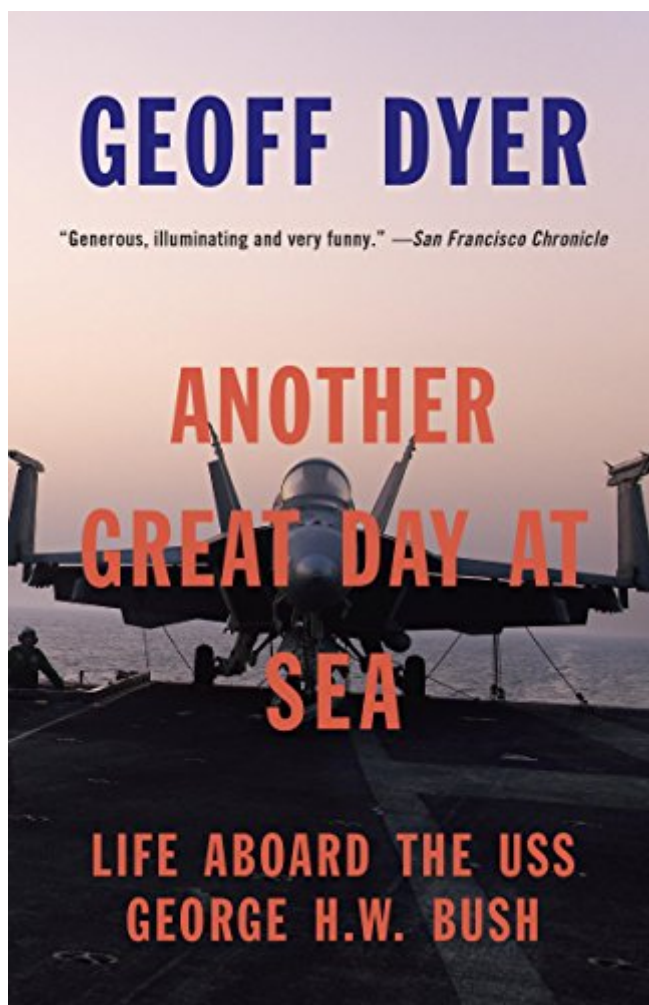


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# Another Great Day At Sea: Life Aboard The USS George H.W. Bush



## Synopsis

From a writer “whose genre-jumping refusal to be pinned down [makes him] an exemplar of our era” (NPR), a new book that confirms his power to astound readers. As a child Geoff Dyer spent long hours making and blotchily painting model fighter planes. So the adult Dyer jumped at the chance of a residency aboard an aircraft carrier. Another Great Day at Sea chronicles Dyer’s experiences on the USS George H.W. Bush as he navigates the routines and protocols of “carrier-world” from the elaborate choreography of the flight deck through miles of walkways and hatches to kitchens serving meals for a crew of five thousand to the deafening complexity of catapult and arresting gear. Meeting the Captain, the F-18 pilots and the dentists, experiencing everything from a man-overboard alert to the Steel Beach Party, Dyer guides us through the most intense (acronym intensive environment) imaginable. A lanky Englishman (could he really be both the tallest and the oldest person on the ship?) in a deeply American world, with its constant exhortations to improve, to do better, Dyer brilliantly records the daily life on board the ship, revealing it to be a prism for understanding a society where discipline and conformity, dedication and optimism, become forms of self-expression. In the process it becomes clear why Geoff Dyer has been widely praised as one of the most original and funniest voices in literature. Another Great Day at Sea is the definitive work of an author whose books defy definition. From the Hardcover edition.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I have learned to have an appreciation of Naval Aviation through the writings of a great blogger, the late Carroll Lefon. Look up "Neptunus Lex" on the web to see the influence he had. So I wondered how I could possibly learn more about carrier operations by reading this book. Well, it is a perfect companion to Lex's writings, because while Lex (who was XO of the TOPGUN program at one time and had over 4,000 hours of FA/18 time) went to great effort in telling people **\*\*how\*\*** things were on a carrier, Dyer tells you how it **\*\*feels\*\***. From the time he leaves Bahrain, he tells you what it **\*\*feels\*\*** like to ride in the Navy's cargo hauler and bus, the Greyhound. What happens when it misses the trap and had to make another attempt at landing on the carrier. As he wrote you leave a familiar world and in 40 minutes you have landed on a completely alien world. But frankly the guy pissed me off just a bit (knowing, as GB Shaw mentioned that Britain and America are 2 countries separated by a common language) the American slang of "pissed" is different from the British version). And our meaning definitely doesn't involve alcohol. The author makes it a point of saying how much he dislikes the accommodations the Navy has assigned him, and is actually proud of the fact that after enough "whinging" he is assigned a "VIP" room. And throughout the book a constant theme is his dissatisfaction of the food offered him. whinge (hw nj, w nj) intr. v. whinged, whing, whing, whing Chiefly British To complain or protest, especially in an annoying or persistent manner. He is finally satisfied (and to avoid putting the "spoiler" moniker on me I will refrain from telling you how) but his constant whining, particularly to a reader who over the years came to appreciate the people who make carriers work, as taught by a man who loved his Navy and died in its service) - - well, his attitude really irritated me. It is a credit to the Captain and crew of the Bush that they treated him as a guest, no matter how unreasonable, and his refusal to totally immerse himself into their world and live as they lived is a loss for him, and not a gain for the reader. With all that being said the book is still worth a read.

Although the author's time aboard the carrier was voluntary, one would have thought it was surely not. The book is a collection of whining, snarky comments and condescending remarks. I wonder why he did not embark on a Royal Navy ship instead...but then he would have had one less

inconvenience (lack of alcohol) upon which to constantly dwell. The facts that US Navy ships are dry along with being noisy, cramped and the food more akin to a cafeteria than a 5-star restaurant seemed to be major revelations to the author. Usually I pass along books after reading them...this one went into the trash. I regret buying it, but thankful bought it used.

Excellent book that brought back great memories. In 1996 I was privileged to spend 24 hours on the USS Enterprise and experienced all of the amazing things that occur on a floating city. Dining with the crew and seeing them at work gives true meaning to 'being of service'- not just 'in the service'. Many of these 18, 19, 20 year olds came from various and sometimes rough backgrounds and work together for the common good. As more than one officer told me, few people at their age have responsibility for the safety of multi-million dollar aircraft, their pilots while laden with deadly ordinance. Truly an awe inspiring experience perfectly captured by Mr. Dyer.

Especially entertaining from a Brit civilians point of view. What a pussy.

At first blush, I thought Dyer to be in the lead for Pompous Ass of the year award. His apparent disrespect for the sailors aboard the USS George Bush really started to irk me. Almost to the point of walking out in mid-read, but, I'm glad I didn't. He captured life aboard the ship as well as the multitude of ideals and contradictions held by the staff. Felt like I was aboard ship and could feel my fillings rattle every time a jet landed or took off. An enjoyable read, and I'm glad I stuck around.

Certainly not a tech book about the detailed operations of an aircraft carrier, more like a book about the author who happened to be on an aircraft carrier and talked to some people. Not overall a bad book, just not what I was looking for. I certainly do not plan to check out anything else he has written as the carrier aspect was what attracted me to this book. What a let down. If it was not for the 3 hour delay in the Detroit airport and the ten bucks I WAY OVER spent I wouldn't have gotten past the first half.

Be forewarned this is as much about the fobias and frailities of the author as it is about life aboard an aircraft carrier. The author is right that he is no Tom Wolfe, who managed to observe and write on ant number of subjects without injecting details about himself, whereas with Dyer you get every last fart. George Plimpton was also quite good at the "duck out of water" genre because he genuinely

admired the athletes whose ranks he attempted to chronicle, whereas one senses Dyer has a veiled contempt for the men and women that serve aboard the George H W Bush.. As for the fighter prominently pictured on the cover, one can only imagine Dyer chuckling back at home with his Burgundy swilling croinies - "fooled another one". One does get to meet crew members with nicknames like "Jax" and "Disney", and Dyer christens himself as "Beach Belly". One might be tempted to say that "Jackass" would be more appropriate, except that even a jackass can occasionally entertain, and in the final analysis Dyer is a winnowing "Bore".

Since I recently toured a decommissioned aircraft carrier, this account of such a ship filled in all the living blanks.

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