

THE BRITISH ROYAL NAVY FROM 18TH CENTURY

Bruno Stival¹



A young Captain Horatio Nelson Painting by MotionAge Designs

¹ E-mail: brunostival1970@gmail.com

During the last centuries the England and Great Britain they had a great grow in its Navy, specially during the government of Her Majesty The Queen Elizabeth I, she made of England the most feared empire of the world, England and many British ships, they started to sail around the world and own the seas, it was in the 16th and 17th century, in the 18th Britannia was the biggest empire in the world, they had many colonies around the world, the own United States of America it was a British Colonie, which it had your independence in 1776.

How were the ships from 18th century on the Royal Navy?

At this time the Royal Navy enjoyed ships with a lot of ornaments, Victory the Lord Nelson's Flagship she's a own example of this, Victory we are a lot of lucky, she's still with us, she is 247 years old and she's in a permanent dry dock in honor of the Lord Nelson, Admiral 1st Viscount Lord Horatio Nelson, Lord Nelson was a great British man and also hero of the Great Britain.



Public domain image: H. M. S. VICTORY the oldest warship in the world.

How you can see, Victory she has many ornaments, it was a lot of common between the ships from this time, remember 18th century there wasn't steam engines like 20th century, these ships their propulsion were their sails, Victory she was one of the most powerful ships of her time, she's a 1st rate ship, there would be many types of these ships, there would be Galleons, 2nd rates, and also of course frigates, one of these examples it's the USS Constitution, she's also with us, but different of the Victory she can sail.

The technology and health care of the ships from 18th century and early years from 19th century.

Some little curiosities about Lord Nelson and the health care of this time did you know? About the Lord Nelson's body, Lord Nelson he didn't have one of his arms, the right arm, he also didn't have one of his eyes, he lost these parts during battle, but about the arm, why did he lost the arm?

So Lord Nelson he was a man from 18th century and early years from 19th century when he died in 1805 during the Battle of Trafalgar, when you lost some part of his body or you broke your arm for an example at sea, the only way it was the amputation of the member, it was the way to Lord Nelson.

Also when you died at sea at this time, the burial it was at sea, but not to Lord Nelson, when he died in the Battle of Trafalgar in 1805, his body it was placed in a barrel of alcohol and took again to old England where he was buried.

How I said, at this time if you lost some part of your body during the battle the only way it was the amputation, sometimes always ask me about it, if the "wooden leg" was it real? Yes it was real, many sailors had these legs, as well as "hook hand" as I said if you lost some part of your body at this time the amputation it would be the way and if you lost the leg for an example, you'd win a beautiful and new wooden leg.

How did Lord Nelson die in the Battle of Trafalgar?

The death of Lord Nelson on the decks of his flagship on October 21st, 1805 during the Battle of Trafalgar when the British convoy decimated the Napoleon's convoy, a few minutes of the end of the battle Lord Nelson was hit by a shot from a French sailor, Lord Nelson passed away some hours after the end of the battle on his flagship the almighty H. M. S. VICTORY, his body it was clean and placed on a barrel of rum, and taken to England again by his own ship the H.M.S.VICTORY, where Lord Nelson was buried with the highest honor possible, his flagship the H. M. S. VICTORY she's still with us, and she's the oldest ship in the world with 247 years old, and also in England in London there's a Statue of him in the Trafalgar Square.

The nautical technology of the ships from this time.

At this time of course we didn't have computers and other things to help us, and of course we'd use the old and reliable compass and maps to help us to sail.

Something very curious about the speed of the ships, the ship's speed it's also known as "knots" but why knots? And not miles or kilometers?

Why is a ship's speed measured in knots?

Ancient mariners used to gauge how fast their ship was moving by throwing a piece of wood or other floatable object over the vessel's bow then counting the amount of time that elapsed before its stern passed the object. This method was known as a Dutchman's log. By the late 16th century, sailors had begun using a chip log to measure speed. In this method, knots were tied at uniform intervals in a length of rope and then one end of the rope, with a pie-slice-shape piece of wood (or "chip") attached to it, was tossed behind the ship. As the vessel moved forward, the line of rope was allowed to roll out freely for a specific amount of time, which was typically tabulated with an hourglass. Afterward, the number of knots that had gone over the ship's stern was counted and used in calculating the vessel's speed. A knot came to mean one nautical mile per hour. Therefore, a ship traveling at 15 knots could go 15 nautical miles per hour.

For a number of years, there was disagreement among various nations about the exact measurement of a nautical mile, which is based on the Earth's circumference. In 1929, the international nautical mile was standardized at 6,076 feet; it was adopted by the United States in 1954. A nautical mile is different from a mile on land, which is based on walking distance. The Romans first defined a land mile as 1,000 paces or pairs of steps; it was set at its current measurement of 5,280 feet by Queen Elizabeth I in 1593.

The Baroque period it was with many ornaments, from the Palaces even the ships, and even the uniforms of the Royal Navy.

During the Napoleonic wars Victory and Lord Nelson they had an important mission, protect the England from Napoleon, Napoleon he had a historical impact in many nations, USA, Brazil, Portugal, Spain and other nations, that's why Napoleon it's a lot of important to understand the 19th and 20th centuries, Napoleon and the Napoleonic wars revolutionary the art of the war with their ships and etc...