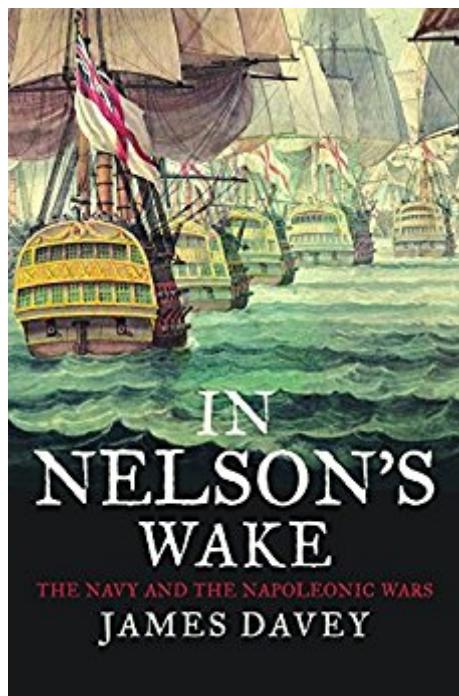


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In Nelson's Wake: The Navy And The Napoleonic Wars



Synopsis

Horatio Nelson's celebrated victory over the French at the Battle of Trafalgar in 1805 presented Britain with an unprecedented command of the seas. Yet the Royal Navy's role in the struggle against Napoleonic France was far from over. This groundbreaking book asserts that, contrary to the accepted notion that the Battle of Trafalgar essentially completed the Navy's task, the war at sea actually intensified over the next decade, ceasing only with Napoleon's final surrender. In this dramatic account of naval contributions between 1803 and 1815, James Davey offers original and exciting insights into the Napoleonic wars and Britain's maritime history. Encompassing Trafalgar, the Peninsular War, the War of 1812, the final campaign against Napoleon, and many lesser known but likewise crucial moments, the book sheds light on the experiences of individuals high and low, from admiral and captain to sailor and cabin boy. The cast of characters also includes others from across Britain—dockyard workers, politicians, civilians—who made fundamental contributions to the war effort, and in so doing, both saved the nation and shaped Britain's history.

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Customer Reviews

A summary of the review on StrategyPage.Com' Davey, author of "The Transformation of British Sea Power", gives us an account of the Royal Navy from 1803 until the final fall of Napoleon. As Davey points out, most books on the subject tend to skim over events after the Battle of Trafalgar, implying that the war at sea had ended with Nelson's great victory. In this work he demonstrates how untrue that belief is. Two-thirds of the book are devoted to events after Trafalgar. In the aftermath of his fleet's disaster at Trafalgar, Napoleon immediately began a major fleet expansion program, and over the following decade the Royal Navy was quite busy not only in European waters, but in the Indian Ocean, the Americas, and even Southern Africa. While there were no famous victories, there was the work of keeping the sea lanes free of French, and for a time American, commerce raiders, bottling up the new French fleet in its ports, blockading French commerce, protecting the supply lines to the armies in the Peninsula and elsewhere, and more. In addition to maritime operations, Davey gives us a look at the organizational and industrial side of the naval war, an oft neglected subject, as well as naval prisoners of war, army-navy cooperation, and more. A valuable read for anyone interested in naval warfare under sail, and, of course, the Napoleonic Wars. For the full review, see StrategyPage.Com

Nothing new in this book. If you have never read a book on the Napoleonic war at sea you might find it interesting.

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