

# “I SUPPOSE YOU THINK YOU ARE A MAN NOW HOPKINS”

A Merchant Seaman's Story, 1942-47

**Tony Hopkins**

Britain's Merchant Navy played a crucial and sometimes underestimated role in the Second World War. Tony Hopkins was just seventeen when he signed up as an apprentice in late May 1942 with the famous Alfred Holt and Company (Blue Funnel Line). Over the next five years Tony was to serve on seven different ships before “swallowing the anchor” in 1947. During those years, Tony was involved in the Battle of the Atlantic, torpedoed off the coast of West Africa, and helped supply the Allied forces in North Africa in Operation Torch and in Normandy after D-Day in 1944. His account of these experiences, written later in life, forms the centrepiece of this book. Tony writes with a keen eye for detail, a wry sense of humour and a sure grasp of the story teller's art as he describes life aboard a British merchant ship at a pivotal time in the nation's history.

An introduction and historical notes written by Tony's son David give further context and background. Peter Kerr-Dineen takes up Tony's story after 1947 describing his fascinating subsequent career in shipping as well as his charity work for the Shipwrights' Company.

Illustrated with contemporary photographs and documents, this book tells the story of one young man's part in events that stretched across the world and how the experience of his time at sea shaped the rest of his life.

## THE CONTRIBUTORS

**Peter Kerr-Dineen** retired as Chairman of Howe Robinson in 2017 after forty-two years with the firm. Peter is a Shipwright, past Chairman of The Baltic Exchange, and former Director of The Great Eastern Shipping Company London Ltd. He still has the letter from Tony Hopkins offering him a Graduate Trainee position in 1976.

**David Hopkins**, Tony Hopkins' son, has spent his career in education including twenty-six years as a head teacher. Having trained as a History teacher at Oxford University where he also gained his degree, he continues to pursue his enthusiasm for the subject and has a particular interest in family and local history.

**For a full listing of all Halsgrove titles, please visit our website at [www.halsgrove.com](http://www.halsgrove.com)**

The Halsgrove Group includes DAA Halsgrove Ltd., Halsgrove Ltd. & Halstar Ltd.  
Registered in England & Wales Nos. 4136732, 6029724 & 6472636 at Halsgrove House, Wellington TA21 9PZ.  
Imprints: Halsgrove, Ryelands, Halstar, PIXZ Books & Halswood Journals. Halsgrove® is a registered trademark. Copyright© 2016

## HALSGROVE TITLE INFORMATION

“I suppose you think you are a man now, Hopkins!”

A Merchant Seaman's Story, 1942-47



**Tony Hopkins**

**Format:** *Hardback with colour cover, 128 pp, 156x234mm, illustrated throughout in colour and b/w.*

**Price:** *£16.99*

**ISBN:** *978 0 85704 373 3*

**Imprint:** *Halsgrove*

**Published:** *June 2024*



Halsgrove Publishing, Halsgrove House, Ryelands Business Park, Bagley Road, Wellington, Somerset TA21 9PZ Tel: 01823 653777 Fax: 01823 216796  
[www.halsgrove.com](http://www.halsgrove.com) e-mail: [sales@halsgrove.com](mailto:sales@halsgrove.com)