August 1914, the Royal Navy possessed the most powerful and technologically advanced battleships in the world. These colossal warships, known as super dreadnoughts, were the culmination of years of naval development and represented the pinnacle of maritime might. This comprehensive guide will delve into the design, armament, and pivotal battles involving these magnificent vessels, providing an unparalleled insight into the warships that shaped the course of naval warfare.



British Battleships 1914–18 (2): The Super Dreadnoughts (New Vanguard Book 204)

by Angus Konstam

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The Design of British Super Dreadnoughts

British super dreadnoughts were characterized by their massive size, heavy armor, and powerful armament. They displaced between 25,000 and 33,000 tons and were protected by up to 13 inches of armor. Their main

armament consisted of 13.5-inch or 15-inch guns mounted in turrets, providing them with devastating firepower at long ranges.



The design of British super dreadnoughts evolved throughout the war. The first class, the Iron Duke class, featured a pentagonal turret arrangement that allowed for all ten main guns to fire on a broadside. Later classes, such as the Queen Elizabeth and Royal Sovereign classes, adopted a more traditional superfiring arrangement, with one turret mounted above the other.

The Armament of British Super Dreadnoughts

The armament of British super dreadnoughts was second to none. Their main guns were capable of firing heavy shells over long distances, inflicting significant damage on enemy ships. In addition to their main armament, super dreadnoughts also carried a variety of secondary guns, including 6-inch and 4-inch guns, for anti-torpedo boat and anti-aircraft defense.



British super dreadnoughts were also equipped with torpedo tubes, providing them with a close-range weapon against enemy ships. However, torpedoes were not a major factor in battleship combat during World War I.

The Pivotal Battles of British Super Dreadnoughts

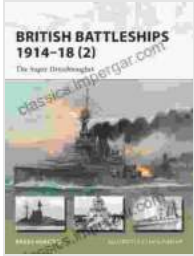
British super dreadnoughts played a crucial role in several key battles during World War I. They first saw action at the Battle of Jutland in 1916, where they engaged in a fierce gun duel with their German counterparts. Although the battle was inconclusive, the British super dreadnoughts demonstrated their superior firepower and armor.



British super dreadnoughts also participated in the Dardanelles Campaign in 1915, where they provided gunfire support for Allied troops. They faced heavy opposition from Turkish shore batteries and submarines, but their powerful armament and armor enabled them to withstand significant damage.

British super dreadnoughts were the most powerful warships in the world during World War I. Their design, armament, and combat performance established them as the dominant force on the seas. These magnificent vessels played a pivotal role in shaping the outcome of the war and left an enduring legacy in naval history. Whether you are a seasoned naval enthusiast or simply fascinated by the engineering marvels of the past, this

guide has provided you with an in-depth exploration of British super dreadnoughts, the ultimate symbols of maritime power in the early 20th century.



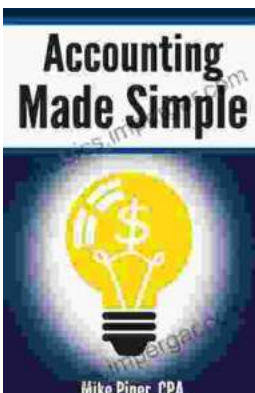
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