



For your bookshelf  
a selected bibliography of  
**Royal Fleet Auxiliary history**

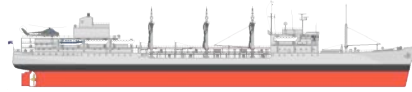
Thomas A Adams MBE

Original date: July 1998

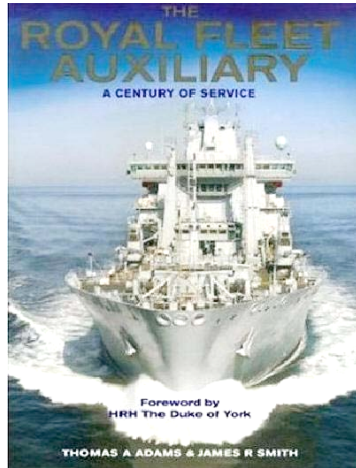
Revised date: 18 November 2016

This selected bibliography relates to the ships, organisations, equipments and events associated with the Royal Fleet Auxiliary. The analysis, opinions and conclusions expressed or implied in this bibliography are those of the compiler and do not necessarily represent the views of the Royal Fleet Auxiliary or any other organisation or enterprise. The author asserts ownership of this bibliography and asserts moral rights to be identified as the author of this work in accordance with the Creative Commons CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 (see final page). Appropriate acknowledgement must be made if extracts are reproduced or this bibliography is cited as a source of information.

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## Books

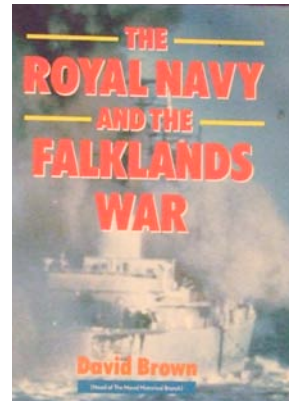


Adams, Thomas A and Smith, James R, **Royal Fleet Auxiliary – a century of service**. London, Chatham Publishing, 2005, 200pp, illustrated, index, foreword by HRH The Duke of York, £19.99, ISBN 1 86176 259 3. *This is the centennial chronology of the RFA written in association with the RFA and the RFA Association. In 2005 it was shortlisted for the Maritime Foundation’s Mountbatten Maritime Award.*

Agar, Augustus Capt. VC DSO RN, **Footprints in the Sea**. London, Evans Brothers Ltd, 1959, 336pp. ISBN na. *This*

*is an autobiography – chapter 19 deals with Operation Lucid with the use, in 1940, of two War class RFA tankers as fireships.*

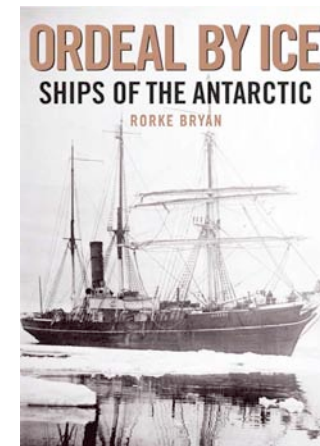
**British Corporation Register**. Glasgow. Annual 1890-1947. Their Register book sometimes contains more details than that recorded in Lloyd’s Register. *Some RFAs were registered with the British Corporation.*



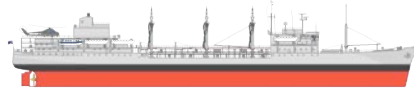
Brown, David (Head of the Naval Historical Branch), **The Royal Navy and the Falklands War**. London, Leo Cooper, 1987, 384pp illustrated and index, ISBN 0 85052 059 2. *This is the nearest thing to an official naval history of the Falklands*

*War of 1982 with extensive coverage off all ships.*

Brown D K and Moore, George, **Rebuilding the Royal Navy** – warship design since 1945. London, Chatham Publishing, 2003, 210pp, illustrated, index, ISBN1 86176 222 4. *Chapter 11 Helicopter carriers, amphibious force and other projects – this contains insight into RFA ARGUS, RELIANT, the AORs, replenishment at sea and the Landing Ship Logistics.*



Bryan, Rorke, **Ordeal by ice – Ships of the Antarctic**. Barnsley, Seaforth



Publishing, 2011, 536pp, illustrated (photographs, drawings, charts), 12 chapters, appendices, references, glossary, bibliography, index, £35.00, ISBN 978 184832 1 168. *This encyclopaedic work is exceptionally illustrated with photographs, charts, technical drawings and the detailed specifications of ships. It includes coverage of the RFA manned and managed Royal Research Ships WILLIAM SCORESBY and DISCOVERY II.*

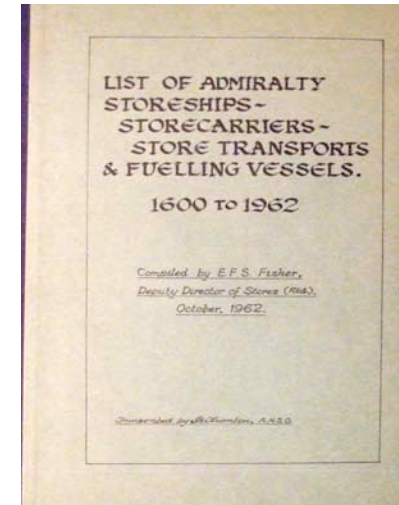
Clapp, Michael and Southby-Tailyour, Ewen, **Amphibious Assault Falklands – the Battle of San Carlos Water**. London, Leo Cooper, 1996, 300pp, illustrated, index, ISBN 0 85052 420 2. *Extensive coverage of Amphibious Task Group TG317.0 with its RFA Sir class LSLs.*

Clark, Gregory, **DOC – 100 year history of the Sick Berth Branch**, London, HMSO for Royal Naval Museum, Portsmouth, ISBN 0 11 290427 0, paperback, £6.95. *Chapter 5 deals with*

*Naval Hospital Ships including RFA MAINE.*

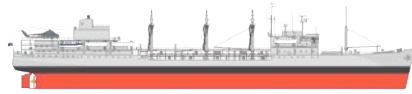
**Combat Fleets of the World**. United States Naval Institute Press, Annapolis. 1977 to current, bi-annual (English language) reference book originally published as *Flottes de combat* in 1897. Arranged in alphabetical order by nation, the content include technical details and illustrations of warships, coastguard and paramilitary vessels and auxiliaries including RFAs. *This reference book sometimes contains more details than Jane's Fighting Ships.*

Dittmar F J & Colledge J J, **British Warships 1914-19**, –, Ian Allan, 1972. *Lists RFAs and British hospital ships.*



Fisher, E F S (retd. DD of Stores). **List of Admiralty storeships, store carriers, store transports and fuelling vessels – 1600-1962**, unpublished material, copy held in NMM, MOD Library. *Admiralty vessels includes RFAs.*

Flintham, Vic, **High Stakes – Britain's air arms in action 1945-1990**. Barnsley, Pen & Sword, 2009, 420pp, illustrated, no index, £40.00, ISBN 978 184415 815 7. *Excellent Fleet Air Arm coverage with references to RFAs.*



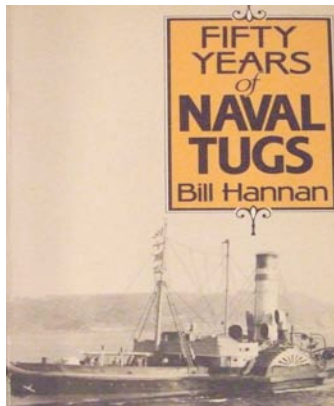
Hamilton, John, **The helicopter story of the Falklands Campaign**. Newton Abbot, David & Charles, 1999, £25.00, 96pp illustrated with sketches and paintings by the author, ISBN 0 7153 9286 7. *Described as a visual documentary of the roles played by helicopters by including operations from and with RFAs.*



Harvey W J & Turrell K. **Empire Tugs**, World Ship Society, ISBN 0 905617 47 9, 160pp, index, softback, 1988. Well illustrated. *Some reference to tugs that were operated as RFAs.*

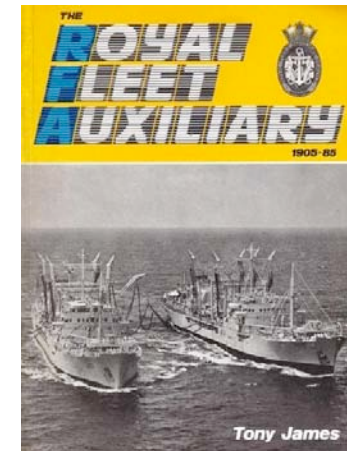
Hobbs, David. **The British Pacific Fleet : The Royal Navy's Most Powerful Strike Force**, Barnsley, Seaforth Publishing, 2012, hardback, 480pp, illustrated, index. £35.00. *Comprehensive coverage of the creation and role of the British Pacific Fleet Train.*

IHS Jane's **Fighting Ships** see entry under former name of **Jane's Fighting Ships**.

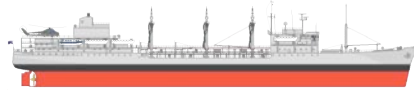


Hannan, Bill. **Fifty Yeas of Naval Tugs**, Maritime Books, (c 1990) ISBN 0 907771 25 4, 160pp, softback, £4.95, *Primarily a photographic book. Covers tugs that were operated as RFAs.*

Hobbs, David, Cmdr MBE RN. **Aircraft Carriers of the Royal and Commonwealth Navies**, London, Greenhill Books, ISBN 1 85367 252 1, 265pp, index, 1996. *This extensively illustrated encyclopaedic work covers from World War 1 to the present; includes RFAs ARGUS, ENGADINE and RELIANT (3).*



James, Tony. **The Royal Fleet Auxiliary 1905-1985**, Maritime Books, 1985, ISBN 0 907776 21 1, £4.95, softback. *A black and white photographic publication*



*unfortunately it does contain a number of inaccuracies and omissions.*

**Jane's Fighting Ships.** London, Annual originally published as Jane's All the World's Fighting Ships by Brown & Co, later S Low, Marston & Co Ltd, Jane's Year Books and now by IHS Global Ltd and known as **IHS Jane's Fighting Ships.** Arranged in alphabetical order by nation, this contains technical details and illustrations of their warships, coastguard and paramilitary vessels and auxiliaries. *With pre-World War Two editions some caution is needed when researching auxiliaries. RN ref no BR762.*

Johnson-Allen, John. **They couldn't have done it without us** – The Merchant Navy in the Falklands War, Seafarer Books, ISBN 978 1-906266-23-3, 254pp, bibliography, index, softback, £9.95, 2011. *Chapter 6 covers Repair ships and tugs, Chapter 7 is RFA Ships.*



Jones, Geoffrey P. **Under Three Flags**, London, William Kimber, 1973. Corgi paperback 1975, 304pp, illustrated. Paperback ISBN 0552097772. Story of Nordmark and the armed supply ships of the Kriegsmarine. *Includes information on HMS BULAWAYO and post-war RAS trials.*

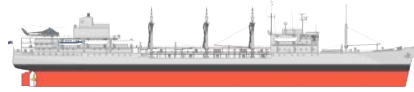
Koburger Jr, Charles W. **Sea Power in the Falklands**, Praeger Publisher, New York, 1983, ISBN 0 03 069534 1, £na, 186pp, illustrated, bibliography, index. *This book is very much from an American point-of-view,*

*good chapter on Logistics (Chapter 7) and Appendix F on the RFA contribution.*

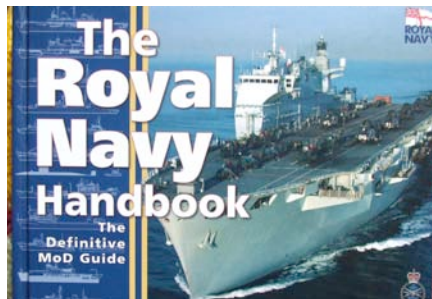
Lloyd's of London. **Lloyd's War Losses: The Second World War, 3 September 1939-14 August 1945**, London, 1989-1991, Lloyd's of London Press.

**Lloyd's Register of Shipping**, London, Annual. Lists major British and foreign registered ships. First published in 1764 as The Register of Shipping. In 1949 amalgamated with the British Corporation. Content is tabulated technical and ownership data of self-propelled merchant ships over 100 gross tons. *Not all RFAs, particularly pre-World War Two appear in the Register.*

McGreal, Stephen. **War on Hospital Ships 1914 – 1918**. Barnsley, Pen & Sword, 2008, ISBN 978 1 84415 858 4, hardback, 272pp, illustrated, bibliography, index. *Brief reference to RFAs.*



**Mercantile Navy List and Maritime Directory**, London. Annual (1850-1940 and 1947-1977). The official list of British registered vessels of 1 gross ton and over compiled by the Board of Trade's Registrar-General of Shipping Seamen. Vessels are catalogued under steamships, motor ships and sailing ships are listed alphabetically by name with official number, when and where built, basic technical details and owners information is recorded. *Not all RFAs, particularly those that were deployed for estuarial and dockyard duties appear in the List.*



Ministry of Defence. **The Royal Navy Handbook**, London, Conway Maritime Press, 2003, 208pp, illustrated, index, list of pennant numbers. ISBN 0 85177 952 3, £14.99. Described as the official MoD

guide to the Royal Navy, this hardback book produced by the Defence Procurement Agency in conjunction with Directorate of Corporate Communications (Royal Navy). Covers the full spectrum of current and future hardware of the Royal Navy, Royal Marines, Royal Fleet Auxiliary and Marine Services with extensive colour illustrations, summary technical details, support services, bases and establishments, RAF and Army aviation support. Contains some careers information and advertisements. *Although described as 'a complete work of reference for the professional and enthusiast alike – it omits information on, eg, rank structures, insignia, ships' badges and battle honours.*

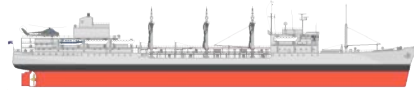
Mitchell W H & Sawyer L A, **Wartime Standard Ships, Vol 2, The Oceans, the Forts and the Parks** – merchant shipbuilding for British Account in North America during World War Two, Sea Breezes (Liverpool), 60pp, illustrated, index, 1966. *Details ships built in Canada and the US including the Forts boats built*

*for the British and Canadian Governments that served as RFAs.*

Mitchell W H & Sawyer L A, **Wartime Standard Ships, Vol 3, British Standard Ship of World War 1**, Sea Breezes (Liverpool), 180pp, illustrated, index, 1968. *Details 'War' named ships built for or acquired by the British Government, includes 'War' class that served as RFAs.*

Mitchell W H & Sawyer L A, **Empire Ships (2ed) A Record of British-built and acquired ships during Second World War**, Lloyd's of London Press, illustrated, bibliography, index, 1990, 500+pp, ISBN 1 85044 275 4. *Details the 1939 standard naming system adopted by Ministry of Shipping and successors for ships ordered or acquired in or by Britain to government account. This includes some Dale and Wave class RFAs.*

Milne, Lt Cdr J M RN, **Flashing blades over the sea – The development and history of helicopters in the Royal Navy.**



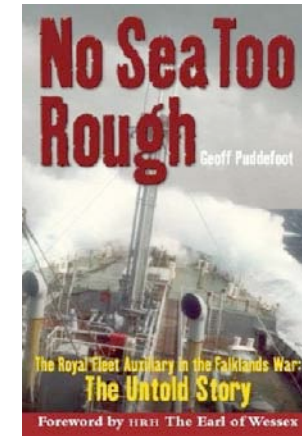
Liskeard, Maritime Books, (undated), 104pp, illustrated (no index), foreword by HRH Prince of Wales, £1.60, ISBN 0 9506323 2 6, softback. *Contains some interesting reference to RFAs.*

Moore, George, **Building for Victory – the warship building programme of the Royal Navy 1939-1945**. Gravesend, World Ship Society, (undated), 196pp illustrated, sources, bibliography, index, ISBN 0 9543310 1 X, A4 softback. *Contains reference to 20 and 16 knot oilers, OLNA and OLEANDER and to the LST3 Transport Ferry, eg, EMPRIE GULL.*

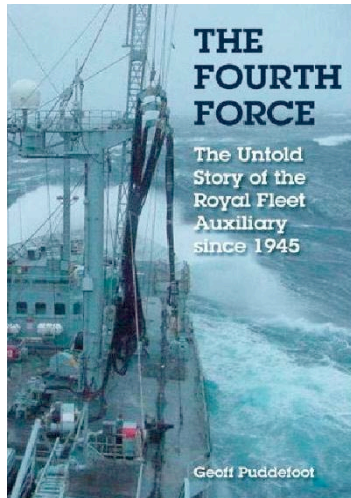
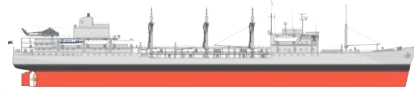
Perkins, Roger, **Operation Paraquat – the Battle for South Georgia**. Beckington, Picton Publishing (Chippenham), 1986, 260pp illustrated and index, ISBN 0 948251 13 1. *This is the detailed story of South Georgia and the campaign of April 1982 to recover it from the invading Argentine armed forces, a campaign mainly achieved by the extensive support by RFAs.*

Nash, Peter V. The development of mobile logistic support in Anglo-American naval policy, 1900-1953, University Press of Florida, ISBN 978083033679, £62.50, 325pp, illustrated, 19 appendices, bibliography, index. *This is the academic referecne work on the subject of maritime logistics and support operations by the Royal and US Navies. Comprehensively illustrated.*

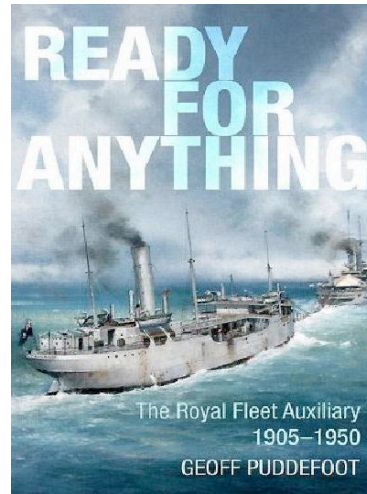
Plumridge, John H Lt Colonel, OBE RAMC (retd), **Hospital Ships and Ambulance Trains**, London, Seeley, Service & Co 1975, 204pp, ISBN 0 85422 087 9, £6.95. *Contains details on the RFA MAINES.*



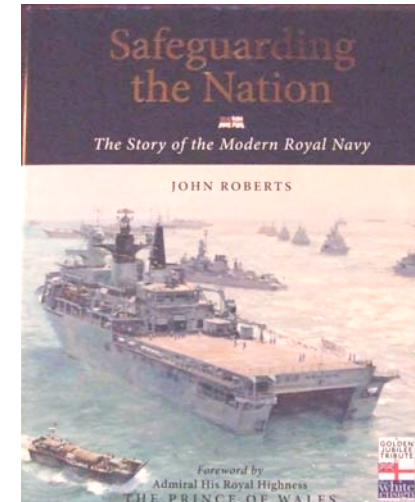
Puddefoot, Geoff, **No Sea Too Rough – The Royal Fleet Auxiliary in the Falklands War – the Untold Story**. London, Chatham Publishing, 2007, 168pp illustrated and index, Foreword by HRH The Earl of Wessex, ISBN 978 1 86176 314 3 13 1. *The style of this has blemishes but is an informative book when read in conjunction with the official history of the Falklands campaign.*



Puddefoot, Geoff, **The Fourth Force – The untold story of the Royal Fleet Auxiliary since 1945**, Seaforth Publishing, 2009, 245pp illustrated and index. ISBN 078 1 84832 046 8. *Although the author's style takes some getting used to and there are some strange omissions and errors, this book nonetheless provides an informative read on the post-war RFA.*

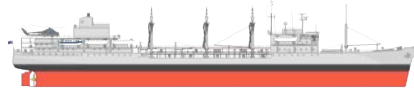


Puddefoot, Geoff, **Ready for Anything – The Royal Fleet Auxiliary 1905-1950**, Seaforth Publishing, 2010, 240pp illustrated and index. ISBN 978 1 84832 074 1. *Although the author's style takes some getting used to this book provides quite a useful insight to the early RFAs. The author's omission of sources is a negative aspect of this work.*

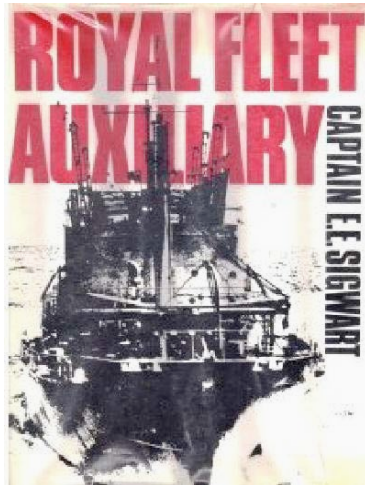


Roberts, John, **Safeguarding the Nation – the Story of the Modern Royal Navy**, Barnsley, Seaforth Publishing, 2009, 320pp, hardcover, well illustrated and indexed. ISBN 1848320434 Foreword by HRH The Prince of Wales. *This book contains a vast range of historical information covering operations, deployments and campaigns conducted by the Royal Navy and RFA from the Cold War to the Gulf Wars. Book was published to mark Golden Jubilee of the White Ensign Association. A softback edition is available.*





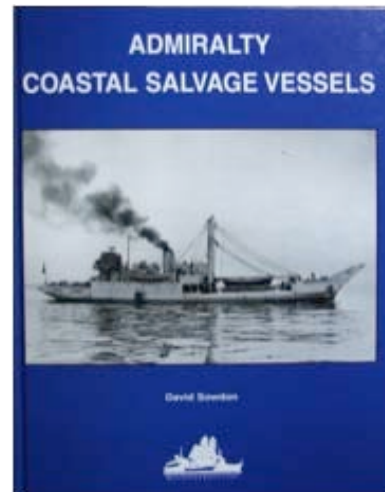
Ruegg, Bob and Hague, Arnold. **Convoys to Russia 1941-1945**, World Ship Society, 1992, ISBN 0 905617 66 5, 104pp, softcover, well illustrated, index. *This book details all the actual and planned convoys to Russian, listing all the ships involved including Royal Fleet Auxiliaries.*



Sigwart, E E Capt. **Royal Fleet Auxiliary, its ancestry and affiliations 1600-1968**, Adlard Coles Ltd, 1969. SBN 229 98581 5, illustrated, index. *This well illustrated book is the foundation stone of all material written on the RFA. A short typescript*

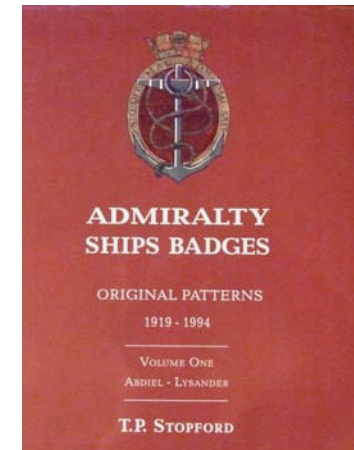
*'errata' was issued but proved difficult to obtain.*

Smith, Peter C. **Task Force 57: The British Pacific Fleet 1944-45**, London, William Kimber, 1969, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition by Crecy Publishing, 2001, ISBN 0 947554 85 8, hardback, 200pp. Illustrated, appendices, index. *The supporting British Pacific Fleet Train, included many RFAs, and was the foundation of modern afloat support.*



Sowdon, David. **Admiralty Coastal Salvage Vessels**, Windsor, World Ship

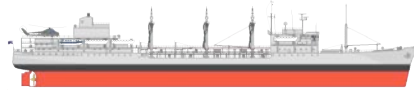
Society, ISBN 0 9543310 4 4, 130pp, appendices, index, hardback, 2005. Well illustrated. *Covers the design and service 1943-1993; some reference to Admiralty salvage vessels that were operated as RFAs.*



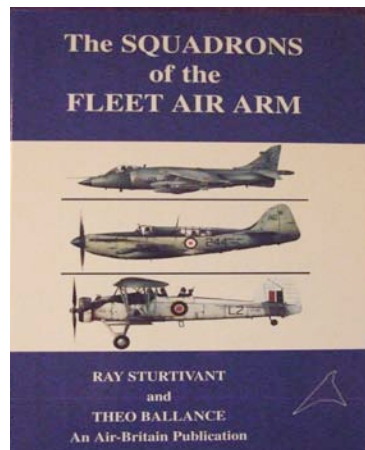
Stopford T P. **Badges, Admiralty Ships, Original Patterns 1919-1994.**

Stonefrigate, Kent, ISBN 0 9529346 0 4, £55.00. Two vols and a short addendum. *This book includes all the badges approved for RFAs.*

Stopford T P. **Admiralty Badges Encyclopaedia.** An interactive encyclopaedia illustrating and describing



some 1,900 RN and RFA ship badges, shore establishment and Fleet Air Arm squadron badges and RFA badges from 1919. Published by StoneFrigate, Kent. *This CD-Rom is PC-based requiring Windows 2000 or later. Regrettably it does not work on Apple Macs.*

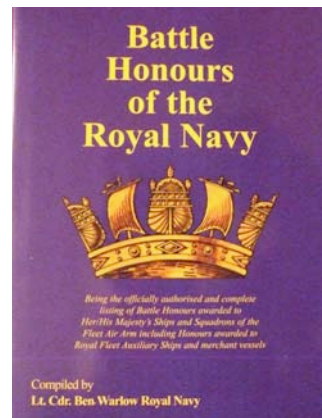


Sturtivant, Ray and Balance, Theo. **The Squadrons of the Fleet Air Arm**, Air-Britain, 1994, 485pp illustrated (black & white), ISBN 0 85130 223 8. *This book contains vast squadron information including their deployments on RFAs; a chapter on helicopter-carrying ships lists*

*all the RFAs with flight decks/hangars and their deck codes.*

Tennent, A J, **British Merchant Ships sunk by U boats in the 1914-1918 war**, Newport (Ghent), Starling Press, 1990.

Villar, Roger, Capt. **Merchant Ships at War: the Falklands Experience**, London, Conway Maritime Press & Lloyd's of London Press, 1984, ISBN 0 85177 298 6, £9.50. *Chapter 14 covers the Royal Fleet Auxiliary.*

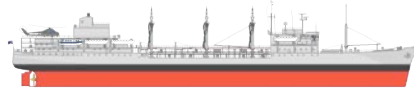


Warlow, Ben Lt Cdr RN, **Battle Honours of the Royal Navy**, Maritime Books. 2004,

illustrated, hardback, ISBN 1 904459 05 6, 224pp. *Compiled under official sponsorship of Naval Historical Branch this is a listing of Battle Honours awarded to HM Ships, Royal Fleet Auxiliaries and Squadrons of the Fleet Air Arm and merchant ships.*

Warlow, Ben Lt Cdr RN, **Shore Establishments of the Royal Navy**, (2nd ed) Maritime Books. 2000, hardback, ISBN 1 907771 73 4, 186pp. *This compilation is a summary of all named shore establishments and static ships of the RN since beginning of 19th century. It records over 3,000 entries, some such as RALIEGH and SULTAN will be familiar to RFA personnel.*

Williams, David. **Liners in Battledress** – wartime camouflages and colour schemes for passenger ships, London, Conway Maritime Press, 1989, £18.00. *Well illustrated and includes hospital ship colour schemes.*



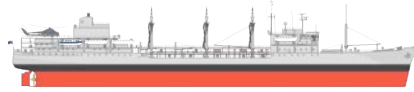
Wildenberg, Thomas. **Grey Steel and Black Oil: Fast tankers and replenishment at sea in the US Navy, 1912-1992**, United States Naval Institute Press (Airlife Publishing in UK), 1996, ISBN 1 55750 934 4, £34.95, 348pp, illustrated, bibliography, index. *This is a major academic work, well illustrated it deals with the subject purely from the American/NATO point-of-view.*



Wise, Jon. **Royal Fleet Auxiliary in Focus**, Maritime Books. 2002, ISBN 0 907771-89-0 £9.95 128pp, softback. A

*black and white photographic publication with good in-depth captions.*

Woodman, Richard. **Arctic Convoys 1941-1945**, Barnsley, Pan & Sword, 2007, ISBN 1844156117, softback, 532pp. *RFA's served in close and distant support of the Arctic Convoys.*



## Annex 1 Research resources

Admiralty/Ministry of Defence /Board of Trade/Ministry of Transport/Ministry of Shipping/Ministry of War Transport/War Office records:

**The National Archives** (formerly Public Record Office), Ruskin Avenue, Kew, Richmond TW9 4DU

Web: [www.nationalarchives.gov.uk](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk)

**Naval Historical Branch** and the **Admiralty Library**, 24 Store, PP20, Main Road, HM Naval Base, Portsmouth PO1 3LU

is the official repository for the Royal Navy's Corporate Memory – including RFA and Royal Marine papers and the POMRA Database which is a historical database recording protected sites and maintained under the Protection of Military Remains Act 1986.



Merchant Service records, including log books and crew lists (up to 1973):

**The Registry of Shipping** (aka Registry of Shipping and Seamen)

MCA Cardiff, Anchor Court, Ocean Way, Cardiff CF24 5JW

029 20448800

Web: [www.mcga.gov.uk](http://www.mcga.gov.uk)

A proportion of Logs book and crews records are also held by:

The Archivist, **Maritime History Archive**, Memorial University of Newfoundland, St John's, Newfoundland, Canada A1C 5S7

Web: [www.num.ca/mha/](http://www.num.ca/mha/)

The originals of some Merchant Service records are held by:

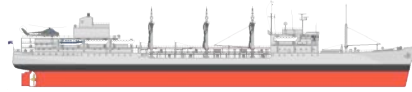
**Southampton Archives Services**,

Southampton City Council, South Block, Civil Centre, Southampton SO14 7LY

023 8083 2156

Web: [www.southampton.gov.uk](http://www.southampton.gov.uk)





Ship plans (Admiralty Ship Covers),  
photographs and construction files:

### **National Maritime Museum**

(Royal Museums Greenwich)

Maritime Information Centre, Romney  
Road, Greenwich SE10 4422

Web: [www.rmg.co.uk](http://www.rmg.co.uk) or [www.nmm.ac.uk](http://www.nmm.ac.uk)

Official photographs:

### **Imperial War Museum**

Department of Photographs, Lambeth  
Road, London SE1 6HZ

Includes the deposited Admiralty Bath  
Collection

Web: [www.iwm.org.uk](http://www.iwm.org.uk)



Lloyd's Register (including British Shipping  
Corporation) also holds some copies of the  
Mercantile Navy List.

### **Lloyd's Register Research Service**

71 Fenchurch Street, London EC3M 4BS

020 7423 2531

Web: [www.lr.org](http://www.lr.org)



Information on wrecks:

### **UK Hydrographic Office**

Wrecks Section, Admiralty Way, Taunton,  
Somerset TA1 2DN

01823 337900

Web: [www.ukho.gov.uk](http://www.ukho.gov.uk)

Information on marine casualties and  
shipping movements worldwide; this  
collection forms part of the archive of the  
insurance market (Lloyd's of London);  
collection also includes the Lloyd's  
Confidential Index 1886 to date; Lloyd's  
War Loss Records for First and Second  
world wars and Lloyd's Marine Loss  
Records 1939-1970 record cards:

### **Lloyd's Marine Collection**

Guildhall Library, Aldermansbury, London  
EC2P 2EJ

020 7332 1868/1870

Web: [www.cityoflondon.gov.uk](http://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk)



War graves information

### **Commonwealth War Graves Commission**

Marlow Road, Maidenhead, Berks SL6 7D

Web: [www.cwgc.org/](http://www.cwgc.org/)

### **The Tower Hill Memorial, London**

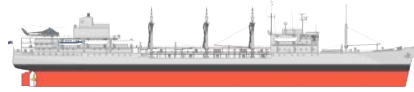
The memorial registers, providing details  
of those commemorated and a fuller  
account of the role of the Merchant Navy  
and Fishing Fleets is held at:

The Corporation of Trinity House

Trinity Square (Cooper's Row entrance),  
Tower Hill, London EC3N 4DH

010 7481 6900

Web: [www.trinityhouse.co.uk](http://www.trinityhouse.co.uk)



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