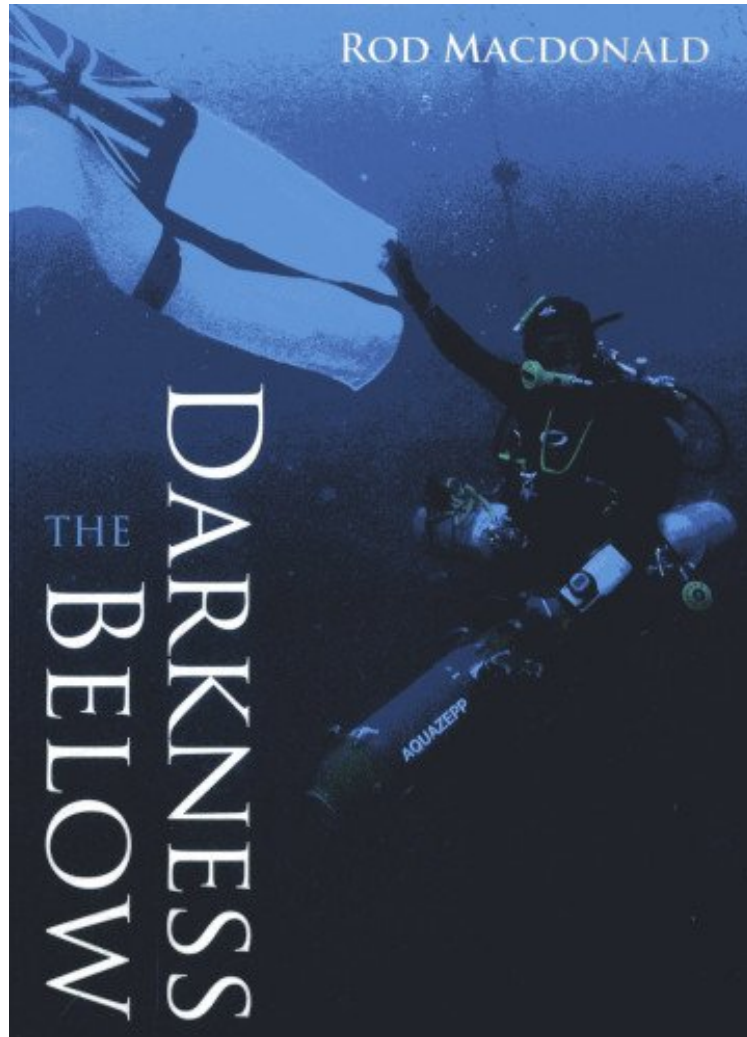


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The Darkness Below

Rod Macdonald

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Rod Macdonald : The Darkness Below before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Darkness Below:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Intruiging and pleasant to readBy EarendilVery pleasant to read.The passion and committment Rod shows towards wreck diving is almost unique.For tech divers (especially for those out of UK) it's a must read: opens the eyes on a new field of wrecks and shares some lessons learned0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great read!By mike basingerVery interesting book, learned things I never new about the war and the number of allied ship actually sunk.Great read!4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. One of the most intense and exciting books about Diving.By Ned MiddletonIf you want to know what `real' scuba diving is all about, look no further! Speaking as a diver of almost 40 years experience with an abiding interest in shipwrecks, there

are many I have visited and a great deal more which are still on my 'Bucket List.' This diver has already visited several of both the former and the latter. Of all the books I review, I reserve my hardest comments for those about shipwrecks and diving. Being the two subjects I study in the greatest of detail, I frequently find too many would-be authors put pen to paper without understanding either subject. Thankfully, Rod Macdonald is one of that rare breed who knows these subjects most thoroughly and fully understands how to put that knowledge into a readable and engaging style of writing. In short, this is one of the most intense and exciting books about Diving I have ever had the good fortune to read and when someone of my experience finds himself saying "Wow!" it must be really good. In this work, this author takes us through his personal experiences of visits to some of the world's greatest shipwrecks - a number of which are designated 'War Graves' (the formal term is a 'Protected Place' under the provisions of a British law called 'The Protection of Military Maritime Graves Act 1986.'). It is important, therefore, to point out that, whilst all vessels are designated are (by law!) with some being out-of-bounds, this author had all the necessary permissions for his own visits. Let me be quite clear, this is no collection of small albeit exciting shipwrecks. On the contrary, we begin with an account of the 32,000 ton White Star Liner 'Justicia' lost off Northern Ireland during WW1. From there, as we follow this diver's exploits, we then visit the remains of the German High Sea Fleet scuttled in Scapa Flow in June 1919 and the magnificent wreck of the Wallachia lost in the Clyde in 1895. As this diver continues to explore the possibilities of deeper and deeper diving he is often found in difficult conditions deep underwater and often in pitch darkness. After yet more exciting wrecks from the both world wars, the author describes his indoctrination into 'Trimix' - a system of mixed gases which permit divers to venture even deeper, after which he visits the Corryvreckan whirlpool - one of the largest whirlpools in the world. And may I say, having seen the world's 'second' largest whirlpool in the Bay of Fundy, Canada (created by strong in-coming tides swirling around a particular island) I did not want to be in the water until calm had returned. From here we visit the remains of HMS Hampshire on which Kitchener died during WW1 and the 11,000 ton Liner Remuera lost off Fraserburgh in 1940. It is at this point, however, after enthralling accounts of the Liner Laurentic - with her still missing cargo of gold bullion, the 23,000 ton battleship HMS Audacious, Justicia, Empire Heritage and U 155, we discover the down side of continued, serious, deep diving as the author suffers his first 'Bend' and his encounters with fishing nets snagged on wrecks. With visits to the remains of HMS 'Repulse and Prince of Wales (lost to the Japanese off Malaya just 3 days after Pearl Harbour), the book continues with many more examples of the most exciting diving any person might hope to enjoy. As I said at the beginning, if you want to know what real diving is all about, look no further. NM

Diving adventures - and some danger - from established author

'This has got to be the most enjoyable dive book I have read in a long time. ... Rod weaves a golden thread through his diving career, picking out wrecks, characters and events that are all interlinked in their own ways. They all form part of a fantastic story, leaving you wanting him to write another volume so that you can continue to follow the tale. ... Rod is a legend in Scottish diving... If you love diving, wrecks or just like a well written, true life adventure written with passion and attention to detail, this is the book for you!' Scottish Diver '...that's the real thriller of 'The Darkness Below'. Rod not only reveals the facts of lesser known and enduringly fascinating wrecks in locations I'm familiar with, he goes even further; exposing the history of other maritime classics I would never have known about. That's why this book is so different. ...a refreshingly great read. ... The many illustrations combined with Rod's in-depth descriptions and the wealth of both historical and anecdotal information doesn't leave the reader wanting. ... It truly is an excellent and informative read and a book you'll find yourself returning to repeatedly for another fix. ...is like a fusion of the most exciting presentations I've watched on National Geographic or Discovery; and reminiscent of the pioneering explorations of Cousteau. ...the late great Monsieur Cousteau may have been your idol Rod, but your equally trail-blazing an awe-inspiring path yourself.' DiversInc '...Rod's memoir of his many astonishing diving exploits... ...a collection of bite-size ripping yarns. ...The Darkness Below deserves to become a classic. ... There are some real stand-out gems as "Into the Corryvreckan Whirlpool" (your hands will start to sweat as you read this one), but all of them are compelling... ...is a future classic: the quality and quantity of the dives described. ... It's action packed from the get-go and doesn't let up all the way through.' Conger Alley '...a breathtaking first-hand account.' Scotland on Sunday 'If you want to know what 'real' scuba diving is all about, look no further! ...this is one of the most intense and exciting books about Diving I have ever had the good fortune to read and when someone of my experience finds himself saying "Wow!" it must be really good. ... After yet more exciting wrecks from both world wars, the author describes his indoctrination into 'Trimax' - a system of mixed gases which permit divers to venture even deeper, after which he visits the Correyvrecken Whirlpool - one of the largest whirlpools in the world.' Ned Middleton '...anyone from a novice diver all the way up to mixed gas rebreather divers will find something interesting (and probably new!) Tech Diving Mag 'Rod Macdonald's book of his stand-out wreck dives updates his previous Into the Abyss, and it's a terrific read. ...he has a real gift for taking the reader with him on his dives. The descriptions of the wrecks themselves are as good as any you'll read, enabling you to picture easily what his underwater lights reveal. ...what's most enjoyable about the book is that Macdonald communicates so effortlessly the excitement of the quest.

...in the chapter on diving the Corryvreckan whirlpool, you can almost feel the vicious currents... For a picture of British deep wreck-diving and of how technical diving has developed as a means to a useful end, *The Darkness Below* doesn't disappoint.' *Divernet* '...we are repeatedly taken on voyages past 50, 60 metres into freezing, pitch black water, often with little or no visibility and entrapment hazards all around. ... Particular thrilling are a descent into the Corryvreckan Whirlpool in Scotland, a natural maelstrom fraught with dangerous downcurrents that, frankly you'd have to be mad to consider diving. ... *The Darkness Below* is an adventure story, but it's also a humble and honest account of one man's passion. And by making inaccessible places accessible to all. Rod Macdonald has made a huge contribution to understanding our maritime heritage.' *British Diver* 'Macdonald is a Scottish diving legend... This is one of the best diving books I've ever read. If divers like Rod Macdonald are shaping the future of the sport, and establishing the ethos and ethics of wreck exploration and discovery, I'm very happy to be involved.' *Learn to Dive Today Blog* About the Author Rod is the best-selling author of four classic UK diving books, *Dive Scapa Flow*, *Dive Scotland's Greatest Wrecks*, *Dive England's Greatest Wrecks* and *Into the Abyss*, diving to adventure in the liquid world. He has had numerous articles published in the major diving magazines including *Diver*, *Dive* and *Scottish Diver* and has been featured on many TV and radio programmes.