

Horatio

1758

Nelson

1805



Oris življenja enega največjih mornariških poveljnikov v zgodovini



Nelsonova rojstna hiša v kraju Burnham Thorpe v Norfolku (F. in I. Pocock, okrog 1810)
Nelson's birthplace in Burnham Thorpe, Norfolk (F. and I. Pocock, around 1810)



21-letni Nelson kot poročnik bojne ladje (John F. Rigaud, 1781)
21-years-old Nelson as a Lieutenant on a warship (John F. Rigaud, 1781)



Nelsonova žena Frances Inezmani avtor, okrog 1800
Nelson's wife Frances (unknown source, around 1800)



Predaja španske posedbe kapitanu Nelsonu (Daniel Orme, 1798)
The surrender of the Spanish garrison to Captain Nelson (Daniel Orme, 1798)



Ranjeni Nelson v bitki za mesto Santa Cruz na Tenerifeih (Richard Westall, 1806)
Wounded Nelson in the Battle of Santa Cruz in Tenerife (Richard Westall, 1806)



Bitka za København (Robert Dodd, po letu 1801)
The Battle of Copenhagen (Robert Dodd, after 1801)



Emma Hamilton (Vigée le Brun, okrog 1790)
Emma Hamilton (Vigée le Brun, around 1790)

Bitka pri Trafalgarju (Clarkson F. Stanfield, 1836)
The Battle of Trafalgar (Clarkson F. Stanfield, 1836)

Horatio Nelson se je rodil 29. septembra 1758 v kraju Burnham Thorpe na vzhodu Anglije. Njegov oče je bil anglikanski duhovnik Edmund Nelson, mati pa Catherine Suckling. Nelson je že kot dvanajstletni deček v začetku leta 1771 vstopil v Kraljevo mornarico kot kadet na ladji HMS Raisonnable (64 topov), ki ji je poveljeval njegov stric kapitan Maurice Suckling.

Poleti leta 1773 se je Nelson na krovu ladje HMS Carcass udeležil ekspedicije na severni pol. Šlo je za iskanje arktične poti v Tihi ocean in na tej odpravi je pridobil prve izkušnje z vodenjem posadke. Že jeseni tega leta je prešel na ladjo HMS Seahorse (38 topov), na kateri je februarja 1775 ob jugozahodni obali Indije doživel tudi ognjeni krst, ko je sodeloval v zajetju oborožene jadrnice.

Aprila 1777 je osemnajstletni Nelson uspešno opravil izpit za poročnika korvete in bil imenovan za častnika na ladji HMS Lowestoffe (32 topov). V čin poročnika fregate je napredoval septembra 1778 na krovu ladje HMS Bristol (50 topov), konec tega leta pa je prevzel prvo poveljniško dolžnost – poveljevanje ladji HMS Badger (16 topov).

V naslednjem letu je Nelson ponovno napredoval in postal dotlej najmlajši poročnik bojne ladje. Prevzel je poveljevanje nove ladje HMS Hinchinbrook (28 topov). Njegova prva naloga je bila vodenje pomorskih sil v bojih na območju današnje Nikaragve. Tam je Nelson zbolel za malarijo in bil poslan nazaj v Anglijo, kjer je njegovo okrevanje trajalo skoraj leto dni. V naslednjih letih je bil mladi kapitan Nelson aktiven v bojih proti piratom ob celotni zahodni polobli. Zaradi izjemnih sposobnosti, pa tudi podpore strica Mauricea Sucklinga njegovi uspehi niso ostali neopaženi poveljstvu Kraljeve mornarice.

Marca 1787 se je Horatio Nelson poročil s Frances »Fanny« Nisbet na otoku Nevis v Karibih. Mladoporočnica sta se kmalu nato vrnila v Anglijo. Sledilo je petletno obdobje miru, v katerem je Nelson ob polovični plači čakal na vpklic. Obdobje čakanja na kopnem ga je spravljalo v obup, saj je bil vajen morja in poveljevanja.

Stopnjevanje napetosti s Francijo je privedlo do tega, da je bil januarja 1793 Nelson ponovno vpoklican v mornarico. Prevzel je poveljstvo nad ladjo HMS Agamemnon (64 topov), njegovo prvo ladjo, namenjeno ladijskemu linijskemu bojevanju. Ladja je bila pridružena Sredozemski floti pod poveljstvom lorda Hooda in je sodelovala pri okupaciji Toulona. Zaradi pomanjkjlive oskrbe je Hood poslal Nelsona na misijo v Neapelj. Tam je prvič srečal britanskega veleposlanika siru Williama Hamiltona in njegovo ženo Emmo. Naslednje leto je Nelson sodeloval pri zasedbi Korzike. V boju za mesto Calvi je bil ranjen in izgubil vid na desno oko.

Leta 1795 je poveljstvo nad Sredozemsko floto prevzel sir John Jarvis, ki je že naslednje leto Nelsona povišal v čin kapitana in mu poveril ladjo HMS Captain (74 topov).

Dne 13. februarja 1797 se je Nelson pridružil glavni floti pri Rtu sv. Vincenta na Portugalskem in že takoj naslednji dan pomembno prispeval k porazu španske flote. Brez dovoljenja nadrejenih je napadel dve španski ladji in ju hitro premagal, pri čemer je sam osebno vodil haskok posadke na ti dve ladji. Ta pogumen in brezprimern dosežek je Horatia Nelsona čez noč povzdignil iz obetavnega mornariškega poveljnika v narodnega junaka. Napredoval je v kontraadmirala Modre flote (ang. *Rear-Admiral of the Blue*) in postal vitez Velikega križa Reda kopeli. Istega leta je bil Nelson med neuspešnim napadom na mesto Santa Cruz na Tenerifeh hudo ranjen – v topniškem boju je izgubil desno roko.

Po okrevanju se je Nelson marca 1798 z ladjo HMS Vanguard (74 topov) odpravil poiskat Napoleonovo floto. Po neuspešnem iskanju širom Sredozemlja jo je 1. avgusta 1798 končno odkril v zalivu Abukir na ustju reke Nil. Kljub približevanju noči se je Nelson odločil za takojšen napad, s čimer je presenetil in popolnoma uničil francosko floto. Ta osupljiva zmaga je ponovno vzpostavila britansko prevlado v Sredozemlju. Admiral Nelson si je z njo prislužil mednarodna slavo, saj je strla mit o Napoleonovi nepremagljivosti. Za to zaslugu je bil povišan v barona (s predikatom z Nilu) in napredoval v čin kontraadmirala Rdeče flote (ang. *Rear-Admiral of the Red*).

Po zmagi je Nelson 22. septembra priplul v Neapelj, prestolnico Neapeljskega kraljestva. Sprejeli so ga z velikimi častmi, saj je Napoleon predstavljal smrtnega sovražnika kraljestva in kraljeve družine. Že konec leta 1798 je tako Nelson pred prodirajočo francosko vojsko v Palermo rešil kralja z družino.

Naslednje leto se je v francoski Partenopski republiki v Neaplju dvignil kmečki upor. Nelson je prevzel poveljstvo na ladji HMS Foudroyant (80 topov) in pomagal pri ponovni osvojitvi Neaplja. Kralj Ferdinand IV. ga je razglasil za vojvodo Brontskega (vojvodina Bronte na Siciliji).

Junija 1800 je bil sir Hamilton pozvan k vrnitvi v domovino. Nelson se je skupaj s Hamiltonovima vrnil po kopnem, pri čemer so do Dunaja potovali v spremstvu neapeljske kraljice Marije Karoline. Januarja 1801 je Nelson napredoval v viceadmirala Modre flote. Tega leta se je tudi ločil od svoje žene Fanny. Kmalu zatem mu je Emma Hamilton rodila hčer Horatio.

Zaveznitvo nevtralnih držav Prusije, Rusije, Švedske in Danske, ki se je zoperstavljalo britanski pomorski blokadi Francije, je Britanijo napeljalo k preventivnemu napadu proti Dansk. Operacijo je vodil admiral sir Hyde Parker, operativno izvedbo napada pa je prepustil Nelsonu. Ko se je Parkerju zdelo, da so Danci v premoči, je odredil umik, a je Nelson ukaz ignoriral in v bitki zmagal. Uničil je dansko floto in prisilil mesto København v predajo. Sijajna zmaga je močno povečala njegov ugled.

Britanija in Francija sta leta 1802 podpisali Amienski sporazum in s tem končali vojno. Vendar pa so se že naslednje leto stvari začele spet zapletati in Nelson je bil imenovan za poveljnika v Sredozemlju na admiralski ladji HMS Victory (100 topov). Boji na morju so se začeli v začetku leta 1805, ko je francoska flota ušla iz britanske blokade v Toulonu. Nelson se je podal v zasledovanje francoske flote vse do britanskih Antilov in nazaj (približno 6.500 navtičnih milj oz. 12.000 km). Po koncu pregona mu je admiraliteta dodelila enomesečni dopust, 14. septembra pa se je v Portsmouthu vkrcal na ladjo HMS Victory in se odpravil proti Cádiz, kjer sta se nahajali združeni francoska in španska flota.

Admiral Nelson je priplul v Cádiz dva tedna pozneje. Pripravil je briljanten načrt, na podlagi katerega je v bitki pri Trafalgarju, eni najbolj znanih pomorskih bitk vseh časov, britanska mornarica popolnoma uničila združeno francosko in špansko ladjevje. Bitka, ki se je odvila 21. oktobra 1805, sicer ni predstavljala dokončne zmage nad Francijo, je pa vzpostavila britansko pomorsko prevlado. A cena zmage je bila visoka – admiral Horatio Nelson je v bitki izgubil življenje.

Admiral Nelson je bil 9. januarja 1806 pokopan z največjimi častmi v Katedrali sv. Pavla v Londonu, kjer počiva še danes.

The Outline of the Life of One of the Greatest Naval Commanders in History

Horatio Nelson was born on 29 September 1758 in Burnham Thorpe in the East of England. He was the son of the village Reverend Edmund Nelson and his wife, Catherine Suckling. Nelson joined the Royal Navy at the beginning of 1771 when he was only twelve years old. He entered the Navy as a midshipman on HMS Raisonnable (64 guns) which was under the command of his uncle, Captain Maurice Suckling.

During the summer of 1773, Nelson joined the expedition to the North Pole on HMS Carcass. The aim of the expedition was to find the Arctic route to the Pacific Ocean and it was on that journey that Nelson gained his initial experience in crew leadership. By the autumn of the same year, he joined HMS Seahorse (38 guns). It was there that Nelson experienced his baptism of fire in February 1775 when he participated in the capture of an armed ketch off the southwest coast of India.

In April 1777, when Nelson was 18 years old, he successfully passed his Lieutenant's examination and was appointed Second Lieutenant on HMS Lowestoffe (32 guns). He was promoted to the rank of First Lieutenant in September 1778 and served on HMS Bristol (50 guns). By the end of that year, he assumed his first command by taking charge of HMS Badger (16 guns).

In the following year, Nelson rapidly advanced through the ranks and became the youngest Lieutenant up to that point in the past. He assumed command of the newly built HMS Hinchinbrook (28 guns). His initial assignment was to lead a naval force as part of an expedition to occupy the territory of present-day Nicaragua. It was there that Nelson fell ill with malaria and was later sent back to England. His recovery spanned over the course of almost a year. In the following years, the young Captain Nelson actively participated in naval actions against pirates in the whole Western Hemisphere. His remarkable skills, also due to his uncle Maurice Suckling's patronage, did not go unnoticed by the Admiralty.

In March of 1787, Horatio Nelson married Frances »Fanny« Nisbet on the island of Nevis in the Caribbean. The newlyweds returned to England shortly after the ceremony. The next five years passed by in relative peace. During that period, Nelson waited for another mission while living on half pay. The prolonged period of waiting ashore was deeply unsettling given that he was used to being at sea and frustrated at the lack of command.

In January 1793, Nelson was reinstated in the Navy due to escalating tension with France. He assumed command of HMS Agamemnon (64 guns), his first ship-of-the-line. HMS Agamemnon was a part of the Mediterranean Fleet under the command of Lord Hood and was involved in the occupation of Toulon. Due to inadequate supplies, Lord Hood dispatched Nelson on a mission to Naples. It was there that he met the British Ambassador, Sir William Hamilton, and his wife Emma. The following year saw Nelson's involvement in the siege of Corsica. In the battle for the city of Calvi, he sustained injuries and lost the sight in his right eye.

In 1795, Sir John Jervis assumed command of the Mediterranean Fleet. In the following year, he promoted Nelson to the rank of Captain and entrusted him with HMS Captain (74 guns).

On 13 February 1797, Nelson joined the main fleet at Cape St. Vincent in Portugal. The very next day, his substantial efforts played a key role in the defeat of the Spanish fleet. Without permission from superiors, he attacked two Spanish ships, personally led the boarding action and emerged victorious. The heroic and unparalleled achievement propelled him from a promising Naval Commander to a National Hero overnight. He was promoted to Rear-Admiral of the Blue and was knighted as a Knight Grand Cross of the Order of the Bath. During the unsuccessful attack on the city of Santa Cruz in Tenerife later that year, he was severely wounded – he lost his right arm in an artillery battle.

After his recovery, in March 1798, Nelson set off on HMS Vanguard (74 guns) to search for Napoleon's fleet. After several months of unsuccessful attempts across the Mediterranean, he managed to locate it on 1 August 1798 in Aboukir Bay, at the estuary of the Nile. Despite the approaching nightfall, Nelson opted for an immediate attack which left the French utterly stunned by the unforeseen assault. Consequently, Nelson completely destroyed the fleet. The astonishing victory reinstated British dominance in the Mediterranean and earned Admiral Nelson international fame. He proved that Napoleon's navy could, in fact, be defeated. In recognition of his accomplishment, he was knighted as Baron Nelson of the Nile and promoted to Rear-Admiral of the Red.

Following his victory, on 22 September, Nelson sailed into Naples, the capital of the Kingdom of Naples. He was received with great honours as he was the first man that defeated Napoleon, who was seen as the mortal enemy of the kingdom and the royal family. By the end of 1798, Nelson saved the King and the Royal family from the advancing French army by taking them to Palermo, Sicily.

The following year saw a peasant uprising against the Parthenopean Republic in Naples. Nelson assumed command on HMS Foudroyant (80 guns) and participated in the recapture of Naples. King Ferdinand IV declared him Duke of Bronte in Sicily.

In June 1800, sir Hamilton was called back to his homeland. Nelson returned together with the Hamiltons to England by land. Until they reached Vienna, they travelled together with the Neapolitan queen Maria Carolina.

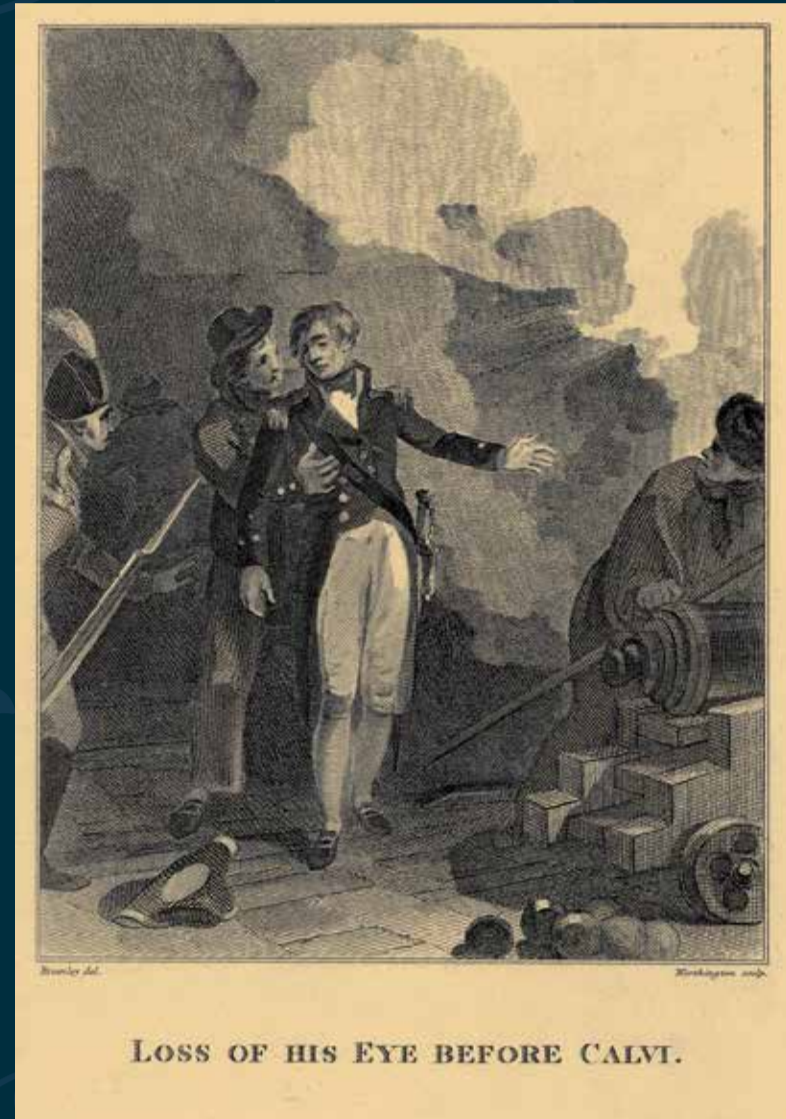
In January 1801, Nelson was promoted to Vice-Admiral of the Blue. That same year, he also separated from his wife, Fanny. Soon after, Emma Hamilton gave birth to his daughter, Horatia.

The coalition of neutral countries including Prussia, Russia, Sweden, and Denmark, united in an effort to oppose Britain's naval blockade of France, was what led Britain to launch a pre-emptive strike against Denmark. The operation was led by Sir Hyde Parker, who delegated the task of the tactical execution to Nelson. When Parker thought that the Danes were gaining the upper hand, he issued a command to retreat, but Nelson rejected the directive. He annihilated the Danish fleet and forced the city of Copenhagen to surrender – Nelson once again emerged triumphant. The magnificent victory further enhanced his reputation.

In 1802, the war came to a close with the signing of the Treaty of Amiens between the British and the French. In the following year, however, the situation took a turn for the worse. Nelson was appointed Commander in chief in the Mediterranean with the flagship HMS Victory (100 guns). Naval engagements commenced early in 1805 when the French fleet escaped the British blockade at Toulon. Nelson set off to track down the French fleet all the way to the British West Indies and back (they sailed for approximately 6,500 nautical miles or 12,000 km). After he finished the operation, the Navy granted him a one-month leave. On 14 September, he boarded the HMS Victory in Portsmouth and set sail for Cádiz, where the combined French and Spanish fleets were gathered.

Admiral Nelson arrived in Cádiz two weeks later. He devised a brilliant plan to completely destroy the combined French and Spanish fleets. The attack, one of the most famous naval clashes in history, is famously known as the Battle of Trafalgar. While the battle that took place on 21 October 1805 did not signify a definitive victory over France, it once again established British maritime supremacy. The price of the triumph, however, was significant – it was at the Battle of Trafalgar that Admiral Horatio Nelson lost his life.

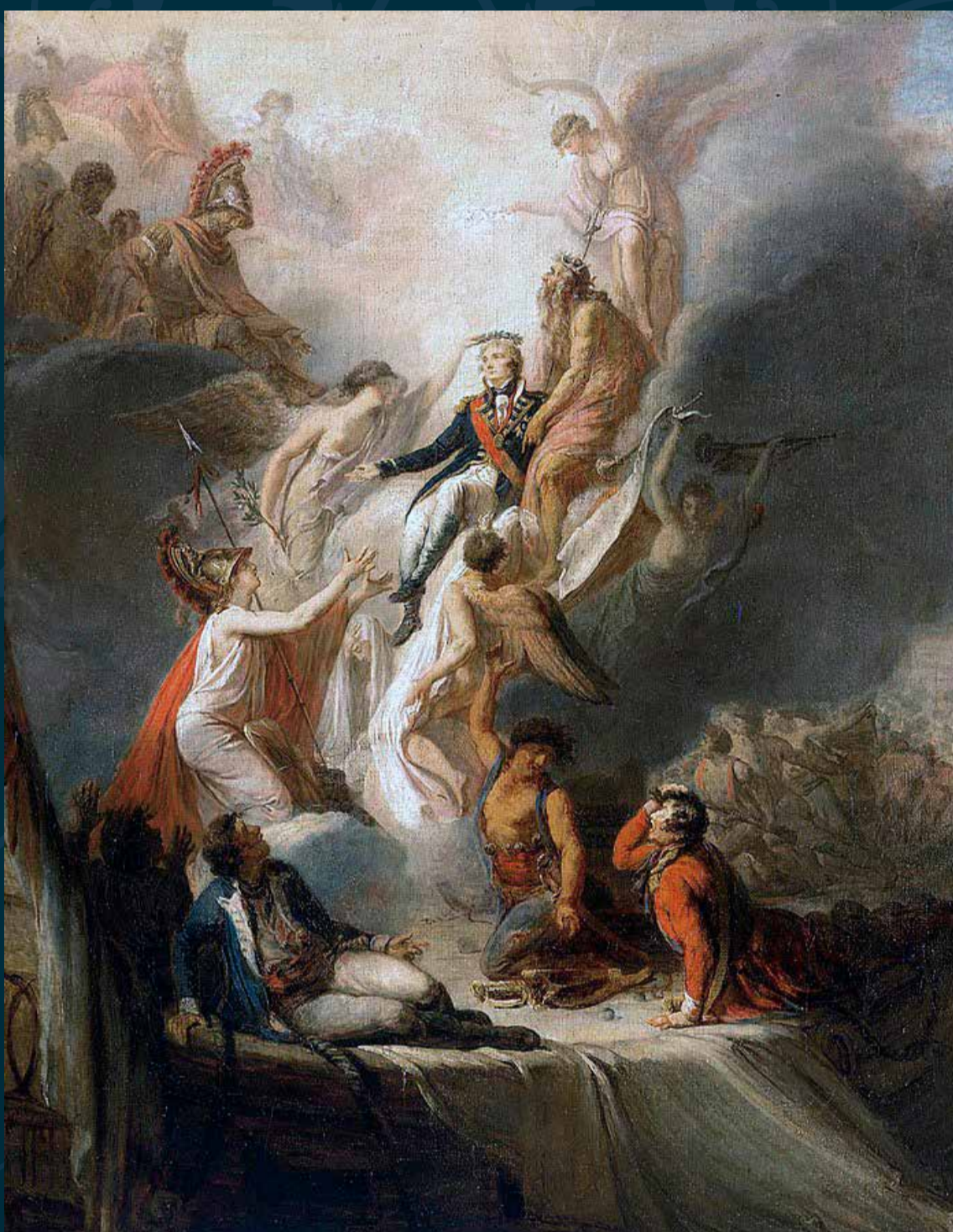
Admiral Nelson was buried with the highest honours on 9 January 1806 in St. Paul's Cathedral in London, where he still rests today.



Nelson ob izgubi očesa (Inezmani avtor, 1808)
Nelson after he lost the sight in his right eye (unknown source, 1808)



Bitka pri Nilu (Thomas Whitcombe, 1798)
The Battle of the Nile (Thomas Whitcombe, 1798)



Povelčanje admirala Nelsona (de Lérant, okrog 1812)
The Apotheosis of Admiral Nelson (de Lérant, around 1812)

Ali ste vedeli, ...

... da se je štirinajstletni Nelson med ekspedicijo na severni pol s prijateljem odpravil na lov na severnega medveda? Njegova mušketa je zatajila in prisiljen se je bil braniti s kopitom puške. Pred besnim kapitanom se je skušal zagovoriti, da je želel očetu prinesiti medvedji kožuh.



Nelson v boju s polarnim medvedom (J. Landseer in R. Westall, 1773)
Nelson in a fight with a polar bear (J. Landseer and R. Westall, 1773)

Did you know...

... that at the age of 14, during the expedition to the North Pole, Nelson attempted to hunt a polar bear with a friend? His musket misfired, so he had to defend himself with the buttstock of the rifle. When the infuriated Captain confronted him, Nelson tried to justify his actions by claiming he had intended to bring the bear's skin back home as a gift for his father.



Bitka pri Trafalgarju (Clarkson F. Stanfield, 1836)
The Battle of Trafalgar (Clarkson F. Stanfield, 1836)

Nelsonovo potovanje čez slovenske dežele leta 1800

Nelson's Journey Across Slovenian Historical Regions in 1800



Kraljica Marija Karolina (Anton R. Mengs, okrog 1768)
Queen Maria Carolina (Anton R. Mengs, around 1768)

Nelson, ki je 1. avgusta 1798 v zalivu Abukir na ustju reke Nil porazil Napoleonovo floto in s tem strl francosko prevlado v Sredozemlju, je bil v Neaplju, glavnem mestu Neapeljskega kraljestva, kamor je priplul 22. septembra, sprejet z velikimi častmi. Neapeljskemu kraljestvu in Siciliji je formalno vladal kralj Ferdinand IV., a ker se je ta bolj zanimal za lov ter zabavo, je s kraljestvoma dejansko upravljala njegova žena Marija Karolina, hčerka cesarice Marije Terezije, sestra obglavljene francoske kraljice Marije Antoanete in hkrati tašča takratnega avstrijskega cesarja Franca II. V nemirnih časih francoskega osvajanja Apeninskega polotoka je Nelson s kraljevo družino vzpostavil zelo tesne stike. Posebej tesne stike pa je vzpostavil z lady Emmo Hamilton, ženo britanskega veleposlanika v Neaplju sira Williama Hamiltona, saj sta se močno zaljubila in njun odnos je postajal vse občutljivejši škandal.

Leta 1800 se je lord Nelson odločil skupaj s Hamiltonovima vrniti v Anglijo. Lord Keith, poveljnik britanske flote v Sredozemlju, Nelsonu za potrebe potovanja ni bil pripravljen odstopiti ene od večjih vojaških ladij, ki jo je potreboval za potencialen boj s Francozi, ampak zgolj manjšo ladjo, kar pa je Nelson zavrnil. Glede na to, da je potovanje na Dunaj načrtovala tudi kraljica Marija Karolina, je bila sprejeta odločitev, da bo Nelsonova skupina priključena kraljičinemu spremstvu in da bodo skupaj potovali do Dunaja, skupina, namenjena v Britanijo, pa bo pot zatem nadaljevala do Hamburga.



Pristanišče v Anconi (Jacob P. Hackert, 1784)
The harbour at Ancona (Jacob P. Hackert, 1784)

Celotno kraljičino spremstvo je skupaj z Nelsonovo skupino štelo 85 oseb. Do Livorna so pripotovali po morju, potem pa po kopnem čez Italijo do pristanišča v Anconi. Za prevoz kraljice je avstrijski cesar v Ancono sicer poslal fregato Bellona, ki pa ji je bil zaradi večje komoditete potnikov odvzet večji del bojne moči. Nelson je kraljici zaradi nevarnosti napada potovanje s to ladjo odločno odsvetoval in namesto tega so se vkrcali na dve ruski vojaški ladji, ki pa sta bili zelo zanemarjeni ter v slabem stanju. Konvoj, v katerem so bili še dve ruski vojaški ladji, cesarska fregata in nekaj drugih plovil, je po štirih dneh izjemno naporne plovbe priplul v Trst.

Večina potnikov je bila zaradi plovbe tako zdelana, da je potrebovala zdravniško pomoč. Kraljica s spremstvom se je namestila v Velikem gostišču/Locanda Grande, Nelsonova skupina pa v gostišču Pri cesarskem orlu/Zum Kaiseradler. Uradni sprejem visokih gostov se je vršil naslednji dan, ko jim je izrekel dobrodošlico tržaški guverner, v pozdrav kraljici pa je bilo izstreljenih tudi trikrat po 21 topovskih salv. Posebno pozornost je vzbujal tudi admiral Nelson – klici »Vivat Nelson«
so odmevali širom pristaniškega mesta. Sledila je skrbna priprava na potovanje do Dunaja. Kraljičino spremstvo je bilo razdeljeno na dve skupini, ki naj bi potovali z dnevnim zamika, še dan pozneje pa naj bi sledila Nelsonova skupina. Kraljičina skupina je za pot potrebovala 46 konj, druga skupina 36 in Nelsonova 25. Potovali so v 14 kočijah, pri čemer so za prtjago potrebovali še tri dodatne vozove. Odpravi se je pridružil tudi britanski vicekonzul v Trstu Anderson, ki je dobro poznal pot do Dunaja in tudi lokalne razmere.

Kraljica Marija Karolina je Trst zapustila v nedeljo, 10. avgusta 1800 – Trst je bil ob tem slavnostno osvetljen in visoke goste je pozdravljala množica meščanov ter okolčanov. Nelsonova skupina se je na pot proti Dunaju podala dva dni pozneje.

Prvi postanek si je skupina privoščila v Postojni, kjer so obiskali slavno Postojnsko jamo in si zatem privoščili obed v gostišču La Fortuna. Sledilo je potovanje do Ljubljane – prestolnice dežele Kranjske, kjer so bili deležni slovesnega sprejema. Nekoliko razočaranja je bilo le ob spoznanju, da so kraljico, ki je potovala pred njimi, nastanili v škofjski rezidenca, njihova skupina pa v gostišču Pri slonu.

V čast slavnemu admiralu, zmagovalcu nad francoskim ladjevjem, so v Filharmoniji pripravili glasbeno praznovanje – orkester je najprej izvedel Haydnovo *Simfonijo št. 100 (Vojaška)* in zatem se arijo *La virtù Britanna*. Koncertu je sledil sprejem, ki so ga udeležili številni visoki gostje, ponosni, da so se lahko srečali s slavnim admiralom. Skupina je na pot krenila naslednji dan, 15. avgusta 1800, že kmalu po polnoči. Pred njimi je bil namreč hud vzpon čez prelaz Ljubelj (1.367 m n. v.). Na vrhu prelaza se jim je odprl čudovit pogled na dolino reke Drave. Pot jim je tako vodila do Celovca, kjer so zavili proti vzhodu in ob mraku dosegli mesto Gradec.

Na Dunaj so prispeli 18. avgusta 1800. Prestolnica je navdušeno sprejela slavnega admiral, sledili so številni sprejemi, koncerti in audience. Dne 26. septembra so ponovno krenili na pot. Potovali so skozi Prago in se v kraju Lovosice vkrcali na rečni ladji ter z njima po reki Labi pripotovali do Dresdna, prestolnice dežele Saxe. Potovanje po Labi so nadaljevali čez osem dni in 21. oktobra 1800 prispeli v Hamburg, kjer so se po 92 dneh, odkar so se izkrcali v Trstu, vkrcali na poštno ladjo za Britanijo.

Nelson, who on 1 August 1798, defeated Napoleon's fleet in the battle of Aboukir Bay, at the estuary of the Nile, where he broke French dominance in the Mediterranean, was received with great honours after he had arrived in Naples, the capital of the Kingdom of Naples, on 22 September. King Ferdinand IV was the formal sovereign of the Kingdom of Naples and Sicily, but he was more interested in hunting and entertainment. The two kingdoms were therefore actually governed by his wife Maria Carolina, who was the daughter of empress Maria Theresa, sister of the beheaded Marie Antoinette, and concurrently the mother-in-law of the then Austrian Emperor, Francis II. During the turbulent period of the French attempts to conquer the Apennine Peninsula, Nelson established very close ties with the Royal family. He formed an especially intimate connection with Lady Emma Hamilton, the wife of the British Ambassador in Naples, Sir William Hamilton. They fell in love and their intimate relationship became a gradually escalating scandal.

In the year 1800, Lord Nelson decided to return to England along with the Hamiltons. Lord Keith, the commander of the British fleet in the Mediterranean, refused to grant Nelson one of the larger ships for their journey since he anticipated a potential battle with the French naval forces. Instead, Lord Keith offered him a smaller ship which Nelson declined. Because queen Maria Carolina was also planning her own journey to Vienna, they decided that Nelson's group would join her entourage. They agreed to travel to Vienna and made the decision that Nelson's ensemble would then continue their journey to Hamburg on their own.

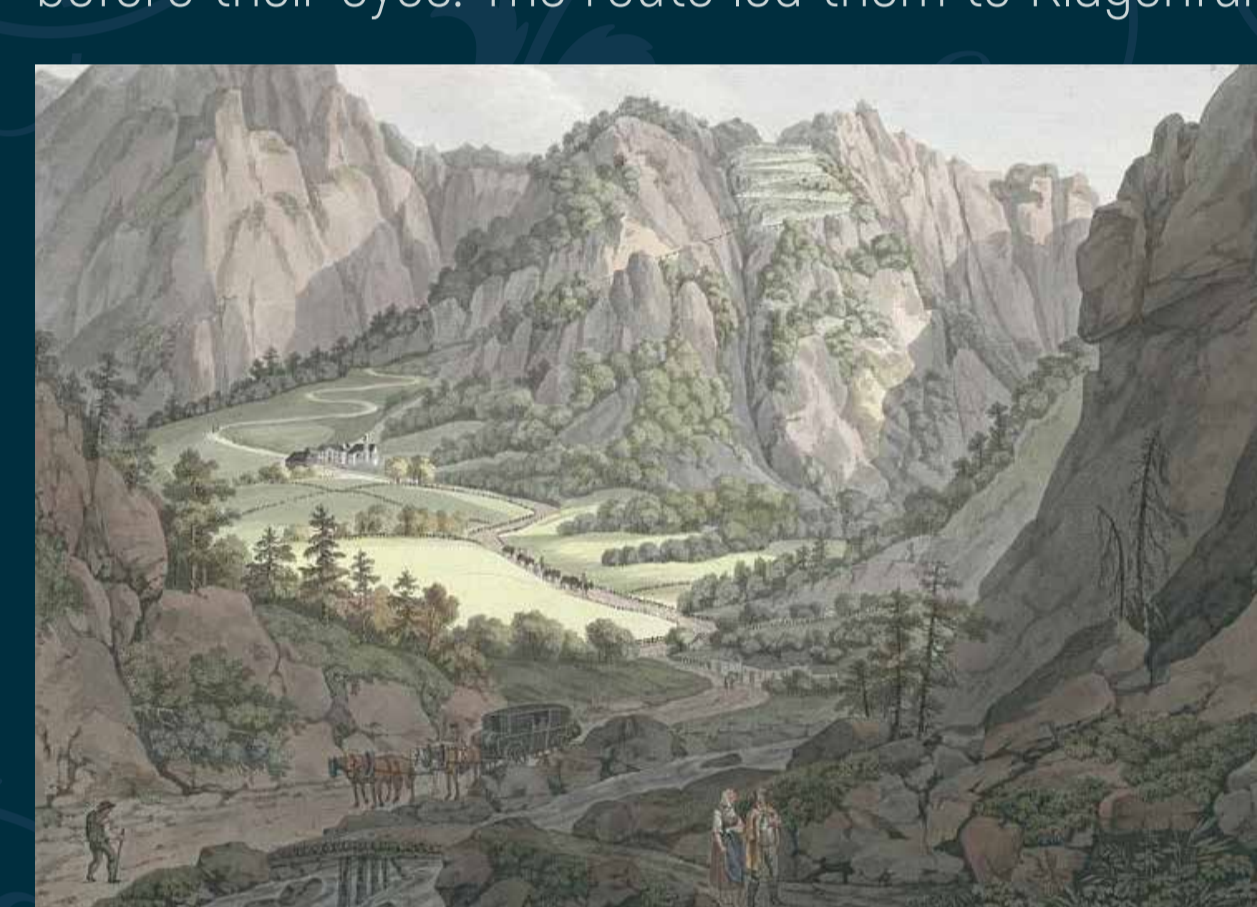
The royal entourage was comprised of 85 people, including Nelson's group. They travelled to Livorno by sea, but then continued their journey through Italy to the port of Ancona by land. The Austrian Emperor sent a frigate Bellona, which was stripped of the majority of its combat power to ensure a greater level of comfort for the passengers. Nelson strongly advised against the use of said ship for the queen's journey due to the risk of attack. Instead, they boarded two Russian military ships that had been poorly maintained and in a state of disrepair. The convoy that included two other Russian military ships, the Emperor's frigate and several other vessels, finally sailed into the harbour of Trieste after four days of perilous sea voyage.

A significant portion of passengers were so exhausted they required medical assistance. The queen and her entourage were accommodated in the Grand Inn (Locanda Grande) while Nelson's group settled at the Emperor's Eagle Inn (Zum Kaiseradler). The official reception of the distinguished guests took place the following day when the governor of Trieste extended a warm welcome. To salute the queen, 21 cannon shots were fired in three salvos. The presence of Admiral Nelson also attracted special attention – shouts "Vivat Nelson" echoed through the port city. The celebrations were followed by meticulous preparations for the journey to Vienna. The queen's entourage was divided into two groups, which were set to travel a day apart. Nelson's group followed them both the day after. All three groups carried a substantial amount of belongings with them – the queen's group required 46 horses, the second group 36 horses, and Nelson's group 25 horses. They travelled in 14 carriages and needed three additional wagons for their luggage. Anderson, the British Vice Consul in Trieste, also joined them since he was invaluable for the expedition because he was well-acquainted with the route to Vienna and familiar with the local conditions along the way.

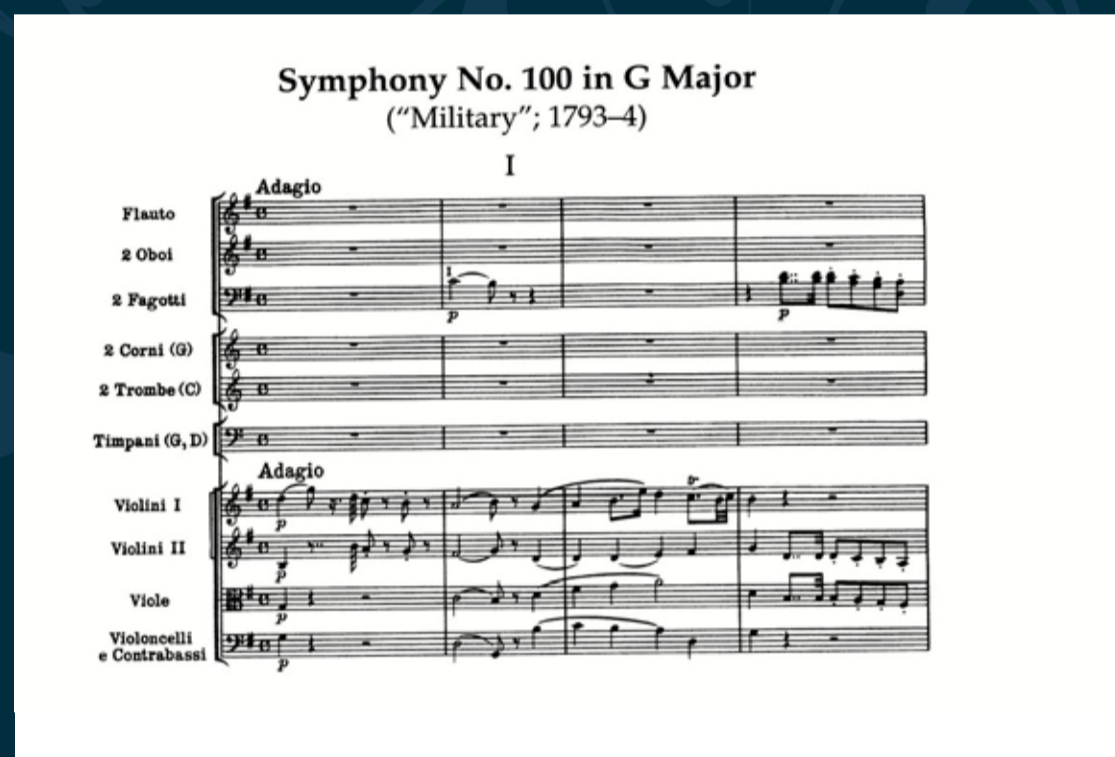
Queen Maria Carolina left Trieste on Sunday, 10 August 1800. The city was gloriously illuminated, and the distinguished guests were greeted by a crowd of locals. Nelson's group embarked on their journey to Vienna two days later. The group made their first stop in Postojna, where they visited the renowned Postojna Cave and later enjoyed a meal at the La Fortuna Inn. They then continued their journey to Ljubljana, the capital of Carniola, where they received a warm welcome. However, they were slightly disappointed when they realised that the queen, who had travelled ahead of them, stayed in the Bishop's Residence, while they were accommodated at the Elephant Inn (Gostišče Pri slonu).

In honour of the illustrious Admiral, who was victorious over the French naval forces, a musical celebration was held at the Ljubljana Philharmonic Hall. The orchestra commenced the event by performing Haydn's Symphony No. 100 (also known as "Military"), followed by the aria "La virtù Britanna." The concert was followed by a reception, attended by several distinguished guests. They were all proud to have had the opportunity to meet the renowned Admiral. The group continued their journey the following day, on 15 August 1800, shortly after midnight. The upcoming leg of the journey posed a significant challenge – they had to ascend through the Ljubelj pass (1,367 m). At the summit, a magnificent view of the Drava River valley unfolded before their eyes. The route led them to Klagenfurt where they turned eastward. By nightfall, they reached the city of Graz. On 18 August 1800, they arrived in Vienna. The capital enthusiastically greeted the famous Admiral, which was followed by numerous receptions, concerts, and audiences. On 26 September, they continued their journey. They travelled through Prague and boarded two riverboats in Lovosice. They sailed down the Elbe to Dresden, the capital of the Saxony. Eight days later, they continued their journey down the river and reached Hamburg on 21 October 1800. It was in that German port city that they, after 92 days since disembarking in Trieste, boarded a mail ship bound for Britain.

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Prelaz Ljubelj (Ferdinand Runk, 1816)
Ljubelj Pass (Ferdinand Runk, 1816)



Notni zapis začetka Haydnove Simfonije št. 100 v G-duru
Sheet music for the beginning of Haydn's Symphony No. 100 in G Major



Postojna na Kranjskem (Alois Schaffnerst, 1821)
Postojna, a market town in the historical region of Carniola (Alois Schaffnerst, 1821)



Ljubljansko pristanišče na Bregu (neznani avtor, 1765)
River port at Breg, Ljubljana (unknown source, 1765)

Ali ste vedeli, ...

... da se je leta 1552 na poti iz Španije v Ljubljani ustavil avstrijski nadvojvoda Maksimilijan? S seboj je nosil tudi poročna darila, saj se je pred kratkim poročil z Marijo Špansko. Med daril je izstopal slon Sulejman, ki je vzbujal veliko zanimanja med Ljubljancami in ostal meščanom v trajnem spominu. Gostišče, ki so ga kasneje zgradili na mestu, kjer je slon Sulejman počival, so tako poimenovali kar Pri slonu.

Did you know...

... that in 1552, the Austrian archduke Maximilian made a stop in Ljubljana on his way from Spain? He carried his wedding gifts because he had recently married Mary of Spain. The gift that stood out the most was an elephant, Suleiman. The animal attracted considerable attention among the people in Ljubljana and it remained in their permanent recollection of the Maximilian's visit. The inn that was later built on the spot where Suleiman rested, was aptly named the Elephant Inn (Gostišče Pri slonu).



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Horatio

1758

Nelson

1805

