



Bismarck and Hood

The Battle of the Denmark Strait: A Technical Analysis for a New Perspective

Marco Santarini

A celebrated and technical analysis of the battle in which the *Hood* was sunk and the *Bismarck* doomed

- Gloriously illustrated with many rare and unpublished photographs
- A revolutionary technical analysis that is controversial with its credible new perspective
- Dispels myths and falsehoods of this infamous naval battle with new evidence
- The author is a rear admiral in the Italian Navy and a gunnery specialist

The legendary Battle of the Denmark Strait, which saw the mighty German battleship *Bismarck* sink Britain's HMS *Hood* in an epic duel of the titans, has been dogged by controversy to this day. Was the doomed HMS *Hood* really sunk by a shell that penetrated her hull to explode in one of her magazine compartments? Others believe that *Bismarck's* fortunate shell detonated in *Hood's* cordite supply – the powder that propelled 15-inch shells some staggering 16,700 yards – suggesting that damage examined on the wreck indicates a more distinct explosion. Or was the *Hood's* destructive and violent demise a new, and until now, unexplained act of war? The sinking of HMS *Hood* on Empire Day, 24 May 1941, resulted in the single largest loss of life for the Royal Navy during the Second World War: 1,415 lives were lost. There were no traces of any crewmen save three survivors.

Bismarck and Hood: The Battle of the Denmark Strait – A Technical Analysis for a New Perspective is a controversial and electric study of this infamous battle. The author, a rear admiral in the Italian Navy, is a leading expert in gunnery and his book, a work of over two decades of study, further investigates this battle to attain a more credible explanation. The events and tactics leading up to the battle are explained within their various contexts and a cinematic/ballistic model of the battle was developed, essential for a statistical analysis of *Hood's* sinking. Certainly, no one will ever be able to confirm what exactly happened in the Denmark Strait on that fateful day, but this fascinating book disposes of myths and falsehoods to give a more definitive and realistic interpretation of this iconic battle between HMS *Hood* and *Bismarck*.

Marco Santarini is a retired rear admiral in the Italian Navy after studying gunnery at a naval academy. In 1989, he followed the Royal Naval Staff Course in Greenwich, London, and in subsequent years obtained a BSc and an MSc in Naval Sciences. Santarini held various positions at the Material Department and on his last assignment, he was a Vice Director at the Italian Institute for High Defence Studies in Rome. His previous publications include essays on the evolution of naval fire control systems and a performance evaluation of ordnance used by the Venetian Navy in the 16th century.



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