



Running a Big Ship: The Classic Guide to Commanding a Second World War Battleship

Captain Rory O'Conor RN

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First published in 1937, and now recognized as one of the most influential, yet highly accessible, volumes on naval command and organization, *Running A Big Ship* provides a truly unique insight into life at sea during the Second World War. This new edition includes an extensive introduction by Brian Lavery, one of the foremost historians of the Royal Navy.

Having completed the highly prestigious commission of commanding HMS *Hood* in her halcyon pre-war years, Capt. Rory O'Connor wrote the ultimate officers' guide for running a steel fighting ship. O'Connor famously began the book with his "ten commandments," a concise code of orders that comprised "a little that everyone must know" so that every man knew what was required of him, while each was equally "entitled to the understanding and consideration of his officers". Credited with making a significant contribution to the wartime navy's *esprit de corps*, the book had a lasting impact on shipboard understanding and relations on vessels large and small, as young, diverse crews withstood the considerable strain of actual war.

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