



Trafalgar: The Nelson Touch

David Howarth

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The battle of Trafalgar decided a nation's fate, and this fascinating account tells the story of that crucial confrontation as it has never been told before. Many people know the facts about Nelson's death, but far less of the battle in which he died: a single afternoon's fighting that forever ended Napoleon's hope of invading England. With Napoleon's failure, the British navy reigned supreme on the high seas-a supremacy that lasted until the age of air power. David Howard, who served as a war correspondent during the battle of Dunkirk and won awards for his service as a secret agent during that war, writes with great understanding about fighting amidst the perils of the sea.

Trafalgar: The Nelson Touch Details

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From Reader Review Trafalgar: The Nelson Touch for online ebook

Stephanie Wasek says

Detailed yet concise. An absolute classic.

Pete says

This book is a must for those interested in all aspects of naval life in the early 1800's. The background to Trafalgar is informative and sets the context for this epic sea battle. Nelson the man is much better understood through this reading this book, along with his contemporaries, opponents and personal life. A thoroughly enjoyable book.

Patrick Cox says

An invaluable source book for the naval history lover, this first hand account compiled from letters, diaries and logbooks makes fascinating reading and brings home to the reader the spirit of the men and their lives in England's Wooden Walls. David Howarth has done a magnificent job in bringing it all together and I have now read and reread parts of the book several times.

While it may not be to everyone's taste, it certainly brings to life the times and the people. Even the French and the Spanish have their say. I highly commend it to anyone interested in the history of this period.

kunkku says

excellent book about a man i never remember hearing about as a school boy in 50s England...

Ken Peters says

This is the second book I've read about the sea battle of Trafalgar, and I thoroughly enjoyed it due to my fascination with the large sailing ships of old. David Howarth has a gift of recounting historical events without going into so much detail that he loses all but the most devoted of readers. This 248-page edition, loaded with illustrations and maps, is an easy and engaging read for those who love stories of the sea.

Julian says

This was a very well written book on the actual day of the battle of Trafalgar. It spoke of the winning strategy of Nelson and his fellow captains, the horrors on the ships during the fight and the mistakes, lack of

training / preparation and simple fear of failure that lead the combined French and Spanish fleet to failure. All books on this Genre are commented about pro-British writing but how can the author of these books help doing so when it was such a one sided battle? Even though I would recommend the books written by Adam Nicolson and Sam Willis over this one, this story is definitely worth the read. It is quick, well written and does not get the reader bogged down with technical naval jargon. It allows new and old readers to enjoy such a fascinating part of history and I hope new readers are encouraged to delve deeper into the era, what led to this battle, how it linked to Wellington's land based fight in India, Spain and ultimately France, what the political situation was as well as the failing health of the British King.

Michael says

Worth the read to understand that era in naval history. The book touches upon Nelson's personal life, but more so Nelson's admiration of his shipmates in the Royal Navy fleet, and the impact and aftermath of his demise after the Battle of Trafalgar. The details and placement of the ships throughout the battle is necessarily dry and slows the read a bit, but it brings with it the understanding of how the fleet was devastated by storm after the battle. For fans of the Patrick O'Brian series, this book is most helpful for context and understanding.

Katie Grainger says

A fantastic history book which provides excellent information, it can be read almost like a novel. Brilliant and informative.

Tom says

I've read several histories of the battle of Trafalgar Howarth's book was the most interesting and the clearest chronologically. In addition to filling out the background on Nelson and the necessity of the battle from both French/Spanish and British sides, the author described the historic significance of the battle. It includes diagrams of the locations of vessels in the two fleets as the fight progresses. All in all an excellent account and very well written. Highly recommended.

Jim Mcclanahan says

An interesting account of the naval battle of Trafalgar and the demise of Lord Nelson. The naval battle itself seemed to bear a great deal of resemblance to Roman sea battles involving deliberate ramming of vessels. Cannon fire at point blank range seemed to happen often. The aftermath of the event when so many ships of both sides were badly damaged or sunk by a week long storm was another grim and dramatic event. The author goes out of his way to almost canonize Nelson, but makes up for it with detailed and fascinating descriptions of the sailing vessels and their fates. Illustrations throughout the book of contemporary paintings add interest.

