

In the ~~renowned~~ London square that commemorates his last and most complete victory, stands the memorial ~~column~~ to our greatest sailor, Admiral Lord Nelson.

In this 150th anniversary tribute, let us ^{At} visit the National Maritime Museum, ~~at~~ Greenwich, ~~where~~ Lord Nelson's ^{Talked} uniform, ~~with the goring hole~~ ~~in the shoulder,~~ is a treasured link with the Battle of Trafalgar. ~~Exactly one hundred and fifty years ago.~~

While at Portsmouth - the flagship "Victory" is the sole survivor of Nelson's command when he defeated the combined French and Spanish Fleets - and so established British Naval supremacy.

To-day, not enemy grapeshot but the death-watch beetle has riddled the vessel and ~~work~~ ^{work} is on hand to preserve this priceless relic for all time.

A plaque marks the spot ^{to which} they carried the Admiral - mortally wounded ~~by a musketeer's bullet.~~ (Keep down)

But for 150 years, the spirit of Nelson has lived on - ~~helping~~ ~~the~~ ~~course~~ ~~of~~ ~~history~~ ~~as~~ ~~the~~ ~~Royal~~ ~~Navy~~ ~~stood~~ ~~"dauntless"~~ ~~indomitable~~ ~~and~~ ~~"unfathomable"~~ ~~through~~ ~~the~~ ~~world~~ ~~wide~~ ~~ages~~...

^{OF TWO WORLD WARS} Commanders, ~~too~~, followed in the Nelson tradition. Admirals like Jellicoe and Beatty - the heroes of Jutland. / S

The wooden walls of England were replaced by steel giants, ~~and even~~ ^{playing their tragic part} ~~the~~ "little ships of Dunkirk" ~~played~~ ^{played} their part in the defence of our ~~sea-girt~~ ^{sea-girt} island. ~~Kingdom.~~ ^{Kingdom.}

The dark days of World War Two were brightened by the dashing deeds of Admiral Cunningham - in the Mediterranean.

Long will the story be told of those Malta convoys. Harassed by constant aerial attack and stalked by lurking U-boats, the convoys relied on the Navy....and George Cross Island got those vital supplies.

Gone were the days when the men-o'-war crowded on all sail to get ~~to~~ grips with the enemy. Sometimes, to save a convoy, it was more prudent to lay a smokescreen.

^{Rear-Admiral Vian - now an Admiral of the Fleet -} ~~was~~ One of the heroes of those Malta convoys, ~~was~~ Rear-Admiral Vian... 3

New names replaced the "Victory" and the "Revenge" - H.M.S. Kelly, the destroyer that survived a torpedo and finally went down, her guns blazing under Captain Mountbatten - at Crete...

Lord Louis survived - and later, as Supreme Commander, largely contributed to victory in Burma. / S

Rear-Admiral Robert Burnett - a name that will always be associated with the epic story of the convoys to Russia. /

In gripping sub-zero temperatures and past ~~the~~ ^{huge stretches of} enemy-held coastline - the Navy shepherded its flock - some two thousand miles - ferrying vital supplies to our Russian Allies.

~~From watchful convoy duty to a sabre-rattling engagement~~ ^{An adventure} worthy of those buccaneers of old - the boarding of the Nazi prison ship "Altmark" in a Norwegian fjord. "Vian of the Cossack" led the raid, and rescued over three hundred British seamen with those now-famous words. / SOUND.

~~...~~ Victory over the much-vaunted pocket-battleship "Admiral Graf Spee". The surface raider scuttled herself outside Montevideo harbour - rather than continue the fight with the cruisers: Achilles, Ajax and Exeter.

~~And London later welcomed the heroes of the Battle of~~ ^{the River Plate.}
~~And Britain feted the men who had faced overwhelming odds in~~
~~the true spirit of Trafalgar.~~ /

The Victory Parade when our island people gave thanks to the men and women in blue who had preserved us from would-be invaders for the second time in our history. /

~~...~~ Youthful successors are training in the Navy tradition ~~...~~ combining the modern outlook with the tried and trusted order that was born in the heroism of mortal combat.

So - on this 150th anniversary - when Nelson's famous signal proudly flutters, once again, over the "Victory" - it is right ~~to~~ to expect that every true Briton should pay homage to our greatest sailor..... ~~Nelson~~.

An inspiration to all who serve ^{- and will serve} under the White Ensign.... /