

THE KEDGE ANCHOR

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- Books: *For God and Glory; Admirals in the Age of Nelson; Sea Soldier; Falconer's Universal Dictionary of the Marine*, p.7-8
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THE CHAIRMAN'S DISPATCH

WANTED: TWENTY PRIZES!

As the British Fleet sailed into action at Trafalgar, Nelson stood on the *Victory's* poop, watching his master plan unfolding before him and talking to Captain Henry Blackwood. He was clearly in a good mood and, as was his custom with those he liked, was teasing Blackwood a little, asking him to say what he would consider as a Victory.

Eventually, Blackwood replied, "That considering the handsome way in which the Battle was offered by the Enemy, their apparent determination for a fair trial of strength, and the proximity of the land, I thought if fourteen ships were captured it would be a glorious result." But he quickly discovered that Nelson was setting his sights much higher.

"I shall not Blackwood," he retorted, "be satisfied with anything short of twenty."

You will remember that, in the last *Kedge Anchor*, I sent a preparatory signal to all members about *The Trafalgar Captains Memorial*, The 1805 Club's ambitious project for 2005.

The project was enthusiastically endorsed at the AGM in Greenwich on Emma Hamilton's birthday, and the detailed planning is now under way. In a nutshell, our aim is to locate, record - and where necessary restore - the graves and/or memorials of the 33 admirals and commanding officers in the British Fleet at Trafalgar.

The first part of the project - the location of the graves and memorials - is now almost complete and we are now moving to the next stage - the recording.

In my "Preparatory" signal in the last issue, I mentioned that for this stage we would need active help from our members. Now, the "Preparatory" is hauling down, to be replaced by "Execute". With this mailing you will find a personal letter from me, explaining the sort of help we need and how you can offer your services. Please read it and give its contents careful thought.

We cannot achieve this project if we do not have significant assistance from our members. So the Council and I have set ourselves the same target as Nelson. Except, of course, we are talking about people, not ships.

"We shall not be satisfied with anything short of twenty!"

Colin



The **KEDGE ANCHOR** is the newsletter of The 1805 Club. It is published three times a year (in February, June and October) and is distributed free to members. For information about the newsletter contact Editor R. Mafit at 1980 Sunrise Blvd., Eugene, Oregon 97405 (U.S.A.), phone 541-343-1894, email: <randym1805@aol.com>, or the Assistant Editor, P. Dalton at Woodlands, Hankham, Pevensey, East Sussex BN24 5BE U.K., phone 01323 764212, email: <pd@pdpictorial.freemove.co.uk>. ❖