



Dear Friend

I have a terrific time writing a **“A British Sailor’s Odyssey”**. I hope you will have half as good a time reading it.

Why would you want to read this? Well, you might identify readily with the excitement, the idiocies, the comradeship, the fun, and the pomposities and learn about a pretty crazy Royal Navy guy’s experiences in the international military-industrial complex." Stuff happened to me.

If you want to travel back in time with me to when the Navy was a really challenging life, and you want to learn a bunch of stuff about which you can say “I never knew that”, read along. You should find it a trip worth coming on with me. Being funny, it is unashamedly and amusingly irreverent. Two of my Navy friends decided I did not like Navy probably because I was irreverent. **They were wrong. I was slated to be on the aircraft carrier HMS Invincible first commission and then would have headed for the Falklands. At my Navy exit interview, I was told I had strong potential for two ranks higher as a Captain. Does that sound like I disliked the Navy?** It was just that being sent to the US opened up a unique opportunity.

In this book, I address 32 years I spent in the UK (and Sri Lanka and South Africa) and 17 years in the Royal Navy (RN). In 1978, armed with a MSc at Shrivenham in Guided Weapons with the Army, their Lordships sent me to Washington DC as the RN Sub-launch Harpoon (RNSH) Missile Trials Programme Manager. What a fabulous job - monitoring from the LA Pacific Missile Test Center as hunter killer nuclear submarine HMS Churchill launched Harpoons! **I never went home** and so never got to take up my job as HMS Invincible’s first commission Deputy WEO. I thought a lot about the officer selected for my job who was in the Falklands a year later.

In the US, I went on to become Boeing’s Head of Missiles Marketing and Head of European Marketing before founding a consulting company. I now live in Jacksonville, Florida where I write books, lecture, consult, and design Aries II Ship/Submarine Mementoes. It is not an easy job but someone has to do it.

You can find out more about both my books on my web site [www.martin-fisher.com](http://www.martin-fisher.com). My second book **“The Americanization of a Royal Navy Officer”** will be available shortly.

In the US, I worked mostly in a special partnership with the US Navy International Programs Office as their Harpoon leader for international sales for 24 countries including sales for the UK’s four Harpoon aircraft, surface, and submarine launch platforms and so I stayed surprisingly connected with my UK roots.

**My books are Educational - Historical - Observational - and Terrific Humour**

They are not written in classic autobiographic style marching remorselessly through life’s trivia.

For example, you will find **Chapter 2 diversions** include the Mary Rose; Braveheart, Cardigan, and Sandwich; the role of the Dominions in Gallipoli and the 1936 Abdication: Q ships; The ‘Battle of the

River Plate' and 'Sink the Bismarck'; highlights weird ship's names such as HMS Teaser, HMS Cockchafer, HMS Narcissus (aptly named after Ms Markle), and HMS Flirt; my father's role as force navigator in extricating the Norwegian King and his gold from the April 1940 Nazi invasion; dazzle paint; and my force navigator father's role in charge of the Gold, Juno, and Sword bombardment on D Day. That is a boat load of 'not Martin Fisher'.

I have included for you here **Chapter 4 - Cadet (aka Peon) Fisher enters Dartmouth.** It includes Annapolis/Dartmouth comparisons.

The 250 pages with a total of 10 Chapters make perfect bedside reading.

**You can count upon me to diverge and distract all the time when I think I have something more interesting or amusing to relate that it is not about me.**

Here is a book review by a US Army pilot. Despite seven of the 10 Chapters being heavy RN, I am proud that a US Army Special Operations helicopter pilot seemed to find RN such fun.

**From: Jerome Davis**

**Chief Warrant Officer U.S. Army Aviation**

**Sent: Tuesday, June 27, 2023 6:50 PM**

**Subject: Review of Martin's book**

*Martin, you have written a jewel of a book.*

*I have laughed myself silly while reading this very entertaining account of your life in the Royal Navy and your very English upbringing. Your book will appeal to everyone who has served in the military regardless of branch of service or nation.*

*It is a humorous account of the life of a young man in the RN that we all can relate to. As a former U.S. Army aviator, I can say this book relates well to the many humorous adventures and misadventures that all who have served will thoroughly enjoy.*

*You write in a charming and effortless style that is all the more endearing, as you are writing about your life. A great read that you cannot put down.*

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My web site [www.martin-fisher.com](http://www.martin-fisher.com) tells you a lot more about the amazing trip that I went on.

It also tells you how to order and submit coin of the realm for my Amazon publisher to print you a copy.

**Thank you. Feel free to write to me.** Even though I exited the RN 43 years ago, its place in my heart is so special. I lived an extraordinary life – still do like a rocket.

*Yours sincerely*

*Martin Fisher*

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