

MACMILLAN READERS

BEGINNER LEVEL

HERMAN MELVILLE

Billy Budd

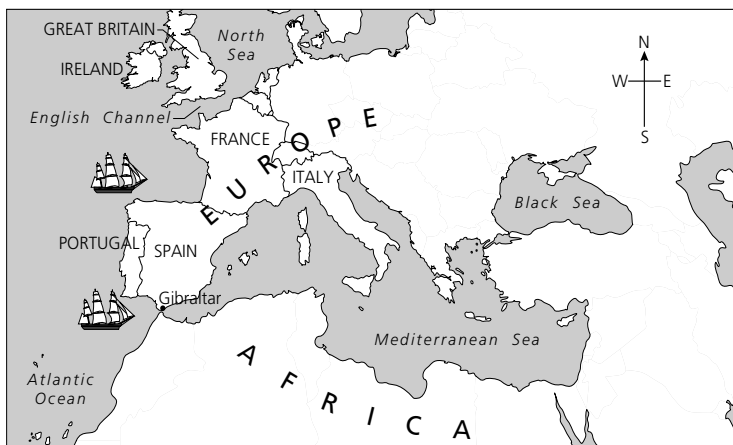
Retold by Margaret Turner



MACMILLAN

Contents

<i>A Note About the Author</i>	4
<i>A Note About This Story</i>	5
<i>The People in This Story</i>	9
1 A British Warship	10
2 The Trading-ship	13
3 Billy Budd, Foretopman	18
4 The Master-at-Arms	21
5 The Spy	25
6 The Gold Coins	30
7 Who Is the Enemy?	34
8 Billy Cannot Speak	41
9 The Trial	48
10 The Death of Billy Budd	55
11 Captain Vere's Last Battle	60

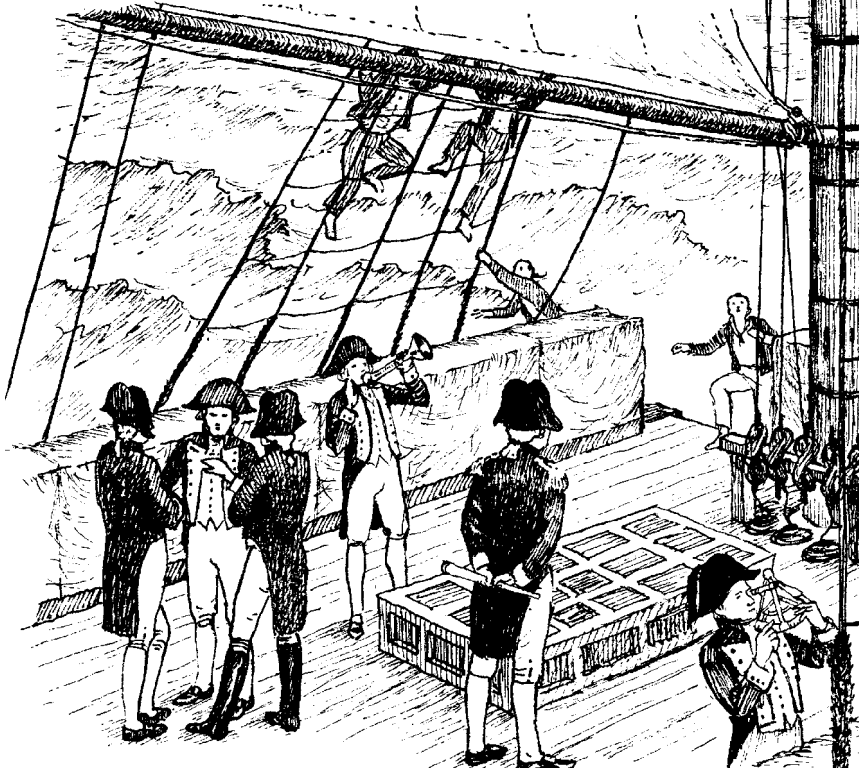


A British Warship

It was the summer of 1797. Britain and France were at war. The British Navy was fighting the French Navy.

Edward Vere was the captain of a British warship. Captain Vere wanted more sailors for his ship. He did not have enough men to fight battles.

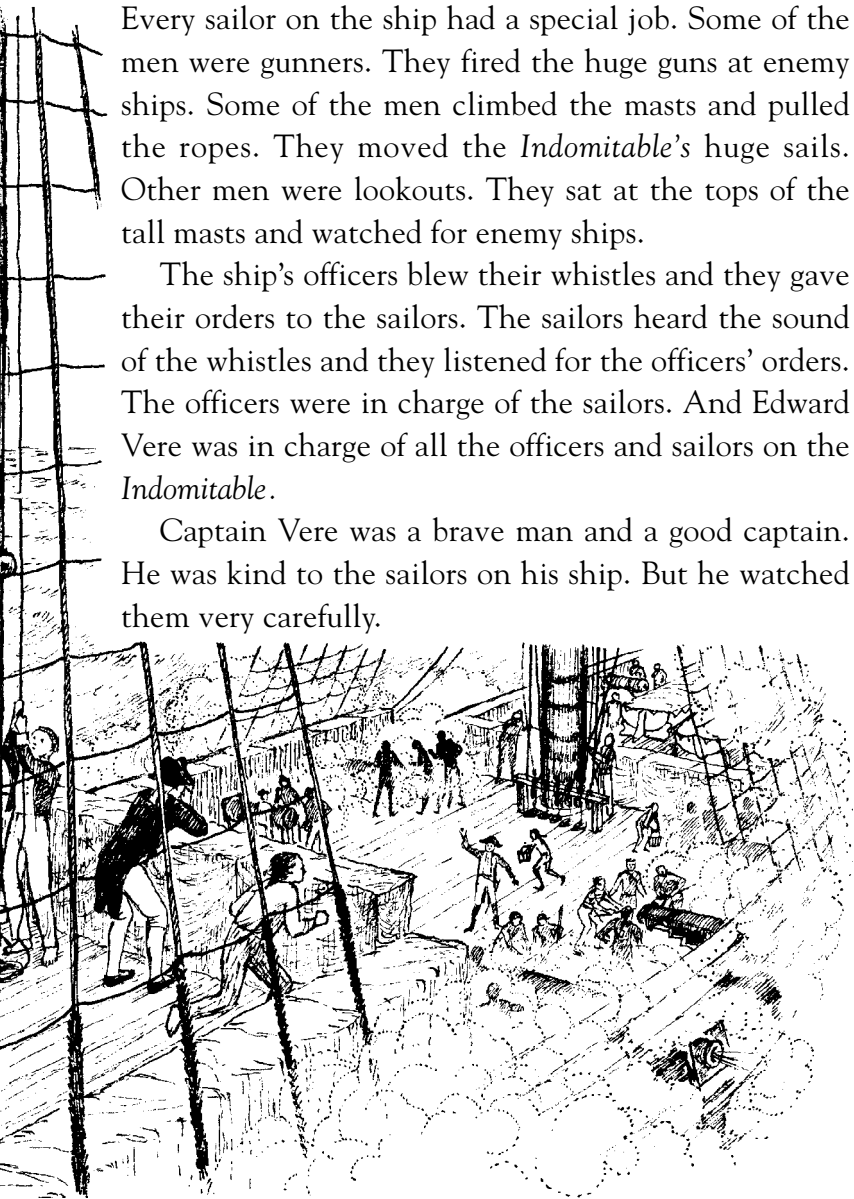
Captain Vere's ship was called *HMS Indomitable*. It had a large crew and it had seventy-four big guns.



There were hundreds of men on *HMS Indomitable*. Every sailor on the ship had a special job. Some of the men were gunners. They fired the huge guns at enemy ships. Some of the men climbed the masts and pulled the ropes. They moved the *Indomitable's* huge sails. Other men were lookouts. They sat at the tops of the tall masts and watched for enemy ships.

The ship's officers blew their whistles and they gave their orders to the sailors. The sailors heard the sound of the whistles and they listened for the officers' orders. The officers were in charge of the sailors. And Edward Vere was in charge of all the officers and sailors on the *Indomitable*.

Captain Vere was a brave man and a good captain. He was kind to the sailors on his ship. But he watched them very carefully.



In the spring of that year – 1797 – there were two mutinies on British warships. Impressed men started the mutinies. The sailors on the warships did not obey their officers' orders. They tried to fight the officers. But the mutinies did not succeed. There were trials. Some of the sailors on the ships had to die.

The mutinies finished quickly. But it had been an unhappy time for the British Navy. And after that spring, all the captains of British warships watched their sailors very carefully. They watched their impressed men most carefully. No captain wanted a mutiny on his ship.

A few of the sailors on *HMS Indomitable* had been in the mutinies. That summer, Captain Vere watched them very carefully. They did not make any trouble.

But Captain Vere was worried. He did not have enough sailors to fight battles. He wanted more men for the *Indomitable*.

