

**Extract from the Times on the 7<sup>th</sup> November 1805, 17-days after Nelsons death at Trafalgar**

We are happy to learn that Government has adopted measures for giving every possible degree of publicity on the Continent to the late glorious and decisive victory, two or three thousand copies of the Gazette Extraordinary were sent to Yarmouth of Wednesday night for the purpose of being dispersed over various parts of Italy and Germany. When we call to mind the astonishing impression which the victory of Aboukir made upon the spirit of Central Powers, then broken and subdued by the incredible successes of revolutionary France, we look with no less confidence to affect us as surprising from this, the last but most decisive victory of the Naval Hero of England.

Yesterday, the following letter was received from Cork dated 1<sup>st</sup> instant.

“His Majesty’s ship Egyptienna, has captured a vessel laden with naval stores, which has arrived in Baltimore harbour. She was one of a fleet of twenty sail all laden with naval stores from Bilboa to Rocheford, and command of a corvette which escaped, but almost the whole of the fleet were destroyed.

A general thanksgiving was ordered yesterday for the great signal victory. The 4<sup>th</sup> of next month, is the day fixed upon. The Archbishop of Canterbury will prepare the church service on the occasion.

Yesterday at about twelve o’clock, the King arrived in his travelling carriage at the Queen’s Palace Kew. His Majesty was received by the Duke of Cumberland. In a short time after, the Dukes of Cambridge and Gloucester visited His Majesty. The latter, we understand, delivered up the blue ribband of his late father (my comment – of the Order of the Garter). About half past one o’clock, the Lord Chancellor and Lord Hawkesbury, had audiences of His Majesty. The latter introduced Lord Cathcart, upon his return from Ireland. Soon after two o’clock, His Majesty held a Privy Council, which was attended by the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Lord Chancellor, Earls Camden and Chatham, Viscount Castlereagh, Lords Cathcart, Hawkesbury, Mulgrave, and St Helens.

The Recorder of London attended and made his report on the convicts capitally convicted, at the three last sessions of the Old Bailey, when, after a mature consideration of all their cases, His Majesty, with the advice of the Privy Council, ordered the following for execution:-

HARDING, for forging the Ace of Spades; CUBITT, groom to the chambers of the Earl of Mansfield for robbing his master – JOHN BURROWS a youth about seventeen years of age for forgery - and, SARAH PARNIL for uttering forged Bank of England notes. The executions to take place on Wednesday next.

After the Council, His Majesty gave further audiences finally meeting General Sir Arthur Wellesley (my comment the future Duke of Wellington).

Soon after five o’clock, His Majesty set off for the Kings Palace at Windsor.

First, my comment:- Well after the memorial Battle of the Nile which was in 1798, one of Nelson's dearest friends (one of his "band of brothers" who fought alongside him in the *Swiftsure* at Aboukir Bay) then Captain Benjamin HALLOWELL R.N., sent Nelson the coffin he so desired and had asked for in 1798, made from the mast of the destroyed French flagship, the *L'Orient*. Nelson was pleased and kept the coffin. On joining the *Victory* Nelson had the coffin delivered to his cabin which he propped up wedged between the deck and deck-head behind his chair which he used for dining. On his death the coffin remained in this position for the whole of the long subsequent journey taken by *Victory*, including its visit to Gibraltar, and thence the 1200 n.m., from Gibraltar to off Margate. On arrival off Margate, Nelson's body was placed in the *L'Orient* coffin from his then state of preservation, and then lowered overboard into the Admiralty yacht the "Chatham" which was despatched to intercept and meet *Victory* for its long passage up the Thames to Greenwich. On arrival, the coffin was taken off the Chatham to be carried, in relays, to the Painted Hall, where it would lay-in-State for a period. Before leaving for the Admiralty in central London for a rest-over before the day of the funeral, the wooden coffin was placed into a lead coffin and permanently sealed. At the funeral, the lead coffin was placed into a Royal heirloom of antiquity, a personal gift given by George III, namely a sarcophagus which was sited in the crypt of St Paul's Cathedral.

Now what the 1805 article printed.

Captain Hollowell asked that Lord Nelson would preserve the coffin for his own body, when the fate of battle or the hand of time, might demand the debt of nature. The noble Admiral, on the day he left London, called at the place where the coffin is, and with that good humour which accompanied his address to all his people, desired to have the attestation engraved on the lid; as "he thought it highly probable that he would want it on his return." It was ever his expression when going into battle; "Conquest or Westminster Abbey," and it was his peculiar good fortune to inspire the same sentiment into every follower.

We learn that the remains of Lord Nelson have been placed in spirits in order to preserve the body until it can be brought to England, where, a very honour that a grateful nation can bestow, will, doubtless, be appropriated to his memory.

My comment (Captain Hollowell forever carried a guilt which is said to have affected the rest of his career if not his life. He had sailed to the Iberlant area with Nelson's fleet hoping for a re-run of the Battle of the Nile. Befitting his rank and experience, he commanded a large multi-gunned vessel called the *Tigre*. The *Tigre* was a captured French 1<sup>st</sup> class ship of the line, a super-Temeraire. However, before the battle started, Nelson chanced the opportunity to replenish several items of stores, water being the most important one, and despatched the *Tigre* and four other vessels to Gibraltar. Although he was to rejoin the fleet, by the time he did so the battle had been long over and his dear friend dead. Hollowell, like all aspirant captains, worked his way through the fleets being a rear admiral in the blue, white and red ensigns, then a vice admiral in each, and got to be an Admiral of the blue – you will recall that Nelson was a vice admiral of the White with still several more promotions until he got to be an admiral of the Red. He had a wonderful career with some up's and down's, and was rewarded with a knighthood. As Admiral Sir Benjamin Hollowell was facing his swan-song, his luck changed big time, and he

quite unexpectedly inherited the family titles, fortunes and fame. Before he could receive that elevation, he had to agree on a name change which he readily agreed to do. History shows him as a true 'brother of Nelson's band' but also as Admiral Sir Benjamin Hallowell Carew.

He died in 1834 when aged 73.

### The London Illuminations – just 14 days after Nelson's death

Last night, a general illumination took place, on account of the GLORIOUS VICTORY of the Immortal Nelson. The principle streets from one extremity of the metropole to the other, presented a general blaze of refulgence, in which the theatres, public buildings and those of the great trading companies were eminently conspicuous. The India House, the Royal Exchange, the Mansion House, the Bank, the Excise office at the east end of town were peculiarly splendid; and at the west end, Drury Lane, Covent Garden, Hay Market and the King's Theatre were decorated with distinguished brilliancy. Drury Lane presented the initials of NELSON surmounted by an anchor and enveloped in a wreath of palm and laurel, all formed in transparent lamps. Covent Garden presented a brilliant 'N' surmounted by gold coloured lamps and decorated with pillars, urns and scrolls. The King's Theatre and the Little Theatre in the Hay Market contributed most luminously to the testification of public joy; as did all the tradesmen of the ROYAL FAMILY in all parts of the town. Our attention was particularly arrested by the Union Club House in Pall Mall and the British Coffee House in Cockspur Street; but those which challenged our notice in a more peculiar degree, were the Admiralty Offices and the Treasury; the former presented a splendid design the centre formed by an anchor the flukes in blue lamps surmounted by a crown and supported by G.R. The Treasury exhibited similar devices though the *tout ensemble* was not so splendid; and, as if to complete the picture, on the opposite pavement a squadron of shattered tars were drawn up in line of battle, at anchor with their lights aloft, all well 'stoned with grog' flourishing their mutilated stumps, clearing all hands, and making the best of their position in collecting prize-money. My comment - given the circumstances, hardly appropriate, although I am sure that the large and volatile crowd would have taken kindly to them!

The devices which were very general, consisted in illuminated initials of the gallant Nelson or transparent medallions of his head with suitable descriptions.

Among the principal transparencies was one at the GERMAN THEATRE representing Britannia seated holding a medallion of Lord Nelson; crowned with laurels and the lion on her side, and shipping in the background, with other appropriate weather, and the following lines at the bottom – "Victorious Nelson – I will avenge your death". Another at ACKERMAN'S the repository of arts in the Strand after a painting by Sir Wm BEECHEY. It represented a beautiful female figure kneeling before an altar on which was placed an urn surrounded by laurels and oak branches with the following lines "Sacred to the Memory of the Immortal Nelson." Throughout the whole however, there was a sombre air which evidently shewed that the cypress was entwined with the laurel; and while the passing throng everywhere almost impervious exulted in the splendour of a conquest, unparalleled even in the annals of British glory, everywhere was to be heard the sigh of sorrow, for the loss of that Admiral whose bravery achieved the proud triumph; whose fate was almost a

price too high for the victory; but whose life will be the example, and whose death the envy of British heroism, to the remotest ages of posterity.