I had both their Van and rear, abaft the beam; before the fire opened, every alternate ship was about a cable's length to windward of her second a-head, and a-stern, forming a kind of double line, and appeared, when on their beam, to leave a very little interval between them; and this without crowding their ships. Admiral Villeneuve was in the Bucentaure in the centre, and the Prince of Asturias bore Gravina's flag in the rear; but the French and Spanish ships were mixed without any apparent regard to order of national squadron.

As the mode of our attack had been previously determined on, and communicated to the Flag Officers and Captains, few signals were necessary, and none were made, except to direct close order as the lines bore down. The Commander in Chief in the Victory led the weather column, and the Royal Sovereign, which bore my flag, the lee.

The action began at twelve o'clock, by the leading ships of the columns breaking through the enemy's line, the Commander in Chief about the tenth ship from the Van, the second in Command about the twelfth from the rear, leaving the Van of the enemy unoccupied, the succeeding ships breaking through, in all parts, astern of their leaders, and engaging the enemy at the muzzles of their guns: the conflict was severe; the enemy's ships were fought with a gallantry highly honourable to their officers, but the attack on them was irresistable, and it pleased the Almighty Disposer of all Events, to grant his Majesty's arms a complete and glorious victory.

About 3 P.M. many of the enemy's ships having struck their colours, their line gave way: Admiral Gravina with ten ships, joining their frigates to leeward, stood towards Cadiz. The five headmost ships in their Van tacked, and standing to the southward, to windward of the British line, were engaged, and the sternmost of them taken: - the others went off, leaving to his Majesty's squadron, nineteen ships of the line, (of which two are first-rates, the Santissima Trinidad and the Santa Anna) with three Flag Officers, viz. Admiral Villeneuve, the Commander in Chief, Don Ignatio Maria D'Aliva, Vice Admiral, and the Spanish Rear Admiral Don Baltazar Hidalgo Cisneros.

After such a victory it may appear unnecessary to enter into encomiums on the particular parts

taken by the several Commanders; the conclusion says more on the subject than I have language to express; the spirit which animated all was the same; when all exerted themselves zealously in their countries service, all deserve that their high merits should stand recorded; and never was high merit more conspicuous than in the Battle I have described.

The Achille (a French 74) after having surrendered, by some mismanagement of the Frenchmen took fire and blew up; two hundred of her men were saved by the tenders.

A circumstance occurred during the action, which so strongly marks the invincible spirit of British seamen, when Engaging the enemies of their country, that I cannot resist the pleasure I have in making it known to their Lordships; the Temeraire was boarded by accident, or design, by a French ship on one side, and a Spaniard on the other, the contest was vigorous, but, in the end, the combined ensigns were torn ~~down~~ from the poop, and the British hoisted in their places.

Such a battle could not be fought without sustaining a great loss of men. I have not only to Lament in common with the British Navy, and the British Nation in the fall of the Commander in Chief, the loss of a Hero, whose name will be immortal, and his memory ever dear to his country; but my heart is rent with the most poignant grief for the death of a friend, to whom, by many years intimacy, and a perfect knowledge of the virtues of his mind, which inspired ideas superior to the common race of men, I was bound by the strongest ties of affection; a grief to which even the glorious occasion in which he fell, does not bring the consolation which perhaps it ought, His Lordship received a musket ball in his Left Breast, about the middle of the action, and sent an officer to me immediately with his last farewell, and soon after expired.

I have also to Lament the loss of those excellent officers, Captains Duff, of the Mars, and Cooke of the Bellerophon; I have yet heard of no others.

I fear the numbers that have fallen will be found very great, when the returns come to me; But it having blown a gale of wind ever since the action, I have not yet had it in my power to collect any reports from the ships.

The Royal Sovereign having lost her masts, except the

service

tottering foremast, I called the Euryalus to me, which the action continued, which ship lying within hail, made my signals, a service Captain Blackwood performed with great attention; after the action, I shifted my flag to her, that I might more easily communicate my orders to, and collect the ships, and steer the Royal Sovereign out to seaward. The whole fleet were now in a very perilous situation, many dismasted, all shattered in thirteen fathom water, off the Shoals of Trafalgar, and when I made the signal to prepare to anchor, few of the ships had an anchor to let go, their cables being shot; but the same good Providence which aided us through such a day, preserved us in the night, by the wind shifting a few points and drifting the ships off the land.

Having thus detailed the proceedings of the fleet on this occasion, I beg to congratulate their Lordships on a victory, which I hope will add a ray to the glory of his majesty's Crown, and be attended with public Benefit to our country.

I am, &c

Collingwood C. Collingwood

In works of labour and of skill
I would be busy too;
For Satan finds some mischief still
For idle hands to do.

In books, or work, or healthful play
Let my first years be past
That I may give for every day
Some good account at last

Isaac Watts 1674-1748

How does the little busy bee
Improve each shining hour,
And gather honey all the day
From every opening flower.

How skilfully she builds her cell
How neat she spreads the wax:
And labours hard to store it well
With the sweet food she makes.

The New Trafalgar Dispatch.

Trafalgar

The Trafalgar Way

Laphonotiere V. Adm Collingwood 2 1805

The Trafalgar Way is the route taken by Lieutenant Laphonotiere as he carried Vice Admiral Collingwood's dispatches to the Secretary of the Navy from Falmouth to London between 4th and 6th November 1805.

The route of the Trafalgar Way has been identified by analysing Laphonotiere's "Account of Expenses" from the Admiralty archives together with contemporary documents such as Cunnicliffe's Topographical Survey of Hampshire, Wiltshire, Dorset, Devon and Cornwall "(1791) and Paterson's Roads "(1799) This shows that he followed one of the well-known routes to the capital, changing horses every 10 to 15 miles In all he made 21 stops at coaching inns in

Honiton

Truro, Traddon, Bodmin, Launceston, Oakhampton, Crockernwell, Exeter, Honiton, Axminster, Bridport, Dorchester, Blandford Forum, Woodgates, Salisbury, Andover, Overton, Basingstoke Hartfordbridge, Bagshot, Staines and Hounslow.

At some stops he not only changed horses, but also transferred to another post chaise as different operators covered the various sections of the route.

It is not possible to identify individual inns in most of these places because Laphonotiere does not name which of the many possible inns he used. Each of the horse change places will be marked by a bronze plaque erected where the revelant authority thinks most suitable. In the main these plaques will be unveiled as the post chaise passes through during August and September. You can see an example of a plaque below.

The post chaise drive to London cost £46-19s-1d a very large sum of money in those days. In 1805 a Lieutenant's pay was five shillings a day, or £91-5s a year, so he spent more than 6 months pay on it. In the 2004 pay scale, a Lieutenant's pay on promotion was £31,854 per annum. Using this as a comparator, the drive cost £16,389. Laphonotiere paid his way in cash and submitted his Account of

Expenses afterwards. Research is in hand to discover whether he used his own money, making his Account of Expenses a travel expense claim, or whether he had been advanced the money and was merely reporting how he had spent it.

Lapenotière's journey up the Trafalgar Way was to be followed by many more dispatches over the following weeks as more news was sent to the Admiralty about the Battle of Trafalgar.

Ordnance Survey have published a Special Edition Commemorative Map which is the essential guide to the Trafalgar Way and which can be obtained direct from them by clicking here.

Dorset County Association

Uffpitt, Devon

St Mary.

Real Cambridge — Monday, 7th November 2005 in 3h. 9.m. (10-3-21)

5056 Cambridge Surprise Major

Composed by: Charles Middleton

1 D John Knight
2 Graham W Elmes
3 Sheila C Matthews
4 Lesley A Knipe
5 Lynne P Hughes
6 Jeffrey Knipe
7 Frederick J Sage
8 Timothy F Collins (c)

To commemorate the firing of two cannon on St Cyres Hill, near Honiton by the Uffpitt Artillery after receiving news of the victory at Trafalgar. The cannon were the property of, and fired under the direction of, Major-General Simcoe, Commander of His Majesty's Forces in the South-West. These cannon were sold at auction by Christies on Wednesday, November 2nd, 2005 for £90,000.

Note — It had been hoped to ring a method called Trafalgar, but after an early mistake it was agreed to change to Cambridge Surprise, and be more sure of success.

Enquiries during early August 2005 as to what happened to the cannon which were at Wolford House Dunkeswell, a gift for services rendered in the West Indies, from King George III to General Sir John Graves Simcoe, led to the finding by Grahame Smith that they were bought about 1923 by a Mr Herbert Reeves and removed to Leatherhead. In answer to an enquiry, considerable detail of their past history was sent to Grahame in two packs, one of which he gave me, each of 22 pages.

See Page 364

Herbert Reeves

I will therefore give here the more important facts included, in a somewhat more compact form.

Mr Grahame Smith
6th September 2005 Leatherhead Leisure Centre
Please find enclosed copies of papers regarding the Spanish Cannons. I hope you will find them of interest. T.J. Ward General Manager.
Sale / King St 2nd November 2 PM
Mole Valley District Council.

Spanish Cannons

Spanish Cannons

The two Spanish Cannons displayed here in the mariners Suite were made in 1747. The original oak gun carriages disintegrated and were renewed by Leatherhead Urban District Council in November 1958 using the original iron mountings and other metalwork from the original carriages.

George III

The cannons were presented by George III to General Simcoe for services rendered in the West Indies with the Duke of York acting as intermediary.

In 1923 Mr Herbert Reeves, formerly of The Mansion, Leatherhead, a generous benefactor to the town, purchased them from their previous owner in Honiton, Devon. Mr Reeves presented the Cannons to Leatherhead Urban District Council in 1940, and for many years they were situated at Wesley House, Bull Hill, Leatherhead, in the Council offices.

Honiton

Leatherhead

In the opinion of an expert on arms and armour they are probably the finest remaining armoury of their type in the country.

The original correspondence passing from the Duke of York and the Customs Officer to General Simcoe are preserved in the Council's records.

Duke of York

Cannons The Cannons were moved to this Suite in 1988.
(Extra detail not mentioned above for Chris Dracott –
original correspondence dated 1798 (et seq)
Duke of York passing from the Duke of York, other officers and
the Customs Officer to General Simcoe.
Mr Reeves noticed them at a property in Honiton
and purchased them.
Cannons The Two Brass Cannons are the property of
Mole Valley District Council.)
The inscriptions read as follows on each of them.

VIOLATA FULMINA REGIS
EL SENECA
FERDINAND VI. D.G. HISPAN. ET. IND. RX.
SOLANI FECIT HISPALI 1747

VIOLATI FULMINA REGIS
EL MARTE
FERDINAND VI. D.G. HISPAN. ET. IND. RX
SOLANI FECIT HISPALI 1747

Wolford Letter from General Simcoe to the D of York.

Wolford Lodge Honiton
Sent Feb^ry 1798 Feby. 22nd 1798

Sir ---- My humble request therefore is, that
His Majesty will be pleased to give permission
that I should obtain two of these Cannon. ----
---- Your Royal Highness's most obedient and
most dutiful Servant
Signed J. G. S.

Duke of York To the D. of York.

Horse Guards 2nd March
1798

Sir
----acknowledge Receipt of your letter of the 22nd
---I have how much pleasure in communicating
to you His Majesty's gracious Consent to your request.---
I am Sir
Yours
Major General Simcoe. Frederick FM

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Horse Guards March 21st 1799

Dear Sir

---- apologise --- subject of the two field Pieces from St. Domingo ---- thankful for any information you could give (M.G. Ross) on the subject ---- if in the King's Stores.

St Domingo

--- Great Respect ---

M. General Simcoe.

C H Taylor

Black Heath

May 10th 1799

Sir

This appears to be a personal letter from a Mr Spicer to Lieut. General Simcoe.

Dear General May 19t 1799

It being a matter of importance to me to obtain the Two pieces of Canon which His R Highness, the Commander in Chief ------ had been pleased to order, should be delivered to me ------ taking it for granted that the Guns were not left at St Domingo but were over to Jamaica ------ I remain dear Sir ---

St Domingo

Jamaica

M G Ross

Saltash 18th June 1799

Sir

I was favoured with your letter of the 6th inst. ------ you mention the Spanish Guns to be 3 pdrs and those destroyed, ---- being 4 pdrs. I am still in hopes they are safe ---- and if safe I shall write --- to Mr Commissory Breck --- and now at Port Royal Jamaica to have them taken care of ---- ship them for England. We took with us to that Island afterwards of 400 pieces of Brass Ordnance ---- The guns are all laying in sheds by the Water side at Port Royal.

Jamaica

I am Sir

Your most obedient and very humble Servant

Mr Spicer

Spicer

P.S. - in the event of their being lost, I think I can point out two others which will answer better ---

Canterbury 6th December 1799

Dear Sir

I have the pleasure to acquaint you I this day received a letter from Mr Commissionary Meek dated Jamaica 6 October 8th 99 in which he inserts the following paragraph — "Your Letter making mention of the two Brass Guns to be sent from this Island to England (from those brought from St Domingo for Major General Simcoe, as a present from His Majesty to that Officer as an approbation of his Military Services in that Island) I received, and lost no time in selecting such as described; by the following packet I received Orders from the Honble Board, to send home by the first opportunity such Guns as you had described to me - - - - - - - - - - ("Details of transport &") Letter not complete and unsigned

Jamaica

Brass guns

Sir I beg leave to inform you that there is on Board the Hannah G. Arnold, from Jamaica - 2 small Field Pieces addressed to you. If they are British manufactory, they will be delivered free of Duty. If Foreign Duty must be Paid on the value of them.

Field Pieces

I beg the favour of the necessary Instructions from You and where you would wish to have them sent as the vessell has nearly unloaded her cargo

Your Humble Servt
Matthew^as Lucas

April 20 1800.
No 3 Tower Dock. Custom house London.

Office of Ordnance
11 July 1800

Sir

The Gun Carriages which were some time ago ordered to be prepared for two Guns brought from St. Domingo, being completed, I am to request you will let me know where you are desirous they should be sent, as Major General Ross recollects a wish that the Guns and Carriages should be sent to Plymouth or Torbay, it would, therefore, be desirable to know which of these Places you will have the Guns sent to. I have the honour to be Sir Your most obedient humble Servant

Carriages

Plymouth

Major General Simcoe.

R M Brewe

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§ A page here from Wm Spicer to Major General Simcoe undated appears to have no reference to our subject.

Office of Ordnance
Plymouth, 24th August 1800

Sir

4 Pd Brass Cannon

We have the honor to inform you that the two 4 Pounder Brass Field Pieces intended for your service, have been brought here by one of the Ordnance Sloops; and we request that you will have the goodness to inform us in what manner you would wish to have them disposed of.

We have the honor to be
Sir
Your most obedient humble Servants,
Alex.r Schaw Andrew Long G. Hart.
Major General Simcoe.

Sir

§. Details of a Return
---- "60 Rank & file ---

Field Pieces

The two field pieces with the Ammunition Gunner & Bombardier arrived last week at Kingsbridge, are securely lodged and a Corporal's guard regularly mounted over them.

Allow me to take the liberty of mentioning that the men seem to be distressed in the extreme at their having no accoutrements:- Cartouch-Boxes & Belts are much wished for, and we flatter ourselves you will be so obliging as to order the necessaries to be sent to us.

Captain Sandy's begs to unite in all due respects; and I have the honor to remain Sir,
Your most obliged, obed.t & faithful servant
Mich.l Allen

Coleridge House
19th Dec.r 1803
Lieut General Simcoe

§ A page here which is written from Cape Good Hope dated September 10th 1806 but has no reference to our subject pinned to another which has ----