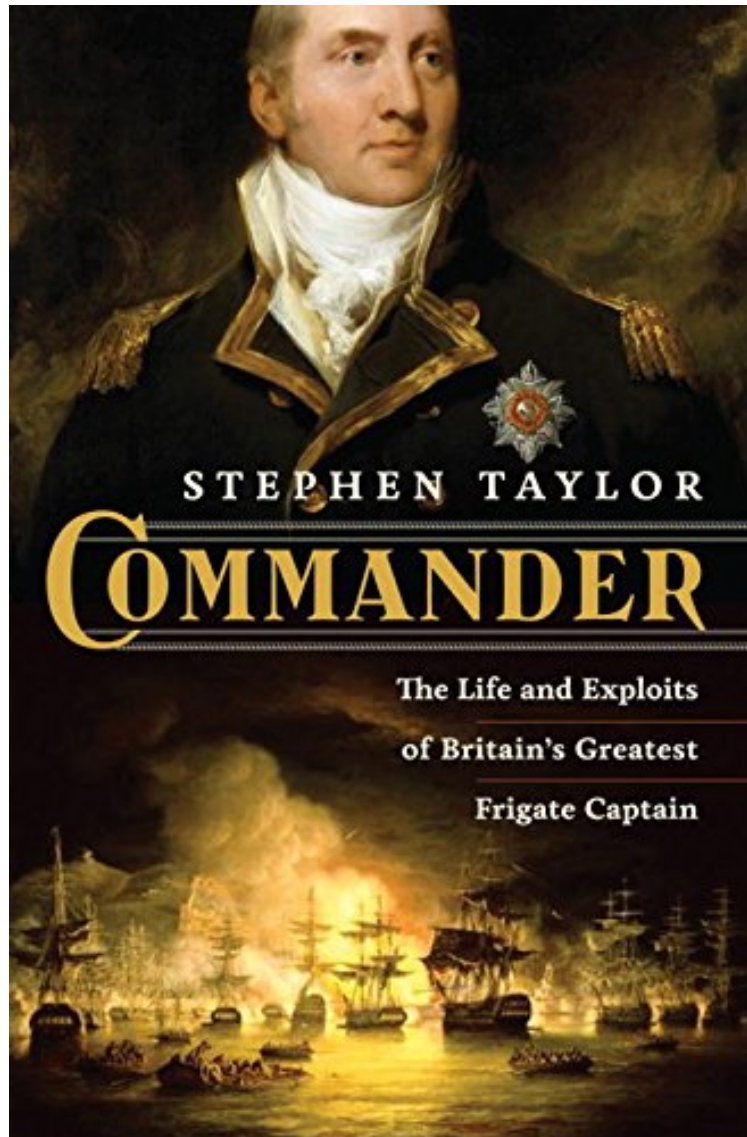


[Read now] Commander: The Life and Exploits of Britain's Greatest Frigate Captain

Commander: The Life and Exploits of Britain's Greatest Frigate Captain

Stephen Taylor

*audiobook / *ebooks / Download PDF / ePub / DOC*



DOWNLOAD



+

READ ONLINE

#842600 in Books 2012-10-15Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.60 x 1.20 x 6.60l, 1.54 #File Name: 0393071642368 pages | File size: 61.Mb

Stephen Taylor : Commander: The Life and Exploits of Britain's Greatest Frigate Captain before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Commander: The Life and Exploits of Britain's Greatest Frigate Captain:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Commands Your AttentionBy W. C. HAKETHis was an enjoyable read. The prose flows nicely with a proper amount of detail included but not too much to bog down the flow. There are

plenty of the main character's observations to pull you into the story. This is a very fair study of one man's career in the British Navy from the late 18th Century into the 19th. If the author had any prejudices, they are not apparent in his treatment of all concerned. A very well balanced presentation. Not only is Pellew's life and family explored, but we get insights into what it was like to be in the British Service in that period along with tactics and use of weaponry. It is not an overly long read either and breezes along nicely. There is something here for just about everyone. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Uncovering Britain's Greatest Frigate Captain By Paul This is a good book. I had no knowledge of Edward Pellew until I discovered this work. While he was a contemporary of Lord Nelson, all admirals of that time were in the shadows as far as fame and the adoration of a grateful nation, inspired by Nelson's victories and overcome with grief when he died at the conclusion of the fleet action at Trafalgar. While Pellew did receive recognition from important people, including the King, he did take a back seat when it came to Nelson. One of the most interesting observations for me is that while Nelson lost an arm, an eye, and eventually his life, Pellew throughout numerous actions and peril while commanding from the quarterdeck, served for decades without serious injury. He was charmed in that respect. Pellew is most interesting because he came from nothing. His father died when he was young and he went to sea around age 14 and for fifty years worked his way up through personal bravery, daring, great physical strength and the qualities of a true officer and gentleman. And while he came from nothing, he made a fortune in prize money over his lifetime. A daring commander could enrich himself and his crew if able to take ships and receive the monetary reward based upon the value of the cargo. Pellew had his critics regarding all of this. My take was that some people just can't stand to see a man do well for himself. Taylor takes us through his long life and his many accomplishments and does show his lesser qualities. He was devoted to his family and was shameless at nepotism, and while an intelligent man, he never quite achieved political success with the Admiralty because he lacked early on important political backing and did not understand his position in the pecking order of the British Navy, which was, at that time, a very complex and snooty affair. His last naval action in August of 1816 with the bombardment of Algiers was nothing short of brilliance and he was able to free over one thousand slaves from various countries that had been captured by the Dey, who was held up in a highly fortified harbor with immense forts and cannons. It would take far too long to summarize every action of his long life and naval career, and I leave that alone for the reader to find out, but the book is good and the real life Jack Aubrey is a fascinating subject. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Must-read for Aubrey fans, good history for all others By Douglas Brown Very well-researched biography of the sea captain who was the primary inspiration for Captain Jack Aubrey (the Master and Commander series). Although his life was filled with them, there are not a lot of Aubrey- or Hornblower-style battle scenes in it, one of the disadvantages of true non-fiction. Nonetheless, the book gives a very good feel of the Naval culture of the Napoleonic era. Now if you are a Jack Aubrey fan, this book is a must-read. One niggle with the book itself is that in several of the anecdotes are brought up several times in different sections.

An incomparable seaman, ferociously combative yet chivalrous, Edward Pellew might have served as the model for Patrick O'Brian's Jack Aubrey. Edward Pellew, captain of the legendary *Indefatigable*, was quite simply the greatest British frigate captain in the age of sail. Left fatherless at age eight, with a penniless mother and five siblings, Pellew fought his way from the very bottom of the navy to fleet command. Victories and eye-catching feats won him a public following. Yet he had a gift for antagonizing his better-born peers, and he made powerful enemies. Redemption came with his last command, when he set off to do battle with the Barbary States and free thousands of European slaves. Opinion held this to be an impossible mission, and Pellew himself, leading from the front in the style of his contemporary Nelson, did not expect to survive. Pellew's humanity, fondness for subordinates, and blind love for his family, and the warmth and intimacy of his letters, make him a hugely engaging figure. Stephen Taylor gives him at last the biography he deserves. 10 color plates, 3 black-and-white illustrations

"Meticulous archival research vividly presents a real-life hero whose deeds provided material for C.S. Forester's *Horatio Hornblower* and Patrick O'Brian's *Jack Aubrey*." - Publishers Weekly About the Author Stephen Taylor, a former journalist working at *The Times* in London, is the author of *Storm and Conquest* and *Commander*. He lives in Windsor, England.