



Press Release

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Are your ancestors Trafalgar heroes?

The National Archives launches online Trafalgar database

A new, free online database, containing details of more than 18,000 individuals who fought in Nelson's fleet at the Battle of Trafalgar, is being launched by The National Archives, Kew (www.nationalarchives.gov.uk) on 22 June.

This unique and fascinating facility - **Trafalgar Ancestors** - will appeal to anyone interested in exploring and learning about their own family history. The database is being compiled from records held at The National Archives, Kew - including details gleaned from ships' musters and paylists, certificates of Navy service and hospital applications made by men who served at Trafalgar to become in-pensioners at Greenwich Hospital.

The database compiled by The National Archives offers online users the opportunity to discover if an ancestor who served in the Royal Navy in 1805 would have fought in the great battle and be recorded in **Trafalgar Ancestors**.

Online users will be able to search by different categories, which include: first name, last name, birth place, rating or rank, name(s) of ship(s) the individual fought on, and their age at the time of the Battle of Trafalgar. As the project progresses, users will also be able to find full service records, trace the ships that their ancestors served on, and find genealogical information about the men's families.

Research already carried out on the database shows that a large percentage of the *HMS Victory* crew (828 in total) came from outside Great Britain, including the West Indies, America, Holland, Malta, Italy and France. Over eighty men came from Ireland.

Bruno Pappalardo, naval expert for The National Archives, said: "Trafalgar Ancestors offers those interested in family history the chance of finding whether an ancestor may have served in Nelson's fleet in the Battle of Trafalgar - the most famous naval battle in history."

The database will be available on-line at www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/trafalgarancestors from 22 June and will also feature in The National Archives new exhibition *Captains, Pirates and Castaways* which launches in Kew on the same day.

For further information and interviews contact Lawrence Hall on 020 8392 5712 or 07813 115 129 or via email: lawrence.hall@mission-21.com

Notes to Editors:

The National Archives www.nationalarchives.gov.uk, Kew, West London, has one of the largest archival collections in the world, spanning 1,000 years of British history. It offers the public free onsite access to vast collections of family history sources, including military service records, ships' passenger lists, slave registers and tax records. The Family Records Centre, Islington, holds census information from 1841, wills, birth, death and marriage certificates. TNA's collections are heavily used onsite and online by historical researchers throughout the world.

The research rooms at The National Archives and The Family Records Centre are open Monday 9am-5pm, Tuesday 10am-7pm, Wednesday 9am-5pm, Thursday 9am-7pm, Friday 9am-5pm, Saturday 9.30am-5pm. Or visit www.familyrecords.gov.uk for more information.

The complete series Prerogative Court of Canterbury wills (1384 – 1858) is now available online and is free to search. To search Documents Online go to <http://www.documentsonline.nationalarchives.gov.uk/wills.asp>