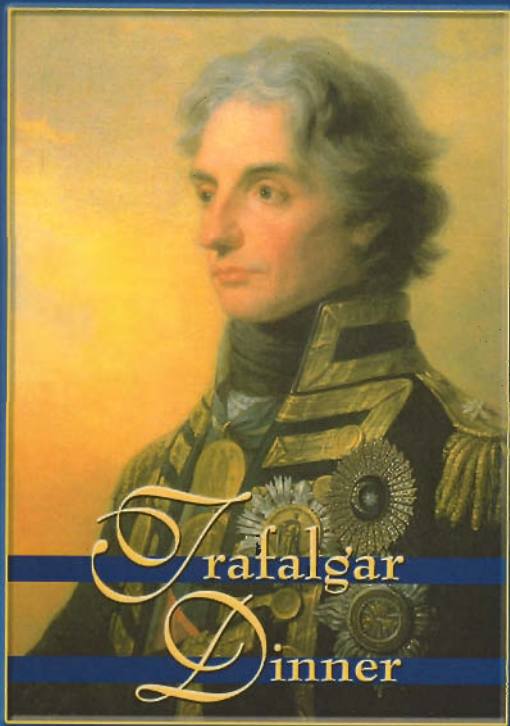




The Royal Navy Warrant Officer Communicators



Saturday 22 October
2005

◆◆◆ Commodore PWH Swan ◆◆◆

Commodore Swan was commissioned into the Royal Navy in 1965. Various operational and staff appointments followed, including a two year exchange with the Royal Australian Navy and an appointment as the Royal Cypher Officer to Her Majesty the Queen in the Royal Yacht Britannia.

Following promotion he took command of the Leander Class Frigate HMS Arethusa. Further appointments followed, which included Executive Officer at HMS Sultan and two successful appointments as Chief of Communications and Information Systems for the Commander in Chief Fleet, Chief of Communications for Nato Southern Region and Head of Communications in the Balkans during the IFOR operations.

His last appointment was as the Director of Naval Communications and Information Systems, a post he held until he retired in August 2001.





Our Guests

Guest of Honour

Commodore & Mrs PWH Swan RN (Ret'd)



Distinguished Guests

Commodore & Mrs A Nance OBE BSc RN





— Programme —

1930 Drinks in the Collingwood Suite

1950 Bar Closes - Mess Beatings

2000 Dinner in the Collingwood Suite



The Loyal Toast proposed by the
President of the Dinner,
Warrant Officer D N Lovatt MBE



Introduction of the Guest of Honour by
the President of the Dinner



Menu

Trio of Melon
with Summer Berries



Chicken Imperial
*Breast of Chicken braised in a Sherry & Cream Sauce
with Onions & Mushrooms*
Served with a selection of seasonal vegetables



Dark Chocolate Torte
with Brandy



Selection of French & English Cheeses



Coffee & Mints

◆◆◆ The Battle of Trafalgar ◆◆◆

As the moment approached, the tension grew almost unbearable; the waiting had been so long. Men suddenly remembered something quite mundane; they were hungry and the battle was going to start exactly at dinner-time. Some captains had foreseen it and ordered the cooks to have the beef and biscuit ready an hour early: others less wise ordered cheese up from the holds and a half ratio of rum. Officers, whose cabins had been dismantled, ate where they stood, or grouped round the rudder head, which they used as a table. Some captains called their junior lieutenants up from the gun decks for a final word - mostly to tell them to hold their fire. Captain Hargood of the Belleisle pointed out the black bulk of the Santa Ana: "Gentlemen, I have only to say that I shall pass close under the stern of that ship. Put in two round shot and then a grape and give her that."

And Nelson also felt the tension and the need for a final word. He said to Blackwood, who had been his most constant companion all the morning, "I will now amuse the fleet with a signal. Do you not think there is one yet wanting?" Blackwood said everyone seemed to know exactly what to do. Nelson thought for a moment and then said, "Suppose we telegraph 'Nelson confides that every man will do his duty'." Somebody suggested 'England' instead of 'Nelson' and Nelson accepted the change with pleasure. With an air of boyish gaiety, he called the flag lieutenant: "Mr Pasco, I wish to say to the fleet 'England confides that every man will do his duty'. You must be quick, for I have one more to make, which is for close action." Pasco asked to be allowed to use 'expects' instead of 'confides' because 'expects' was in Pophams signal book, but 'confides' would have to be spelt. "That will do, Pasco, make it directly," Nelson said. And at 11.35 the most famous battle signal ever made was hoisted to the yards and mastheads of the Victory.

"England expects that every man will do his duty": the phrase inspired generations of Englishmen. Yet it was not received with unanimous joy in the fleet. Ships cheered it, but in some of them the cheer itself had a dutiful ring about it. Collingwood, seeing the flags, said "I wish Nelson would stop signalling. We know well enough what to do" - but when the whole signal was read to him, he approved it cordially enough. In the Euryalus, nobody bothered to repeat it to the crew; and in the Ajax, the officer who was set to read it out on the gun decks heard sailors muttering. "Do my duty? I've always done my duty, haven't you Jack?"



Cape Trafalgar
21 miles

AFRICA

NEPTUNO

ENTREPRENANTE

SCIPION

SAN AUGUSTIN

FORMIDABLE
(Dunanoir)

NAIAD

PICKLE

RAYO

MONT BLANC

CORNÉLIE

SPARTIATE

PHOEBE

SAN FRANCISCO
de ASIS

DUGUAY-TROUIN

FURET

MINOTAUR

ORION

AJULX

SIRIUS

EUROALIS

SANTISSIMA
TRINIDAD
(Cisneros)

SAN JUSTO

ARGEMONON

CONQUEROR

LEWATHAN

NEPTUNE

VICTORY
(Nelson)

BUCENTAURE
(Villeneuve)

NEPTUNE



DREADNOUGHT

COLOSSUS

BELLEISLE

ROYAL
SOVEREIGN
(Collingwood)

SANTA ANA
(D'Alava)

RABIN

MONTANEZ

PRINCE

MARS

TORCANT

FOUQUEUX

PRINCIPE

AIGLE

THUNDERER

ACHILLE

BELLEROPHON

ASTURIAS
(Gravina)

MONARCA

THEMIS

DEPLANCE

DEFENCE

SWIFTSURE

REVENGE

POLYPHEMUS

PLUTON

SAN
ILDEFONSO

ARGUS

SWIFTSURE

ARGONAUTA

SWIFTSURE

REVENGE

POLYPHEMUS

INTRÉPIDE

SAN
ILDEFONSO

ARGONAUTA

ALGÉCIRAS
(Magon)

ACHILLE

KEY			
FLAGSHIPS	1st RATES	2nd RATES	3rd RATES
		FRIGATES	CUTTER
		BRIG	SCHOONER
ENGLISH	FRENCH	SPANISH	

HERMIONE

BERWICK

HMS Victory Battle of Trafalgar



— 21 October 1805 —

"Thank God I have done my duty"