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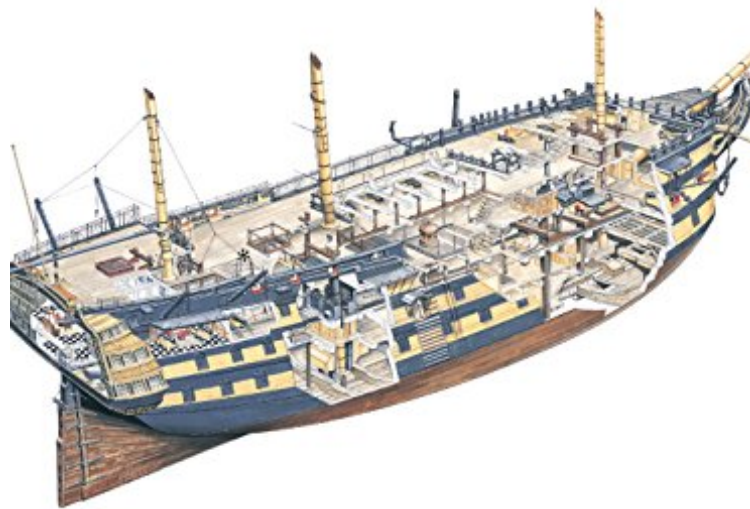
Angus Konstam

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New Vanguard

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British Napoleonic Ship-of-the-Line



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#857613 in Books Osprey Publishing UK 2001-11-25 2001-11-25 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.70 x 1.91 x 7.28l, .39 #File Name: 184176308X48 pages Osprey Publishing UK | File size: 49.Mb

Angus Konstam : British Napoleonic Ship-of-the-Line (New Vanguard) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised British Napoleonic Ship-of-the-Line (New Vanguard):

7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Backbone of the English fleet--the Ship-of-the-line By Steven Peterson In its day, the "Ship-of-the-line" was the equivalent to battleships in the 20th century. The "line" refers to the fact that a standard strategy of naval warfare was to have large ships on the two sides in battle in a line, firing broadsides at one another. Hence, ship-of-the-line. These ships were the largest fighting ships of their time, divided into four classes. The least of them was still normally more powerful than a frigate, the next ship down in power. One of the best known of these vessels was H.M.S. Victory, which Admiral Horatio Nelson commanded so famously (see a cutaway view of the ship on pages 28-29). The brief book begins by noting the importance of this class of vessel (Page 3): "Seapower was the key to victory, and the British ship-of-the-line was the ultimate arbiter of maritime supremacy."

The book begins by noting the rating system (depending largely on firepower; top level ships-of-the-line had 100+ cannon and three levels of cannon). There is discussion of design of these behemoths, how to build an effective battle fleet, fleet strength, and ship types. Next is an exploration of operation, how ships were organized, how to sail such a ship, battle tactics, and ships in action. An especially interesting section is a listing of ships-of-the-line on pages 37-41, from the "First rate" ships such as Victory, Britannia, Hibernia and Howe to the "Fourth rate" ships, featuring 50-60 guns. There is also a list of ships captured from French and Spanish navies, among others. The book closes with a bibliography and glossary (Did you know that an "orlop" is the deck below the lowest gun deck?). If you want a quick introduction to this workhorse of the fleet, this is a good reference. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Nice Book, But I Prefer Peter Goodwin's HMS Victory: Owners' Workshop Manual By William D Thompson Very nice book (and series), but I wish there was more to it. The book is slim (only 48 pages) and could use more color pictures. If you are interested in this topic, I recommend you consider the HMS Victory 1765-1812 (First Rate Ship of the Line): Owner's Workshop Manual, by Peter Goodwin. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A good reference for Nelson's Victory, especially By L. W. Perkins It probably deserves one more star--it has a wonderful description of the rating system, how the ships were built, how the crews were allocated, lots of period reference and illustrations, and excellent writing. My only complaint was that I was hoping for a overhead deck-by-deck cutaway of the Victory, and there was (as you can see on the cover) a pretty nice version that was good, but a little unclear if you are trying to do an accurate illustration of just the forecastle or the carpenters' area.

The French Revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars encompassed a period when rival European fleets vied for naval supremacy, and naval tactics were evolving. The British Royal Navy emerged triumphant as the leading world sea power, and the epitome of Britannic naval strength was the Ship-of-the-Line. These 'wooden walls' were more than merely floating gun batteries: they contained a crew of up to 800 men, and often had to remain at sea for extended periods. This book offers detailed coverage of the complex vessels that were the largest man-made structures produced in the pre-Industrial era.

From the Publisher The unrivalled illustrated reference on fighting vehicles, transport and artillery through the ages. Each volume is illustrated throughout, making these books uniquely accessible to history enthusiasts of all ages. About the Author Angus Konstam is an experienced Osprey author with over 10 titles in print. He has long been associated with the sea, having served in the Royal Navy, practised underwater archaeology and curated a maritime museum. His understanding of the subject is based on years of study of maritime history, and intimate knowledge of the leading maritime museums on both sides of the Atlantic.