



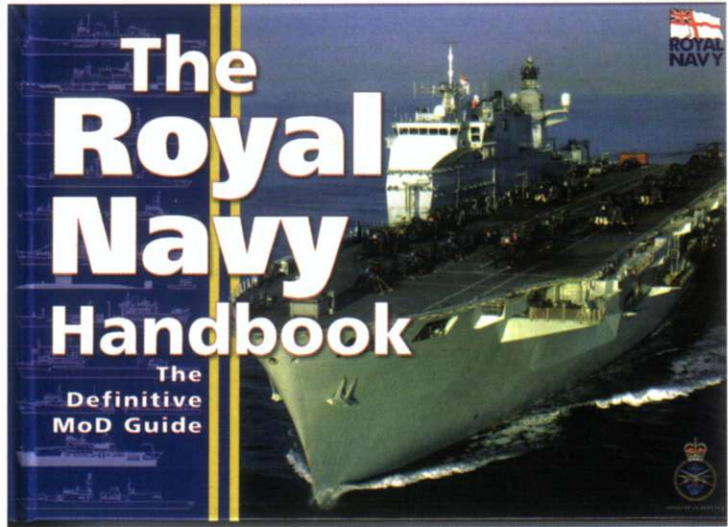
THE ROYAL NAVY HANDBOOK - THE DEFINITIVE MOD GUIDE

Published by Conway Maritime Press
ISBN 0-85177-952-2
£14.99

THIS IS THE definitive guide to the structure of a modern Royal Navy of the 21st century. The handbook covers every class of ship, aircraft, vehicle and assault forces, with background information, specifications and in most cases a side plan of the ship being described along with photographs. The only vessels that are not photographed are those vessels which are still at the planning or procurement stage of their design. For these particular vessels there is a computer generated image for the reader to view.

The foreword is by the Geoff Hoon MP who was at the time of writing the Secretary of State for Defence, while the introduction is by the first sea lord, Admiral Sir Alan West, which describes the roles and responsibilities a modern navy has to deal with as well as the current theatres of action. Very few of us realise that as well as any war scenario which we would expect a naval force to be involved in there is also a lot of humanitarian work carried out around the globe.

Also described for your delight are the main naval bases around



the UK, each with an aerial photograph of the site.

The guide features future procurement plans, a complete list of RN, RFA and Marine Services pennant numbers and at the back of the handbook is a glossary of the navy's abbreviations that are used, I can tell you're excited

How up to date is it, well if you take a walk along the Clyde at Braehead you will see the first two type 45 destroyers at BAE Scotstoun's yard currently being fitted out while the next two are being built at the BAE Govan yard. You can't get more up to date than that.

Why is a book by the Royal Navy being reviewed by **SCOTTISH**

DIVER? Pass - I was asked to. Besides, the next time you drive round Loch Long or Loch Striven, you will be able explain to your buddy all about the big boat you just passed. You might not have a buddy for long afterwards, but it sure brightens up what could be a very dull day.

As the navy sound bite goes, 'the team works'. Are we nearly home yet?

Kevin Watson

● Note from Editor - our reviewer protesteth too loudly - he clearly had a ball reading the RH Handbook)

DUNCAN CAMERON'S SHIPWRECK DETECTIVE

Duncan Cameron & Richard Platt
Published By Dorling Kindersley
ISBN 1-4053-1328-5
£17.99

IMAGINE RECEIVING a letter and an old sea chest from a long lost uncle saying that you had been left a small fortune in gold, but to get the treasure you first had to work out the riddle of its location by the clues he has left you. Crack the clues and the treasures yours. Yeah right, if only!

Well this is what *Duncan Cameron's Shipwreck Detective* is all about. The format of the book is a large scrapbook, with post-its, photographs, a silver doubloon and the 'original' letter from old Uncle Joe, to give it that authentic scrapbook feel.

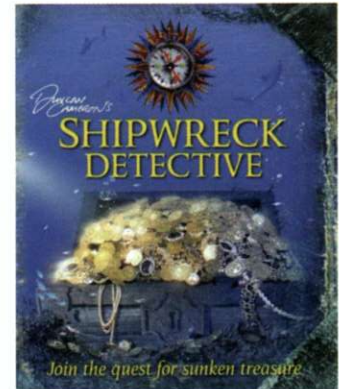
In the letter you have the challenge and a list of 11 ship-

wrecks dotted all over the world - some are quite shallow while others are very deep, *HMS Edinburgh* being the deepest. The plot is very far fetched but as Dorling Kindersley is the publisher, it is to the usual high specification with a lot of interesting information in it about the wrecks, and diving and is very well laid out.

At the back of the book you can find a dive logbook along with a 'ye olde map of ye even older worlde' and there is a compass embedded into the front cover.

Aimed at the younger generation with regulator cut aways showing how they work, map of the stars and a fairly in depth section on technical diving, remembering the age the book is aimed at, this book will keep the kids entertained for a few hours.

I read the book in a couple of hours and even figured out the answer to the puzzle, though I managed to get there using different information. For those of



you that can't get the answer, well the answer can be found on the internet at an address given at the back of the book.

You didn't think I was going to tell you it now did you? Tsk tsk, I think not.

Kevin Watson

● Another Note from Editor - seems to have had even more fun with this book!