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978-1-108-01869-2 - The Naval Chronicle, Volume 30
Edited by James Stanier Clarke and John McArthur
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Volume 30

Volume 30 (1813) contains many eyewitness accounts of British naval battles with French and American ships. It also includes coverage of a plague outbreak in Valetta (Malta), with descriptions of the symptoms and prescribed medication. There are technical articles on a demonstration of torpedoes and on improvements to the storm compass used for navigation, and a biography of Sir Erasmus Gower, admiral and governor of Newfoundland.

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The Naval Chronicle

*Containing a General and Biographical
History of the Royal Navy of the United
Kingdom with a Variety of Original Papers on
Nautical Subjects*

VOLUME 30: JULY-DECEMBER 1813

EDITED BY JAMES STANIER CLARKE
AND JOHN MCARTHUR



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NAVAL CHRONICLE.

VOL .

XXX.



*Monument
raised in Westminster Abbey,
to the memory of the late
Capt. Rich. Willet Millar, R.N.
by his Companions in Victory.*

Published 31st Dec^r 1813 by Joyce Gold at the Naval Chronicle Office, 105, Fleet Lane, London.

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 FOR 1813:
 CONTAINING A
GENERAL AND BIOGRAPHICAL HISTORY
 OF
 THE ROYAL NAVY
 OF THE
 United Kingdom;
 WITH A VARIETY OF ORIGINAL PAPERS ON
 NAUTICAL SUBJECTS.

UNDER THE GUIDANCE OF SEVERAL
LITERARY AND PROFESSIONAL MEN.

VOL. XXX.
 (FROM JULY TO DECEMBER.)

*Tv regere imperio populos Britanne memento
 Hae tibi erunt artes*

“ These are imperial arts, and worthy thee.”

LONDON:

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY AND FOR JOYCE GOLD, 103, SHOE-LANE;

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TO

JOHN HUNTER, Esq.

VICE-ADMIRAL OF THE WHITE SQUADRON,

THIS THIRTIETH VOLUME OF THE

Naval Chronicle

IS RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED,

BY THE PROPRIETOR,

Joyce Gold

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PREFACE

TO THE THIRTIETH VOLUME.

WE scarcely remember a night when that vast ocean, the public mind, appeared more agitated and rising into turbulent fluctuation, than in the evening of the 24th, when this our Thirtieth Preface was preparing to be sent on board. The Speech of Buonaparte to the Senate had arrived—it had been seen by many, yet read only by a few: the preliminaries of peace had been *certainly* signed; and Lord Castlereagh was *that very night* to embark in a frigate for the Continent, *and to conclude the Pacification*.

Now as the same false alarm may constantly happen during the great events which both by arms and by diplomacy are likely to take place; we think it right, on firing this our THIRTIETH GUN, just to ascertain our bearings, and to inform our friends afloat, how the land lies: and this we are of opinion cannot be done more effectually, than by repeating the signal, which, when the day broke, we observed flying on board that vessel called THE TIMES:—

“ We cannot but highly applaud the resolution of the Cabinet, to send one of its own Members to the head quarters of the Allied Sovereigns, to enter into the most unreserved communication with them; and should there be any appearance of slackness in their councils, to animate them by that firm and consistent spirit of policy which, in the almost entire wreck of nations, left England in herself great and majestic, and to every other state, in its turn, a shield and a protection. Lord Castlereagh is the Nobleman to be honoured with this high and important mission; and surely a more honourable one has not occurred since Demosthenes was sent by his countrymen to consolidate their alliances against the Macedonian Tyrant. Let his Lordship remember the whole political wisdom of the illustrious Grecian; let him remember the observation of our own ΒΥΡΑΚΕ, that ‘ Peace or War are the great hinges on which the very being of Nations turns; and that Negotiations are the means of making Peace or preventing War; and are, therefore, of more serious importance than almost any single event of war can possibly be.’ ”

The Speech itself contained at least one truth, and that appeared at its very opening—*Splendid Victories have raised the glory of the French arms during this Campaign; defections without parallel have rendered those Victories useless; all has turned against us!*

We have endeavoured, throughout this Volume, to collect such documents as might illustrate the real character of Buonaparte, and the cruelty which has been exercised, under his Iron Despotism, on such of our naval officers as have fallen into his power. In our Biographical Memoir of the Public Services of the Hon. Captain C. Boyle, we inserted (page 16) that Officer’s journal of the insults and hardships which himself and his ship’s company experienced when the calamity of shipwreck had thrown them

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into the power of the French army in Egypt.—Some account of the situation of English prisoners in France, is given at page 117. The writer of that account declared, “That the people generally detest Buonaparte, and fear only prevents many from openly declaring their hatred. All the time he was in prison, he was accustomed to hear murmuring, and repeated terms of disrespect uttered against the French government.”—The letter that was written by the lamented Captain Wright to Captain Wallis, then his first lieutenant, a few days before his murder, is inserted at page 396; and previous to the insertion of this letter, some account of these officers was given at page 305.

Our present Volume will not, we trust, be found deficient in the attention that has been paid, beside the Letters on Service, to our naval operations with the Americans. Some observations on Captain Broke and his gallant action are given at pages, 41, 69, 134, 160, 398, and 412. A correction of the mis-statements in the public prints relative to the death of the late American officer, Captain Allen, commander of their sloop *Argus*, is inserted at page 180. The attack on *Craney Island*, with other proceedings on the American coast, at page 182. The names of the Chesapeake’s guns, at page 183. And in A. F. Y.’s twenty-third letter, page 189, are some observations on our naval operations in America, which do honour to the experience of that valuable Correspondent. Throughout our interesting and original department of CORRESPONDENCE, our readers, we trust, have found much to commend; and we take this opportunity of returning our sincere thanks to the different writers who continue to render such important service to our CHRONICLE; particularly to *Iron Gun*—*W. H. R.*—*J. T. L.*—*A Sailor*—*Mr. Peche*.—*Nestor*.—*An American*.—*Philo Nauticus*.—*Impartial*.—*A. B.*—*Havannah*.—*Jeoffery Grape Shot*.—*C. C. C.*—*Albion*.—*Oceanus*.—*Captain Manderson, R.N.*—*Barney*.—*Navalis*.—*Mercator*.—*Mr. Hall*.—*C. H.*—*Æolus*.—*B. C.*—*A Friend to Naval Merit*.—*M.*—*D.*—*Vulcan*.

We have endeavoured to make a return for these favours, by giving nearly double the quantity of print to what we did in some of the preceding numbers.—On referring to each of our Thirty Volumes, we must be allowed to declare, that neither industry nor expense have been spared: we wish, indeed, to make our work still more worthy of the long support it has received; and should feel a pleasure in having every embellishment as well executed, and as worthy of commendation, as the engraved portrait of the late Captain NEWMAN; for which, together with the Biographical Memoir, we are indebted to the liberality of his connections. But, in that case, the sale of our CHRONICLE must be very considerably increased. We state this as a plain fact; and not from any dissatisfaction on our part, at the degree of patronage we have enjoyed: yet may we be allowed in this place to remark, that, when we find upwards of 700 vessels of various force in commission, and look throughout the honourable and extensive List of

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Admirals, Captains, and Lieutenants, together with the Warrant Officers, the Officers that are attached to our different Yards, and the Officers of the Royal Marines,—many of whom we know to be men of considerable literary acquirements—(as their excellent and well chosen library at Woolwich would alone declare)—We then, surely, may be permitted to regret, that the trifling cost of *three shillings a month*, should frequently prevent our CHRONICLE from appearing in the cabin, and lying with other periodical works in the ward-room.

The *Biographical Department* of this Volume will be found particularly interesting, and drawn from no common sources. At page 1 is given a Memoir of the HON. CAPTAIN COURTENAY BOYLE, in which will be found original documents that had not previously met the public eye, with an account of his own sufferings, and those of his ship's company, whilst prisoners in Egypt. At p. 89 is a memoir of the ingenious CAPTAIN JAMES MANDERSON. At page 177 a short sketch of the late REAR-ADMIRAL WILLIAM TRUSCOTT, An additional Biographical Memoir of that much respected veteran, ADMIRAL SIR ERASMUS GOWER, Knt. is given by an old Correspondent, at p. 265, in which is inserted the previously unpublished account of the loss of H. M. sloop Swift, in 1770. To Mr. G. the able biographer of that meritorious and lamented officer, the late Captain JAMES NEWMAN NEWMAN (p. 361), for having so richly contributed to this head of our present Volume, we are under great obligations; and should opportunities offer, we hope he will not feel offended at our soliciting a continuance of his contributions. The concluding memoir, p. 449, is that of Lieutenant WILLIAM ELLETSON KING.

The Bulletins of the Sufferings and Escape from a French prison of Lieutenant O'Brien, who has since been advanced to the rank of Commander, in which he at present remains unemployed, have occupied many of our pages * with peculiar interest, both in the last and in the present Volume; and we fully intend to insert the conclusion of his adventures early in our next Volume.

The next head which we have to notice, and which we conceive to be among the most scientific in our Volume, is that of HYDROGRAPHY, PILOTAGE, &c. We cannot sufficiently express the sentiments we entertain towards our worthy Hydrographer, S., for his so kindly and gratuitously conducting this department of the work. We hope also that our friend the Hydrographer will not feel it as presuming, if we further

* At the particular request of many of our Subscribers, as also of the Friends of Captain O'Brien, we have to announce, that Mr. GOLD has in the press a new Edition of this Narrative, which will be printed under the inspection of Capt. O'Brien, as a separate Pamphlet, in 8vo. the price of which is not expected to exceed *Five Shillings*. A book is open for the insertion of Subscribers' Names, at the NAVAL CHRONICLE OFFICE, 103, Shoe Lane, and the Publisher has the satisfaction of announcing, that the name of His Royal Highness the Prince Regent has been already received.

acknowledge the obligations we are under to him, not only for his unremitting attention to that department in which he has so handsomely volunteered his special services, but also for the general literary interest he has, since our first acquaintance, taken in the success of our work. We are also much indebted to *Captain Lord Viscount Torrington*, for his liberal contributions to our Hydrographer, who, his Lordship will find, has availed himself of the same, by regular and systematic insertion. We much wish that other Officers would follow the distinguished example set by Lord Torrington, by forwarding to our Hydrographer such documents as properly appertain to that department. To CAPTAIN KRUSENSTERN, of the Russian Navy, we feel greatly obliged, and are highly honoured by the compliments he has been pleased to bestow on this department of our work, as also by the liberal contributions we have lately received from him.

R. S. is requested to receive our best acknowledgments for the Drawings he has, from time to time, sent to us for our CHRONICLE; particularly the two South American picturesque views: his future favours will be received with a due sense of their value.

The three principal sources, whence our CHRONICLE must derive its subsequent interest and estimation, are its BIOGRAPHICAL MEMOIRS of the *Public Services of Naval Officers*—Its ORIGINAL CORRESPONDENCE, on *Subjects intimately connected with the Profession*—and its Papers on HYDROGRAPHY, PILOTAGE, &c. These are certainly the great leading objects which our labours should have in view; but for the support of these sources we must look to our Friends and the Profession in general, whose interests equally with our own would certainly be promoted by such communications as may enable the humble but zealous individual who, at his own private risk and expense, has hitherto conducted this Work through Thirty Volumes, to increase, if possible, its great utility, and to add, by such means, to its professional value.

Our NAUTICAL ANECDOTES, which always immediately follow our biographical Memoirs, give a variety to the Work, it would not otherwise possess, and preserve a number of short detached facts which must otherwise have perished. Our LETTERS ON SERVICE, which we have thoughts of completing from the very beginning of the First French War, were inserted on the same idea which induced the late Mr. Pitt to desire, that all the naval and military letters which had appeared in the thick and ponderous volumes of the *Gazettes*, might be reprinted in small volumes, for the use of ministers and their friends. The Work which thus was privately printed, is, as might be imagined, extremely scarce; and we therefore trust that we have rendered no inconsiderable service, by preserving this important article in our CHRONICLE.

We cannot conclude our Preface, without again expressing our hearty thanks to the contributors and encouragers of our CHRONICLE, and wishing them all the good they can desire.

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THE HON^{BLE} CAPT. COURTENAY BOYLE .R.N.
Commissioner of the Transport-Board.

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