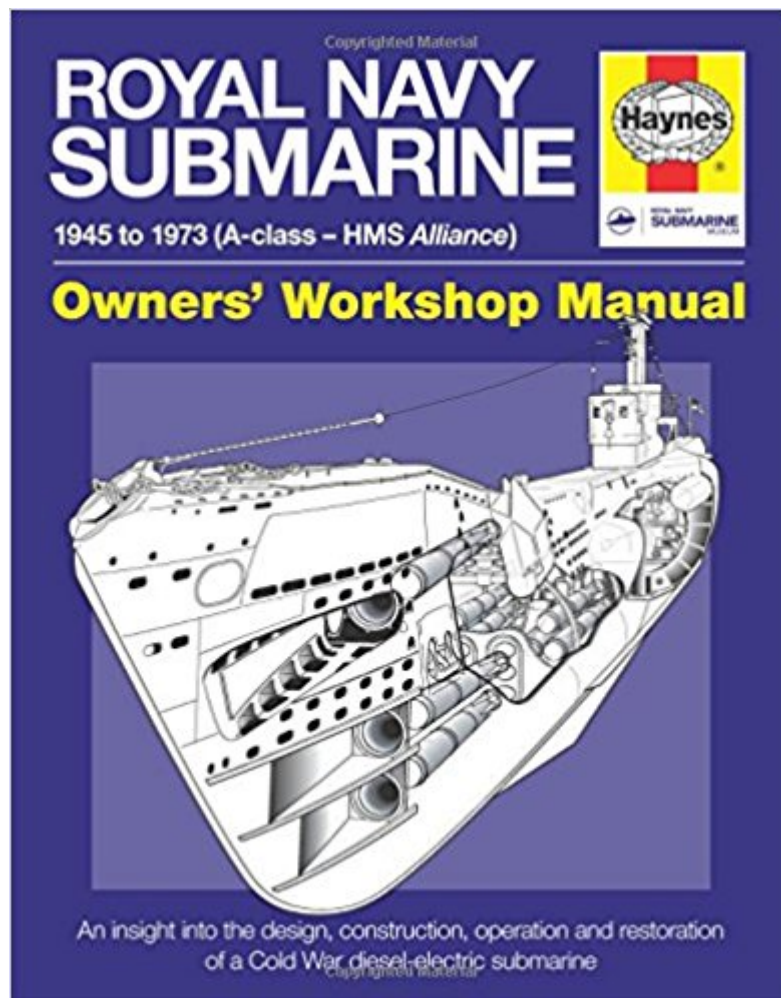




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Royal Navy Submarine: 1945 To 1973 ('A' Class - HMS Alliance) (Owners' Workshop Manual)



Synopsis

Launched in 1945 and commissioned two years later, submarine HMS Alliance was built for service with the Royal Navy in the Far East. Alliance had a long and distinguished career of more than 28 years that took her all over the world. Today, Alliance is the centrepiece at the Royal Navy Submarine Museum, Gosport, where the submarine experience is brought to life by tours around the boat. Former submariner and historian Peter Goodwin gives Alliance the Haynes Manual treatment, examining in detail her construction and restoration, and describing what it was like to live, work and go to war in a submarine.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Peter K. Goodwin served in the Royal Navy before pursuing a career as a maritime historian and author. He was appointed the first Keeper and Curator of HMS Victory in 1991. Peter has also worked as historical advisor for the film Master and Commander and the Hornblower series.

Last year's "workshop manual" for the Type VII U-boat was such an awful, poorly researched and edited mess that I felt compelled to compile a list of every mistake I could find in it. Thankfully, this "manual" on the A-class submarine HMS "Alliance," recently restored and currently the centerpiece of the Royal Navy Submarine Museum in Gosport, England, is superior, sometimes vastly so, in every way possible. Written by a former Royal Navy submariner and genuine naval historian, this

book feels like a genuine apology to this Haynes fan and submarine geek. Although it contains brief sections covering the development of Britain's submarine fleet, the history of the Alliance, and what it was like to live and work aboard, the bulk of this book is a straight-up technical reference. Along with descriptions of many of the boat's major and minor systems and how they work, are procedures for carrying out evolutions such as diving the boat and firing torpedoes, and a large number of detailed color technical diagrams from the original technical manuals used by the crew. The overall level of detail is quite impressive, and fitting for a faux "workshop manual." A sample of the material contained within includes procedures for starting and running the high-pressure air compressor, diagrams of the air conditioning plant and distilled water system, exploded views of the propeller shaft and stern glands, a 17-step procedure for cleaning the centrifugal oil separator, specifications for the boat's guns, advice on periscope maintenance, and a breakdown of the crew complement in 1956. Unlike the U-boat manual, this book is carefully put together and geared more towards people interested in the "hows and whys" of what makes a submarine work. The detailed procedures, diagrams, and descriptions elevate this title and make it a fascinating reference for serious submarine buffs. I'm glad that Haynes is finally getting away from the fluffy novelty books that has marred this series in the past, and producing works that stand up to actual scrutiny. There are, however a couple of minor hiccups. For a technical study of a submarine, there's precious little on the boat's radar, sonar, and radio systems - barely a page, in fact! I noticed two examples of illustrations being repeated in different parts of the book. On one page, all of the Fahrenheit-to-Centigrade conversions are completely off. Some of the photographs of Alliance's interior are somewhat soft or overexposed, although I sympathize with how difficult it is to photograph the interiors of museum ships. A couple of nagging flaws aside, THIS is the book I was hoping the U-boat manual was going to be. Although casual submarine buffs might be bored by the lengthy procedures and technical descriptions, I found it rather engaging. I also recommend the "Anatomy of the Ship" book on the Alliance, which contains dozens of detailed cross-section and exploded view diagrams of all of the boat's systems. Make more books like this, Haynes.

Amazing if you are looking for reference images. Was hoping for some building plans, but no.

Very good

If you're a crazed submarine history buff, then don't go on living without this one.

Nice

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