

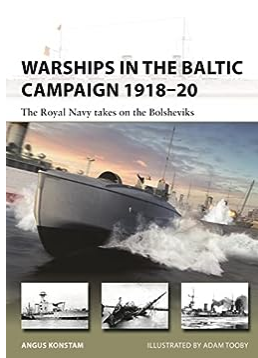
# Unveiling the Untold Stories: Warships in the Baltic Campaign 1918-20

The Baltic Campaign of 1918-20 played a pivotal role in shaping the course of history during the tumultuous years following World War I. In this article, we delve into the intriguing stories of warships that participated in this dramatic conflict. Prepare to be captivated by the daring exploits, strategic maneuvers, and ultimate triumphs that unfolded in the Baltic Sea.

## The Baltic Sea: A Battlefield of Great Importance

The Baltic Sea, situated between Central and Northern Europe, became a battleground for various nations seeking to establish control and influence in the aftermath of World War I. As the victorious Allied powers reshaped the geopolitical landscape, the Baltic region became a critical theater where interests clashed and tensions escalated.

In this tumultuous environment, warships emerged as the embodiment of military power, proudly representing their respective nations and fighting for dominance on the icy waters. Let us now explore some of the iconic warships that left an indelible mark on the Baltic Campaign.



## Warships in the Baltic Campaign 1918–20: The Royal Navy takes on the Bolsheviks (New Vanguard)

by Angus Konstam (Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4.2 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 17897 KB

Text-to-Speech : Enabled

Screen Reader : Supported

Enhanced typesetting : Enabled

Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 47 pages



## 1. HMS Vindictive - The Unyielding British Cruiser

HMS Vindictive, a British cruiser, was a formidable force during the Baltic Campaign. Commissioned in 1897, this warship had already seen action during World War I before participating in the Baltic conflict. Its most notable event came during the Raid on Zeebrugge in April 1918 when it played a crucial role in the assault on the German-occupied Belgian port. The ship's tenacity and resilience made it a symbol of British determination.

## 2. SMS Moltke - The Mighty German Battleship

SMS Moltke was a powerful battleship of the German Imperial Navy that played a significant role in the Baltic Campaign. Commissioned in 1911, this warship was named after the renowned Prussian Field Marshal Helmuth von Moltke. Throughout the campaign, SMS Moltke played an essential role in safeguarding German interests and securing supply lines. Its imposing presence often struck fear into the hearts of enemy forces.

## 3. Orzel - The Valiant Polish Submarine

The Orzel, a Polish submarine, stands as a testament to the resilience and determination of Poland during the Baltic Campaign. Serving as a vital asset of the Polish Navy, the Orzel engaged in numerous clashes with both German and Soviet forces. Its notable achievements include a daring escape from internment in Estonia and the sinking of multiple enemy vessels. The Orzel's heroic efforts continue to inspire generations of Polish patriots.

#### **4. Kronstadt Naval Base - The Strategic Russian Fortress**

The Kronstadt Naval Base, located on Kotlin Island, served as a crucial stronghold for the Russian Navy during the Baltic Campaign. Considered one of the most well-fortified and heavily defended naval bases of the era, Kronstadt deterred enemy advances and provided a safe haven for Russian warships. The base's fortifications and strategic positioning significantly contributed to the success of Russian naval operations.

#### **5. The Swedish Navy - Ensuring Neutrality Amidst Chaos**

While not actively participating in the conflict, the Swedish Navy played a vital role in maintaining neutrality and safeguarding national interests during the Baltic Campaign. Sweden's strategic position in the Baltic region made it a prime target for both Allied and Central Powers, leading to increased tensions. However, the Swedish Navy's foresight and deftness ensured that the nation remained unembroiled in the escalating conflict.

#### **The Aftermath: Legacy and Lessons Learned**

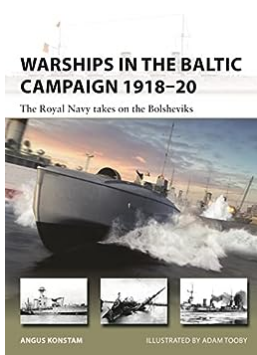
The Baltic Campaign eventually came to an end in 1920, marking a turning point in the regional power dynamics. The warships that traversed the Baltic Sea during this period left behind a lasting legacy. Their strategic contributions, daring adventures, and unwavering spirit shaped the future of naval warfare.

Furthermore, the Baltic Campaign served as a valuable lesson in military strategy, showcasing the significance of naval power and the ability of warships to project force across vast distances. The memories of this conflict continue to influence naval doctrines and tactics even in modern times.

The Baltic Campaign of 1918-20 remains a remarkable chapter in naval history. The warships that traversed the treacherous waters of the Baltic Sea during this

conflict endured countless trials, often emerging as symbols of resilience, determination, and military prowess. From the unyielding HMS Vindictive to the mighty SMS Moltke, each vessel played a vital role in shaping the outcome of this tumultuous period.

As we reflect on these stories of heroism and sacrifice, let us never forget the indomitable spirit of the men and women who served on these warships. Their contributions laid the foundation for naval warfare and safeguarded the interests of their nations. The Baltic Campaign stands as a testament to the enduring legacy of warships and the pivotal role they play in shaping the course of history.



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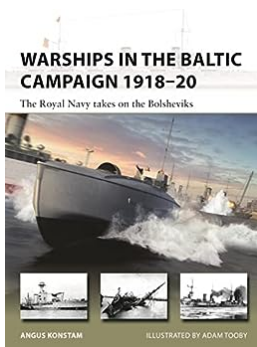
A fascinating look at the British naval intervention in the Baltic in 1918–20, and at the British, Soviet and Baltic nationalist fleets that fought.

Following the Russian Revolution of October 1917, the Baltic states became a battleground between Russian Reds and Whites, German troops and emerging

Baltic independence forces. In November 1918, the British government decided to intervene, to protect British interests and to support the emerging Baltic states.

This initial small force of cruisers and destroyers was eventually augmented by other British warships, including aircraft carriers, a monitor, as well as a handful of submarines and torpedo boats. Opposing them was the far more powerful Russian Baltic Fleet, now controlled by the Bolsheviks. The campaign that followed involved naval clashes between the two sides, the most spectacular of which was an attack on the Soviet naval base of Kronstadt in June 1919 by a force of small British torpedo boats. They torpedoed and sunk the Russian cruiser Oleg, an action which effectively bottled the Baltic fleet up in port for the remainder of the campaign. Finally, in early 1920, the British squadron was withdrawn, following Soviet recognition of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.

This New Vanguard title explores the naval side of this little-known but strategically crucial campaign fought by the war-weary navies of Britain and Russia and by warships of the emerging Baltic states. Describing the political background to the conflict, and the key points of the naval campaign as well as the warships involved, this is a concise and fascinating account of an overlooked naval campaign that helped reshape the map of Europe.



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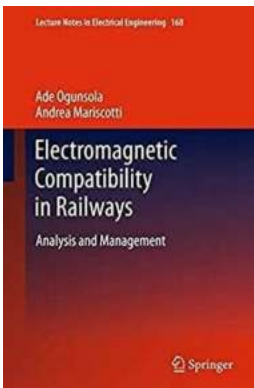
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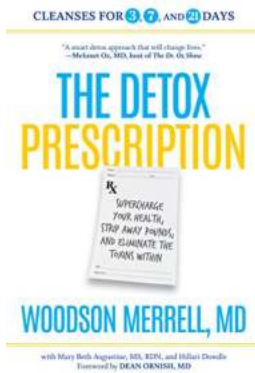
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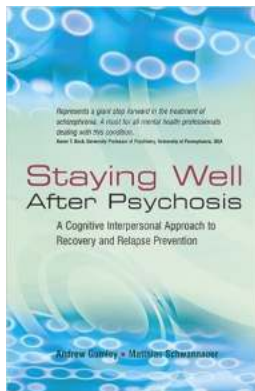
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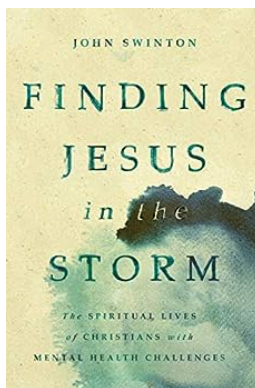
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