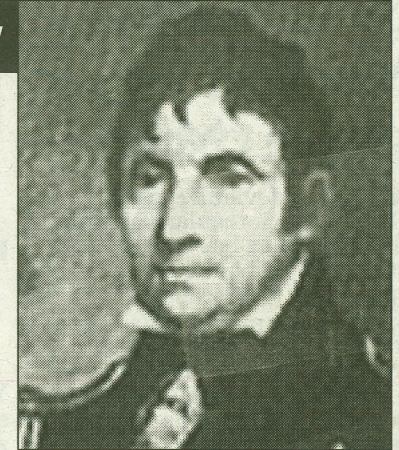




LORD NELSON

The Observer rounds up all the events from Trafalgar Day

# When hero Nelson perished in battle



ELIAB HARVEY



TUCK IN: Enjoying a celebratory meal in Hempstead are (front l to r) Sarah Varey and Allan Weedon (standing at back) Rod, Ruth and Marian Stokes

FRIDAY was the 200th anniversary of Lord Nelson's death at the Battle of Trafalgar and towns and villages in the Observer area put together their own celebrations.

Spectacle and surprise were the order of the evening with a dramatic Duton Hill re-enactment.

More than 200 people crowded around The Three Horseshoes to watch the show with pyrotechnics, music and fireworks. The biggest gasp came when one sailor's leg was amputated, with a little stage magic and gushing blood. The Millennium Beacon was also lit.

The show was put on by the

village's yacht club and community association. Pub landlord, Derek Connell, played Admiral Pierre de Villeneuve, commander of the French fleet. He said: "A good time was had by all and it proves there's real community spirit here."

At Hempstead, birth and burial place of Nelson's fellow admiral Sir Eliab Harvey, a taste of Trafalgar was on offer at the Bluebell pub. A victory dinner was served to regulars over three nights from Friday.

And at Henham, Manuden and Hatfield Broad Oak, three groups of bellringers participated in a nationally co-ordinated event to celebrate the bicentenary.

In Henham a quarter peal was rung on Saturday, lasting nearly 45 minutes.

In Manuden seven methods were rung on Friday, including one called *Nelson's Victory*, lasting nearly three hours and on the same day in Hatfield Broad Oak, a peal called *Trafalgar Surprise* was rung.

Although the timing was spot on, Horatio Nelson's battle plan, which he had sent to Sir Eliab, failed to sell at Christie's in London last week. Bidding reached £50,000, less than its undisclosed reserve price.

Since May, Saffron Walden Museum has staged its own dedicated Trafalgar exhibition, which ends on Sunday.

## Local men rewarded for their role in famous fight

THREE men from the Bishop's Stortford area were involved in the battle, according to research by Steve Gutteridge of the town's Royal British Legion.

Ordinary Seaman Joseph Burgin, aged 32, serving on Nelson's HMS Victory, was wounded and had to have his

left leg amputated above the knee. He was awarded the Naval General Service Medal and £1 17s 8d prize money, plus £4 12s 6d parliamentary award.

Bosun's Mate James Spiltimber, 28, of Bishop's Stortford, was on HMS Tonnant and also

wounded. He received £25 for his injuries and £10 14s 2d prize money, plus a £26 6s parliamentary award.

William Warwick, aged 22, of Birchanger, was a private in the Royal Marines on board HMS Phoebe. He was granted £1 17s 8d prize money and a parliamentary award of £4 12s 6d.