

something usually seen; namely, problems of command, of officers who did not master leadership and the impact they had on those below them, of issues related to personnel and the impact of ineffective leadership versus successful leaders. These stories provide a behind-the-scenes view of the navy familiar only to participants.

My greatest problem with the book is that, despite promising to show the reader the key elements of what we call leadership, I felt Oliver failed to deliver. As a memoir it is fascinating, but I found the lessons on leadership often unclear, if not lost on me entirely. The background Oliver offers is valuable but his concluding chapter summing up the rules is more of a list of chapters than a lesson in leadership.

While the text is recommended to anyone interested in the Cold War American submarine fleet and life as a naval officer, I feel its value as a teaching tool for future leaders outside of the military is rather limited.

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Judith E. Pearson, Sean Heuvel & John Rodgaard (eds.). *The Trafalgar Chronicle*. New Series VI. Barnsley, S. Yorks: Seaforth Publishing, www.seaforthpublishing.com, 2021. 232 pp., illustrations, tables, maps, notes. UK £20.00, paper; ISBN 978-1-5267-5966-5.

New Series 6 of *The Trafalgar Chronicle* provides readers who are interested in the period surrounding Nelson's and the Georgian Navy's battle of 1805 a wide-ranging set of thematic articles, biographical portraits, and items of general interest from a truly international collection of scholars, researchers, and historians. The *Chronicle's* mission is to provide information and research associated with the Trafalgar campaign and the surrounding years of 1750 to 1820. The series meets this goal by structuring its content around diversity, both thematically and in breadth of subject matter.

This issue offers four articles centered on the 2021 theme of *Royal Navy Encounters with Indigenous Populations and Enslaved Peoples*. These include a piece by Tom D. Fremantle recounting relations between Philip Gidley King (first Lieutenant Governor of Norfolk Island, third Governor of New South Wales, and an ancestor of Fremantle) and the Maoris; Christopher Pieczynski's discussion of British attempts to influence freedom-seeking American slaves in Princess Anne County, Virginia during the War of 1812; research by Lily Style concerning the rescue of an abandoned high-born infant Burmese by her ancestor, Captain Edward Blanckley RN, during the opening years of the first Anglo-Burmese war; and Gerald Holland's account of the interactions

between Nathaniel Portlock and Hawaiians and First Nation peoples of the Pacific Northwest and Alaska. Biographical portraits focus on Vice Admiral Sir Charles Saunder's efforts at Quebec in 1759 (by Barry Gough), the careers of Sir Harry Neale, Baronet GCB, and of Commander Walter Strickland (both by Barry Jolly), the political adventures of Sir Philip Durham, Nelson's "luckiest captain" (by Hilary L. Rubinstein), Father of the US Navy Commodore John Barry (by Liam Gual), and Captain Johan Puke's efforts during the 1790 conflict between the Swedish and Russian fleets at Viborg (by Christer Hägg). Four articles of general interest are included: Gerald Stulc presents the status of British naval surgeons during the French Revolution, Harold Stark offers a sketch of Nelson derived from a contemporary correspondence, Andrew Venn writes on the subset of Nelson's "band of brothers" who were absent at Trafalgar, and Anthony Bruce traces the development of the bomb vessel.

New Series 6 opens with Governor King's developing relations with the Maori of the Bay of Islands (New Zealand), and in particular with two Maori representatives, Woodoo and Tookee (referred to as Huru and Tuki in alternate sources, according to the author's notes) and chief Te Pahi. Fremantle's writing indicates that these encounters were marked by mutual respect and what seems to have developed into a true friendship.

British attempts to maintain tactical advantage during the War of 1812 included efforts to encourage enslaved people of coastal Virginia to take advantage of opportunities to gain freedom, by way of, among other means, offers to settle in British-held areas of North America and the West Indies. One initial British challenge was to aggressively promote this prospect while avoiding perceptions of inciting slave uprisings. The second thematic piece in this volume traces the many ways that the British and enslaved population worked together to seek this new life while affecting American economic and military aims.

Style's *The Tailor Prince* reads like a detective story as she compares and contrasts two accounts of how a purported Burmese noble's child, "Rangoon", found in the rubble following a siege (or rescued from a shipwreck) came to England. He grew up, married, raised a family, and passed away as an old man, aware of, but never reclaiming, his princely status.

A brief account of the interactions of Captain Nathaniel Portlock (who sailed under both Cook and Bligh during his naval career) with the peoples of Hawaii, the Pacific Northwest and Alaska closes the thematic section. This entry, for the most part, focuses on Captain Portlock's actions and perspectives rather than those of the indigenous peoples he encountered. Perhaps better placed among the biographic sketches, it does serve as a good transition piece to this volume's subsequent section.

In brief, the Biographical Portraits section follows each subject from cradle,

or at least early boyhood, to grave, with the exception of Duram's political focus and Puke's actions at Viborg, which provide a more detailed examination of a specific event or period in these men's lives. The portraits offer interesting and well-organized accounts of these individuals' professional development or important or defining events at a point in time. If there is a common theme to be had, it is that each of these sketches highlights either a capable mariner who was for one reason or another overshadowed, and therefore less celebrated, than his fellows or commanders, or well-researched players who were entering into new or pivotal episodes in their career.

The General Interest section opens with a survey of the status of British naval surgeons at the turn of the nineteenth century, and traces the gradual improvement in training, work conditions, equipment, and influence into the early years of that century. Their importance was often overlooked by the Admiralty, who regarded the practitioners as on par with craftsmen; the article concludes with an apt observation that the measurable improvements in health care, and by extension lives saved, benefited the Navy and their success during the French Revolution.

Clues about Nelson's leadership style are gleaned from an analysis of one of his letters to Captain Frank Sotheron. In it, Nelson is found respectfully but firmly disciplining a trusted subordinate for a misstep. Although the letter itself is brief, the article walks through in detail the opening remarks, the body, and its conclusion, insightfully linking Nelson's command style with the document's contents, phrasing, and intended message.

Due variously to assignment on resupply or diplomatic duty, illness, or personal or professional business in Britain, several officers linked closely to Nelson were absent from Trafalgar. The reasons, and to some extent the aftermath of each man's omission is presented. Discussed in this entry are British officers Vice Admiral Sir Robert Calder, Rear Admiral Thomas Louis, and Captains Benjamin Hallowell, Sir Francis Austen, George Murray, Samuel Sutton, Thomas Foley, Richard Keats, and William Hoste. French Admiral François Étienne de Rosily-Mesros, charged by Napoleon with instructions to relieve Villeneuve, missed both his assignment and the battle due to a series of mishaps, leading one to ponder what might have been.

The bomb vessel, a French Navy invention, was quickly adopted and improved by the British Navy prior its eventual obsolescence owing to the development of the naval long gun. These modified or purpose-built vessels were typically ketches early on, and later built as heavily reinforced ship-rigged firing platforms. This brief account is full of details on the changes made, successes and weaknesses of the design and application, preparation and firing, construction, and to a lesser extent, the tactics employed in their use. Bomb vessels served as the predecessor of the monitors developed and

placed in service during the American Civil War and both World Wars.

The entries found throughout the journal are enhanced by appropriate and informative maps, portraits, drawings, and photographs. A series of eight colour plates includes contemporary or near-contemporary paintings and illustrations, as well as a vibrant depiction of the fourth-rate *Dristigheten* and companion fleet vessels shortly after breaking through Russia's blockade, painted by Hägg. A handful of the black and white images in the volume seem to have suffered somewhat during reproduction or printing: a series of vertical or horizontal lines are evident in roughly a half-dozen of these, throughout some of the submissions. It is difficult to tell if these are attributable to the source material, an issue at press, or some other fault, but these are minor detractions from an otherwise excellent set of illustrations. One curious omission is found in *The Tailor Prince*, where the author, working from a sketch in a primary source held in her personal collection, describes clearly and in detail the garb, stance, and facial expression of Rangoon. Her discussion does great credit to the sketch, and certainly gives the reader hints at the man's possible character. Since it depicts the central player in the story its inclusion would have been a welcome addition.

In their forwards, the President and the Editors point out that this edition is a special case and applaud the contributors for their efforts in producing an outstanding collection of submissions without benefit of the typical archives, libraries, and research tools afforded during non-pandemic times. This is appropriate praise, and well-deserved.

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T. Joseph Scanlon. (Roger Sarty, ed.) *Catastrophe: Stories and Lessons from the Halifax Explosion*. Waterloo, ON: Wilfred Laurier Press, www.wlupress.wlu.ca, 2020. 400 p., illustrations, notes, bibliography, index. CDN \$39.99, paper: ISBN 978-1-77112-371-6. (E-book available.)

The explosion of the munitions ship SS *Mont-Blanc* after a collision in Halifax Harbour on 6 December 1917 was a disaster that killed nearly 2,000 people and devastated an important Canadian wartime port.

This book by the late Joseph Scanlon aims to present a detailed and comprehensive view of the explosion using the lens of disaster theory. This is a field where Scanlon, a journalist and Carleton University professor, worked for many years. The Halifax Explosion interested him because it was Canada's deadliest manmade disaster, but also because it inspired the first modern academic study of the effects of disaster, *Catastrophe and Social Change*