



## Captain Matthew Webb, Honor Swimmer, Great Britain, 1963



Personal Website - (None known)

**Captain Matthew Webb** became a professional endurance swimmer in 1874. In 1875, Captain Webb became the first person to successfully swim across the English Channel in 21 hours and 45 minutes on his second attempt. He swam breaststroke the entire way. 35 years passed before the second person replicated his feat. Captain Webb wrote a book, *The Art of Swimming*, and easily won the 1879 Trials of Endurance when he swam 119 km (74 miles) in a 6-day endurance race. He also swam 16 km (10 miles) from Sandy Hook Point to Manhattan Beach, USA in 8 hours in 1879. In 1880, he easily won a 5-mile swim in Nantasket Beach, Boston, USA. He drowned while trying to complete a dangerous swim through the Whirlpool Rapids below the Niagara Falls in 1883. He is also an inductee in the International Swimming Hall of Fame (1965).

[Expanded Biography \(Openwaterpedia\)](#)

[Long Swims Database \(Marathon Swimmers Federation\)](#)