

Best Endeavours: Inside the World of Marine Salvage

By Tony Redding. Published by The ABR Company Limited
ISBN 1 904050 09 3. Hardback, 256 pages. Price £27.50

Published in the 50th Anniversary year of the International Salvage Union, this new volume by marine casualty and media specialist Tony Redding documents over 100 case studies from

what may arguably be the most challenging and dangerous of all maritime sectors. Including vivid narrative from Salvage Masters and a wealth of photographs, Best Endeavours offers a truly close up view of marine salvage crews at work.

The large format, full colour book is not a salvage textbook. Instead it explores the human qualities which make salvage possible, even when the odds are stacked heavily against success, and the influence of luck in salvage situations. Also demonstrated is that salvage is a field where courage, persistence, ingenuity and lateral thinking have brought many crippled ships and their cargoes to safety in hostile circumstances.

Marine salvage began when divers of Ancient Greece were rewarded with a share of cargoes recovered from wrecks. The financial fundamentals remain unchanged, with the salvor

rewarded in relation to the value of property recovered. What is new and significant in the 21st Century is that salvage now embraces the critical new dimension of pollution prevention, a reality which has impacted on salvage practice and the legal frameworks under which it is performed.

The book's title has a special significance. Lloyd's Open Form remains the world's most commonly used no cure-no pay salvage contract, after nearly a century in use. It requires the salvor to use his 'best endeavours' to save ships and cargoes and protect the marine environment. This duty imposes extreme demands at a personal level, with few prepared to accept the uncertainties and hardships.

Rising costs, improved safety and falling casualty numbers, which have reduced the demand for salvage services, have driven many small family companies from the industry. Those which remain tend to belong to large corporate groups providing a much wider range of marine services.

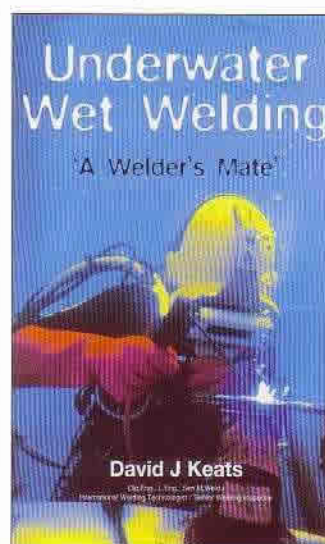
ISU salvors have recovered 11 million tonnes of oils, chemicals and other pollutants from some 2,000 casualties over the past decade. They remain ready, round the clock, to respond immediately to reported casualties and to prevent pollution. In providing a deeper insight into the realities of salvage at the sharp end, Best Endeavours delivers a fitting tribute to the brave men who do this dangerous work.

Underwater Wet Welding: 'A Welder's Mate'

By David J Keats. Published by Matador, an imprint of Troubador Publishing. ISBN 1 899293 99 X
Paperback, 300 pages.
Price £19.99

An extremely useful reference for any diver with an interest in underwater welding, this training manual is the second in a series prepared by David Keats, a former director of Hydromech Technical Services in the UK and now an independent welding consultant and owner of Specialty Welds.

Following six years of planning



and writing, updating 'The Professional Diver's Manual on Wet Welding', this new edition has been extensively revised and now includes the use of photography as well as numerous illustrations throughout a work containing many more sections. Included are case histories, heat treatment, iron and steel, properties of metal, and mock examination questions.

This manual contains step by step procedures for performing successful underwater wet-stick welding operations and will aid all those seeking to better understand the parameters involved in wet welding. Other relevant sections closely related to welding cover principles of the process, equipment, consumables, weldability, defects, health & safety, and training issues. The book also shows how to achieve the best results with any particular technique when carrying out wet welding and provides evidence of typical quality levels to be attained. There are practical exercises on the three basic techniques described in the book.

The author has been involved with the welding industry for nearly 30 years and qualified as a commercial diver in the early 1980s. He wrote the UK's first approved underwater wet welding programme, his Level II NVQ being the first qualification in underwater wet welding to be recognised by the industry. He has now prepared a new syllabus which allows qualification to the new BSEN ISO 15618-1:2002 underwater welding specifications.

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