

The COBBOLD Family History Trust

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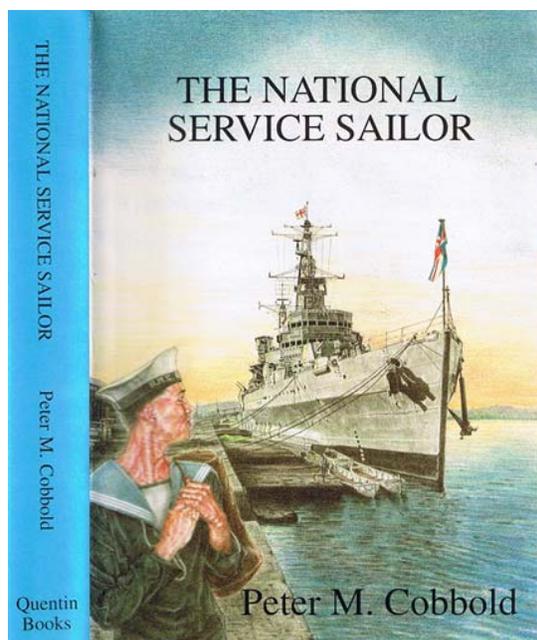
THE NATIONAL SERVICE SAILOR.

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One of the first 'Cobbold' books purchased soon after the Trust's foundation in 2004 was a copy of 'The National Service Sailor' (1993) by Peter M Cobbold. There was a lot going on at that time and the book was placed affectionately on the shelf in the expectation that it would soon be retrieved for a session at the fireside. Sadly the obstacles to this worthy aspiration increased and the book remained unread...until very recently.

Perhaps partly because I had done National Service myself, albeit in the Army, but mainly because it is an intensely human first person story I identified with the Sailor and found myself thoroughly enjoying the experience. It is written in a warm, friendly and welcome style and uses well chosen simple but descriptive words laced with gentle humour.

David Robinson, Captain, RN Sailing Association (a much better judge) says 'Here is a book which not only tells the tale of one man's experiences of the Royal Navy as he saw it, but which also faithfully records the essence and spirit of the Service as it was at that time. One re-lives the times of the period in its pages, it is funny, informative and unashamedly nostalgic. It is unique in that this is the first book to record the activities of the National Serviceman afloat, giving an honest appraisal of what he thought of the Service and how he related to it. I enjoyed every page and would recommend it to anyone with even the slightest interest in the sea and ships. It is a book for the scholar as well as an excellent source of entertainment for the casual reader.'



Peter Cobbold has published numerous articles on nautical and technical subjects in, amongst others, *Motorboat and Yachting*, *Practical Boatowner* and *The East Anglian Daily Times*. This is his first full-length book. The period of National Service in the Royal Navy that it describes, left him with “itchy feet” and he joined the RNR as a seaman Petty Officer in 1959, eventually retiring, in 1972, as a Lt-Commander. Married, with two grown-up children, (his son, a college art lecturer, designed the cover of the book) Peter Cobbold now lives in a small village near Colchester. An enthusiastic yachtsman, he still patrols the East Coast, scene of many of his naval escapades.

The book can be purchased direct from the author (who will dedicate it if requested) for £16 inclusive of post and packing (UK only) by sending a cheque made out to P M Cobbold to 10 Hatchcroft Gardens, Elmstead Market, Colchester, Essex CO7 7AJ

To purchase from overseas and/or by credit card [click here](#).