

The Warship Mary Rose: The Life and Times of King Henry VII's Flagship. David Childs. 2014. 224 pages. Pen & Sword Books Limited, 2014. 9781473853096

The Life & Times of King Henry VIII's Flagship This new paperback edition brings the history of Henry VIII's famous warship right up to date with new chapters on the stunning presentation of the hull and the 19,000 salvaged artefacts in the new museum in Portsmouth. Mary Rose has, along with HMS Victory, become an instantly recognisable symbol of Britain's maritime past, while the extraordinary richness of the massive collection of artefacts gleaned from the wreck has meant that the ship has acquired the status of some sort of "time capsule", as if it were a Tudor burial site. But she is much more. The rising of the Mary Rose in 1982 made headlines across the globe. The iconic ship was a key vessel in the startlingly rapid evolution of the wooden battleship as a floating gun platform. After thirty-four years' military service, Henry VIII's revolutionary flagship sank at Spithead, taking with it the mysteries of its construction, armament and daily life. Resisting the efforts of Venetian salvagers in the sixteenth century and pioneering divers in the nineteenth, it seemed the Mary Rose was doomed to pass from memory. Originally published in 1973, McKee combines a historian's flair with his seabed discoveries as he pieces together the story of King Henry VIII's Mary Rose and outlines his vision for this most famous of Tudor ships. Praise for Alexander McKee. This book tells the story of her eventful career, placing it firmly within the colourful context of Tudor politics, court life and the developing administration of a permanent navy. And though the author also brings the story right down to the present day, with chapters on the recovery, the fresh ideas and information thrown up by the massive programme of archaeological work since undertaken, and the new display just recently opened at Portsmouth Historic Dockyard, it is at heart a vivid retelling of her career and, at the end, her dramatic sinking. This new paperback edition brings the history of Henry VIII's famous warship right up to date with new chapters on the stunning presentation of the hull and the 19,000 salvaged artefacts in the new museum in Portsmouth. Why was the 'Mary Rose' Henry VIII's favourite ship? Andrew Lambert investigates why she sank in Portsmouth harbour in 1545. By the time she sunk off Portsmouth harbour in 1545, the Mary Rose was obsolete: cumbersome, vulnerable to attack and ill-equipped for 16th century warfare. Fifty years earlier, however, she had been the pride of Henry VIII's fleet. Naval historian Andrew Lambert charts her decline. On this page.