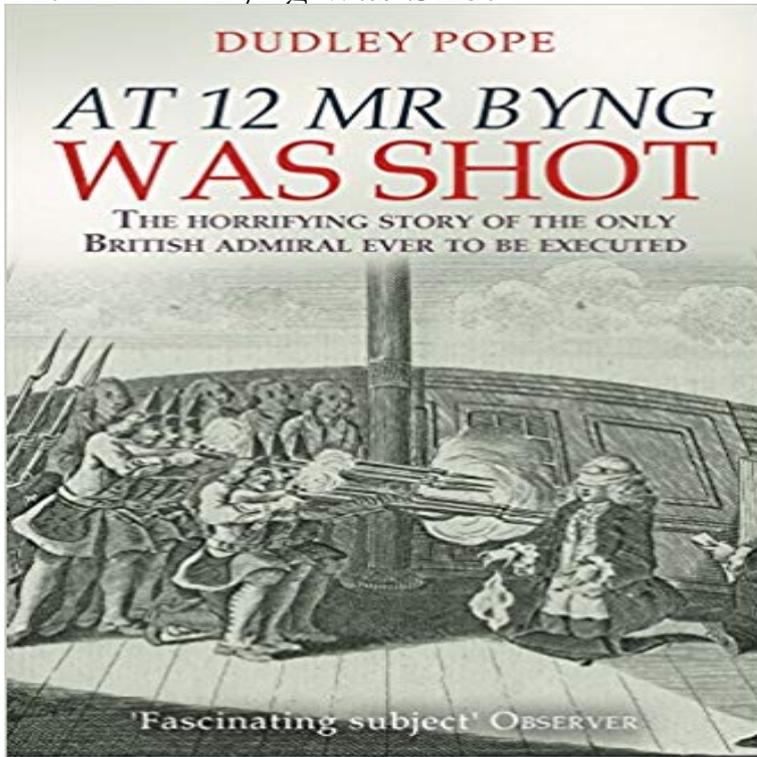


## At 12 Mr Byng was Shot



The trial and execution of Admiral the Honourable John Byng was one of the most cold-blooded and cynical acts of judicial murder in the whole of British history. It caused a huge furore and was immortalised by Voltaire, but what exactly had brought a respected Admiral of the Royal Navy to face a Marine firing squad? A son of Admiral Sir George Byng, he entered the Navy in 1718 and served at Cape Passaro; in the decades that followed he built his reputation yet would not see regular action. In the summer of 1756, at the beginning of the Seven Years War, Byng received orders to save Minorca. The mission was ill-fated from the start. Based solely on an excerpt of the French report, ministers recalled Byng and had him placed under arrest, however the charges against him would not be determined for some time. A reprehensible cover up ensued, the Government and Admiralty hiding their failings and indeed anything that would have helped Byngs case from an increasingly angry public. One of the worst miscarriages of justice in recorded British history, in this 1962 work Pope chillingly relates using the words of those who bore witness and analyses how it came to pass that at 12, on 14th March 1757, Mr Byng was shot. Praise for *At 12 Mr Byng Was Shot* Dudley Popes books is the first on this fascinating subject for over 30 years. He is a naval historian of considerable experience and his research is meticulous and exhaustive Roy Jenkins, *Observer* Dudley Pope tells this disturbing story well. His plans and description of the naval battle are masterpieces of lucidity *Sunday Telegraph* Dudley Pope (1925-1997) was a British author and naval historian. Primarily remembered today for the *Ramage* series of novels, he served in the Merchant Navy during WWII and spent fifteen years working in Fleet Street. Endeavour Press is the UKs leading independent digital publisher. For more

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