



‘I AM DETERMINED TO LIVE OR DIE ON BOARD MY SHIP.’

Set sail with Jim Tildesley’s biography
of a great naval commander

Former Director of the Scottish Maritime Museum, Jim Tildesley takes readers by storm with a naval biography of an eighteenth-century, lesser-known but deeply fascinating commander, John Inglis.

‘I am Determined to Live or Die on Board My Ship’ covers his action-packed naval career starting as a midshipman in command of the guns of a frigate in action against the French, and ends as the severely wounded captain of a warship in a closely fought victory against the Dutch.

The life of John Inglis was so epic, it could have been a work of fiction. As an underage Lieutenant commanding a schooner hunting smugglers before the Boston Tea Party, he also dined with George Washington before the War of Independence. Having settled in Scotland and inheriting his uncle’s Edinburgh estate, he returned to the Navy.

Shipwrecked in Norway, he became embroiled in a secret service attempt to persuade Dutch naval commanders to desert. His vessel was involved in the Nore Mutiny and astoundingly, he was held prisoner on his own ship. The naval career of John Inglis is not just an incredible story but one that enables a close view of life in the eighteenth-century navy.

The book will be published in May 2019, which coincides with the 240th anniversary of John Inglis being commissioned Captain of HMS Delight (22nd May 1779.)

JIM TILDESLEY is the Former Director of the Scottish Maritime Museum and Member of the UK National Historic Ships Committee. He retired in 2013 after a career in Education, Local Government, and Museums. He is a qualified teacher and experienced lecturer with a Masters Degree in Naval History. He lives in Dumfries and Galloway, Scotland.



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To Contact Jim Tildesley
e-mail: research@splashywater.co.uk