



A selected bibliography Royal Fleet Auxiliary

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This history note relates to the ships, organisations, equipments and events associated with the Royal Fleet Auxiliary Service. It is a selected compilation from private working papers. The analysis, opinions and conclusions expressed or implied in this note are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the views of the Royal Fleet Auxiliary or any other organisation or enterprise. The author asserts ownership of this note and asserts moral rights to be identified as the author of this work in accordance with the Creative Commons (see final page). Appropriate acknowledgement must be made if extracts are reproduced or this note is cited as a source of information.

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The Fast Fleet Replenishment tanker **RFA OLN A** [ANRS collection]

Introduction

This selected bibliography is intended to provide an introductory guide to where to find information on the British Royal Fleet Auxiliary Service. It lists primary and secondary technical and historical sources, published and unpublished – books, journals, press material, reports, and lectures to professional and industrial bodies, patents, private papers and product leaflets. Also covered are known official, semi-official documents and records held by The National Archives (formerly the Public Record Office) Kew, Naval Historical Branch, Department of Transport, National Maritime Museum, Imperial War Museum, Lloyds Marine Collection (The Guildhall Library, London) and the former Science Reference Library in London (British Library). See **RFA resources** (Annex A).

Every effort has been made to cite only those publications that have an emphasis upon the Royal Fleet Auxiliary Service, its history, its administration and its ships. Annotations are included where the author felt that the titles are not self-explanatory. This bibliography is arranged alphabetically in three sections Books, Official records and Articles (including monographs and papers).

Articles, etc are listed under the name of the author, alternatively under the name of the publisher or official reference, eg, ADM1, BR45, etc. Official material

without a reference number, eg, Service Lists, is recorded under the blanket heading of Official material. Non-special material is listed under Miscellaneous.

Royal Fleet Auxiliary – A century of service – this bibliography relates directly to research undertaken for the publication: *The Royal Fleet Auxiliary – A century of service* by Thomas A Adams and James R Smith, published June 2005 by Chatham (London), ISBN 1 86176-259-3, on behalf of the Royal Fleet Auxiliary Association.

Format

Papers/articles: author/editor (surname, initials) [publication or publisher]. Paper title, periodical/journal title, volume, number, date, page number (pp/ff). Abstract or annotation.

Books: author/editor (surname, initials). Title, city of publication, publisher, edition, no of pages (pp/ff). Cost. Abstract or annotation



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Adams, Thomas A and Smith, James R, Royal Fleet Auxiliary – a century of service. London, Chatham, to be published 2005, 200pp, illustrated, index, foreword by HRH The Duke of York. This is the centennial chronology of the RFA written in association with the RFA and the RFA Association.

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 of all ships.

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.

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Hannan, Bill. Fifty Years of Naval Tugs, Maritime Books, ISBN 0 907771 25 4, 160pp, softback, £4.95. Primarily a photographic book

Harvey W J & Turrel K. Empire Tugs , World Ship Society, ISBN 0 905617 47 9, 160pp, index, softback, 1988. Well illustrated

James, Tony. The Royal Fleet Auxiliary 1905-1985, Maritime Books, ISBN 0 907776 21 1, £4.95, softback. A photographic book but it does contain a number of inaccuracies and omissions.

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- Fleet Tankers - Large - TIDE and OLWEN class – a full colour A3 folded size general publicity leaflet – undated, but post-1982.
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427/55 - Company Service contracts offered for POs and ratings
490/56 - Officers - engineering cadets
579/59 - ABCD pipe marking system in RFAs
596/59 - Non-skid painting
600/59 - Freighting tankers - operations and handling
621/59 - RFA Personnel - extension of Company Service Contract Scheme (POs and ratings)
666/60 - Manning of the Royal Fleet Auxiliary Service
677/60 - Painting of tank valves standard colouring
680/60 - Status of Chief Stewards to officer
6/61 - RFA contract Radio Officers
821/61 - Company Service Contracts - Maltese ratings
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27/64 - RFAs training - working up at Portland
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92/64 - Radio Officer training courses
112/64 - ABCD become NBCD

25/65 - Signalmen in Royal Fleet Auxiliaries
84/65 - Uniform – contract RFA officers
52/66 - Headquarters Organisation – appointment of Fleet Manager
33/67 - The Royal Fleet Auxiliary Service
105/68 - LSL/LST Fleet, approval in principle given to transfer management of fleet from BISN to RFA
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116/69 - Funnel painting scheme
3/71 - Restructure of catering and accounts branches and introduction of Purser Grade
13/71 - New titles RFA Superintendents
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ADM138/215. Curator ID 182, coaling craft of various type 1904-1930, eg, C50 (1904), C138 (1905) C185 (1906). Lists all Admiralty coaling craft for 1907 and 1912, reports of experiments of coaling-at-sea. Details of coaling vessels in use with US Navy

ADM138/241. Curator ID 241, oil tanker steamer BURMA (1911)

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ADM138/497. Curator ID 273, oilers, ATTENDANT, SERVITOR, CAROL and FEROL (1915)

ADM138/499. Curator ID 295, oiler KURUMBA

ADM138/500. Curator ID 295A, oiler KURUMBA

ADM138/502. Curator ID 297, oiler TREFOIL

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ADM138/507. Curator ID 366, converted oiler tankers OLMOS, OLIVET etc, Leaf class

ADM138/534. Curator ID 365, water carriers Innis type, INNISJURA, INNISULVA etc BLACKSTONE

ADM138/535. Curator ID 365A, distilling ships/water carriers BACCHUS, MONCALM, RUTHENIA, PERTSHIRE and HUNGERFORD etc

ADM138/552. Curator ID 361, oil fuel vessels 2,000 ton for MIXOL and THERMOL etc

ADM138/***. Curator ID 361A, oil fuel vessels 2,000 ton for MIXOL, THERMOL, PRESTOL, CELEROL and FORTOL etc

ADM138/585. Curator ID 375, aviation spirit carrier PETROBUS

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 - Vol 3 - Ship maintenance and repair.
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Hand amended copy held by author

CB4587 Particulars of Royal Fleet Auxiliaries, published 1966, revised; 1969, looseleaf publication updated by a series of changes (at least 6 identified) copy held by RFA Association.

Defence Council Instructions (DCIs) [replaced Admiralty Fleet Orders]:

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DCI1100/67 - RFA REGENT/RFA RESOURCE - administration and conditions of service for Ship's Flight.

DCI1229/67 - Defence Ministry - Royal Naval Supply and Transport Service: responsibilities of Department of Fuel Movements and Transport (Navy) and Supply Directors/Departments for administration of Afloat Support Ships, other than tankers.

DCI1467/67 - OLYNTHUS class - redesignation to OLNA.

DCI875/66 - Royal Fleet Auxiliary Service - appointment of fleet managers.

DCI1554/66 - Royal Fleet Auxiliary Service - appointment of electronics superintendent.

DCI325/68 - Replenishment-at-Sea - vertical replenishment instruction and procedures.

DCI684/69 - RFA - new ensign.

DCI(RN) 43/71 - new titles for RFA superintendents.

DCI526/71 - aviation flight deck markings and clearances in small ships

operating helicopters including Royal Fleet Auxiliaries.

DCIT723/73 - aviation - helicopter trials unit - RFA ENGADINE.

DCI(RN)399/84 - Formation of the Royal Fleet Auxiliary Aviation Support Unit.

DCI(RN)167/86 - Flotilla structure - RFAs dedicated to aviation : allocated to 3rd Flotilla. 1.5.86.

DCI(Gen)146/89 - Royal Fleet Auxiliary Service - rationalised officer rank

structure and nomenclature wef 1.8.89.

DCI(Gen) 29/90 - Legal status of Royal Fleet Auxiliary Vessels.

DCI(RN)70/90 - Formation of the Royal Fleet Auxiliary Naval Support Unit.

DCI(RN)91/90 - The Royal Fleet Auxiliary - a review of the way ahead.

DCI(RN)105/90 - Royal Fleet Auxiliary Service - Operational Effectiveness.

DCI(Gen)86/93 - Commodore RFA - organisation and responsibilities when full command of the RFA Flotilla transfers to CinCFleet.

Transport Department of the Admiralty records containing correspondence and papers in **The National Archive** (Public Record Office), Kew (PRO)

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MT23/201. T5411/1906 Power to register Government ships under Merchant Shipping Acts (Merchant Ship Act Amendment Bill, 1906)

MT23/225. T431-/1908 Fleet Auxiliaries, proof of instructions. (printer's proof).

MT23/227. T6006/1908 HM Transport Service Regulations revised 1908 edition and index.

MT23/281. T7695/13 12.12.1913 Royal Fleet Reserve and Royal Naval Reserve men for RFA vessels.



Annex A Resources

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

The National Archives (formerly Public Record Office),
Ruskin Avenue,

Kew, Richmond TW9 4DU

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

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

www.mcga.gov.uk

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
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
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
www.nmm.ac.uk

or www.rmg.co.uk

Official photographs:

Imperial War Museum

Department of Photographs,
Lambeth Road,
London SE1 6HZ

Includes the deposited Admiralty Bath Collection
www.iwm.org.uk

Lloyd's Register

Lloyd's Register Research Service

71 Fenchurch Street, London EC3M 4BS
020 7423 2531

www.lr.org

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

War graves information

Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Marlow Road, Maidenhead,
Berks SL6 7D
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
www.trinityhouse.co.uk

Information on wrecks:

UK Hydrographic Office

Wrecks Section, Admiralty Way
Taunton, Somerset TA1 2DN
01823 337900
www.ukho.gov.uk

RFA support and information (archive):

RFA Association

www.rfa-association.org.uk

Online resources:

There are a number of online resources but to-date these are not official or authenticated.

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