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978-1-108-01871-5 - The Naval Chronicle, Volume 32

Edited by James Stanier Clarke and John McArthur

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The *Naval Chronicle*, published in 40 volumes between 1799 and 1818, is a key source for British maritime and military history, and is also sought after by those researching family histories. Six instalments per year were produced (and often reprinted with corrections) by Bunney and Gold, later Joyce Gold, in London, and bound up into two volumes per year. Printed economically, on paper of varying weights and often with very small type, the extant copies have been heavily used over the course of two centuries, present significant conservation challenges, and are difficult to find outside major libraries.

This reissue is the first complete printed reproduction of what was the most influential maritime publication of its day. The subjects covered range widely, including accounts of battles, notices of promotions, marriages and deaths, lists of ships and their tonnages, reports of courts martial, shipwrecks, privateers and prizes, biographies and poetry, notes on the latest technology, and letters. Each volume also contains engravings and charts relating to naval engagements and important harbours from Jamaica to Timor, Newfoundland to Canton, and Penzance to Port Jackson.

### Volume 32

Volume 32 (1814), published while Napoleon was in exile on Elba, concentrates on the continuing war with America. It includes articles comparing navy and army pay, and discussing international law regarding neutrals. More space is allocated to topographical information and correspondence than in the preceding volumes, and there are biographies of Matthew Flinders, Sir George Collier and Samuel Blyth, and poetry including excerpts from Byron.

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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 32: JULY-DECEMBER 1814

EDITED BY JAMES STANIER CLARKE  
AND JOHN MCARTHUR



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WITH A VARIETY OF ORIGINAL PAPERS ON  
NAUTICAL SUBJECTS.

UNDER THE GUIDANCE OF SEVERAL  
*LITERARY AND PROFESSIONAL MEN.*

VOL. XXXII.  
(FROM JULY TO DECEMBER.)

“ O'er the glad waters of the dark blue sea,  
Our thoughts as boundless, and our souls as free,  
Far as the breeze can bear, the billows foam,  
Survey our Empire, and behold our home !  
These are our realms, no limits to their sway.”—(BYRON.)

LONDON:

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TO  
**BENJAMIN CALDWELL, Esq.**  
ADMIRAL OF THE RED SQUADRON,  
THIS THIRTY-SECOND VOLUME OF THE  
**Naval Chronicle**  
IS RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED,  
*BY THE PROPRIETOR,*

*Joyce Gold*

Cambridge University Press

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## P R E F A C E

TO THE THIRTY-SECOND VOLUME.

**I**N presenting the XXXIId Volume of the NAVAL CHRONICLE to his readers, the Editor trusts, that as far as depended on his judgment and influence, they will be satisfied with his earnest endeavours to render it equal in value to any by which it has been preceded.

The *peace* with America—if such a term can properly be applied to an arrangement, rendered mutually convenient and desirable by reciprocal fears and embarrassing dilemmas—has occasioned the omission of those strictures on the state of our navy, and the American naval war, which had been composed to form a part of this preface.

With respect to the biographical memoirs that appear in this Volume, they will be found to differ materially from those which have preceded them: the Editor having endeavoured, wherever he could with propriety, to render them the vehicle whereby to lay before the eyes of those in power, the principal hardships which press on the naval service. To naval officers, the memoirs of living, or of recent characters, are of little interest, except they furnish the means of professional improvement, or abound with materials for thinking.

The first memoir is that of a distinguished young officer, whose courage and misfortunes were the least of his recommendations. The unwearied perseverance of Captain W. C. C. Dalzell, during nine years of captivity in France, to ameliorate the situation of the prisoners of war in either country,\* reflects the highest honour on his character, and entitles him to a prominent station in our gallery of naval heroes.

The Editor has marked the extreme hardship of a naval officer on a foreign station, or in a state of

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\* Pages 44, 89, *et seq.*



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captivity, having to sustain the loss occasioned by the course of exchange,\* amounting to nearly or quite one-third of their pay ; and also the conduct of a certain *Lordling*, who stands accused of having been the cause why ministers refused to make good a loss that should have fallen upon the public revenue. Can any fair or rational reason be assigned for the navy being subjected to such a material deduction, from which the army officers are exempted ?

The Regent has recently issued an order in favour of the claims of the army, to reimbursement of its losses occasioned by this cause. Surely, the Royal Navy will not suffer by the want of parliamentary friends to advocate their equal right to reimbursement ?

The Editor has endeavoured to shew the partiality displayed to the army, in allowing the officers to enjoy their pensions for wounds, from the day on which they were inflicted : whilst a naval officer can only obtain his from the time that the grant for his pension is signed ! Captain Dalvell's memorial,† addressed to the Lords of the Admiralty, affords evidence of this fact, that admits neither of doubt or denial.

The distinguished humanity of Messrs. ANGOT and LE SEIGNEUR, and their benevolent families,‡ reflect honour on their country, and the warm feelings of gratitude § displayed by those whom the humanity of Frenchmen had saved from perishing, is no less honourable to Great Britain.

It was with feelings of the most ardent respect and admiration, the Editor recorded in the last Volume the noble conduct of the late Baron de Beauchesne,|| and his worthy successor, as Commandant of Verdun, Major de Meulan,¶ to whose exalted virtues a tribute of well-merited respect is paid in this memoir.\*\*

\* Page 92. † p. 94. ‡ p. 27, *et seq.* § p. 80, 81.

|| Vol. XXXI. p. 309. ¶ *Idem.* p. 309 and 310..

\*\* Vol. XXXII. p. 89 and 90.

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The biographical memoir of Captain Flinders, was written by a friend of the deceased. This indefatigable navigator, who surmounted difficulties under the pressure of which most men would have sunk, was well deserving of the greatest honours that could have been paid to his memory.

Our next biographical memoir (Vice-admiral Sir George Collier) yields in richness of materials, and variety of incident, to few that are on record. What a picture does it give of the first American war! *Veluti in Speculum*. This exalted character was the victim of *party-politics*. Who can read without feeling indignant, the manner in which Vice-admiral Arbuthnot\* was made commander-in-chief on the American station; and Sir George Collier laid forgotten on the shelf! †

Our last, and not least interesting life, is that of the late Captain Samuel Blyth, who was killed on board the Boxer gun-brig, in combat with the *Enterprise*, in September, 1813. The readers of the *NAVAL CHRONICLE* will perceive that the Editor has dwelt on the peculiar hardships which press heavily on the midshipmen and master's mates. From that class all our officers rise; and if there be any thing radically wrong in the system, any thing peculiarly calculated to render the feelings obtuse, and to debase the mind, surely it requires but to be known to be remedied. The condition of these two classes of officers, calls for amelioration more imperiously than any other. The Correspondence of the present Volume is equal to any contained in this work. The letter signed, "An Old passed Midshipman," ‡ does honour to the head and heart of the writer; and perhaps has contributed to assist the cause of those for whom he so feelingly pleads. The letter signed "Nestor," § containing a plan for obviating the practice of impressment, is worthy of his patriotic pen. The letters of "Philo-Nauticus," ||

\* *Vide Note at p. 381, et seq.* † p. 387, *et seq.* ‡ p. 60.  
§ p. 107. || p. 202 and 310.

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on the difference between the half-pay of the army and the navy, contain much incontrovertible argument, shewing the hardships that naval officers labour under, display a strong and cultivated mind animated by a manly spirit. The other letters in this Volume are all distinguished by some useful feature, and entitled to serious consideration. The writer who signs "Arion," transmits us, from time to time, compositions that will do him honour, when the hand that wrote them has long been mouldered into dust. Nestor,—Philo-Nauticus (2),—Albion—C.—H.—Impartial.—Nihil.—J. C.—Alfred.—J.—Oceanus.—C. H.—J. M.—and Impartialis.

The interesting letter signed, "A Naval Officer,"\* is well worthy the perusal of our Statesmen: as also the letter from our respected correspondent, "Nestor."†

"J. C." will perceive, by the early insertion of his letter, that he was not mistaken when he supposed his opinions would find admission into the pages of the NAVAL CHRONICLE.

The Editor hopes such arrangements may be made, as may preclude the omission of so much valuable correspondence in the future numbers of this Work, which would be an incitement to officers to employ their pens for the good of their service, as they have ably wielded their swords for the safety and glory of their country.

The Hydrographical Department of this Volume contains much useful information for our nautical readers; and our acknowledgments are due for the contributions we have received from Captain Krusenstern, of the Russian Navy, James Horsburgh, Esq. and other Correspondents. To the scientific Gentleman who continues to conduct it, our most grateful thanks are eminently due.

\* Page 480.

† p. 317.