



Thursday 3rd November, 1pm - Free lecture and book launch

**Matthew B Wills - In the Highest Traditions of the Royal Navy - The Life of Captain John Leach
MVO DSO An exemplary life of valour, dedication and sacrifice**

Matthew B Wills will be visiting the Museum from America to deliver a lecture and signing of his recently published book.

The biography of a lauded war hero who went down with his ship, and whose son went on to become Admiral of the Fleet, led the Navy during the Falklands War, and who gave his name to Leach Building, the home of Navy Command.

Foreword written by Admiral Sir Jock Slater GCB LVO DL, and based on new research on how failures in Navy intelligence were a major factor in the loss of HMS Prince of Wales and HMS Repulse.

“A charming and lovable man and all that a British sailor should be”

Winston Churchill

To this day, we owe a huge amount of debt to men like Captain John Leach who fought against frightful odds and to the very end with courage and calmness.

Captain Leach died with hundreds of other sailors when HMS Prince of Wales was sunk by the Japanese in the South China Sea. Matthew Wills tells the story of John Leach, and analyses the influences which shaped him and led him ultimately to his heroic end. He traces his life from his time at Royal Naval College Osborne and Britannia Royal Naval College Dartmouth. He describes Leach's role as commander during the Battle of the Denmark Strait, during which the damage *Prince of Wales* inflicted on the *Bismarck* forced the latter to retreat to France, and later during her ill-fated mission to Singapore as part of Force Z, an attempt to intercept Japanese landings in Malaya.

Free lecture, booking essential. Please call 02392 727582 or email: events@nmrn.org.uk for details