



British Aircraft Carriers: Design, Development and Service Histories

By David Hobbs

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This book is a meticulously detailed history of British aircraft-carrying ships from the earliest experimental vessels to the *Queen Elizabeth* class, currently under construction and the largest ships ever built for the Royal Navy. Individual chapters cover the design and construction of each class, with full technical details, and there are extensive summaries of every ship's career. Apart from the obvious large-deck carriers, the book also includes seaplane carriers, escort carriers and MAC ships, the maintenance ships built on carrier hulls, unbuilt projects, and the modern LPH. It concludes with a look at the future of naval aviation, while numerous appendices summarize related subjects like naval aircraft, recognition markings and the circumstances surrounding the loss of every British carrier. As befits such an important reference work, it is heavily illustrated with a magnificent gallery of photos and plans, some reproduced in color.

Written by the leading historian of British carrier aviation, himself a retired Fleet Air Arm pilot, it displays the authority of a lifetime's research combined with a practical understanding of the issues surrounding the design and operation of aircraft carriers. *British Aircraft Carriers* is certain to become the standard work on the subject.

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Editorial Review

About the Author

David Hobbs spent 33 years as a RN pilot, and since retirement has spent a period as Curator of the Fleet Air Arm Museum and become the author of many highly regarded books, including *A Century of Naval Aviation* and *The British Pacific Fleet*.

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