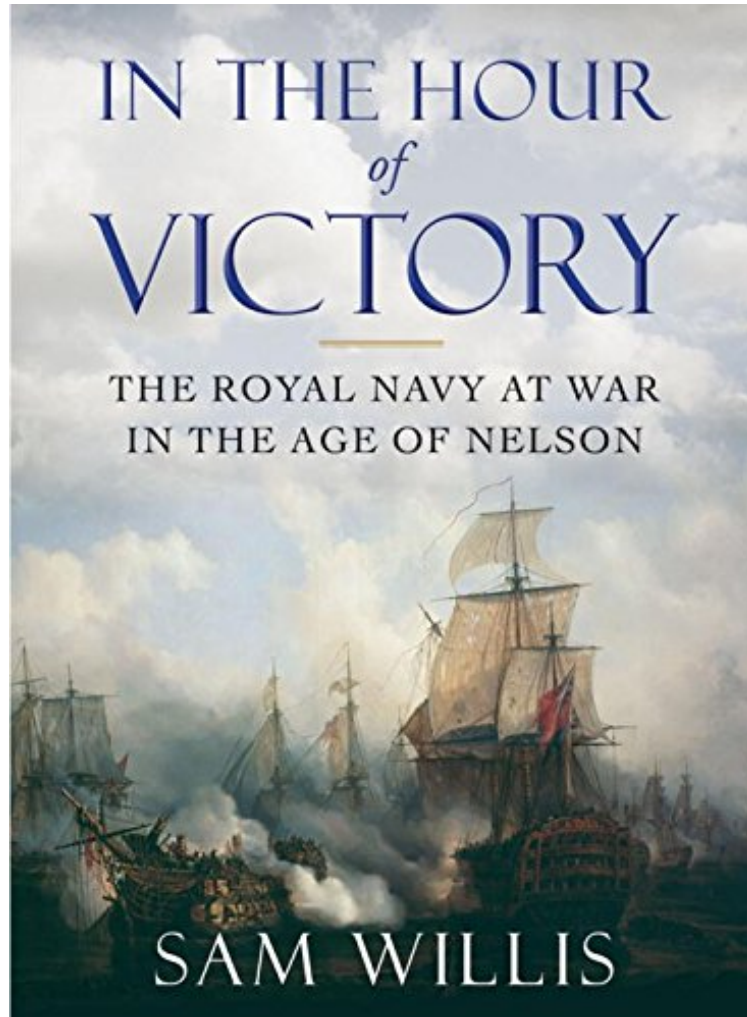


[Pdf free] In the Hour of Victory: The Royal Navy at War in the Age of Nelson

# In the Hour of Victory: The Royal Navy at War in the Age of Nelson

Sam Willis

ePub | \*DOC | audiobook | ebooks | Download PDF



DOWNLOAD



READ ONLINE

#824674 in Books 2014-04-28Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.60 x 1.30 x 7.20l, 2.67 #File Name: 0393243141416 pages | File size: 59.Mb

**Sam Willis : In the Hour of Victory: The Royal Navy at War in the Age of Nelson** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised In the Hour of Victory: The Royal Navy at War in the Age of Nelson:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Willard Phelpsif you like original documents, you will love this!22 of 23 people found the following review helpful. Brilliant Book by a Gifted WriterBy John M. DanielskiMaritime historians do not get any better than Sam Willis. He is not only a thorough, meticulous researcher, but he is a skilled and evocative writer. He presents the discovery of documents long tucked away and forgotten as an exciting adventure story. You can feel the thrill he had at re - discovering the words of some of England's greatest admirals, written very shortly after their greatest victories, while the decks still ran red with blood. He gives the

background and context of each document, and offers many valuable insights into the habits and psyche of its writer. This is primary source history, filled with blood, guts, raw emotion, heroism, and plenty of unexpected oddities. You can almost feel yourself transported to the pitching and rolling decks of England's wooden walls. A must for the serious reader of English maritime history and Hornblower and O'Brien fans. It is also a good book for the novice who wants to dig a little deeper than generalist histories which often sanitize history. 5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. A Great Book for Readers of Naval Fiction Who Want to Know More By Nan511 I chose to read this book to improve my knowledge of that period of history. I am simply an amateur historian in the purest sense of the word. Sam Willis has a gift for taken events of the past and presenting them to the reader in a way that engages the imagination. After reading the first few chapters, I was hooked for the remaining five battles. The personalities of the men who engaged the enemy, who wrote the reports, what may have motivated them, the discrepancies between the reports of the same battle, is there. Willis is the best kind of historian. Right to the end of the book, I was engaged in these events. The key to his success as far as I am concerned was in his postscript. As a lover of history and family history, I was surprised and delighted by his words. I wish I could quote him in full but in short he wrote "The strands of history run through us all." ..... "The past is not alien time and place, a disconnected world to be studied with scientific objectivity. It is our past inhabited by our relatives. They are simply waiting to be found and hoping to be understood." YES!

The greatest victories from the British Navy's golden age, told through never-before-seen letters from the officers themselves. When Napoleon eventually died in exile, the Lords of the Admiralty ordered that the original dispatches from seven major fleet battles?The Glorious First of June (1794), St Vincent (1797), Camperdown (1797), The Nile (1798), Copenhagen (1801), Trafalgar (1805), and San Domingo (1806)?should be gathered together and presented to the nation. These letters, written by Britain's admirals, captains, surgeons, and boatswains and sent back home in the midst of conflict, were bound in an immense volume, to be admired as a jewel of British history. Sam Willis, one of Britain's finest naval historians, stumbled on this collection by chance in the British Library in 2010 and soon found that only a handful of people knew of its existence. Willis here shapes that material into wonderful character portraits of the commanders on both sides, assessing their strengths and weaknesses. He also provides concise and illuminating explanations of the convoluted political circumstances surrounding each battle as he expertly reinterprets these key engagements in extraordinary and revelatory detail. A beautifully illustrated dramatic narrative, *In the Hour of Victory* tells the story of these naval triumphs as never before and allows us to hear once more the officer's voices as they describe the battles that made Britain great. 40 illustrations, 2/c throughout with 8 pages of color

From Booklist A rising British naval historian has assembled from an underused primary source—the after-battle dispatches of the British admirals—a thoroughly absorbing account of the seven great fleet actions of the Napoleonic Wars. The prominence of Nelson is inevitable, as he commanded in three of them and was important in a fourth. But the author also does justice to less iconic figures such as John Jervis (Earl St. Vincent) and the almost forgotten Sir John Duckworth. He even has a good word for the fighting spirit of William Bligh, of Bounty notoriety. Framing the dispatches are excellent narrative passages, well furnished with both statistics and analysis, and brief notes on such subjects as the fate of the wounded (not pleasant reading), navigational instruments, signals, and lightning rods on the mastheads. The book is altogether a feast for the serious student of the Age of Sail and so gracefully written as to be surprisingly accessible to the new reader. --Roland Green "Authoritative and insightful." - Publishers Weekly "Willis skillfully weaves the newly discovered material along with his own insightful commentary... [he] takes chances with an unorthodox approach to a series of crucial naval battles of geostrategic importance, and his approach works." - Joseph Callo, US Naval Institute About the Author Sam Willis is a maritime historian, archaeologist, and broadcaster. He is the author of a number of books on maritime and naval history, including the *Hearts of Oak* trilogy and the *Fighting Ships* series. Willis has appeared in and presented numerous TV series, including *Shipwrecks and Castles* for BBC4 and *Operation Grand Canyon* for BBC2. He is a Visiting Fellow in Maritime and Naval History at the University of Plymouth, a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society, and a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries.