

*Into the Maelstrom – The Wreck of HMHS Rohilla* by Colin Brittain, illustrated by John Littleford and Sarah Turner, published by Tempus Publishing Ltd, The Mill, Brimscombe Port, Stroud, Gloucestershire, GL5 2QG, Tel 01453 883300, Fax 01453 883233, email [sales@tempus-publishing.com](mailto:sales@tempus-publishing.com)

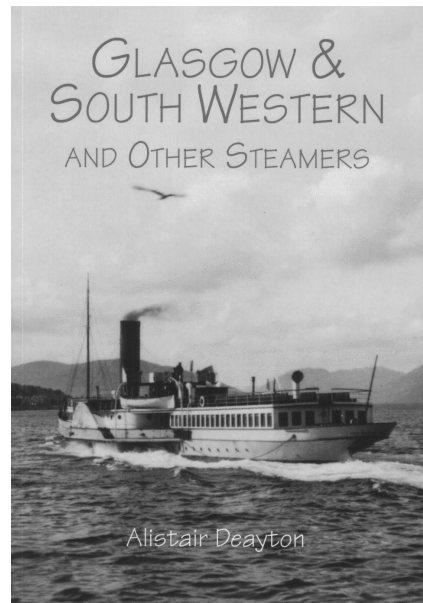
In the early hours of an October morning in 1914, the hospital ship HMHS *Rohilla* ran aground 600 yards from the shore at Saltwick Nab. In the following days 85 lives were lost, but many more were saved by lifeboats from the surrounding 40 miles. There was much heroism over those dark winter nights and *Into the maelstrom* is the story of Whitby's most famous wreck and of one of the most outstanding achievements of the Yorkshire and Durham lifeboat crews.

Although primarily of interest to those who dive, the book would be of interest to many who are interested in shipping, lifeboats or simply a heroic story.

Colin Brittain has been diving since 1985 and has made many dives to the wreck of the *Rohilla*. He has written two previous books and this year has put on numerous exhibitions on the subject,

*Glasgow & South Western and Other Steamers* by Alistair Deayton, published by Tempus Publishing Ltd, The Mill, Brimscombe Port, Stroud, Gloucestershire, GL5 2QG, Tel 01453 883300, Fax 01453 883233, email [sales@tempus-publishing.com](mailto:sales@tempus-publishing.com), 160 pages, 200 photos.

The Glasgow & South Western Railway reached the coast at Princess Pier, Greenock, in 1872 by purchasing the Greenock & Ayrshire Railway. In 1891 it applied to Parliament to operate its own Summer fleet, having also built railhead termini at Fairlie and Ardrossan. The following year the company's first purpose-built ships entered service. The fleet experienced a lot of competition in the early days and underwent the requisitioning of the entire fleet for use as minesweepers during the First World War. In 1923 Glasgow and South Western became part of the London Midland & Scottish Railway. The GSWR steamers had a very distinctive colour scheme of dove grey hull and red black-topped funnel. Deayton presents the reader with over 200 images of a fleet which played a small but important part in the history of shipping on the Clyde.



## Official Opening of the National Maritime Museum Cornwall, Falmouth

Gareth and I spent a very interesting day at the National Maritime Museum Cornwall (NMMC) as guests at the official opening of the museum by HRH The Duke of York. We were able to wander around the many galleries both before the official opening and after. This was particularly interesting as during the MIA 2002 Conference we had been privileged to be able to view the then unfinished museum. Going back to view the finished article was a real treat. The Museum has been created with more than £17.3m from the Heritage Lottery Fund, £8.5m from South West Regional Development Agency and £4m European Regional Development Fund. It is the centrepiece of an international leisure/tourism complex, which wraps around a waterside piazza holding up to 4,000 people, created for concerts, exhibitions and major events. It will include restaurants, shops and cafes.



The magnificent harbourside building is designed by architects Long & Kentish to blend with and enhance the surroundings hence the oak-clad exterior reflecting the history of wooden boatbuilding sheds in the area, whilst its shape form and orientation take full account of its location between Falmouth's historic buildings and ships and warehouses to be found in the docks.

*Left: View from harbour. (Copyright Bob Berry)*

The galleries include:

**Waterfront** – Here children (and many adults too!) can get the feel of a small boat under sail. This ingenious pool has wind vents around the edge. The boats' rudders and sails are radio controlled allowing you to race up and down the pool until you hit the doldrums!

**Cornwall and the Sea** –

*Emigration* - 259,000 people emigrated from Cornwall (usually Plymouth), mainly to Canada, taking passage on returning timber ships with makeshift basic passenger accommodation. This gallery tells their often sad,

poignant stories, such as a young girl being given a small spoon as a family keepsake, all her family could afford.

*Boatbuilding* – How wooden boats for the fishing industry were constructed and helping to answer important questions such as why does a boat float? What makes it stable in the water?

*Search & Rescue* – The work of the search and rescue agencies including the coastguard with some very interesting accounts of real-life rescues. This area also recognises those that have lost their lives on the Cornish coast.

*Cornish Quayside* – The Cornish fishing industry with particular emphasis on the mackerel and herring industries.



*The view from the Nav-Station of Falmouth Dockyard. The ship is the Highland Spirit towed in for repairs after losing her rudder 200 miles from Lands End.*

**Nav-Station** – This gallery is full of interactive exhibits and gives a very good insight into navigation and meteorology. The explanation of weather and its effect was particularly good. There is also a feed from the look-out tower giving that day's weather and a weather archive.

**Set Sail** – An audio-visual experience that allows you to experience racing in a regatta, a storm at sea or the calm of an estuary.

**Flotilla** – Here 27 historic craft are suspended from the air, a display taken from the National Small Boat Collection, donated by the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich. The National Small boat Collection contains 150 historic and contemporary craft so the flotilla gallery will be changed from year to year to focus on a different theme and provide fresh interest for the visitor.

**Bartlett Library** – Started and donated by John Bartlett this is the hub of the collection, a wonderful library of books, periodicals, Registers and archives that is growing all the time. It is a wonderful resource for public research.

**Tidal Zone** – Two huge 5 metre high windows allow you to gaze into the harbour below sea level and watch fish and crustaceans in their environment.

**Look-Out** – This is at the top of the tower which forms a cornerstone of the building. The views across Falmouth harbour are stunning.

**Beyond Shipping & Shipbuilding: Britain's Ancillary Maritime Interests in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century  
An International Conference  
University of Hull, July 10 – 12, 2003**

The conference is designed to improve knowledge and understanding of the 'ancillary' maritime sector in Britain during the twentieth century. It will focus on activities such as ship agency, marine insurance, ship classification, marine engineering and ship repair, assessing their character and development, as well as their role in supporting the shipping and shipbuilding industries.

The conference programme comprises sessions on:

- Ship Agency & Brokerage
- Ship Repair
- Marine Engineering & Marine Engine-building
- Classification & Insurance

Papers will be presented by specialists from the maritime services sector, as well as maritime historians such as Ian Buxton (Newcastle), Adrian Jarvis (Liverpool), Lewis Johnman (Westminster), Hugh Murphy (Glasgow) and Gustav Saetra (Kristiansand).

Bookings are now being taken. The registration fee is £35, which includes meals and refreshments as well as an evening reception and conference dinner. Please make cheques payable to 'University Of Hull'. On registration, further information on the conference and accommodation in Hull will be forwarded. Please contact:

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Forthcoming Events  
**October 2003 MIA Conference & AGM**

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