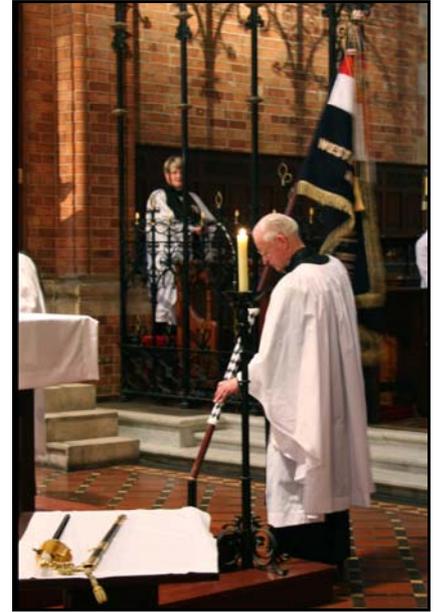
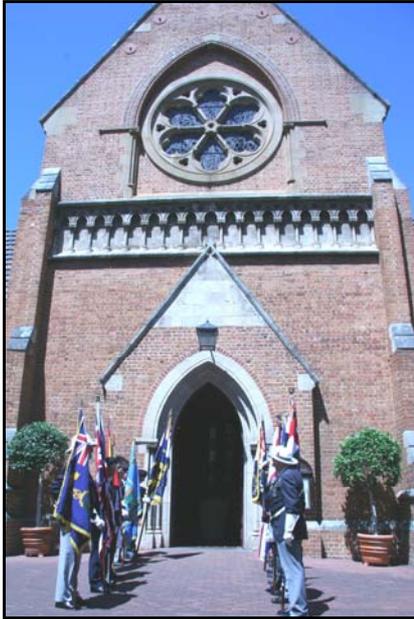
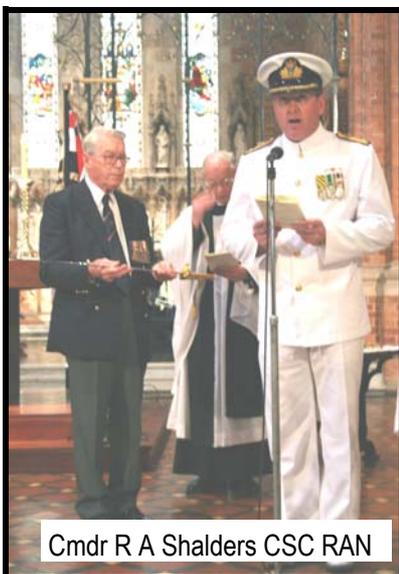


**SAINT GEORGES CATHEDRAL, PERTH WESTERN AUSTRALIA
 A SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCES BI-CENTENARY ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF TRAFALGAR AND THE
 DEATH OF VICE ADMIRAL VISCOUNT LORD NELSON KB
 SUNDAY 23 OCTOBER 2005 12 NOON**

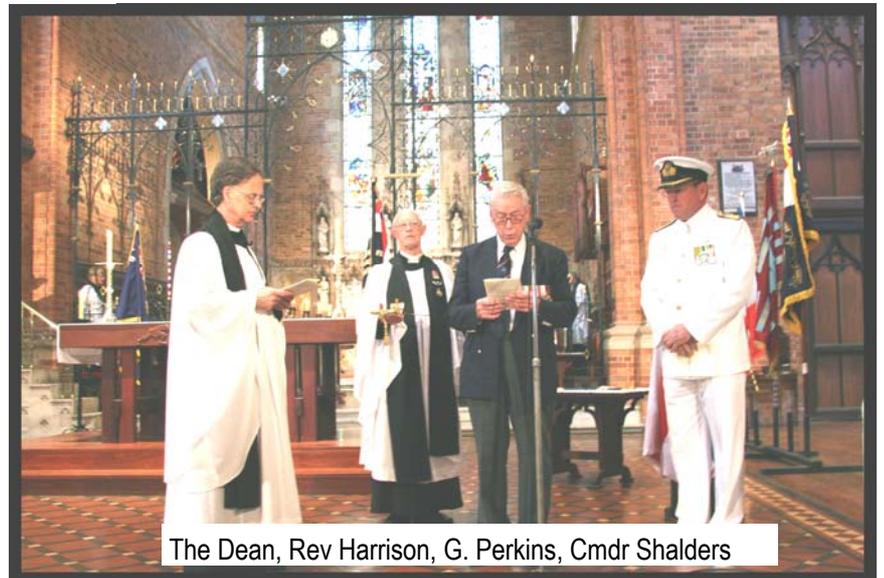


Rev Tony Murray-Feist, The Dean of St Georges Dr John Shepard, Rev. Tim Harrison

Dedication and Blessing of the *Sword of Excellence*.



Cmdr R A Shalders CSC RAN



The Dean, Rev Harrison, G. Perkins, Cmdr Shalders

**SERMON GIVEN BY TIM HARRISON HONORARY CHAPLAIN, NELSON SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA,
AT ST GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL, PERTH, WESTERN AUSTRALIA. 23 OCTOBER 2005
ON THE OCCASION OF THE 200th ANNIVERSARY OF NELSON'S DEATH AND THE BATTLE OF TRAFALGAR**

*In the name of God, Creator, Redeemer and Giver of life.
Amen.*

We gather today to commemorate and honour the life of Vice-Admiral Viscount Horatio Lord Nelson. To applaud the victories won by the British fleet under his command, particularly that off Cape Trafalgar in 1805, and perhaps, more importantly, consider the culminative effects of his life's work upon the world we inhabit 200 years after his death.

To do justice to such an intent, extending as it does over so vast a canvas, is difficult. If only because we have to separate fact from fiction, reality from imagination. Many of us present will have visited *HMS Victory* in Portsmouth Dockyard and, without exception, had pointed out to us the spot on the quarter deck where Nelson was mortally wounded by a musket ball in the afternoon of the 21st October 1805, in his hour of greatest triumph.

It is widely believed that, out of veneration of that site, has grown the discipline still followed today, by sailors of many nations, of when returning to their ship, saluting the quarter deck. In fact this belief is fallacious and false.

The practice of saluting the quarterdeck has its origin much further back in history, to the time when every Christian vessel displayed a crucifix which all ranks, when passing, acknowledged by making the sign of the cross. It is out of the corruption of the making such a sign of the cross has the universal naval salute evolved, with the palm of the hand facing downward. This salute is in marked contrast to the more usual military salutation with the palm vertically exposed, demonstrating no weapon was being held, which dates from the age of chivalry.

Interesting as the digression into the trivia of naval tradition might be, it perhaps more importantly serves to bring to our notice two significant factors. The first: that from earliest times, those who have sought their livelihood upon the oceans and seas of the world have always shown a closer affinity for their Creator than the landlubber, who has never experienced a force nine Atlantic gale or cast their eyes upon the beauty of an Antarctic landscape.

But more of that anon.

The second factor is, when considering the life and achievements of any great outstanding historical character,

it is essential that nostalgia or jingoism is not allowed to cloud or influence the outcome.

This particularly applies to the life of Nelson. Beyond doubt, an outstanding Admiral, some would say emphatically the greatest naval commander in history, the architect and victor of major naval battles; vain, irritable, at times petty, unfaithful to his marriage vows, brave to the point of foolishness, capable of

great acts of kindness and compassion. In the field of leadership, a practitioner unsurpassed. How could it be otherwise? Whenever he took command and raised his flag, pride and confidence suddenly returned to every seaman in the Fleet!

So we remind ourselves that the essence of history lies not in battles won or lost or even dates and places, but in the influences of such men and women upon their contemporary society and the generations that followed them.

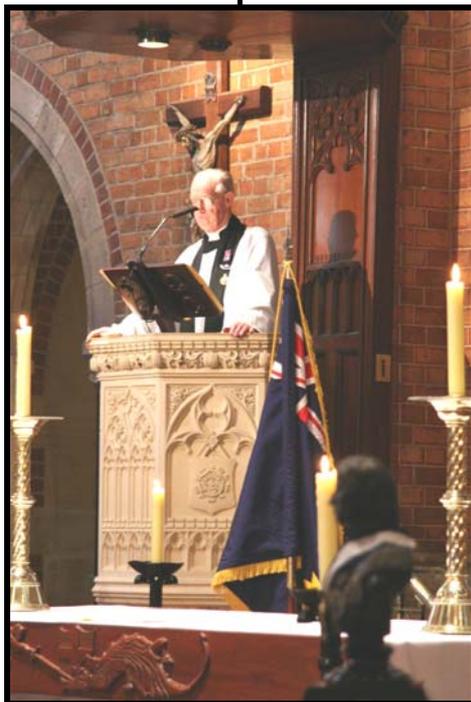
So what was the legacy that Nelson bequeathed to his country and the world? By the time of his death, he had been instrumental in creating a fleet which in its seamanship, gunnery and tactical doctrines, all honed to perfection in the previous two years spent

continuously blockading continental Europe, was overwhelmingly superior in all respects to any contemporary navy or combined Armada.

Beyond doubt, it was this fleet which contained the seeds of Nelson's greatest legacy and would prove to be his living memorial. Because, in the two centuries which have ensued, its successors have exercised an influence which has shaped the affairs of the world to an extent which is almost beyond cataloguing.

Whether it was in the expansion, consolidation and dismantling of the British Empire, the suppression of slavery in the 1830s, countless humanitarian assistances, whether responses on the high seas or responses to natural disasters, and the defence of freedom and justice in the two World Wars of the 20th century.

The Royal Navy, together with its Commonwealth siblings, have never faltered, or failed to answer the challenge and the crux of this domination of the oceans of the world with its subsequent political outcomes lay in the quality of its Admirals and Captains.



An ethos of leadership was created by Nelson, and is said to be his outstanding achievement. Standards were set for the Royal Navy officers of his time which would make them the most significant group of professional men anywhere in the world, because in the years of peace and war that followed, naval officers were imbued to display the dash, the initiative, the relative humanity and lack of political motivation, which had set Nelson apart from other men.

The renowned naval officer of Captain Sir William Hoste, was a typical protégé of Nelson. In the years that followed, when in command of *HMS Amphion*, he swept the French and their Venetian allies out of the Adriatic following his victory at Lissa in March 1811.

Commander E G Evans of the destroyer *HMS Broke* who accounted for two German destroyers in the English Channel on the night of the 20th April in 1917. Captain Philip Vian commanding *HMS Cossack* displayed seamanship and daring when liberating 299 British merchant seamen from the German auxiliary *Altmark* anchored in a Norwegian fiord on the 16th February 1940.

Lieutenant-Commander Kearns when as Assistant Naval Attache at Nanking was suddenly ordered in April 1949 to take command of the frigate *HMS Amethyst* trapped by communist batteries on the Yangtze River, and later in true Nelson style broke the blockade and rejoined the Far East fleet.

These British naval officers demonstrated those qualities of men moulded and living by the doctrine of naval command formulated those many years before.

But what relevance does this reflection upon Nelson's concepts of naval strategy and tactics have to our coming together within this Cathedral-Church today. If we simply wished to honour a distinguished ancestor we could have done so just as well in the recently built Convention Centre or Fremantle Passenger Terminal. No. We have come to this place of worship because of a deeper imperative, an imperative already touched upon - namely that of the seaman's inherent belief in the existence of a God to whom the Royal Navy have prayed for over 350 years -

*"Preserve us from the dangers of the sea
and violence of the enemy,.
...that we may return in safety
to enjoy the blessings of the land
and with a thankful remembrance of thy mercies".*

It is a faith continually renewed whenever any vessel is launched and God is invoked to bless all who sail on her. And in the exploration of that faith, no matter how hazy or vague our personal concept of it is, we come to realise that, just as Nelson's teachings were a watershed in the development of marine warfare. SO on a far greater scale,

the life and ministry of Jesus was a watershed in the affairs of men and women, summarised in the extract from the Gospel of Luke just read to us.

Set within the context of Jesus having been questioned as to his teachings as compared to those of John the Baptist, who currently was in prison for his outright condemnation of King Herod's immorality. Jesus in reply confirms that John has played his part as the gatekeeper of the Miracle of the Incarnation, that John's teaching, confined within the limitations of a religion based solely on liturgical observances and ritual acts is only as good as far as it goes.

With the arrival of Jesus the old belief is to serve as a foundation upon which a new relationship with God is to be built. The Kingdom of God has arrived and we are invited to be members of that Kingdom.

It is not subject to a passive observance of a legalistic code of behaviour but his followers will have to help build that Kingdom. They will be required to be active in loving their God with heart, soul and mind and with all their strength, and love their neighbours with the same integrity.

Those of us, that is you and I, who call ourselves Christians and desire to help build that Kingdom here on earth, could well display some of that dash, that initiative, that compassion which Nelson inspired in his captains. We need to remind ourselves that, whilst many cannot think of Nelson without recollection of his dramatic signal to the fleet, beginning "*England expects ..*", not so many can recall his subsequent and final signal which simply read "*Engage the enemy more closely*". That directive, I would suggest, is what we should take with us as we leave this Cathedral this afternoon.

The victory of Trafalgar was seen as the first step in the arrest and containment of the evil excesses coming arising from the French Revolution of 1789. Whilst in due course that was achieved, the challenge presented by evil is still before us and will not go away.

Dressed in different guises, and subtly camouflaged, we have to confront the evil in ourselves and the world in which we live. Whether when we learn of starvation in the country of Niger, violence and bloodshed in the streets of Baghdad, or the marginalised individuals of our own city of Perth, we have the choice: we can avert our eyes and pass by on the other side or, in our Christian faith, engage the enemy of evil more closely, giving generously of our time and possessions.

It that comes about, then, and only then, does this commemoration of an exceptional Admiral and his fleet, within this Cathedral-Church, provide any form of meaning or make any sense at all.

Amen.

MEMORIAL SERVICE ST GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL, 23 OCTOBER 2005



L/Cpl David Scott



Pippin Holmes,
Presbyterian Ladies College.



Performing the *Act of Homage* to Vice Admiral Horatio Lord Nelson by Cdr Paul Bartlet RAN — Commander of HMS Stirling, Garden Island, WA.

The medal is a replica of the Trafalgar gold medal posthumously given to Nelson and is being placed on a bust of Nelson.

The Medal was minted by the Nelson Society UK as part of their Bicentenary events and purchased by The Nelson Society of Australia Inc.



Audrey Mantle
President.
of Association of Wrens



Honour Guard.
Formed by UK and Ex-Service Associations.



British Consul, Stuart Gregson, and his wife, Ann

RECEPTION IN BURT HALL – 23RD OCTOBER 2005

THE CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

Mike Sargeant, Chairman of the Nelson Society of Australia Inc.

The Consul-General of the United Kingdom, Mr Stuart Gregson and Mrs Gregson, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen:

This year, we have commemorated the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Trafalgar, and today we remember all those who fought and died there, but this part of our Memorial Service is dedicated to the memory of Horatio Lord Nelson, surely one of the greatest Englishmen to have ever lived.

To commemorate the bicentenary, Britain has honoured him with a fleet review – the only one ever accorded to a commoner – and the two hundredth anniversary will be marked for posterity by the declaration of 'The Trafalgar Way' - to commemorate the route from Falmouth to London taken by Lieutenant Lapentotiere, commander of the schooner *PICKLE*, bearing Collingwood's despatch from Trafalgar to the Admiralty in Whitehall – and also by the planting of a quarter of a million oak trees in 27 locations across the United Kingdom, each location representing a British ship at Trafalgar.

The Nelson Society of Australia is proud to share in these celebrations and to mark the bicentenary with the presentation of the Sword of Excellence to the Royal Australian Navy, most generously donated by Mr Peter Bartlett of Barmenco Limited, who is unfortunately unable to be with us here today.

The sword will be presented annually, in perpetuity, to the Royal Australian Naval officer who displays outstanding leadership qualities in line with the high standards set by his Lordship. The news of Nelson's death at Trafalgar had a very sobering effect on the British population; relief at the news of a great victory was tempered by an immense

outpouring of grief, both afloat and ashore, at the loss of Nelson; indeed many thought that Nelson's death was too high a price to have paid.



He was given the grandest and most solemn state funeral that Britain has ever seen; the funeral procession was more than two miles long and the head of the procession reached St Paul's before the rear had left the Admiralty. Even the bitter January weather couldn't daunt the hundreds of thousands who turned out in silent tribute; according to one onlooker, the only sound to be heard was the sound of thousands of heads uncovering as the cortege hove into view, which he likened to the murmur of the sea.

So there in the crypt of Wren's great masterpiece, directly beneath the dome lies this son of a humble Norfolk parson, in company with his great friend Collingwood and the 'band of brothers.' Wellington's tomb is nearby as is Wren's, bearing the splendidly apt epitaph composed by his son: "*Si monumentum requiris, Circumspice*" - "*If you seek his monument, look around you.*"

Nelson's tomb bears only the simple inscription "HORATIO VISCOUNT NELSON" – he needs no epitaph - but if an epitaph was required you could do no better than to paraphrase words that Nelson expressed five years before Trafalgar in a letter to his new friend, Henry Blackwood - and that epitaph might read: "*His conduct and character stamped his fame beyond the reach of envy.*"

And so we come to the final official act of our bicentenary Memorial Service, the Toast to the Immortal Memory which, I'm sure I don't need to remind you, is traditionally drunk in silence, and I would ask our Patron, Commodore David Orr, to propose the Toast.

Mike Sargeant presents a gift of Nelson's Bi Centenary Port as a presentation of thanks to Peter Bartlett, Managing Director of Barmenco Mining Company for his donation that allowed the procurement of the *Sword of Excellence*.

The gift is being accepted by Alan Ingham on behalf of Mr Bartlett.





Lady Court, Sir Charles Court



Chairman Mike Sargeant, Vice Chairman David Shannon



Joan and Graham Perkins



CDR Bartlet accepting the Bi-centennial Port to be on display with the Sword of Excellence



Port No 1



Ivan Hunter, Chairman, RNA Perth Branch



Swain ah Thambyapp and Sukhwant Singh, Rajini and David Shannon,



Nelson statuette displaying his Posthumous Trafalgar Medal