



# FIGHTING SAIL

Fleet Actions 1775–1815

Ryan Miller

OSPREY  
WARGAMES

# FIGHTING SAIL

## FLEET ACTIONS 1775–1815



RYAN MILLER

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# FOREWORD

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As a much younger lad, I was introduced to naval wargaming through Games Workshop's venerable *Man O'War* fantasy naval game. I was quickly enthralled by the idea of great sailing ships locked together in brutal cannon duels. While the line of models was beautiful and fantastical, I found myself thirsting for a more historical approach, and began devouring books on the subject.

After playing lots of games and reading several works of both fiction and nonfiction, a picture began to emerge. While the ships themselves certainly capture the imagination, it was the courage of the men who crewed them that fascinated me. Traversing the globe in their wooden cities, these brave souls often risked death or worse for the chance of glory and prize money.

*Fighting Sail* has its beginnings some ten years ago, when I first attempted a rules set to cover the period. My goal from the start was to provide a set of rules that immersed the player in the types of decisions a fleet admiral would probably have to make during a battle, rather than tracking supply stores or hull damage. I have nothing against those types of games, as they can be a lot of fun, but my goal with *Fighting Sail* is immersion over simulation. I also took a decidedly "crew-centric" approach, as it is my belief that the ship has its fair share of warfighting qualities, but it is its crew and officers that determines its true capabilities.

My game designer side hopes you play tons of games and have a blast, while the part of me that enjoys geeking out about the Golden Age of Sail hopes you gain a further understanding – and reverence – for this truly intriguing and evocative period of our world's history. Enjoy!

Ryan Miller  
April, 2014

HMS *Belleisle* at Trafalgar, by Tony  
Bryan © Osprey Publishing Ltd.  
Taken from *New Vanguard 42: British  
Napoleonic Ship-of-the-Line*.



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## DEDICATION

For Emily June Collins. Thanks for making it okay to make stuff up.

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## EDITOR'S NOTE

All the photos in this volume are used with the kind permission of GHQ Models, and show some of their fantastic range of Age of Sail ships. Check out their full catalogue at [www.ghqmodels.com](http://www.ghqmodels.com).