Walls of Oak: Britain’s Royal Navy Against Napoleon

OSHER 440-001
Dates: Tuesdays, 4/2/2013 – 5/7/2013
Times: 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM
Location: Commander's House, Fort Douglas
Instructor: Ralph Young

Course Overview

Recommended Reading:
The War For All The Oceans: From Nelson at the Nile To Napoleon at Waterloo

Week One: The Battle of the Nile: A Tradition of Victory
Why would Rear Admiral Nelson lead a small squadron of ships against a larger French fleet consisting of bigger ships, in unfamiliar waters, late in the day?

Week Two: Men and Ships of the Royal Navy
What did it take to become an officer in the Royal Navy? What was a seaman’s life like aboard a man of war? What is the difference between a First Rate and a Fourth Rate? Why did Nelson always complain about a lack of frigates?

Week Three: Navies of Napoleon’s France, Spain and Other Navies
What was the Navy like that Napoleon assembled to support his ambitious cross Channel Invasion Britain? What other ship’s contested with Britain for control of the Seas.

Week Four: Trafalgar (Part 1)
The greatest Naval Campaign of the Nineteenth Century begins. French Admiral Villeneuve's Fleet breaks out of Toulon, and the chase is on.

Week Five: Trafalgar (Part 2)
The Combined Fleet puts to sea from Cadiz, in an attempt to break through the British Blockade. Will French Admiral Villeneuve be able to execute Emperor Napoleon Bonaparte's orders to join his Fleet at Brest? Or, Will British Admiral Horatio Nelson thwart Napoleon's plans for an invasion of Britain for good?

Week Six: Heroes of the Royal Navy
Sydney Smith, the Cochrane’s and others helped to make the Royal Navy the ultimate force at sea. Whether it was in single ship actions, fighting ashore, or grand fleet battles these men developed the tactics, and raised a generation of officers and men of legend.