

IV.

HMS DEFIANT

Released in both th' **US** 'n **UK** in 1962 ahead o' **Mutiny on th' Bounty** t' less hoopla, 'n under differnt titles - **Damn the Defiant** and **HMS Defiant**, respectively - th' outline o' this fictional tale be somewhat like her fleetmate, but inverted. **HMS Defiant** ships wit' a kind 'n effective cap'n pitted against a sadistic 'n manipulative first mate who drives th' crew t' mutiny.

Set approximately at th' same time as th' real-life **Spithead 'n Nore Mutinies o' 1795**, th' tale loots that fleet-wide protest 'n attempts t' distill it t' th' experience o' a single ship. Th' **Spithead Mutiny** was a successful protest action taken against the Royal Navy seeking better pay and working conditions and can be seen as a precursor of Victorian and modern labor organization and resistance.

Th' good Captain Crawford be portrayed by none other than Alec Guinness, 'n his antagonist, Lieutenant Scott-Padgett, by Dirk Bogarde. Director Lewis Gilbert's precedin' career featured 1960's **Sink th' Bismarck!** 'n would go on t' include **Alfie** 'n three Bond films, includin' **Moonraker**. Th' film was shot off th' coast o' **Spain** 'n at **Shepperton Studios**.

Contemporary reviewers 'ave a tendency t' describe th' film as pedestrian, wit' th' exception o' th' cinematography showin' ships in combat. Fer th' film, some relatively large-scale model ships were built, 'n thar were also two real sailin' vessels employed, th' **Marcel B. Surdo** (previously seen here in exterior shots used fer **Captain Horatio Hornblower**) 'n th' **Angiolina H**, both built early in th' 20th century in **Italy** 'n previously employed in yet another 19th century naval epic, **John Paul Jones**.