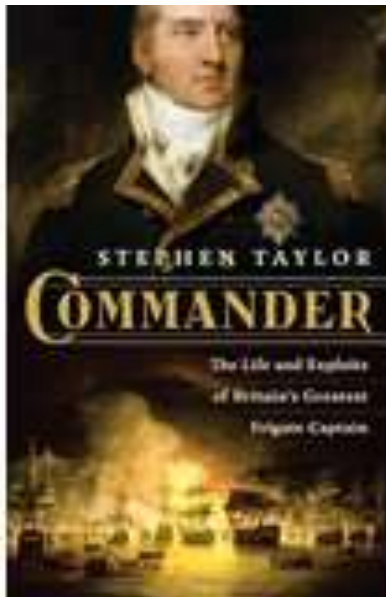


Commander



By Stephen Taylor

Reviewed by D. Andrew McChesney

Fully entitled *Commander: The Life and Exploits of Britain's Greatest Frigate Captain*, this is a rather recent biography of Sir Edward Pellew, known later in life as Lord Exmouth. It traces his rise from humble beginnings in Cornwall to the highest levels of command in the Royal Navy.

It is obvious the author did a tremendous amount of research in constructing the details of Sir Edward's life. Nor does he shy away from those less than becoming details, presenting us with the story of a man both gifted with ability and cursed with faults. It also provides keen insight to the politics and inner workings of both the Royal Navy and the British Government as the world moved from the Eighteenth into the Nineteenth Century.

This is a must read for those with an interest in this period of history and the individuals who shaped the world.