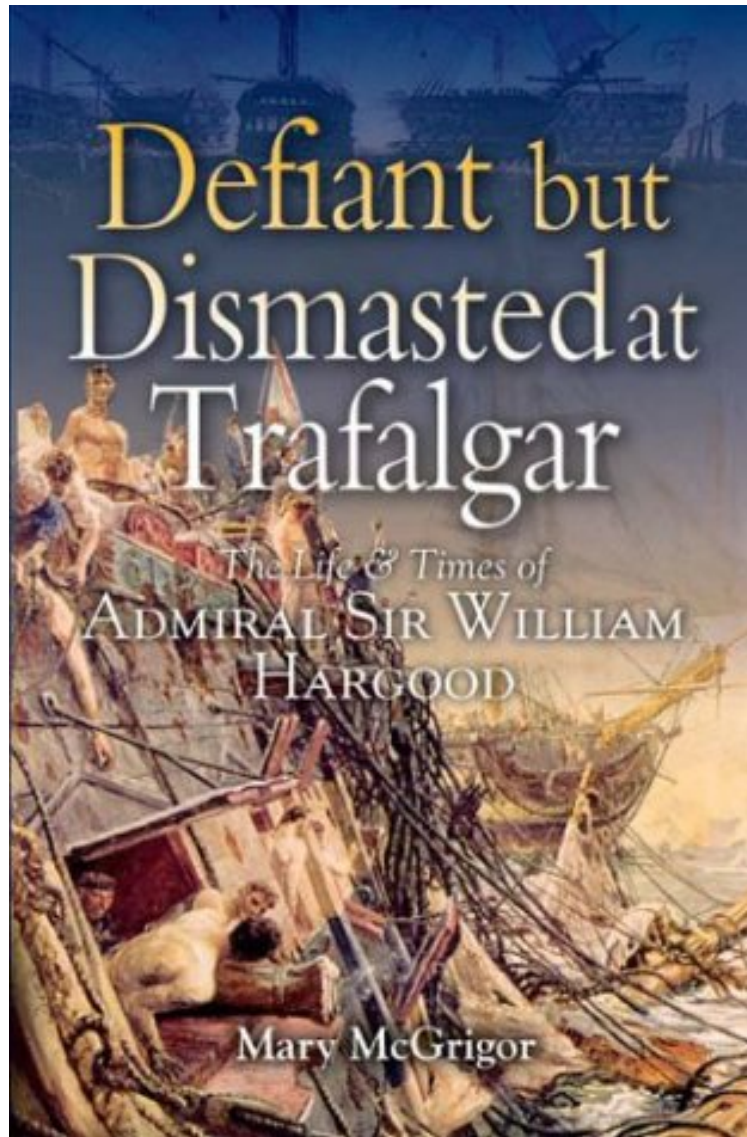


(Download) Defiant and Dismasted at Trafalgar: The Life and Times of Admiral Sir William Hargood

## Defiant and Dismasted at Trafalgar: The Life and Times of Admiral Sir William Hargood

Mary McGrigor

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**Mary McGrigor : Defiant and Dismasted at Trafalgar: The Life and Times of Admiral Sir William Hargood** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Defiant and Dismasted at Trafalgar: The Life and Times of Admiral Sir William Hargood:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Better than any work of fiction. By Ned Middleton2005 sees the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Trafalgar and, it would seem, there is only one man's name on the lips of anyone

with an interest in such matters - Nelson. Who else?, you may rightly ask. Well the answer might so easily become Admiral Sir William Hargood - though only a captain at that time. *Defiant and Dismasted at Trafalgar* is an apt description of both Hargood and his ship (The Belleisle which was the only British ship to be totally Dismasted by enemy action). It is a hardback book measuring approx 9½in x 6½in and is packed with 190 pages of text with a small collection of relevant (and very interesting) photographs set together in the middle plus a few maps. The book itself chronicles the Life and Times of Admiral Sir William Hargood. Commencing at the age of 10 when he first went to sea, the author skilfully takes us to each of the important phases of his life as he rises through the ranks of the Royal Navy until his peaceful death at home at the age of 77 years. In command of the Belleisle, Hargood was given a most important role and sailed his ship through withering enemy fire for more than 20 minutes without firing a single shot in return. When he did "come within pistol shot range" he opened up with a double broadside crippling enemy vessels to both sides. Nelson, watching his instructions being followed to the letter aboard the Victory commented "Nobly done Hargood" and so it was. Mary McGrigor takes the reader through the almost roller-coaster ride of Hargood's life in a very professional and well presented manner. In piecing together the various extracts from what must be thousands of individual sources of information, we are left with a story that is as complete as any latter day account could be. This is a skilful and competent work. As an example, in one moment, as we enter the opening phases of the Battle of Trafalgar, we are treated to a personal account of the battle by a 16 year Royal Marine Lieutenant and at the height of the action we are switched to that of another Royal Marines officer without losing any of the flow of the excitement. Better than any work of fiction, this is an eminently readable book even for those with no interest in naval history. NM

Born in 1762, William Hargood's naval career spanned over 30 years, as he rose from humble midshipman to the captain of one of the most powerful warships of the day at Trafalgar. He campaigned all over the known world: the Americas, West Indies, throughout the Mediterranean. Britain was hardly ever at peace during those troubled times and men like Hargood sought out her enemies wherever they could find them. This is the age of gold bullion, pirates, plunder and grapeshot. During his career Hargood became a close friend of Admiral Lord Nelson and shared many an experience and triumph with him. Hargood's Belleisle was dismasted in the thick of action at Trafalgar but never sunk.

About the Author Mary McGrigor is a highly experienced author and historian. *Defiant and Dismasted at Trafalgar* was published by Pen and Sword in 2004. Her other books include *Argyll - Land of Blood and Beauty* and *The Scalpel and The Sword*.