

HMS Victory Audio Tour – FINAL REVISION v22.1

Notes

NEW RECORDING NOTES have been added, where relevant. These directions apply to the final recorded audio file supplied 19th December 2016.

- Visitors will pick up their audio devices in the gazebo before entering HMS *Victory*
- Accessible Tour for visitors in wheelchairs vs Main Tour:
 - Audio Point numbers are for script references only and will not be used as part of the tour.
 - Set of dedicated hardware may or may not be required for Accessible Tour as it has different content
 - An additional Audio Point 1A required for ‘Welcome’ at the bottom of the accessible gangway
 - Single Point 27A/27B: two versions use same title and script, only vary slightly between the two tours, i.e. the instruction to go down to the Orlop for Main Tour, or stay on the Lower Gun Deck for wheelchair users.
 - Single Point 30A/30B:
 - A) is an extended ‘Cockpit – Death of Nelson – Saving Victory’ for visitors (in wheelchairs) who stay on the Lower Gun Deck largely using existing script, i.e. no major edits between the different tours;
 - B) simple instruction to go to the stairs to the Orlop for the Main Tour
 - Single point 29A/29B:
 - A) is an extended Introduction ‘Welcome on Board’ and ‘Story So Far’ for wheelchair users only. It is compiled from heavily edited versions of scripts from upper decks and will require recording separately.
 - B) simple instruction to go to the stairs to the Orlop for the Main Tour. Issue here is a title that works for both.
- In this document:
 - Text in round brackets for information, instruction or direction.
 - Black text in square brackets missing/replacement words or suggested alternatives
 - Grey text in square brackets original script proposed to be omitted (now mostly removed to avoid confusion)
- Sound effects. The feature film “**Master and Commander**” is probably the best reference for relevant period sounds, especially:
 - gun fire and general battle noises
 - round shot flying overhead
 - drums beating to quarters
 - ship’s bells

- chain pumps
- ships in a storm
- etc.

Character Voices

Narrator

Male.

Vice-Admiral Lord Nelson

Age 47

Captain Thomas Masterton Hardy

Age 36, born Dorset, but likely to have an upper-class accent as his family were minor gentry.

Able Seaman John Brown

Age 25, Irish

Royal Marine Lieutenant Lewis Roteley

Age 20, Welsh

Midshipman John Pollard

Age 18, Cornish

Surgeon William Beatty

Age 32, Scottish, upper-middle class

Midshipman Richard Roberts

Age 20, English, RP

Lieutenant John Yule

Age unknown, say 24 (average age of the Lieutenants), born unknown. Appears in Devis picture on the left.

1. Introduction – September 1805

New Recording Notes

More energetic and exciting delivery needed – the new script will help with this. At present it is a slightly stilted introduction, although very clear and well annunciated.

Location

External – bottom of entrance gangway

Welcome and Orientation

NARRATOR

[more energetic and exciting delivery needed]

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Welcome to HMS Victory – a unique 250-year-old survivor from the Age of Sail. I'm your personal guide and together we're going to explore this remarkable ship. Along the way you'll get to know many of the people who have helped make *Victory* famous. I'm here to help you find your way and keep you safe.

There are Guides throughout the ship who will answer any questions you might have.

Orientation

Our journey begins in Portsmouth over two hundred years ago – in September 1805 – just weeks before the Battle of Trafalgar.

Every effort has been made to make *Victory* appear just as she did at that time – from the colours she's painted, to the food on the tables.

Instructions

Now, make your way up the gangway to *Victory's* Middle Gun Deck and please mind your head as you go through the low doorway.

Approx. length: 30 secs

1 A. Introduction – September 1805

New Recording Notes

More energetic and exciting delivery needed – the new script will help with this. At present it is a slightly stilted introduction, although very clear and well announced.

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Location

External – bottom of **ACCESSIBLE** entrance gangway leading to Lower Gun Deck

Welcome and Orientation

NARRATOR

[more energetic and exciting delivery needed]

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Welcome to HMS Victory – a unique 250-year-old survivor from the Age of Sail. I'm your personal guide and together we're going to explore this remarkable ship. Along the way you'll get to know many of the people who have helped make *Victory* famous. I'm here to help you find your way and keep you safe.

On *Victory's* Lower Gun Deck there are Guides who will answer any questions you might have.

Orientation

Our journey begins in Portsmouth over two hundred years ago – in September 1805 – just weeks before the Battle of Trafalgar.

Every effort has been made to make *Victory* appear just as she did at that time – from the colours she's painted, to the food on the tables.

Instructions

Now make your way up the gangway to the Lower Gun Deck.

Approx. length: 30 secs

2. Welcome on Board

New Recording Notes

Is it my imagination, or could 'quarterdeck' be pronounced slightly more clearly?

Location

Internal, Middle Gun Deck near stairway

Instructions

NARRATOR

This is *Victory's* Middle Gun Deck. Our journey continues out in the fresh air of the Quarterdeck – that's two decks above where we are now. But don't worry, we'll come back down to the middle deck and I'll show you round properly... all in good time.

Make your way to the stairs in the centre of the ship and climb carefully to the deck above. Keep a firm hold of the handrails. Then, carry on up the next set of stairs and out onto the Quarterdeck. I'll meet you again there.

Commented [JMI]: Should we omit this sentence? Could it be a reason people are thinking they need to come back down these steps

(this is a crucial and difficult set of instructions – might need further discussion on board)

Approx. length: 18 secs

3. The Quarterdeck – 2nd September 1805

Location

External, on the Quarterdeck port side

Pronunciations

Villeneuve: VYLL-NERVE

Scene setting

NARRATOR

There are many hazards on the Quarterdeck and the planks may be wet, so please take great care not to trip.

If the weather permits, you can climb carefully up the stairs to the Poop Deck, at the back – or stern – of the ship. Or stay here on the Quarterdeck and go into Captain Hardy's quarters. After you have explored this part of Victory, you will need to move right the way forward to the fo'c'stle, at the bow, where your tour continues.

Meanwhile – here on the Quarterdeck – it is the 2nd of September 1805. Britain has been at war with France for over two years. In just seven weeks, HMS *Victory* – and her ship's company of eight hundred and twenty-one men and boys – will be fighting for their lives at Trafalgar.

The Royal Navy has just learnt that the French Admiral Villeneuve has mustered a great force of French and Spanish ships¹.

Vice-Admiral Horatio Nelson has only just returned home after more than two years at sea. Now, he has been ordered back to Portsmouth, to sail in *Victory* to the southern coast of Spain and take command of the British Channel Fleet.

Victory is being made ready. The ship's Carpenter – William Bunce – and his crew are blacking the hull, making ladders and gratings, whitewashing the Orlop Deck and putting up new wooden bulkheads for the admiral's and captain's quarters.²

Instructions

NARRATOR

Approx. length: **56** secs

Commented [JM2]: keep the momentum going here - only a very short pause between the previous paragraph in case visitors miss the next section.

¹ Nelson's Victory, Lavery, p.128

² Nelson's Victory, Lavery, p.128

4. The Nelson Plaque

Location

External, convenient place on the Quarterdeck, ~~near~~ but away from the plaque to avoid congestion.

Pronunciations

Redoutable: French pronunciation REH-DOO-TAR-BL

Scene Setting

NARRATOR

HMS *Victory* is commanded from the Quarterdeck. This is where Captain Hardy and Vice-Admiral Nelson will pace back and forth during the Battle of Trafalgar.

Officers were expected to be out in the open – forward of the wheel – with no protection from above. And it was on the Quarterdeck that Nelson received a fatal wound from a musket ball, fired by a French sailor crouching high in the mizzen top of the French ship *Redoutable*. This spot is now marked with a simple, brass plaque on the deck, near the stairs you came up.

The ball struck Nelson in the left shoulder, passing straight through his chest to break his spine.

Nelson was in no doubt about the seriousness of his wound:

NELSON

(emphatic through gritted teeth, almost cross – not gasping and groaning)

“they have done for me at last, Hardy³”.

NARRATOR

Nelson – still clinging painfully to life – was carried down the steep ladders to Surgeon Beatty’s Cockpit, four agonising decks below. Nelson covered his face with his handkerchief, hoping the men might not recognise him.

Instructions

NARRATOR

(not needed)

Approx. length: **50 secs**

³ Beatty’s account

5. The Poop Deck

Location

External, The Poop Deck

Pronunciations

Roteley: ROTE-LEY

poupe: POOP

Lieutenant: LEF-TENANT

Scene Setting

NARRATOR

This is the Poop Deck – named after the French word for stern, ‘la poupe’. From here we have a magnificent view down the length of the ship and a real sense of *Victory*’s size and scale.

Flag signals are made from the Poop. During the Battle of Trafalgar Lieutenant Pasco, Midshipman Pollard and Quartermaster King will be on duty here – sending signals and watching for those made by others.

Drawn up in ranks alongside them will be about forty of the best, red-coated royal marines. They’re under the command of Captain of Marines, Charles Adair, and his Lieutenants: Peake, Reeves and Lewis Roteley.

But the Poop Deck is also extremely exposed – especially to enemy musket fire – these poor, brave men will have a very hot time of it at Trafalgar...

From here we also have a fine view of the Naval dockyard. The two massive brick storehouses – now part of the National Museum of the Royal Navy – would have been familiar to Nelson.

Instructions

When you are ready, go down the stairs, back to the Quarterdeck. And remember, please take great care not to trip on any hazards.

Approx. length: **58** secs

6. Preparing to Sail – 13th September 1805

Location

External, outside Captain Hardy's Quarters

Scene Setting

NARRATOR

On the evening of Friday 13th September – at half-past-ten – Nelson left his home in Merton, near London, and travelled overnight by horse and carriage back to Portsmouth.

He arrived at six o'clock this morning, and after taking breakfast with a few close friends, walked to the beach, where a small boat was waiting to row him out to *Victory*.

Word quickly spread that Nelson was in town and hundreds of people gathered to catch a glimpse of him. As his boat pushed away from shore they gave three hearty cheers, which Nelson returned with a wave of his hat.⁴

SFX

Distant cheering from shore – “Huzzah! Huzzah! Huzzah”

NARRATOR

(this para to be said in a much more business-like tone – give the impression of Hardy getting things in order before Nelson's arrival.)

Meanwhile, here on *Victory*, Captain Hardy is scrutinising the final preparations, as Nelson is expected at any moment⁵.

Instructions

Let's now enter Captain Hardy's Quarters – they're close to the ship's wheel and well-placed for commanding *Victory*.

Be careful not to trip over the spurnwater strip, which helps keep the rain out – and mind your head on the low beams. That also goes for Captain Hardy – he's six-foot-four! – so don't get the idea that everyone was small.

Approx. length: 58 secs

⁴ Nelson's *Victory*, Lavery, p.129

⁵ Beatty's account, Nelson's Memorandum Book “at two go on board *Victory* at St Helens”

7. The Sailing Master's Office

Location

External, Outside Thomas Atkinson's Office

Scene Setting

NARRATOR

The small office belongs to Thomas Atkinson, Sailing Master. He is *Victory's* senior technical officer – one of Hardy's most trusted men – responsible for everything to do with navigation, steering and sailing in general.

Atkinson is also in charge of all the compasses, charts and navigating instruments. He makes sure stores are loaded properly and that the ship is secure. He is also accountable for the ship's log book – a vital document if there was ever an enquiry or courts martial.

And, in case you hadn't noticed, he shares his modest office with a 12-pounder gun!

Instructions

(not needed)

Approx. length: **31** secs

8. Captain Hardy's Dining Cabin

Location

Hardy's Dining Cabin

Scene Setting

NARRATOR

Captain Hardy's dining cabin is light and spacious – it needs to be, as it doubles up as an office for his senior administrative staff.

Captain Hardy has full authority over *Victory*. Every detail is his responsibility, from the discipline of the crew to the safety of the ship.

Hardy and Nelson go back a long way. Hardy was first promoted Captain of Nelson's flagship, HMS *Vanguard*, in October 1798 and thereafter, when Nelson transferred his flag to other ships, he took Hardy with him. This is now the fifth time Hardy has been Nelson's flag captain.

Whilst it is Vice-Admiral Nelson who commands the fleet from HMS *Victory* – his flagship – it is Captain Hardy, Nelson's Flag Captain, who commands *Victory*.

Instructions

(not needed)

Approx. length: **43** secs

9. Captain Hardy's Day Cabin

Location

Hardy's Day Cabin

Scene Setting

NARRATOR

Captain Hardy's Day Cabin is very modestly furnished. He does have the luxury of private lavatories – or 'heads' as they're called in the Navy – in the small cubicles on either side of the cabin.

When *Victory* is cleared for action, it means exactly that. All the wooden partitions in these cabins will be taken down and stored, maybe even thrown overboard – including the windows! Turning Hardy's quarters into a gun deck and bringing the 12-pounders to bear is far more important than saving the furniture and fittings.

Nelson rates Hardy very highly. After so much experience together at sea there is clearly a strong bond of trust and friendship between the two men.

Hardy has been in poor health for nearly a year and, out of concern for his friend, Nelson asks Surgeon Beatty how long it might be before he fully recovers? The Surgeon replies:

BEATTY

"I hope not more than a fortnight."⁶

Instructions

We're going to leave through Captain Hardy's sleeping cabin – his hanging, sleeping cot is much more comfortable and convenient than a canvass hammock – and make our way forward across the quarterdeck, all the way to the bow at the other end of the ship.

~~hanging, sleeping cot is much more comfortable and convenient than a canvass hammock.~~

Commented [JM3]: pronounced bow as in 'now', not as in 'beau'

Approx. length: **55** secs

⁶ Beatty's account

10. Setting Sail – 15th September 1805

Location

External, Quarterdeck, port side

Pronunciations

Euryalus: YUR-RYE-ALUS

Scene Setting

NARRATOR

Most of Saturday the 14th of September was spent making final preparations for sea. At eight this morning – Sunday the 15th – Captain Hardy orders the massive anchors raised and *Victory* sets sail to join the British fleet.

Victory is accompanied by the smaller 36-gun frigate HMS *Euryalus*, commanded by Captain Henry Blackwood – it was Blackwood who first reported the enemy's great force of ships.

The rails made from strong rope netting are for storing hammocks. During the day, each man rolls up his hammock – complete with all his bedding – and packs it tight between the rails. Stored below deck the hammocks would only get in the way and if they caught fire, could destroy the ship.

The rails are then covered with canvass to protect the hammocks from the worst of the sea and weather. They help shield the men on deck, not only from rough seas but hopefully from enemy musket balls and flying splinters.

Instructions

Keep moving forward, towards the bow, and please take great care not to trip on any hazards.

Approx. length: 56 secs

11. The Fo’c’stle

Location

External, on the Fo’c’stle, near the carronade

Pronunciations

Fo’c’stle: FOLK-SLE

Carronade: as in “lemonade”

Bo’s’n: as it looks BOW-S’N

Scene Setting

NARRATOR

This part of *Victory* is called the Fo’c’stle.

The fat gun is a carronade. It only has a short barrel but can fire a sixty-eight-pound shot – that’s nearly six times the weight of shot fired by the 12-pounder next to it.

Carronades are used at very close range. The heavy shot smashes into a ship’s timbers, sending showers of deadly wooden splinters flying across the deck. Carronades can also be loaded with cases of musket balls and used with gruesome and lethal effect to clear decks of people.

Gunner Rivers has not yet fitted these guns with gunlocks – the spring-loaded mechanisms needed for firing them. They still have their lead covers, called ‘aprons’, protecting the touch holes from getting damp or blocked.

Bo’s’n Willmet will take charge of the two Carronades during the Battle of Trafalgar.

Instructions

Now go carefully down the stairs at the bow – right at the front of the ship – holding firmly onto the hand rails as you go below, down to the Upper Gun deck.

Approx. length: **49** secs

Commented [JM4]: pronounced bow as in “now”, not as in beau.

I have deliberately laboured the point and repeated the word “down” twice.

12. The Sick Bay

Location

The Upper Gun Deck, in the Sick Bay

Scene Setting

NARRATOR

The Sick Bay is located at the bow where it gets plenty of fresh, sea air. It is also near the ‘heads’ – the Navy’s word for ‘toilets’.

It is well away from the men’s living quarters on the decks below, as highly contagious and deadly diseases – such as cholera – can spread rapidly in these confined spaces. Any man put on the sick list eats and sleeps in the Sick Bay.

Scurvy is rare and can be fatal, but at least it’s not catching. It crops up when there are no supplies of fresh fruit and veg rich in vitamin C. The Royal Navy has solved the problem by adding citrus juice – along with water and sugar – to the men’s rum ration, known as ‘grog’.

Common Injuries – such as cuts, bruises and broken bones – can be caused by everyday dangers on board. Battles bring with them their own horrors. Amputations are common.

There are no anaesthetics to take away the pain or antibiotics to prevent deadly infections like gangrene.

Medicines are pretty crude, and generally not much use. Medical knowledge is still hit and miss – a skilled surgeon can patch you up, but the rest is largely down to luck.

Ship’s Surgeon, William Beatty, finds the people on *Victory* generally in excellent health and attributes this solely to Captain Hardy’s strict attention to both their well-being and that of the ship⁷.

Instructions

(not needed here?)

Approx. Timings: 70 secs

⁷ Beatty’s account

13. Punishment fits the Crime – 24th September

Location

The Upper Gun Deck, outside the Sick Bay

Scene Setting

NARRATOR

Captain Hardy has a reputation as a strict disciplinarian. He cares for the men, but he also is quick to punish them.

For minor offences, you might have to forego your ration of 'grog', or sit here, clapped in irons.

But, if Captain Hardy finds you guilty of a more grievous offence – like drunkenness or theft – you'll earn yourself a flogging, up on the Quarterdeck.

He'll order 'all hands aft to witness punishment', have you tied to a grating and lashed by the Bo's'n's Mate with the cat-o-nine tails. Only Surgeon Beatty can stop the proceedings if he thinks your life is in danger.

Captain Hardy has already dished out the punishments for today:

(said almost as if announcing the list)

Bernard Flynn, found being drunk, 36 lashes...

John Moore, caught thieving... *(pause)* 72 lashes!

Instructions

(not needed here?)

Approx. Timings: 40 secs

14. On Course for Spain – 25th September

Location

On the Upper Gun Deck, port side

Scene Setting

NARRATOR

It is now the 25th September. *Victory* has been at sea for more than a week and is on course to join the British Fleet off the southern coast of Spain in just a few days.

SFX

Brief sounds of chipping of wood with a chisel and hammering of metal, maybe also bellows and crackling coals.

NARRATOR

The Upper Gun Deck is a hive of activity. It is in part a ‘weather deck’, open to the sun, wind and rain. That was fine in 1805, but we’ve put modern canvass covers overhead to try and keep *Victory* dry.

The daylight and fresh air make it an ideal place to carry out carpentry, sail repairs and blacksmithing – there’s even a portable forge.

There are thirty guns on this deck – fifteen to port and fifteen to starboard. They’re all 12-pounders, the same as the guns on the Quarterdeck above.

Instructions

We’re now going to make our way towards the stern. That’s where we’ll find Nelson’s quarters and his Great Cabin.

Approx. length: 44 secs

15. John Scott's Office – 29th September

Location

Outside Nelson's quarters, Upper Deck

Scene Setting

NARRATOR

Nelson is habitually immersed in a blizzard of paperwork. Even today – his birthday – he has spent seven hours writing, most of it routine fleet administration.

Nelson is assisted by his trusted secretary, John Scott – and this is Scott's office.

Scott – aided by a team of clerks – deals with most of Nelson's public correspondence, as well as matters relating to the internal affairs of the fleet, such as all the necessary admin for despatching ships to Gibraltar to fetch vital supplies of food and water.

Scott had even spent time working with Nelson at his home in Merton, just before they were called back to Portsmouth.

Nelson clearly values Scott a great deal:

NELSON

"He is a very excellent young man, and I am fortunate in having such a one as a secretary. For ability, punctuality and regularity I believe his superior is not to be met with."

Instructions

NARRATOR

With Scott's permission, we'll make our way through to Nelson's Dining Cabin.

Approx. timings: 37 secs

16. Nelson’s Dining Cabin – 30th September

Location

Nelson’s Dining Cabin, Upper Deck

Scene Setting

NARRATOR

After fourteen days at sea *Victory* joins the British fleet, and Nelson takes command from Admiral Collingwood.

The fleet is only fifteen⁸ miles off the coast of Spain, so Nelson cancelled⁹ the customary gun salutes, in case the noise alerted the enemy.

Nelson quickly calls meetings with his captains. Here in his Dining Cabin, Nelson explains tactics:

NELSON

(this is being delivered to a large group of officers: it’s rousing, emphatic and charismatic, but friendly and collaborative in these relatively intimate surroundings)

“I and Collingwood will take sixteen ships each and will sail straight at the enemy carrying all possible sail. Collingwood is to attack about twelve ships from the rear, whilst my division will cut the enemy line just ahead of centre.

Well, that’s the plan! The important thing is, no captain can do very wrong if he places his ship alongside that of an enemy.”

NARRATOR

Nelson was famous for taking risks – clearly he is encouraging his captains to do the same. He was delighted with their reaction:

NELSON

(enthusiastically, energetically and emphatically)

“When I came to explain to them the ‘Nelson touch’, it was like an electric shock. Some shed tears, all approved – it was new! it was singular! It was simple!”¹⁰

Instructions

(not needed).

Approx. timings: **58** secs

⁸ Beatty’s account

⁹ Beatty’s account

¹⁰ Nelson’s *Victory*, Lavery, p.130

17. Nelson's Day Cabin – 19th October

Location

Nelsons Day Cabin, Upper Deck

Scene Setting

NARRATOR

This is Nelson's Day Cabin, which together with his Dining Cabin, is known as the Great Cabin.

It is sparsely furnished. When clearing for action Nelson's quarters must be quickly transformed into an open fighting deck, complete with four 12-pounder guns.

All the internal wooden partitions are struck down and his furniture taken below. Even the glazed sash windows in the stern are removed – the last thing you need is smashed glass flying everywhere.

It's been nearly three weeks since Nelson took command and he has just had some excellent news. Sat at his desk, he writes in his diary:

NELSON

(Real sense of excitement here. This is just the news Nelson has been hoping for and his reason for joining the fleet – to defeat the French in a sea battle)

"Saturday October 19th. At half-past nine, HMS Mars, being one of the lookout ships, made the signal that the enemy were coming out of port."¹¹

NARRATOR

A major battle at sea is now inevitable. Nelson moves most of his ships fifty or sixty miles west¹² so they can't be seen and the French won't know the size of the British fleet.

Instructions

Now go back through Nelson's Dining Cabin, and out into his sleeping cabin.

Approx. Timings: **54** secs

¹¹ Nicolas, op cit, vol VII, pp33; Lavery p.130

¹² Nelson's Victory, Lavery, p.129

18. Nelson's Sleeping Cabin

Location

Nelson's Sleeping Cabin, Upper Deck

Scene Setting

NARRATOR

Nelson's sleeping cabin is the only truly private space on *Victory*.

For a man with one arm, Nelson is fiercely independent. If his feet get wet, he dries them by walking on his carpets, rather than ask someone to help him change his damp stockings¹³.

For the same reason, he chooses to sleep on this campaign bed, as he can get in and out without help. It can also be quickly converted into a comfortable chair, or folded away.

A hanging cot would be more steady in heavy seas, but not easy to use with only one arm.

On the bulkhead is a picture of Emma Hamilton. Nelson is estranged from his wife and now lives with Emma and their daughter Horatia. The portrait of Emma is very precious to Nelson.

As his cabins are cleared for battle, he reminds the men taking it down:

NELSON

"...to take care of my guardian angel."¹⁴

Instructions

(not needed?)

Approx. Timings: 46 secs

¹³ Beatty p.77

¹⁴ Beatty's account p.17

19. Preparing for Battle – Upper Gun Deck

Location

Upper Gun Deck, starboard side, aft

Scene Setting

NARRATOR

Nelson fully intends to force a major battle and *Victory* must be prepared. French Admiral Villeneuve might be disorganised, but he commands a bigger fleet and powerful ships.

Preparations for a fight have begun in earnest.

Mr Cepell the Armourer, has seen to it that the muskets are cleaned, pikes and cutlasses are sharpened and grappling hooks made ready for the boarding parties.

Instructions

When you are ready, carefully climb down the stairs to the Middle Gun deck.

Approx. Timings: 23 secs.

20. The Middle Gun Deck – 20th October

Location

Middle Gun Deck, starboard side, amidships

Scene Setting

NARRATOR

Here on the Middle Gun Deck there's a quite buzz!

At seven-o'clock this morning – the 20th October – the British lookout ship HMS *Sirius* reported that French Admiral Villeneuve had left harbour with a force of thirty-three ships and started to sail south.¹⁵

The British lookout ships shadow the enemy all day – passing flag signals back to *Victory*.

Meanwhile, Nelson keeps his twenty-seven big ships out of sight, over the horizon – twenty miles away.¹⁶

CAPTAIN HARDY

(as if Hardy is telling you the visitor what has been arranged. Business-like)

“the men are employed on board Victory getting up a thousand shot on each deck, stowing away chests etc. etc. and clearing for action. Many items have been thrown overboard with the bulkheads in clearing the ship¹⁷.”

NARRATOR

The guns here are 24-pounders – they're larger and more powerful than the 12-pounders and can fire twice the weight of shot about a mile¹⁸.

Mr Cepell, the Armourer, has fitted the Gunlocks.

Mr Rivers, the Gunner, has drilled the Gun Captains and their crews. Fast and accurate gunnery will give us the advantage.

All that remains now is for Captain Hardy to give the order – Drummer James Berry will sound 'beat to quarters' and *Victory* will spring into action.

Instructions

(not required?)

Approx. Timings: **60** secs.

¹⁵ Trafalgar 1805, Osprey, p.40

¹⁶ Trafalgar 1805, Osprey, p.40

¹⁷ Lavery, p.130

¹⁸ Osprey

21. The Last Hot Meal

Location

Middle Gun Deck, starboard side near Galley

Scene Setting

NARRATOR

Breakfast was served at eight this morning – as usual it was a cold meal – Burgoo, a thick oatmeal porridge sweetened with molasses.

It's now noon and the men are having dinner – salt pork and pease pudding – this will be their last hot meal before battle.

Victory's sailors are organised into groups of eight or so men called a 'mess'. One man from each mess is picked as mess cook for the week. It's his job to fetch food from the Steward and bring it to the galley, if it needs cooking. Once cooked, he collects the meal and dishes it out to the men in his mess.

Most meals are made from preserved or dried ingredients that keep well during the many weeks at sea. But Nelson's fleet is also kept supplied with fresh produce – such as cabbages and onions – collected from Gibraltar by supply ships when conditions allow.

Food is good and plentiful, with each man getting around five thousand calories a day.

Instructions

Approx. Timings: **46 secs.**

22. Battle Delayed...

Location

Middle Gun Deck, Port side, forward

Scene Setting

NARRATOR

Most of the 20th October ~~was~~is spent manoeuvring the fleets – French Admiral Villeneuve desperately tried to get his rather out of practise and inexperienced fleet into some sort of order – hoping he might escape a fight.

Meanwhile, Nelson expertly positions his British fleet out of sight, taking best advantage of the weather.

With a battle on the cards, the galley stove has been put out – imagine the chaos if it were smashed by shot whilst still blazing. This is a gun deck – hot coals and gunpowder are not happy bedfellows! It does mean that all the food from now on is raw and cold.

By nightfall the fleets are still not close enough for a fight.

Nelson dines with some of his junior officers:

NELSON

(with the same inspirational, charismatic confidence)

“I will leave you such a victory tomorrow that you youngsters will think and talk about it for the rest of your lives¹⁹.”

Instructions

Now go carefully down the stairs to the Lower Gun Deck.

Approx. Timings: 44+ secs

¹⁹ Nelson Dispatch vol II, part II

23. Beat to Quarters – 21st October 1805

Location

Lower Gun Deck, starboard

Scene Setting

NARRATOR

At first light on the morning of 21st October, Able Seaman John Brown looks out from *Victory* and rubs his eyes:

ABLE SEAMAN JOHN BROWN

*(said with a mix of wonder and patriotic enthusiasm – i.e. F**K me it's the French! If you'll pardon my French)*

*"The French and Spanish fleets were like a great wood on our lee bow which cheered the hearts of every British tar in the *Victory* – like lions ready to be at it"²⁰*

NARRATOR

Nelson has narrowed the gap overnight to about ten miles. At a quarter to six he directs the British fleet to form two columns and make full sail.

It will be a good few hours before they finally clash.

ABLE SEAMAN JOHN BROWN

"We piped to dinner and ate a bit of raw salt pork and half a pint of wine. When coming close to the enemy our drums sounded 'beat to quarters'. We got our guns double-shotted to give 'em a dose! – and then, we were all ready for action!"²¹

SFX

Drums beating to quarters

NARRATOR

(with increasing momentum and urgency, but not panic)

Hammocks and mess tables are quickly cleared away. The giant 32-pounders run out, ready for action – charges and shot rammed home, gunlocks primed.

Victory's well-practised gun crews are poised, alert, for what must surely ~~must~~ follow.

Instructions

Approx. Timings: **51** secs

²⁰ Lavery p.130; five naval journals p.364

²¹ Lavery p.132; five naval journals p.364

24. Awesome & Tremendous Fire

Location

Lower Gun Deck, starboard, amidships

Pronunciation

stu'n's'ls: STUN-SULS

Scene Setting

NARRATOR

(these next sections need an increasing tension, urgency and momentum)

By eleven-o'clock the fleets are just three miles apart and closing. Nelson orders Lieutenant Pasco to signal 'England expects every man will do his duty'.

Just before noon²² there's a flash from the enemy line, followed by a splash and the echoing boom of a gun²³. Eight or nine enemy ships then fire – one at a time – until they find their range²⁴.

SFX

Distant guns and the characteristic 'whirr' of the ball as it flies past

A ball smacks through *Victory's* main topgallant sail – then began 'an awesome and tremendous fire'.

(change of pace here – becoming much more urgent)

SFX

Chaotic sounds of shot hitting woodwork and sails

Victory's sails are soon peppered with holes.²⁵ If the French can bring down her masts she'll be dead in the water – her mizzen topmast, all her stu'n's'ls and their booms – already gone.

On *Victory's* upper decks all hell is breaking loose.

The steering wheel is shattered – Master Atkinson hurries below to rig ropes to work the tiller.

Out of nowhere flies a round shot, cutting John Scott in half and killing him instantly. His mangled corpse is quickly thrown over the side!

NELSON

(they were friends – said with real shock and concern, shouted urgently above the noise, but Nelson's mind is mostly focussed on the battle – there are bound to be casualties)

"Is that poor Scott gone?"

²² Beatty records they fired on the Royal Sovereign at 11:30 and the Commander in Chief at 11:50

²³ Speed of sound 1126 ft/s; muzzle velocity 24-pdr 1685 ft/s range 2000 yds at 6° elevation – Smooth Bore Cannon Ballistics www.arc.id.au

²⁴ Beatty p.30

²⁵ Trafalgar 1805, Osprey

NARRATOR

A double-headed shot whirls through a party of marines on the Poop, slaughtering eight of them.

Another shot roars between Nelson and Hardy.

NELSON

(said with some excited, amazed enjoyment – i.e. bloody hell Hardy!)

“this is too warm work, Hardy, to last long!”

NARRATOR

With the enemy ships tightly packed and hidden by smoke it’s hard to know where best to break their line.

NELSON

(said loudly in the spirit of ‘it’s too late now to fuss – we can’t stop now - let’s get at em!’)

“Captain Hardy! It doesn’t matter – take your pick.”

Instructions

Approx. Timings: 75 secs

25. Fire as She Bears...

Location

Lower Gun Deck, starboard side, aft

Pronunciation

Bucentaure: BOO-CEN-TAUR (French accent)

Redoutable: REH-DOO-TARBL (French accent)

Scene Setting

SFX

Brief sounds of flying shot hitting the ship etc etc.

NARRATOR

For nearly fifty minutes *Victory* has been pummelled by the enemy's guns, but she's not yet fired a single shot in return.

The butcher's bill *so far* is twenty killed and thirty wounded. The sweating gun crews below can do nothing but listen to the slaughter and the sound of shot slamming into the hull.

At twelve forty-five, despite her battered masts and sails, *Victory* cuts the enemy line, bravely slipping between Admiral Villeneuve's flagship – the 80-gun *Bucentaure* – and the 74-gun *Redoutable*.

As *Victory* glides under *Bucentaure*'s stern, Bo's'n Willmet loads the port carronade with a keg of five hundred²⁶ musket balls and lets rip along the French ship's upper deck.

SFX

Explosion of the carronade

Then, as each of *Victory*'s port guns come to bear, they blast a roaring, double-shotted broadside through *Bucentaure*'s stern windows, reducing her lower decks are to a smoking ruin and smashing twenty guns into silence – scores of French sailors are killed and wounded.

To starboard *Victory* fires a vicious broadside²⁷ into the bows of *Redoutable*, before ploughing into her. French sailors in the tops pour down a devastating fire of musketry and grenades, whilst *Redoutable*'s men lash the ships together and prepare to board.²⁸

The French boarding party is stopped dead in its tracks by Bo's'n Willmet, who blasts another keg of musket balls, this time from the starboard carronade, along *Redoutable*'s upper decks.

Approx. Timings: **75 secs.**

²⁶ keg filled with 500 musket balls: Trafalgar 1805, p.56, Osprey

²⁷ Trafalgar 1805, p.56, Osprey

²⁸ Trafalgar 1805, p.56-57, Osprey

26. Carnage

Location

Lower Gun Deck, Gunroom

Pronunciation

*Redoutable: RED-DOO-TAR-BALL a more deliberately English pronunciation by Midshipman Roberts

Scene Setting

NARRATOR

Victory and Redoutable are now locked together in a deadly embrace.

Midshipman Richard Roberts

*“the *Redoutable was so close to us that we could not run out our guns their proper length. Only conceive how much we must have smashed her.”*

NARRATOR

To stop *Victory’s* gun crews reloading, the French fire muskets into *Victory’s* open gunports.

Above, there is carnage as the French lob grenades and fire down at the men on *Victory’s* exposed decks.

As Nelson paces the Quarterdeck, the stars on his coat catch the eye of a French sailor in *Redoutable’s* mizzen-top, who aims... fires, and punches a musket ball deep into Nelson’s left shoulder.

SFX

Musket being fired clearly amongst the general background melee

Nelson slumps to the deck and Captain Hardy dashes over.

NELSON

“They have done for me at last, Hardy”

HARDY

“I hope not!”

NELSON

“Yes! My backbone is shot through...”

HARDY

(said loudly with some urgency)

*“Sergeant Major Secker – take His Lordship below – directly to Surgeon Beatty!
Look lively now!”²⁹*

²⁹ Invented dialogue – poetic license

NARRATOR

As Nelson is carried below, he spies the broken tiller ropes and with characteristic calm, orders a midshipman at once tell Captain Hardy. He then covers his face with a handkerchief that he might not be recognised.

Approx. Timings: 58 secs.

27. A Every Man Appeared a Devil

Location

Lower Gun Deck, Port

Pronunciation

Capitaine Lucas: KA-PI-TAINE LU-KA French pronunciation

Temeraire: TEMMER-RARE A more English sounding pronunciation

Scene Setting

SFX

Noise of battle and then a distinct Musket shot

MIDSHIPMAN POLLARD (eighteen-year-old, Cornishman³⁰)
(he's only a lad – said with some terror and shock)

“The Quartermaster was shot through the forehead and fell dead before me.”

NARRATOR

So many men are slaughtered on *Victory's* upper decks, they are almost devoid of living souls. Lieutenant Roteley dives below to fetch marines to replace those killed³¹. He witnesses the battle from the gun decks for the first time.

SFX

Broadsides being fired on the gun decks

LIEUTENANT LEWIS ROTELEY
(said with excited urgency and astonishment)

“There was fire from above, fire from below, besides the fire from the deck I was on. The guns recoiling with violent reports louder than thunder. Every man appeared a devil...”³²

NARRATOR

Victory is now a sitting duck. As Capitaine Lucas of *Redoutable* prepares to board, the British 98-gun *Temeraire* surges from the smoke, and dishes out a deafening broadside – more than two-hundred Frenchmen are strewn across the deck, killed or wounded³³. The flow of blood into the gutters leaves scarlet streaks down the sides of the ship.

Temeraire fires a second massive broadside, then rams *Redoutable*, firmly trapping the French ship against *Victory's hull* – the tables are now turned.

³⁰ Lavery, p.140

³¹ Lavery, p.138

³² Royal Marines Museum, Roteley Papers

³³ From Capitaine Lucas' account

Victory's guns are so close, Lieutenant Yule reduces powder and fires low, in case they blast right through *Redoubtable* and hit *Temeraire* on the other side. The gun crews throw buckets of water at the smouldering shot holes to stop both ships catching fire.

Instructions

The story continues on the port side of the Lower Gun Deck – that's the same side as the entrance gangway.

Approx. Timings: 80 secs

27. B Every Man Appeared a Devil

Location

Lower Gun Deck, Port

Pronunciation

Capitaine Lucas: French pronunciation KA-PI-TAINE LU-KA

Temeraire: A more English sounding pronunciation TEMMER-RARE

Scene Setting

SFX

Musket shot

MIDSHIPMAN POLLARD (eighteen-year-old, Cornishman³⁴)

(said with some terror and shock)

“The Quartermaster was shot through the forehead and fell dead before me.”

NARRATOR

So *many* men are slaughtered on *Victory’s* upper decks, they are almost devoid of living souls. Lieutenant Roteley dives below to fetch more marines to replace those killed³⁵. He witnesses the battle from the gun decks for the first time.

SFX

Broadsides being fired on the gun decks

LIEUTENANT LEWIS ROTELEY

(said with urgency and astonishment)

“There was fire from above, fire from below, besides the fire from the deck I was on, the guns recoiling with violent reports louder than thunder. Every man appeared a devil...”³⁶

NARRATOR

Victory is now a sitting duck. As Capitaine Lucas of *Redoutable* prepares to board, out from the smoke surges the British 98-gun *Temeraire*, and dishes out a deafening broadside against the French – more than two-hundred men are strewn across the deck, killed or wounded³⁷. The flow of blood into the gutters leaves scarlet streaks down the sides of the ship.

Temeraire fires a second massive broadside, then rams *Redoutable*, firmly trapping the French ship against *Victory’s* hull. The tables are now turned.

³⁴ Lavery, p.140

³⁵ Lavery, p.138

³⁶ Royal Marines Museum, Roteley Papers

³⁷ From Capitaine Lucas’ account

Victory's guns are so close, Lieutenant Yule reduces powder and fires low, in case they blast right through *Redoubtable* and hit *Temeraire* on the other side. The gun crews throw buckets of water at the smouldering shot holes to stop both ships catching fire.

Instructions

We are about to climb down to the Orlop and attend the Surgeon's Cockpit. Be warned, this is not a journey for the feint-hearted, nor one a sailor hoped to make by necessity. The deckhead and beams are very low, so please mind your head.

Approx. Timings: **85 secs**

28. Working the Guns

Location

Lower Gun Deck, port, amidships

New Recording Notes

Pronunciation: it is a “round-shot”, not a round, shot. Pronounce as one word.

Scene Setting

NARRATOR

Each of these large 32-pounder guns is run by a crew of up to fourteen³⁸ men, under the command of a Gun Captain. It’s the job of *Victory’s* Gunner, Mr William Rivers, to train the Gun Captains and their crews.

To load a gun, it must be ‘run in’ – hauled back from the gun port.

If the gun has just been fired, the barrel is sponged out to extinguish any burning embers.

The charge is then pushed down the barrel, rammed firmly home and packed tight with a hemp wad made from old rope. There’s no danger of setting it off with the ramrod – you need a spark to ignite gunpowder.

Next, a **round shot** is rolled in – or two if the guns are double-shotted – and another wad rammed home to stop the shot rolling back out.

The gun is then ‘run out’ by heaving on the tackle and it’s almost ready to fire.

The Gun Captain pours fine gunpowder into the touch hole to prime the charge, and a little more powder into the open pan of the gunlock, before closing the pan and cocking the firing mechanism.

He aims by waiting until his target comes into sight, then stands clear as he tugs the lanyard to trigger the gunlock.

SFX

Order “FIRE” shouted, gun being fired – the click of the lock followed by brief fizz and then explosion and recoiling back into the ship

The flint sparks against the iron frizzen, igniting the gunpowder. A **quick fizz** is followed by a tongue of flame and thick white smoke bursting from the barrel.

The massive explosion throws the gun back into the ship – the heavy breeching ropes stopping it from leaping too far.

Commented [JM5]: Pronunciation: it is a “round-shot” not a round, shot.

Commented [JM6]: if one wanted to be pedantic the “fizz” is a bit too long. It could be improved if the sound FX went “click – fizz – boom” the timings almost follow the time it takes to say the words.

³⁸ The Royal Navy 1793-1815, Osprey

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In the heat of battle, the speed, efficiency and accuracy of the gun crew can make the difference between destruction and survival.

Approx. Timings: 83 secs.

29. A Welcome – Lower Gun Deck

(Welcome, Introduction and ‘Story So Far’ for visitors in wheelchairs. It is compiled from edits of the scripts from upper decks, i.e. it is not simply a repeat so will need recording separately.)

Location

Lower Gun Deck, port, aft/stern

Scene Setting

Welcome to Victory’s Lower Gun Deck.

Our story begins on the 2nd of September 1805. Britain has been at war with France for over two years. In just seven weeks, HMS *Victory* – and her ship’s company of eight hundred and twenty-one men and boys – will be fighting for their lives at Trafalgar.

The Royal Navy has just learnt that the French Admiral Villeneuve has mustered a great force of French and Spanish ships³⁹.

Vice-Admiral Horatio Nelson has only just returned home after more than two years at sea. Now, he has been ordered back to Portsmouth, to sail in *Victory* to the southern coast of Spain and take command of the British Channel Fleet.

On the evening of Friday 13th September, Nelson left his home in Merton, near London, and travelled overnight back to Portsmouth.

He arrived at six o’clock the following morning, and after taking breakfast with a few close friends, walked to the beach, where a small boat was waiting to row him out to *Victory*.

Word quickly spread that Nelson was in town and hundreds of people gathered to catch a glimpse of him. As his boat pushed away from shore they gave three hearty cheers, which Nelson returned with a wave of his hat.⁴⁰

SFX

Distant cheering from shore

Victory has been moored off Portsmouth for the last couple of weeks. With news of the French and Spanish ships, *Victory* has rapidly been made ready to go back to sea.

Captain Thomas Hardy is already on board, scrutinising the final preparations as Nelson is expected at any moment.

Captain Hardy has full authority over *Victory*. Every detail is his responsibility, from the discipline of the crew to the safety of the ship.

³⁹ Nelson’s *Victory*, Lavery, p.128

⁴⁰ Nelson’s *Victory*, Lavery, p.129

Captain Thomas Hardy and Vice-Admiral Nelson go back a long way. Hardy was first promoted Captain of Nelson's flagship, HMS *Vanguard*, in October 1798 and thereafter, when Nelson transferred his flag to other ships, he took Hardy with him. This is now the fifth time Hardy has been Nelson's flag captain.

Whilst it is Vice-Admiral Nelson who commands the fleet from *Victory* – his flagship – it is Captain Hardy, Nelson's Flag Captain, who commands *Victory*.

Nelson rates Captain Hardy very highly. After so much experience together at sea there is clearly a strong bond of trust and friendship between the two men.

Most of Saturday 14th September was spent making final preparations for sea. At eight on the morning of Sunday the 15th, Captain Hardy ordered the massive anchors raised and *Victory* set sail for Spain.

After fourteen days at sea *Victory* finally joined up with the British fleet and Nelson took command from Admiral Collingwood. *Victory* was now only fifteen⁴¹ miles off the coast of Spain, so Nelson cancelled⁴² the customary gun salute, in case the noise alerted the enemy.

Over the next two days Nelson called meetings with his captains in his dining cabin. He explained his tactics:

NELSON

(this is being delivered to a large group of officers: it's rousing, emphatic and charismatic, but friendly and collaborative in these relatively intimate surroundings)

"I and Collingwood will take sixteen ships each and will sail straight at the enemy carrying all possible sail – not the usual practise of reducing to topsails only. Collingwood is to attack about twelve ships from the rear, whilst my division will cut the enemy line just ahead of centre.

Well, that's the plan! The important thing is nothing is sure in a sea fight... so, no captain can do very wrong if he places his ship alongside that of an enemy."

NARRATOR

Nelson was famous for doing things his way and taking risks – clearly he is encouraging his captains to do the same. Nelson was delighted with their reaction:

NELSON

(enthusiastically, energetically and emphatically)

"When I came to explain to them the 'Nelson touch', it was like an electric shock. Some shed tears, all approved – it was new! it was singular! It was simple!"⁴³

⁴¹ Beatty's account

⁴² Beatty's account

⁴³ Nelson's Victory, Lavery, p.130

NARRATOR

A line of British lookout ships will signal if the enemy comes out of port, and Nelson has just had the exciting news he's waited nearly three weeks to hear.

NELSON

"Saturday October 19th. At half-past nine HMS Mars, being one of the lookout ships, made the signal that the enemy were coming out of port."⁴⁴

NARRATOR

A major battle at sea is now inevitable. Nelson moves most of his ships fifty or sixty miles west⁴⁵ so they can't be seen from land and the French won't know the size of the British fleet.

At seven-o'clock on the morning of the 20th October, the British lookout ship HMS *Sirius* reported that French Admiral Villeneuve had left harbour with a force of thirty-three ships and started to sail south.⁴⁶

The British lookout ships shadow the enemy all day – passing flag signals back to *Victory*.

Meanwhile, Nelson keeps his twenty-seven big ships out of sight over the horizon – twenty miles away.⁴⁷

On *Victory*, final preparations begin for a major battle at sea.

CAPTAIN HARDY

"the men... are employed on board the Victory getting up a thousand shot on each deck, stowing away chests etc. etc. and clearing for action. Many items have been... thrown overboard with the bulkheads in clearing the ship"⁴⁸.

NARRATOR

Mr Cepell, the Armourer, has overhauled the gunlocks, fitted them to the guns and protected them with tall lead aprons. He's also seen to it that pikes and cutlasses are sharpened and grappling hooks made ready for the boarding parties.

Mr Rivers, the Gunner has drilled the Gun Captains and their crews. Fast and accurate gunnery will give us a vital advantage.

All that remains now is for Captain Hardy to give the order – Drummer James Berry will sound 'beat to quarters' and *Victory* will spring into action.

Most of the 20th October was spent manoeuvring the fleets – French Admiral Villeneuve desperately tried to get his rather out of practise and inexperienced Combined Fleet into some sort of order – hoping he might escape a fight.

Meanwhile, Nelson expertly positions his British fleet out of sight, taking best advantage of the weather.

⁴⁴ Nicolas, op cit, vol VII, pp33; Lavery p.130

⁴⁵ Nelson's Victory, Lavery, p.129

⁴⁶ Trafalgar 1805, Osprey, p.40

⁴⁷ Trafalgar 1805, Osprey, p.40

⁴⁸ Lavery, p.130

By nightfall the fleets are still not close enough for a fight.

Nelson dines with some of his junior officers:

NELSON

“I will leave you such a victory tomorrow that you youngsters will think and talk about it for the rest of your lives”...⁴⁹

NARRATOR

Our story continues over on the starboard side – that’s the side away from the entrance gangway. To listen in the correct sequence, go as far forward as you can along the Lower Gun Deck, towards the bow and Let Battle Commence.

Approx. Timings: x mins xx secs

⁴⁹ Nelson Dispatch vol II, part II

29. B Welcome to The Lower Gun Deck

(a short recorded instructional piece for the Main Tour, in the eventuality that the wheelchair visitors' area is made accessible to all visitors)

Location

Lower Gun Deck, port, aft/stern (same Audio Point as 29A)

Scene Setting

NARRATOR

You are on the Lower Gun Deck. This audio point provides an introduction for wheelchair users.

If you have listened to all the audio points on the lower gun deck, please continue your journey below, on the Orlop Deck. Make your way back to the stairs and climb down to the Orlop and Surgeon Beatty's Cockpit.

30. A The Story Continues

(The ‘Story Continues’ for visitors in wheelchairs. It is compiled using the scripts from Points 31, 32, 33 and 37 from the Orlop and Hold. It will require only very minimal editing between the main and accessible tours)

Location

Lower Gun Deck, Port amidships (same Audio Point as 28B)

Pronunciation

Lanthorn: LAN-THORN

Scene Setting

NARRATOR

The deck below the Lower Gun Deck is called the Orlop, and here we will find the Surgeon’s Cockpit.

(N.B. FROM THIS POINT SCRIPT IS AN EXACT REPEAT OF POINTS 31, 32, 33 and 37, SO WILL NOT REQUIRE RECORDING AGAIN)

NARRATOR

(SCRIPT FROM POINT 31)

To attend the Surgeon’s Cockpit in the thick of battle is to descend into a waking nightmare. There is salvation – question is: in *this* world... or the next...?

It is an underworld that assaults your senses:

Below the waterline – the only light comes from dim, sooty, swaying lanthorns, sending feeble shadows dancing as the ship pitches and rolls. In the gloom, loom the living, dying and dead.

The deck is thick and slip-sticky with blood and sand.

Men cry, shout, retch, groan – but barely heard for the thundering guns rumbling across the deck above, to which your head is closely pressed.

The clammy air is stale and sour with the acid-tang of smoke, vomit, blood and *death* prickling in your mouth and nostrils.

The ship shudders with every strike of shot against the hull. You stumble, gag – stomach churning with the onslaught – and *yet*, you’re shivering in the suffocating heat...

There’s no pecking order down here – you’ll be patched-up alright...

(quieter, drifting off slightly as if becoming feint)

...just as soon as it’s your turn...

(sudden and dramatic as if you are woken by the pain from unconsciousness)

Then, the grip of strong hands as Surgeon Beatty's knife swiftly cuts away your ruined flesh – a roll of leather – warm and bitter with the last man's bile – clamped between your teeth against the pain...

(interrupted by...)

A NUMBER OF DIFFERENT VOICES OF THE WOUNDED MEN CALLING OFF – A MIX OF UPPER AND WORKING CLASS ACCENTS

(shouted with urgency)

"Mr Beatty, Lord Nelson is here"

"Mr Beatty, the Admiral is wounded."

"Mr Beatty, Mr Beatty..."

(SCRIPT FROM POINT 32)

NARRATOR

As Surgeon Beatty looks up from the shattered, lifeless body of Lieutenant Ram – barely twenty-years old and dearest friend – he sees the handkerchief drop from Lord Nelson's face.

Beatty *already* has about forty men waiting for treatment, but he and Mr Burke, the Purser, carry Nelson through the mayhem to a midshipman's mattress – stumbling as they go. They gently lower him onto a midshipman's mattress – a single, solitary lantern placed on the deck, now marks the spot where Nelson lay.

Commented [JM7]: deliberate use of the word LANTERN as opposed to lanthorn, for ease of understanding.

NELSON TO BEATTY

(resigned and in pain after being carried down four decks)

"Ah, Mr Beatty! You can do nothing for me."

BEATTY

(positively)

"Perhaps the wound is not so dangerous as your Lordship imagines?"

NELSON

(calm but resigned, in some pain, but more comfortable now he is not being carried)

"Doctor I am gone. I feel a gush of blood every minute within my breast and have no feeling in the lower part of my body. I felt it break my back."

(loudly, almost as if cross)

"Will no one bring Hardy to me?"

(Painfully, contemplating the loss of his friend)

He must be killed – surely he is destroyed?"

NARRATOR

On the Quarterdeck the battle is still raging and it's well over an hour before Hardy can come below to see his dying friend. They shake hands affectionately.

NELSON

(urgent and anxious and in pain)

"Well Hardy, how goes the battle? How goes the day with us?"

HARDY

(enthusiastically)

"Very well my Lord. We have twelve or fourteen of their ships. I have no doubt of giving them a drubbing! And now My Lord, I must again attend the Quarterdeck."

NELSON

(calling loudly as his injury will allow)

"Mr Beatty!"

(quieter – he's here)

"Ah, Mr Beatty!"

(emphatically – Beatty account says "the emphatic manner in which he pronounced these last words"⁵⁰)

"You very well know⁵¹ I am gone!"

BEATTY

(knows Nelson is dying)

"My Lord, is your pain still very great"

NELSON

(in severe pain)

"So very severe I wish I were dead. Yet..."

(from Beatty's account - "said he in a more lower voice" a whisper perhaps?⁵²)

"...one would like to live a little longer too..."

NARRATOR

It is fifty minutes⁵³ before Hardy can return. As they shake hands Hardy congratulates his friend:

HARDY

(with vigour and excitement – as if the news might conquer death)

⁵⁰ Beatty's account p.45

⁵¹ Nelson was much troubled by a man with similar injuries last summer who took 13 days to die painfully

⁵² Beatty's account p.46

⁵³ Beatty's account p.46

“...My Lord, even in the arms of death, your brilliant victory is complete...”

NELSON

(in severe pain – resigned, then almost childlike, then serious, then childlike. It is important we make sense of the ‘kiss me Hardy’ speech)

“That is well.”

“In a few minutes I shall be no more...”

(Almost childlike)

“don’t throw me overboard Hardy.”

(Serious)

“Take care of my dear Lady Hamilton,

(Again childlike)

Hardy – Kiss me Hardy”

NARRATOR

(solemnly)

Hardy kneels and kisses his cheek and then his forehead.

NELSON

(in severe pain – he is dying)

“God bless you Hardy...”

NELSON

(repeats slowly and fades - an evident increase in pain with a greater effort with his vocal powers as he loses consciousness)

“Thank god I have done my duty, thank god I have done...”

NARRATOR

Nelson opens and shuts his eyes once, his forehead is cold and the pulse gone from his wrist – at four-thirty Vice-Admiral Lord Nelson breaths his last.

(SCRIPT FROM POINT 33)

NARRATOR

For nearly five hours *Victory* has been pounded by enemy guns, at times from four or five ships at once.

For an hour *Victory* was tight alongside the *Redoubtable*, guns blasting point blank into *her* hull. Fifty-one of *Victory*’s people have been killed, including Nelson. One hundred and two are wounded – eleven of them critically.

The British fleet is victorious, but right now the battle is to save *Victory*.

There's a violent storm brewing in the Atlantic. *Victory* must be patched up, otherwise neither ship – nor her people – will make it safely into port.

Seventeen-year-old Midshipman William Rivers has counted eighty or ninety most dangerous shot holes on the starboard side. There are at least forty more to port.⁵⁴

There's a hundred and ninety tons of seawater in the hold and *Victory* is taking in more every minute.

Midshipman Richard Roberts reckons there's not a single mast or spar that hasn't been severely damaged or destroyed. And what is left must be cannibalised to try and make some sort of functioning rig.

HMS *Polyphemus* offers help and takes *Victory* in tow.

The storm crashes in at midday on the 22nd October.

By that evening the seas are churning and the wind howling through *Victory's* creaking, patched-up rigging. The line to *Polyphemus* cannot take the strain and breaks – *Victory* is now on her own...

SFX

A raging storm and wind whistling through rigging. Creaking and crashing of timbers

(SCRIPT FROM POINT 37)

NARRATOR

On the evening of 28th October, *Victory* finally dropped anchor in Gibraltar Bay. It has taken six gruelling days to sail about thirty-five⁵⁵ miles – helped into port with a tow from HMS *Neptune*.

The most critically injured men are taken ashore to the naval hospital – four have already died of their wounds during the nightmare journey⁵⁶.

For the remainder of the ship's company, they have less than five days to get *Victory* in a fit state to sail back to Portsmouth.

The mood is gloomy:

LIEUTENANT YULE

"The quarterdeck which was crowded is empty. The happy scenes we formally witness are now laid aside, the theatre, the music, the dancing... We look for an old messmate and find he is gone – we ask for such a man –

⁵⁴ Lavery, p.142

⁵⁵ estimated distance based on Cadiz to Gibraltar being 72 nautical miles. www.sea-distances.org

⁵⁶ Beatty's account p.75

(as if Yule is using the voice of an able seaman who is deferring to him as an officer, but not in a comic way. It remains Yule's voice, not another character. The implication being the loss of a leg was sufficient to kill him, probably through infection...)

'he was killed sir – in the action – he lost a leg...'⁵⁷

NARRATOR

Casualties during the battle and in the following storm were colossal. British sailors killed, drowned or died of their wounds: four hundred and forty-nine. Wounded: One thousand and fourteen.

The French and Spanish losses were far greater – killed, drowned or died of their wounds: four thousand four hundred and five. Wounded: two thousand five hundred and forty-four. It took some wounded men weeks, or even months to die.

(N.B. FROM THIS POINT ON DIFFERENTLY EDITED VERSIONS OF THE SCRIPT, i.e. RECORDING REQUIRED)

A dispatch containing news of Nelson's victory at Trafalgar was sent by fast schooner back to Britain, but public rejoicing was tempered by the news of his death. In January 1806 Nelson's body was carried up the Thames from Greenwich to Whitehall and then in a great procession to a burial service at St Paul's Cathedral.

Throughout her active service *Victory* was regularly modified and repaired. This process of change and renewal continues today in dry dock.

Victory remains a Royal Navy ship and is the oldest commissioned naval ship in the world. She is the flagship of the Commander-in-Chief Naval Home Command and flies his flag at the main mast.

Victory is presented to visitors by the National Museum of the Royal Navy.

NARRATOR

We very much hope that you have enjoyed your audio tour of HMS *Victory*. When you are ready to leave, please place your audio guide and headphones in the basket or return them to a Guide.

Approx. Timings: x mins xx secs

⁵⁷ Lavery, p.144 – Nelson Dispatch, vol V

30. B The Story Continues

Location

Lower Gun Deck, Port amidships (same Audio Point as 30A)

Scene Setting

NARRATOR

Our journey continues on the deck below – known as the Orlop. Please make your way back to the stairs and climb down to the Orlop and Surgeon Beatty's Cockpit.

Approx. Timings: 15 secs

31. The Surgeon's Cockpit – Down on the Orlop

Location

Surgeon's Cockpit, Orlop

Pronunciation

Lanterns: LAN-THORNS

Scene Setting

NARRATOR

To attend the Surgeon's Cockpit in the thick of battle is to descend into a waking nightmare. There is salvation – question is: in this world... or the next...?

It is an underworld that assaults your senses:

We're on the Orlop, below the waterline – the only light comes from dim, sooty, swaying lanterns, sending feeble shadows dancing as the ship pitches and rolls. In the gloom, loom the living, dying and dead.

The deck is thick and slip-sticky with blood and sand.

Men cry, shout, retch, groan – but barely heard for the thundering guns rumbling across the deck above, to which your head is closely pressed.

The clammy air is stale and sour with the acid-tang of smoke, vomit, blood and *death* pricking in your mouth and nostrils.

The ship shudders with every strike of shot against the hull. You stumble, gag – stomach churning – and *yet*, you're shivering in the suffocating heat...

There's no pecking order down here – you'll be patched-up alright...

(quieter, drifting off slightly as if you the visitor is becoming feint, passing out etc.)

...just as soon as it's your turn...

(sudden and dramatic as if you emerge from unconsciousness by the pain)

Then, the grip of strong hands as Surgeon Beatty's knife swiftly cuts away your ruined flesh – a roll of leather – warm and bitter with the last man's bile – clamped between your teeth against the pain...

(interrupted by...)

A NUMBER OF DIFFERENT VOICES OF THE WOUNDED MEN CALLING OFF – A MIX OF UPPER AND WORKING CLASS ACCENTS

(shouted with urgency)

"Mr Beatty, Lord Nelson is here"

HMS VICTORY AUDIO TOUR | FINAL – REVISION v22.1 23 July 2019 ~~20 February 2017~~

“Mr Beatty, the Admiral is wounded.”

“Mr Beatty, Mr Beatty...”

Approx. Timings: 70 secs

32. The Death of Nelson – Afternoon, 21st October

Location

Orlop, port, amidships

Scene Setting

(all taken or sensitively adapted from Beatty's original account)

A NUMBER OF DIFFERENT VOICES OF THE WOUNDED MEN CALLING OFF – A MIX OF ACCENTS GIVING THE IMPRESSION OF A CROWDED SPACE

"Mr Beatty, Mr Beatty..."

NARRATOR

As Surgeon Beatty looks up from the shattered, lifeless body of Lieutenant Ram – barely twenty-years old and dearest friend – he sees the handkerchief drop from Lord Nelson's face.

Beatty *already* has about forty men waiting for treatment, but he and Mr Burke, the Purser, carry Nelson through the mayhem – stumbling as they go. They gently lower him onto a midshipman's mattress – a single, solitary lantern placed on the deck, now marks the spot where Nelson lay.

NELSON TO BEATTY

(resigned and in pain after being carried down four decks)

"Ah, Mr Beatty! You can do nothing for me."

BEATTY

(positively)

"Perhaps the wound is not so dangerous as your Lordship imagines?"

NELSON

(calm but resigned, in some pain, but more comfortable now he is not being carried)

"Doctor I am gone. I feel a gush of blood every minute within my breast and have no feeling in the lower part of my body. I felt it break my back."

(loudly, almost as if cross)

"Will no one bring Hardy to me!?"

(emotionally, contemplating the loss of his friend)

He must be killed – surely he is destroyed?"

NARRATOR

On the Quarterdeck the battle is still raging and it's well over an hour before Hardy can come below to see his dying friend. They shake hands affectionately.

NELSON

(urgent and anxious and in pain, but stoically, not gasping)

"Well Hardy, how goes the battle? How goes the day with us?"

Commented [JM8]: deliberate use of the word LANTERN as opposed to lanthorn, for ease of understanding.

HARDY

(enthusiastically, almost as if the news will save his friend)

“Very well my Lord. We have twelve or fourteen of their ships. I have no doubt of giving them a drubbing! And now My Lord, I must again attend the Quarterdeck.”

NELSON

(calling loudly as his injury will allow)

“Mr Beatty!”

(quieter – as Beatty arrives)

“Ah, Mr Beatty!”

(emphatically – from Beatty’s account: “the emphatic manner in which he pronounced these last words”⁵⁸)

“You very well know⁵⁹ I am gone!”

BEATTY

(knows Nelson is dying)

“My Lord, is your pain still very great”

NELSON

(in severe pain)

“So very severe I wish I were dead. Yet...”

(from Beatty’s account - “said he in a more lower voice” a whisper perhaps?⁶⁰)

“...one would like to live a little longer too...”

NARRATOR

It is fifty minutes⁶¹ before Hardy can return. As they shake hands Hardy congratulates his friend:

HARDY

(with vigour and excitement – as if it might conquer death)

“...My Lord, even in the arms of death, your brilliant victory is complete...”

NELSON

(in severe pain – resigned, then almost childlike, then serious, then childlike. It is important we make sense of the ‘kiss me Hardy’ speech)

“That is well.”

⁵⁸ Beatty’s account p.45

⁵⁹ Nelson was much troubled by a man with similar injuries last summer who took 13 days to die painfully

⁶⁰ Beatty’s account p.46

⁶¹ Beatty’s account p.46

“In a few minutes I shall be no more...”

(Almost childlike)

“don’t throw me overboard Hardy.”

(Serious)

“Take care of my dear Lady Hamilton,

(Again childlike)

Hardy – Kiss me Hardy”

NARRATOR

(solemnly)

Hardy kneels and kisses his cheek and then his forehead.

NELSON

(in severe pain – he is dying)

“God bless you Hardy...”

NELSON

(repeats slowly and fades - an evident increase in pain with a greater effort with his vocal powers as he loses consciousness)

“Thank god I have done my duty...”

NARRATOR

Nelson opens and shuts his eyes once, his forehead is cold and the pulse gone from his wrist – at four-thirty Vice-Admiral Lord Nelson breaths his last.

Approx. Timings: 1 mins 50 secs

33. The Battle to Save Victory – 22nd October

Location

Orlop, by Main Sail Room, port, amidships

Scene Setting

NARRATOR

For nearly five hours *Victory* has been pounded by enemy guns, at times from four or five ships at once.

For an hour *Victory* was tight alongside *Redoubtable*, guns blasting point blank into her hull. Fifty-one of *Victory*'s people have been killed, including Nelson. One hundred and two are wounded – eleven of them critically.

The British fleet is victorious, but right now the battle is to save *Victory*.

There's a violent storm brewing in the Atlantic. *Victory* must be patched up, otherwise neither ship – nor her people – will make it safely into port.

Seventeen-year-old Midshipman William Rivers has counted eighty or ninety most dangerous shot holes on the starboard side. There are at least forty more to port.⁶²

There's a hundred and ninety tons of seawater in the hold and *Victory* is taking in more every minute.

Midshipman Richard Roberts reckons there's not a single mast or spar that hasn't been severely damaged or destroyed. And what is left must be cannibalised to try and make some sort of functioning rig.

HMS *Polyphemus* offers help and takes *Victory* in tow.

The storm crashes in at midday on the 22nd of October.

By that evening the seas are churning and the wind howling through *Victory*'s creaking, patched-up rigging. The line to *Polyphemus* cannot take the strain and breaks – *Victory* is now on her own...

SFX

A raging storm and wind whistling through rigging. Creaking and crashing of timbers

Instructions

Make your way along the corridor on the left – called the carpenter's walk – and go into the Bo's'n's Store. Mind that you don't trip, or hit your head on the very low beams.

Approx. Timings: 1 min 27 secs

⁶² Lavery, p.142

34. The Bo's'n's Store

Location

Orlop, OUTSIDE the Bo's'n's Store

Scene Setting

NARRATOR

This is the Bo's'n's Store – please move inside and take a look.

Bo's'n Henry Willmet has an intimate knowledge of *Victory* rigging and sails, so he is expected on deck at any time of day or night.

During the battle, he was stationed up on the Fo'c'stle – firing the great carronades – and was painfully wounded in the thigh by a musket ball.

Despite Henry's nasty injury he's supervising the patching-up of *Victory*'s shattered masts and rigging.

Instructions

Next is the Gunner's Store. The beams here are particularly low so mind your head.

Approx. Timings: 24 secs

35. The Gunner's Store

Location

Orlop, The Gunner's Store

Scene Setting

NARRATOR

Victory's Gunner, William Rivers, is responsible for all the ship's ordnance, especially the big guns. He also manages the large quantities of gunpowder and checks that the powder magazines are fit and dry. He works with the Armourer to look after the gunlocks, muskets, pistols, pikes and cutlasses.

He doesn't fire the guns, but he does train the gun crews – [given Victory's performance at Trafalgar](#) he can congratulate himself on a job very well done.

But his work isn't over yet – now he must take stock of what's been smashed to pieces or lost overboard.

He also needs to check the magazines – given the massive amount of damage throughout the ship.

Instructions

Now go through to the Carpenter's Store, minding that you don't trip, or hit your head on the very low beams.

Approx. Timings: 36 secs

36. The Carpenter's Store

Location

Orlop, Carpenter's Store

Scene Setting

NARRATOR

At only twenty-five, Carpenter William Bunce is already a skilled shipwright.

During the battle, he and his crew slogged ceaselessly below deck, patching up the damage best they could with oakum, nails, sheet lead and large wooden plugs.

Right now, his challenge is to keep *Victory* afloat, as he is responsible for the hull – which is full of shot holes, many near the waterline. And if his hand-pumps fail, there's no way of stopping the water levels from rising...

SFX

Sound of the massive chain pumps and splashing water

Instructions

Keep going, out the door and turn left, past the Carpenter's cabin and along the Carpenter's Walk – so called because it gives the carpenter and his crew access to the timbers of the hull, so they can check for damage.

Approx. Timings: 30 secs

37. Safe in Gibraltar – 28th October

Location

Orlop, amidships

Scene Setting

NARRATOR

On the evening of the 28th of October, *Victory* finally drops anchor in Gibraltar Bay. It has taken six gruelling days to sail about thirty-five⁶³ miles – helped into port with a tow from HMS *Neptune*.

The most critically injured men are taken ashore to the naval hospital – four have already died of their wounds during the nightmare journey⁶⁴.

For the remainder of the ship's company, they have less than five days to get *Victory* in a fit state to sail back to Portsmouth. The mood is gloomy:

LIEUTENANT YULE

"The quarterdeck which was crowded is empty. The happy scenes we formally witness are now laid aside, the theatre, the music, the dancing... We look for an old messmate and find he is gone – we ask for such a man –

(as if Yule is using the voice of an able seaman who is deferring to him as an officer, but not in an exaggerated way. It remains Yule's voice, not another character. The implication being the loss of a leg was sufficient to kill him, probably through infection...)

*'he was killed sir – in the action – he lost a leg...'*⁶⁵

NARRATOR

Casualties during the battle and in the following storm were colossal. British sailors killed, drowned or died of their wounds four hundred and forty-nine. Wounded One thousand and fourteen.

The French and Spanish losses were far greater – killed, drowned or died of their wounds four thousand four hundred and five. Wounded two thousand five hundred and forty-four. It took some wounded men weeks or even months to die.

Instructions

Now climb carefully down the stairway to the Hold.

Approx. Timings: 61 secs

⁶³ estimated distance based on Cadiz to Gibraltar being 72 nautical miles. www.sea-distances.org

⁶⁴ Beatty's account p.75

⁶⁵ Lavery, p.144 – Nelson Dispatch, vol V

38. Stores and Supplies – The Hold

Location

Hold, Port

Scene Setting

Keeping *Victory's* eight hundred and twenty-one men and boys fed and watered – often for months at a time – requires a huge amount of planning and admin. That job falls to Mr Walter Burke, the Purser, who at sixty-seven also happens to be the oldest man on board. He works alongside Mr Atkinson, the Sailing Master, who ensures everything is loaded properly and stored securely.

Wooden casks are used to store many different things, however none of these casks contain gunpowder.

The largest casks – the leaguers – are used for drinking water. Water is the heaviest and bulkiest item to store and *Victory* carries nearly 300 tons of the stuff⁶⁶.

Butts are slightly smaller and some contain beer. Each man is issued with a daily gallon of beer, so *Victory* is going to get through eight of these butts every day.

Smaller casks are used to store perishable goods, like salt pork and beef, butter, cheese, peas and raisins.

Casks of brandy and rum are kept in the 'spirituous liquor room' under lock and key.

Ship's biscuit – known as 'bread' – is stored in the double-lined Bread Room, wrapped in cloth, well above the filthy bilge water⁶⁷. Men are issued with a pound of biscuit a day, so *Victory* gets through over two and a half tons of biscuits a week⁶⁸.

All ships need ballast – heavy weights in the lowest parts of the hold to keep them upright. *Victory's* ballast is made from slabs of iron, officially marked with the Admiralty 'broad arrow'. The shingle ballast can be moved around easily. It also helps stop the casks from shifting.

Instructions

Approx. Timings: **88 secs.**

⁶⁶ Lavery, *The Arming and Fitting of English Ships of War 1600-1815*, p.188. A 74-gun ship (say 600 men) in 1790 typically carried 219 tons of water

⁶⁷ Lavery, *The Arming and Fitting of English Ships of War 1600-1815*, p.189.

⁶⁸ Lavery, *The Arming and Fitting of English Ships of War 1600-1815*, p.189. pro-rata calculation for 820 men

39. Victory Laid Bare

Location

Hold, centreline of the ship above the keel

Scene Setting

The empty hold reveals how *Victory* is put together.

The massive oak frames run right up through the ship and give *Victory* her basic shape. They are made from separate pieces of oak, each weighing several hundredweight.⁶⁹ Shipwrights select pieces that are the best shape for the job.

The frames are made stronger by attaching additional large timbers on top, called ‘riders’. All these pieces are pinned together with thick copper clench bolts that go right the way through to the outside of the hull.

The frames and riders sit on the massive elm keel, which runs the length of the ship. You can only see the keel from the outside.

Planks are then fixed to the outside of the frames, to make the ship watertight – and two-foot-thick in places!

Instructions

Approx. Timings: 40 secs

⁶⁹ HMS Victory. McGowan, p.131

39. **B** ‘Remarkable Survivor’

Suggested Location

Next to, or on the barrels, before the shop.

Scene Setting

A dispatch containing news of Nelson’s victory at Trafalgar was sent by small, fast ship back to Britain, but public rejoicing was tempered by the news of his death.

For the long journey home Nelson’s body was placed in a large cask called a leaguer and preserved with brandy.

In January 1806 Nelson made his final journey up the River Thames in London, from Greenwich to Whitehall and then in a great procession to a burial service at St Paul’s Cathedral.

Victory is a remarkable survivor. She remains a Royal Navy ship and is the oldest commissioned naval ship in the world. She is the flagship of the First Sea Lord and flies his flag at the main mast.

Throughout her active service Victory was regularly modified and repaired. This process of change and renewal continues today in dry dock.

Before you leave Victory don’t forget to go into the Grand Magazine – it’s through the shop.

Then, when you are ready to leave, please place your audio guide and headphones in the basket by the exit, or return them to a Guide.

ALSO RECORD THIS ALTERNATIVE ENDING

Please don’t forget to return your audio guide and headphones to the dockside, after you have left the ship.

Formatted: Heading 3

40. The Grand Magazine

(audio guides will be handed back, either in the shop, or into a basket on the way out.

This is the final audio point)

Location

inside the Grand Magazine

Scene Setting

This is the Grand Magazine. It holds seven hundred and eighty-four barrels of gunpowder. It is the largest of *Victory's* three magazines, which together contain thirty-five tons of gunpowder.

Gunpowder is difficult to store – if it gets wet it's useless, if it catches fire, the ship may well blow up.

Naked flames or sparks or of any sort are unwanted, so lanthorns are kept well out the way behind glass in the Light Room.

Copper doesn't create sparks, so gunpowder barrels have copper hoops, planking is fixed with copper nails and copper sheet is used to keep out the rats,⁷⁰ which might otherwise leave dangerous trails of gunpowder as they scurry through the ship.

Cartridges for the guns are prepared in the Filling Room. These sausage-shaped cotton bags are packed with gunpowder and put in protective wooden cylinders before being taken up to the guns by nimble young boys, known as Powder Monkeys.

At Trafalgar *Victory* fired her guns for over four hours, using three thousand and forty-one shot and seven and a half tons of gunpowder – less than a quarter of her total supply.

Instructions

Our tour of HMS *Victory* is nearly over. I hope that you have enjoyed your visit? Please put your audio guide and headphones in the basket in the shop, before you leave the ship.

ALSO RECORD THIS ALTERNATIVE ENDING

Please don't forget to return your audio guide and headphones to the dockside, after you have left the ship.

Commented [AB9]: No way we'll cope with this outside. It has to be in, and we've got to accept not everyone will enter. (OK – JM)

Commented [JM10]: in the recorded version he say "rounds of shot" which ought really be just "shot". I believe a "round" is ammunition which combines projectile and powder. These are round-shot, not rounds of shot.

⁷⁰ Lavery, *The Arming and Fitting of English Ships of War 1600-1815*, p.150

41. Conservation and Repair

NARRATOR

This area of Victory is currently undergoing conservation and repair.

Throughout her active service *Victory* was regularly modified and repaired. This process of change and renewal continues today in dry dock.

Maintaining a huge ship like Victory out of water, and making sure the public can enjoy visiting her in safety, presents unique challenges, not least in meeting the significant costs.

Although she is no longer threatened by enemy gun fire, the weather, death watch beetle and visitors' feet all pose dangers of their own.