

30s net.
in U.K.

THE DEEPEST DAYS

Robert Sténuit

Illustrated

Salt water covers seven-tenths of the earth's surface. Four hundred feet below the ocean's waves lies the Continental Shelf filled with vital raw materials unexplored and unexploited. Yet, while man is travelling the cosmos and heading for the moon, the science of oceanography remains relatively primitive. In *THE DEEPEST DAYS* Robert Sténuit, who was chief diver for Edwin A. Link, the father of the Man in Sea project, tells the exciting, adventure-filled story of a spectacular leap in that science—from dangerous and ineffective "hard-hat" deep diving to the beginnings of systematic, productive undersea research. A story that was climaxed by a record-breaking dive in which author Sténuit and Jon Lindbergh lived and worked in an undersea house at 432 feet for 49 hours—a feat that helped pioneer the way for the recent exploits of *Sealab*.

The prime objective of the Man in Sea experiments was to find a way for the diver to live "in his skin" without cumbersome suits and equipment—at depths of 400 feet or more. To accomplish this, Edwin Link (inventor of World War II's famed "Link Trainer") designed a submersible decompression chamber and an undersea tent to be sunk, inflated, and filled with a viable breathing mixture. In the waters near Villefranche, France, Sténuit went down to check out the Link cylinder. Tension surrounded the preparations for this first test—the development of a proper breathing mixture, building the complicated equipment re-

(Continued on back flap)



Hodder and Stoughton Ltd.
Warwick Lane, London, E.C.4

THE DEEPEST DAYS

ROBERT STÉNUIT

A remarkable odyssey of undersea adventure and of the longest, deepest dive ever made—by the chief diver for MAN-IN-SEA project.



THE DEEPEST DAYS
ROBERT STÉNUIT

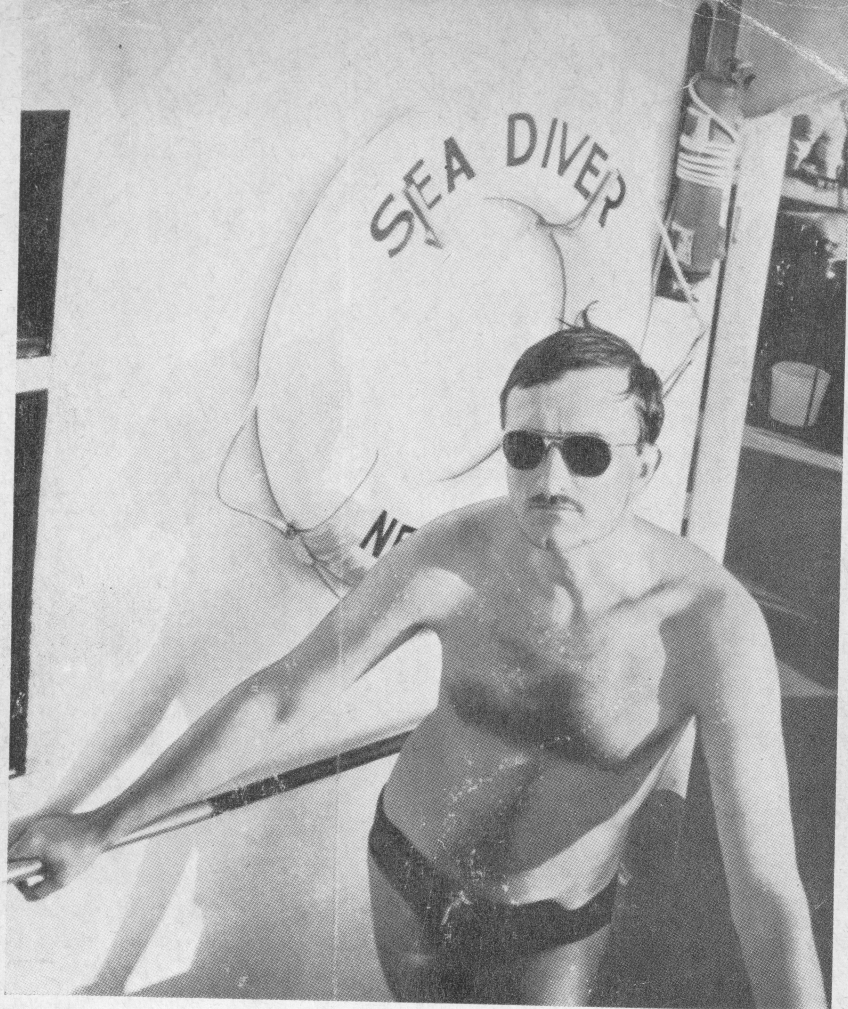


(Continued from front flap)

quired to keep Sténuît alive at the bottom, figuring out the required decompression period—as well as the hazardous dive itself, which was complicated by a vicious mistral, the loss of their helium supply, and Sténuît's helium-caused inability to talk through the intercom. But in spite of all the difficulties, Sténuît stayed at 200 feet for a day and a night.

The Villefranche test was a successful preliminary to the longest deep dive which was conducted in the bright waters of the Bahamas, by Sténuît and his companion, Jon Lindbergh. These two young men experienced, as no one had before, the combined effects of the two crucial dimensions of diving: depth and time. Their Submersible, Portable, Inflatable Dwelling, a simple rubber tent, was sunk 432 feet. At 9.30 A.M., they began their descent to the SPID in the Link cylinder. They arrived on the bottom at lunchtime. Sténuît logs their underwater adventures, their difficulties communicating with topside, the failure of their electrical system, the nonfunctioning of their gas filters with its concomitant danger of asphyxiation, as well as the dangerous challenge of the ocean's depths and the thrill of conquest.

The success of Sténuît's dive and of Link's project has paved the way for a new era in oceanography. Now there is a way for men (women, too) to live and work in relative comfort on the bottom of the sea. Sténuît's personal story is an exciting saga of adventure. But more than that, **THE DEEPEST DAYS** is a storehouse of information on the dangers and problems of undersea exploration, including: "rapture of the depths," the bends, the tragedy of the *Thresher* and other lost submarines, as well as a lively introduction to the sciences of the oceans.



It is safe to say that Robert Sténuît is the world's most experienced aquanaut. Born and educated in Brussels, he has spent most of his working life underwater as a salvage expert or a test diver. He is Chief Diver of the Man in Sea project, and will soon attempt a saturation dive at 650 feet. Mr. Sténuît has written several books about skin diving and underwater archaeology which have been published in France, Belgium and Germany.

The Deepest Days

By ROBERT STÉNUIT

Translated by Morris Kemp



HODDER AND STOUGHTON



PADI

INSTRUCTOR 33913

Albrecht Salm

SSI SCUBA SCHOOLS INT.
Albrecht Salm
Instructor No. 12653



Albrecht Salm

Master Scuba Diver Trainer

PADI MSDT # 33913



PADI

Salm
01
Low

Copyright © 1966 by Coward-McCann, Inc.

First Printed in Great Britain 1966

Reproduced from the U.S. edition by arrangement with
Coward-McCann, Inc., New York

Printed for Hodder and Stoughton Limited,
St. Paul's House, Warwick Lane, London, E.C.4,
by Lowe & Brydone (Printers) Ltd., London

To my companions of the depths:
the American, French, and Russian aquanauts

Contents

INTRODUCTION BY EDWIN A. LINK, 9

1. THE CHALLENGE OF THE DEPTHS, 17
2. EDWIN LINK: PILOT, INVENTOR, EXPLORER OF THE DEEP, 23
3. *SEA DIVER II*: ARCHAEOLOGY UNDER THE SEA, 37
4. SYRACUSE: THE BEGINNING OF THE MAN IN SEA PROJECT, 47
5. VILLEFRANCHE-SUR-MER: THE FIRST BIG DIVE, 69
6. PLANNING FOR THE DEEPEST DAYS, 107
7. A TENT ON THE BOTTOM OF THE SEA, 115
8. DRY RUNS IN FLORIDA, 145
9. THE DEEPEST DAYS, 161
10. THE BEGINNING, 187

Photographic Illustrations follow pages 64 and 160

CHART: RECORD BREAKING DEEP DIVES, 212

CHART: WHO'S WHO ON THE OCEAN FLOOR
(August, 1965), 214

INDEX, 216