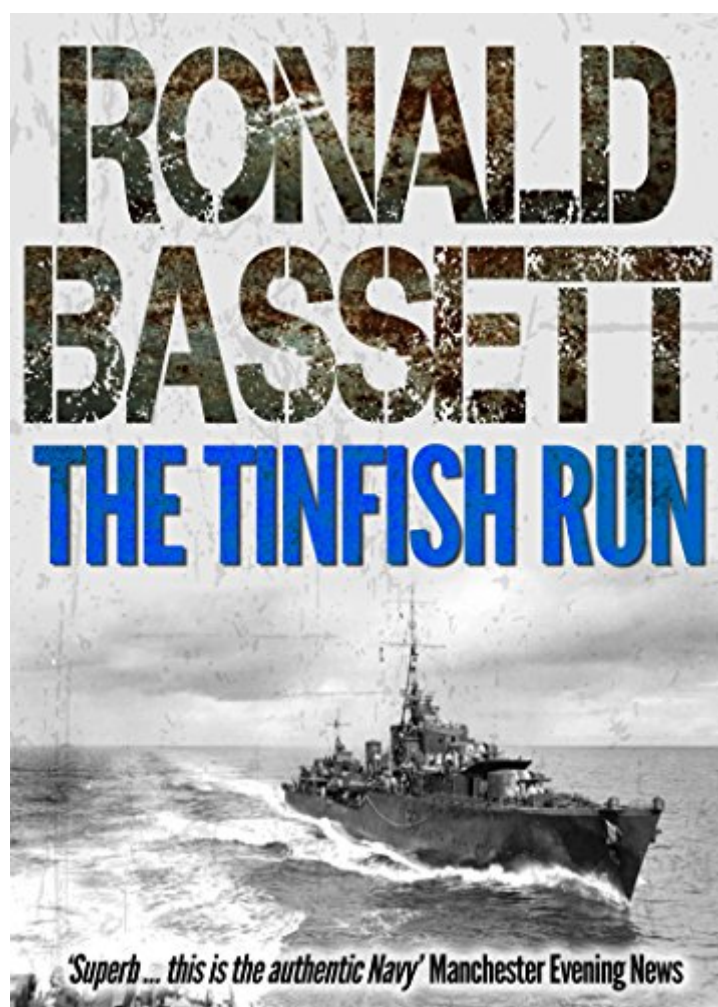


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## The Tinfish Run



## Synopsis

'Superb' | this is the authentic Navy' - Manchester Evening News 1942. A convoy of merchantmen with its naval escort ploughs through the Arctic seas towards northern Russia. In the grey seas beneath them lurk the deadly U-boat packs and in the skies above, cloud hides the squadrons of dive-bombing Stukas. Aboard V&W class destroyer *Virtue*, Ordinary Seaman Lobby Ludd is making his first trip in the service of His Majesty | Cockney Lobby Ludd, eighteen, fighting against U-boat "tinfish" (torpedoes), arctic gales, and bone-weariness, hears the ribald tales and learns the tricks and techniques of survival from his salty older shipmates. But as the enemy mounts its attack, and the atmosphere intensifies, will the men's camaraderie be enough to see them through? Or will *The Tinfish Run* turn out to be their final voyage? Bassett not only captures vividly the fear and boredom of life on a vessel at war--he makes complex tactical questions comprehensible and as taut and engrossing as the more personal aspects of combat at sea. Vividly described | the voyage as seen through the sleep-robbled eyes of matelots and officers alike - Daily Telegraph Ronald Bassett joined the Navy as a boy. His first ship was the cruiser *Norfolk* in which he served as a Telegraphist in the Arctic during the *Bismarck* action, and the North African landings. He served in landing craft during the invasion of Normandy.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"The Tinfish Run" is the first in a series of three featuring the British Royal Navy in WW2, by author Ronald Bassett - the others are "The Pierhead Jump" and "The Neptune Landing". The focus is on the events aboard ship and ashore as we follow principal character Signalman "Lobby" Ludd. I have read a lot of naval fiction, and these 3 books really stand out - for authentic atmosphere and dialog, gripping stories, and the right amount of humor (especially Ludd's and the other sailors' misadventures ashore). A pity that these 3 novels are not more widely known and popular. I rate them among the very best in this genre. Ronald Bassett's wartime Royal Navy service informs the realism of these stories. Highly recommended to readers with naval interests, or anyone who might like a really good story about sailors' life in the RN during WW2 - rough at the best of times, but with real humanity amid the hardship and peril. There is a comprehensive glossary of RN sailor's expressions at the back of the book, which will be useful for those unfamiliar with any of them.

Excellent nautical action tale. Deadly chess match above and below the sea. Grim and unforgiving story of British destroyer on the Murmansk run. Loaded with details and vivid characters. I'll read more by this author.

Anybody who has never served in combat under harsh conditions needs to read this, or something equivalent, at least once in their lives, and remember every word of it anytime they begin to consider supporting armed conflict. Those who have seen it firsthand will almost never talk about it, and the only way to really get a sense of it is to read a factual account like this first-hand narrative-style account of a North Atlantic - or more accurately, Arctic or Russian - convoy in 1942. The working-class and enlisted sailor-class slang is heavy sledding but not so dense that one cannot get the gist of any scene. Especially compelling is the huge gulf between civilians in England and men home on leave. The people at home are preoccupied with their privations - getting a little sugar or fat, running out of gas and coal in winter. They simply cannot grasp the magnitude of the gulf between the difficulties of their lives and that of the sailors on active duty, and the men on leave simply cannot explain to them how trivial it is to complain of a poorly heated house or meal of beans and toast, and so they listen in silence.

A pretty good sea story, based on, to some extent, the travails of convoy PQ 17. It is told, for a change, through the eyes of the enlisted crew rather than the officers. Much of the slang and lower deck argot was new to me, so I would have found it helpful to have had the glossary at the front of

the book rather than at the end. What I found most difficult to believe was Lobby Ludd's complete lack of social skills and awareness. It was almost as if he had been raised on a desert island rather than in London. Nevertheless, the tale was well told, and worth the time invested in reading it.

Not being a Limey, I had some difficulty with the narrative. I had not ever considered the missions to convoy arms and equipment to Murmansk and the inherent dangers because of the Nazi's occupation of the Scandinavian countries. The story kept to a nice pace and used look-backs to fill in personal details for the main character. I recommend this book to those interested in WW II history or those desiring a good war story.

Aptly portrays, the HMS with all of its service inequalities and inadequacies. Sailors on the barely adequate British escort ships live in squalor and frequently die because an admiral, in this case, Dudley Pound, makes a serious mistake that disperses a convoy. The Kriegsmarine destroys most of the convoy and its escorts.

Good read about a destroyer serving on the Murmansk front during WWII. Charlie Ludd is the character who most will remember for his dalliances with several females as well as his slightly rebellious nature while on board VIRTUE. The officers do their duty only to be thwarted close to safety.

Served RN in the 60s this depiction of life on the lower deck is as true as anything I have ever read previously. Will definitely read the rest of the trilogy.

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