During the Pacific War, arguably the most successful component of the Imperial Japanese Fleet was its destroyer force. These ships were generally larger than their Allied counterparts and were better armed in most cases. Armed with a large, long-range torpedoes (eventually called Long Lance by the Allies), these ships proved themselves as formidable opponents. The first class of the IJN's destroyers were instrumental in an unbroken string of Japanese victories. However, it was not until World War II that the destroyers truly demonstrated their capabilities...
In 1941, the Imperial Japanese Navy (IJN) went to war with a marginal anti-submarine warfare (ASW) capability. This was a lamentable state of affairs for a nation dependant upon import to sustain its economy. There were only a few purpose-built ASW escorts available at the start of the war and these were conscripted out of a handful of second-class destroyers and a dozen torpedo boats. Thus the magnitude of the threat to Japan's shipping became fully apparent in 1943, the IJN made plans for mass production of ASW escorts. These arrived in 1944, but could not stop the massacres of Japanese shipping by increasingly bold and effective American submarines. This volume will detail the history, weapons and tactics of the IJN's ASW escorts. These include the Momi class of second-rate destroyers, the Tomoyuki and Osaki classes of torpedo boats, and the several types of ASW escorts built from 1937 up to the end of the war.

This book contains chapter 1 through 5 of the book. The size of the book is too large to be a convenient chunk. These chapters cover the design history and overall design, the armament, and the fire control system. Photos, figures and drawings, 80 pages, 262 figures and drawings, 80 pages, 15 maps and tracks. Recognizing the impossibility of improving upon this [James M. Miller, Jr.], the W. W. Norton & Company is the authorized publisher of this work. The book includes photos and charts of the ships covered in this chapter. The book includes the following topics:

1. The battleships of the Kongō class. The lead ship in the class, Kongō, was built in England just prior to WWI. The class was the first of the IJN's battleships built after the launching of HMS Dreadnought and was the first class of battleships to be built with new technology. These ships were designed to be a major improvement over the previous generation of battleships. The class featured a new design that was more streamlined and efficient. The class was also the first to be built with a full-length watertight bulkhead, which provided greater protection against torpedoes and shellfire. The class was also the first to be equipped with a new type of armor that was more effective against high-explosive shells.

2. The battleships of the Yamato class. The lead ship in the class, Yamato, was built in Japan in 1937 and was the largest warship ever constructed. The class was designed to be the first of a new generation of battleships that would be able to take on the American fleet in a direct battle. The class featured a new design that was more streamlined and efficient. The class was also the first to be equipped with a new type of armor that was more effective against high-explosive shells.

3. The battleships of the Musashi class. The lead ship in the class, Musashi, was built in Japan in 1939 and was the largest warship ever constructed. The class was designed to be the first of a new generation of battleships that would be able to take on the American fleet in a direct battle. The class featured a new design that was more streamlined and efficient. The class was also the first to be equipped with a new type of armor that was more effective against high-explosive shells.

4. The battleships of the Nagato class. The lead ship in the class, Nagato, was built in Japan in 1940 and was the largest warship ever constructed. The class was designed to be the first of a new generation of battleships that would be able to take on the American fleet in a direct battle. The class featured a new design that was more streamlined and efficient. The class was also the first to be equipped with a new type of armor that was more effective against high-explosive shells.

5. The battleships of the Yamato class. The lead ship in the class, Yamato, was built in Japan in 1937 and was the largest warship ever constructed. The class was designed to be the first of a new generation of battleships that would be able to take on the American fleet in a direct battle. The class featured a new design that was more streamlined and efficient. The class was also the first to be equipped with a new type of armor that was more effective against high-explosive shells.