

**30<sup>th</sup> December 1805 the date the following script was issued in the public domain.**

The following relation of the last moments of Lord Nelson is given by Mr Beatty Surgeon, and Mr Bourne Purser of the Victory :-

On his Lordship being brought below he complained of acute pain in about the sixth or seventh dorsal vertebra, of privation of sense and motion of the body and inferior extremities ; his respiration was short and difficult; his pulse was weak, small and irregular; he frequently declared that his back was shot through; that he felt every instance a gush of blood within his breast and that he had sensations which indicated to him the approach of death.

In the course of an hour his pulse became indistinct and gradually lost in the arm; his extremities and forehead became soon afterwards cold; he retained his wanted energy of mind and exercise of his faculties until the latest moments of his existence; and when victory as signal as decisive, was announced to him, he expressed his pious acknowledgement thereof, and heartfelt satisfaction of the glorious event, in the most emphatic language. He then delivered his last orders with his usual precision, and in a few minutes after, expired without a struggle.

It has been ascertained since his death (my comments - Mr Beatty conducted a post mortem in the Channel before arriving in Spithead, en-route for the Nore) that the ball struck the fore part of his Lordships epaulette and entered the left shoulder immediately before the ***processus acromiua scapula*** which it slightly fractured; it then descended obliquely into the ***thorax*** fracturing the second and third ribs and after, penetrating the left lobe of the lungs, and dividing in its passage a large branch of the pulmonary artery; it entered the left side of the spine between the sixth and seventh dorsal vertebra fractured ***the left transverse process*** of the sixth vertebra, wounded the ***medulla spinalis*** and fracturing the ***right transverse*** seventh vertebra; it made its way from the right side of the spine directing its course through the muscles of the back and lodged therein about two inches below the ***inferior angle of the right acapella***. On removing the ball a portion of the gold lace and part of the epaulette together with a small piece of his Lordships coat were found firmly attached to it.

(My comment - The removed ball was given to King George III. To this very day, it is on view when doing a tour of Windsor Castle and well worth a visit and the sighting.)