

Lawrie Phillips (ed.) *The Royal Navy Day by Day*, Spellmount, Stroud, 2011. Fourth edition. £50 hardback, 864 pages, illustrated. ISBN 978 0 7524 6177 9.

This is a new, expanded edition of the Royal Navy's unofficial BR (Book of Reference) on British naval history comprises brief entries on naval events from the Armada to Afghanistan. It is set out in a diary format with two pages to the day and records what the Royal Navy and the Royal Marines did for the nation down the centuries and what was done to them by the sea, the enemy and the Admiralty. In his Foreword, Admiral Sir Mark Stanhope, the First Sea Lord, writes "This celebrated reference book ... is well recognised for both its incisive historical authority and its ability to capture the enduring character and ethos of the Royal Navy ... it serves as a source of inspiration and aspiration for us all". The book is not all broadsides and battleships. The book brings out something of the funny, the quirky and the quaint in the Royal Navy's history punctuated by the odd own goal and the occasionally daft. The book is used daily throughout the Fleet and is regarded by *The Naval Review* as "probably one of the most well-thumbed and valued books Captains of Her Majesty's Ships possess". It is dedicated by permission to Her Majesty The Queen.