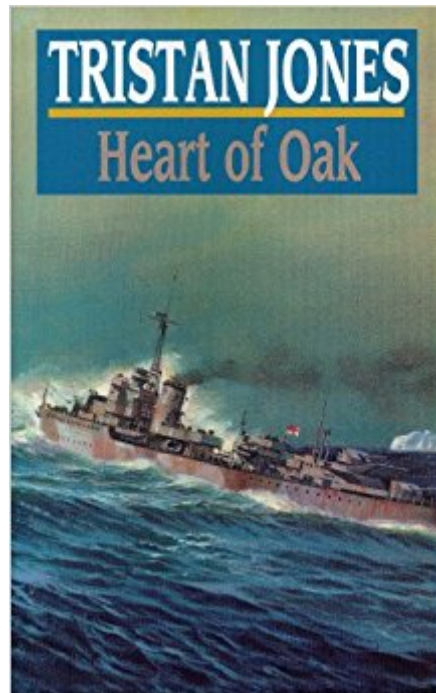




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Heart Of Oak



Synopsis

Following the highly praised account of his Welsh childhood and early years aboard a coastal sailing ketch in *A STEADY TRADE*, Tristan Jones now looks back to his years "below decks" in the British Royal Navy during World War II. It is 1940, and Britain is struggling under the Blitz. Discharged from his sailing barge, Tristan is thrown among wartime recruits from all walks of life. After a period of instruction, he goes to sea, first on transatlantic convoy duties, and later on the arduous Arctic runs to Russia. From the destroyer HMS Eclectic, Tristan eyewitnesses the battle between HMS Hood and the Bismark, and he describes the thrilling pursuit and eventual sinking of this legendary German battleship. *HEART OF OAK* is an authentic rendering of life during wartime, and it is replete with salty characters, historic battle scenes, and exciting adventures that take place both on land and at sea. But it is also about the forging of a young lad; we join Tristan at home, on leave. We share with him experiences both comic and poignant, from the hilarious descriptions of his earliest sexual adventures to his emotional departure from Wales and his childhood home, and the tragic loss of his parents.

Book Information

Paperback: 288 pages

Publisher: Sheridan House; 1st pbk. ed edition (January 25, 1997)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1574090194

ISBN-13: 978-1574090192

Product Dimensions: 6 x 1 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars 19 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,272,843 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #99 in [Books > Travel > Europe > Great Britain > Wales](#) #661 in [Books > Sports & Outdoors > Miscellaneous > Essays](#) #1141 in [Books > Sports & Outdoors > Outdoor Recreation > Boating](#)

Customer Reviews

"The late author, who could spin a mean tale, remembers his WWII stint in the Royal Navy; the included glossary of RN lower-deck slang is stupendous."

Tristan Jones, a legendary sailor, is the author of 16 books, including *Saga of a Wayward Sailor*, *The Incredible Voyage* and *Yarns*. He left school at the age of 14 to work on sailing barges and

spent the rest of his life at sea--in the Royal Navy, as a delivery skipper, and as a daring seagoing adventurer travelling the world in search of new and ever greater challenges.

This is a particularly poignant view of WWII from the perspective a young recruit who joined the British navy. Tristan writes with and in character and at the same time weaves a heart rendering story of what it was like to go to war for the lowest class of seamen. Excellent read.

One of the best books about life below decks. I am a great fan of Tristan Jones - have been for years.

From an "Old Sea Dog" comes this riveting story of his teenage years in the 'Senior Service'. I read the copy I bought for my brother, an ex RN sailor. It was not my intention, but after reading the first few pages, I couldn't put it down. You will find, as I did, that a very interesting biography has been written by Anthony Dalton about the compelling yarn-spinning Tristan Jones (Wayward Sailor). It appears that Heart of Oak is a mixture of fact and fiction. It does not though detract from the compelling storytelling.

Interesting and unusual POV of below-decks enlisted RN during WWII. Jones is an enjoyable writer.

Tristan was a wonderful story teller.

I needed information re- life on board a British ship during WWII. I found many fascinating details and much accurate information in this book. I found that some of the humor was less funny than announced, but on the whole, I found this book very interesting. It was in great part a tale based on personal experience, and it held my interest throughout. I'm going to read more by this author...

Good book about WWII in small boats and ships. Tristan has done it again.

Easy reading, good story, interesting perspective from a sailor who was there.

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