

Every day was filled with hard work, but never a moment was dull to the lad who was anxious to master his new duties. His heart was in his work; he studied diligently to learn the theory of navigation; his promotion was rapid. In five years' time the Walkers were pleased to appoint him mate of their new vessel, the "Friendship."

One day in June of '55 the "Friendship" lay at anchor in the Thames. These were stirring times. England was at war and her great wooden sailing ships were outfitting in every port. Rather than be pressed, Mate Cook decided to enlist. He left his ship, repaired to Wapping and was duly entered on the muster roll of H.M.S. "Eagle" as an A.B.

Within a few weeks his excellent seamanship advanced him to the position of Master's Mate. Under the leadership of the gallant Captain Hugh Palliser, the next two years were full of action. The "Eagle" cruised the Channel, aiding in the destruction of French commerce and in safe-guarding England's sea-borne trade.

At length, as master of the "Pembroke," Cook sailed away across the Atlantic to Halifax. Seventeen great fighting ships were to convoy General Amherst's army for the attack on Louisburg. The next year, 1759, the Pembroke took part in the attack on Quebec, and during the long siege of the fortress, Master Cook became noted for his willingness to do any task which might be set him, no matter what hardship and danger there might be.

One night, while out in a row boat making soundings near the Montmorency shore, he was suddenly attacked by several Indians in a canoe. The sailors rowed for their lives to the English camp on the Isle d'Orleans, and as Cook leaped ashore from the bow an Indian came over the stern.

With the signing of peace Cook was retained in the service as surveyor of Newfoundland. When you look at a map of Canada you may see how rugged and deeply cut are the shores of this large island, and in those days no exact map or chart of it had ever been made, for the waters surrounding Newfoundland are cold and stormy and few people lived on the island. But the British government had decided that a proper map must be made and selected for this arduous service James Cook, at that time on leave in England.

The five years Cook spent in this work of surveying the Newfoundland coasts were most exacting. Yet they laid the foundation of his later success. If he had failed in this trying task his name would long since have been forgotten.

It was now 1768—and Master Cook was back in London finishing the charts he had made with so much labor. But a capable man is always in demand, and just when he was wondering what new task the admiralty had for him, a request came from the Royal Society that James Cook be permitted to lead an expedition to the far away South Seas in the interests of astronomy and discovery.

So in a short time we find him as Lieutenant Cook, in charge of the good ship "Endeavour" and outward bound from Plymouth, August 26.