

EN GARDE!

Being in the Main a Game of the Life of a Gentleman Seeking Fame & Fortune in the Royal Navy at the Time of the Napoleonic Wars, and his Several Companions

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Issue 09 – August 1791

"Sixteen tons of number nine coal ...!" friend of B. S. Johnson, aboard experimental steamship USN *Sammy* The battle for London, final stage ... thanks to their valiant defenders, the barricades had held all the Month of July and the first two weeks of August, but by then everybody could see that they would not hold much longer. Tensions ran high and when the Vice Admiral of the Red uttered his famous dictum that a metropolis is only two meals away from chaos the First Lord charged him with spreading defeatist attitudes and had him arrested at once Sir Louis may never have spoken a truer word, but he will have to explain than to the judge at his court martial next month!

Meanwhile our valiant citizens still had plenty of powder and shot in their lockers, but their cupboards and larders were bare. And on August 20th the Dutch brought out their secret weapon: Gouda cheeses, big as cartwheels! They would hack the cheeses into smaller, more manageable portions in plain view and throw the pieces in the direction of the barricade, taking great care to make them fall short of the barricade's crest. They would, of course, immediately disappear in the hundreds of little nooks and crannies between the items that made up the barricade, inaccessible unless the whole structure was broken up. Then the Dutch sat back and waited ... while all day long the heady smell of cheese wafted about and did its magic. Around midnight on

August 23rd the Dutch waited patiently until the barricade on the corner of King' Way and Great Queen Street had been dismantled and then their elite "Nightstalker" regiment pounced on its hapless defenders, meaning to break through and romp down Great Queen Street, Long Acre and beyond. Fifteen hundred Boers went in ... but they had missed their tide. During the last days fresh British regiments had reached the city from the west (in answer to messages sent out by pigeon during the previous month) and by the time the Dutch had reached St.Martin's Street their number had already halved, since every roof along these streets bristled with soldiers. Hot work for the Redcoats (and Bluecoats, Greencoats and even Mauvecoats) present, but not as desperate as the continued infighting at the Admiralty over who was supposed to be in command! In the end, their Lordships once again decided to postpone the decision and just to fill everyone's pockets instead – 1,900 Guineas went to the 2nd Lord of the Admiralty (and he was mentioned in dispatches as well), 1,500 Guineas went to Vice Admiral of the Blue, and 1,200 Guineas to the Vice Admiral of the Yellow Squadron. Another 1,100 Guineas went to the Rear Admiral of the White while his colleague in red got 1,300 Guineas and a MiD, the Rear Admiral of the Blue Squadron (1,000 Guineas) and the Yellow Squadron (1,300 Guineas). The Royal Marines did extremely well this month, with promotions and sizable bonuses all round to draw attention from the upcoming court martial of their C.O. (caught in the act of writing bogus messages to send reinforcements guarding country estates in Wiltshire owned by his cronies). He was replaced by his second-in-command Lt.General N7 (promoted and 1,400 Guineas) who was in turn replaced by former Brigade General N4, who in turn handed over his old office to the N4 who used to be a Colonel RM aboard HMS *Droits de L'Homme*.

There was some trifling objection that she was still undergoing repairs, but her 2nd Lieutenant turned out to be quite vocal in his demand to have the full complement of RMs stand guard in order to keep the yard hands from stealing. The Horse Guards clerks finally gave way and a revenue cutter was sent to fetch the Lt.Colonel RM aboard HMS *Richard Lionheart*.

Meanwhile, the most powerful squadrons of the British Navy made a careful search of every harbour along the french coast, with orders to sink or burn the hundreds of smaller vessels Napoleon had had built to ferry his troops. Leading the white squadron HMS *Ferocious* managed to pick up three gun boats near Barfleur and her

2nd Lieutenant gave orders to keep the guns (some of her own 36-pounders were suspected of being honeycombed) and to offer the boats to the French for a cool 1,000 Guineas. HMS *Richard Lionheart* had kept to her cruising ground a little father south. She managed to surprise a smuggling vessel in the act of picking up contraband. This earned her 1st Lieutenant a mention in dispatches and her 2nd Lieutenant a bullet between the eyes, while Tyler Brock's efforts went unrecognized although it had been his suggestion that HMS *Richard Lionheart* strike her main topgallants, which had deceived the smugglers completely. Thinking her only an Indiaman, they had let her come up until they were directly under the guns of the bigger ship – too late to do anything but surrender! Meanwhile, the cutter sent to fetch and carry several officers of the RM to and from their commands had met with HMS *Sheik Yassouf* where JA had spent the half hour badgering his superior officers to

fill out their "nothing to declare" forms in triplicate. His reward was a purse worth 700 Guineas (apparently the present of a grateful purser), a promotion to Lieutenant and a lift to HMS *Glenmoranie* (where he was expected to replace JD, who was rumoured to have choked to death on a bit of gristle).

In the red squadron, HMS *Indomitable* was most unlucky to have a 36-pounder explode during a live fire exercise. Shit happens, but her captain will be hard put to explain why the lower deck hatches had been open as well and why none of her idlers had been stationed near the hay stored on the orlop deck with a couple buckets of water close at hand. He'll probably say that WKM had been ordered to do just this but had fallen asleep. The cries of "Fire! Fire!" eventually roused him from whatever dreams he may have dreamed and he helped valiantly to save the ship – his efforts went unnoticed, alas! After the fires were put out HMS *Indomitable* wore round and made sail to go home for repairs and the court martial of her captain, at the same time her lookout reported a strange sail in the SW. She immediately signalled HMS *Jupiter*: "Sails to SW. Go investigate. Good luck!". The squadron was happy to give chase and the sail turned out to belong to a Portugese xebec of 32 guns, carrying dispatches for the Spanish squadron the fleet had engaged and destroyed last month. Overland news certainly didn't travel fast, or perhaps Napoleon had felt that his allies should be spared such a blow to their self-esteem? The captain of HMS *Jupiter* cleared 1,900 Guineas in prize money, the captain of HMS *Fiddler's*

Green another 1,200 Guineas while her 2nd Lieutenant (who had been the most zealous of all officers) was mentioned in dispatches and promoted to master & commander (his first command will be a victualling tender, HMS *Slop Chest*). HMS *Swiftsure* did not participate in the chase since the revenue cutter had chosen that time to show up in order to pick up the captain of her Marines (destined for Majordom and HMS *Sheik Yassouf*).

In the blue squadron, JS was still reading the log of HMS *Waakzaamheit* when the ship's surgeon came into his cabin and told him that another dread disease had reared its ugly head – no less that five cases of gaol fever had been reported during the afternoon watch! Jack immediately ordered all ships to make sail and head for the Irish coast, where the squadron anchored in a great shallow bay, while the surgeons and their mates made the rounds, distributing Ward's drops, Green's pills, and powdered Jesuits' bark to every man able to swallow and hold them down. Five days the fever raged ... and then the battle was won! The weather took a turn for the better as well, and soon you could see a number of hands splash about in the shallow waters, diving down to look at some curious rocks ... which turned out to be all that was left of a French troop ship! As the word spread, more and more hands and even the officers joined in and pretty soon a number of brass-bound chests was heaved aboard. Trust the Frogs to take a bit of pocket money along, and this proved no exception. JS only became aware

of what had been going on after it was all over (bar the shouting) but his 2nd Lieutenant pocketed 1,400 Guineas (and a promotion as well), while the captain of HMS *Berwickshire* pocketed only 900 Guineas (but was mentioned in dispatches for his outstanding modesty). On HMS *Bellerophon* her 1st Lieutenant took 1,000

Guineas from the pockets of his 2nd Lieutenant, who had gravely underestimated the weight of the lead soles in his shoes and didn't manage to attract his shipmates' attention in time (he was, however, promoted posthumously at the insistence of the president of the Royal College for his contribution to the sum of human knowledge). Few had been more diligent in administering the kiss of life to this unfortunate gentleman than 1st Lieutenant Andrew Goodman of HMS *Mars*, who also refused to accept a promotion for his action (but accepted a mention in dispatches instead) but one of these was TBA, who insisted on fetching the dead man's shoes from the seabed – lead soles and all. A more unwise idea he could hardly have conceived, for all sailors know that stepping into a dead man's shoes is one of the hallmarks of a right Jonah! Small wonder that a gun went off inadvertently just as TBA was hauled up past the open port lid – R.I.P.! On the other hand, new boy MAD had the wit to note down the exact time of the gun going off, and the number of the gun and its captain as well – this at least enabled JS to enter the incident in the ship's log. He had barely finished when the lookout announced the arrival of the ships of the yellow squadron, and the captain of HMS *Glenmoranie* immediately had himself pulled over to make his report. Nothing untoward had happened since they had gotten lost in the fog, except their meeting with a couple of Newfoundlandmen which had had the bad manner to pass the squadron on the weather side – the smell of rotting cod was so strong it actually brought a green tarnish on the ship's brightwork! In pure self defence her captain fired a number of broadside and destroyed them completely, which earned him 1,500 Guineas (instead of a promotion). A happy ending except for the fact that Lieutenant (RM) John Doe, deeply affected by the thought of all that nourishing cod liver oil wasted, one night grabbed a cannon ball and jumped overboard (he was soon replaced by JA, who had no such scruples)! A much romanticized account of the "Cod Oil Tragedy" later appeared in a gentlemen's magazine and earned its author

(the 1st Lieutenant of HMS *Halcyon*) 1,300 Guineas, but only FF of HMS *Belle Poule* had the presence of mind to write a really scientific paper (entitled: "Cod Oil and Salt Water, Impartially Considered") which included (among other things) such erratic data as the water's degree of salinity in five fathoms depth at noon exactly. Impossible to put into words the furor it caused in the world of learning! Rumour has it Napoleon himself (at the head of the entire Academy Francaise) wrote to King Albert, demanding a knighthood for this intrepid explorer, and the King actually granted the request (together with a small present of 700 Guineas)! Arise, Sir Feghorn ...! As an afterthought, the King sends another 1,200 Guineas to the captain of HMS *Alexander* as well. Meanwhile, the blockade squadron gets in on the act and a huge collection of seaweeds (in avrying states of decay) goes to the Royal Scientific Society by the next Admiralty cutter. The fellows show themselves appropriately grateful and bestow several small tokens on the commanding officers – the captain of

HMS *Salisbury* captain gets 1,300 Guineas (instead of the promotion he had hoped for), the captain of HMS *Sauve Qui Peut* captain gets mentioned in dispatches, on HMS *Surprise* midshipman JWK is also mentioned but manages to pocket 1,900 Guineas as well, and on HMS *Swordfish* GS is mentioned but not promoted – such are the whims of scientific fame!

Finally, news arrived that EIC La Poubelle survived a determined attack by pirates off the African coast, which earned her 1st Lieutenant a promotion at the cost of his life. He fell overboard and was devoured by sharks, but reaching out through a gun post JOG at least managed to snatch the officer's gold watch, a genuine Breguet repeater worth 1,000 Guineas.

FINIS

Johns Diary Part Two

Day Forty one

Well we crossed some thing called the “equator” which called for a celebration of sorts. Wasn't too keen on it at first; however the pint of grog that was given put by the Capt'n was welcome. The cabin boys looked nervous as the handed out the grog, can't understand why?

Much later.....

Well what a day its bin ad a luvly time crew were well impressed with me singing if I do say so meself. Capt'n wrote to his superiors says what a singer I was!

I will write later more fun is going on now, summit about a barrel and the cabin boys joining in this time? Strange tho as I ain't seen a single one of em since the grog was handed out.....

Day forty three

My head hurts, can't remember much except for what's I written in here. I seem to ave lost a day or so some how? God I feel ill all the grog can't be good fer ya? Managed to get on deck, every one looks the worse fer wear; even his highness the Cap'n looks bad!

Cabin boys look healthy, although they do seem to be walkin funny? Suppose grog affects us all different.....

Day Forty Four

Feelin like me old self now the worse of it is over. Some of the crews were askin if I liked the barrel party? Did na want to offend them do said yes, they looked pleased and said we will have some more of that soon! Ter be 'onest I haven't a clue what they are on about! Still it was a good night what I can remember of it.....

Day Forty Five

Very quiet so I will leave the diary fer now, wait till summit exciting happens before I pens some more.....

FINIS

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The Ladies

	SL	Attributes	Current Suitor
<i>Lady</i> Isabella de Courcy	18	B I	
Rosemary Stilton-Major	17	W	
Prudence Petterson	16		
<i>Lady</i> Elizabeth Doolittle	16	B I	
Muriel Merryweather	15		
Caroline Cadger	15	W	
Jennifer Usher	14	I	
Victoria Watson-Holmes	14		
Flora de Bries	13	B W	
Harriet Hilfinger	13		
Ophelia Goolies	12	B	
Pamela Huntingdown-Jones	12	W I	FF
Rebecca Morrison	11		
Alice Wonderland	11		
Joan Fullins	10	B	
Doris Open	10		
Sophia Williams	9	B	
Diana Villiers	9	B	TB
Rebecca Dorrit	8		
Betty Grapples	8		
Moll Flanders	7		
Sue Briquette	7		
Emma Woodhouse	6	B	WKM
Gwendolyn Hotspur	5		
Mary Lamb	5		
Sara Pati	4		
Agnes Nutter	3		JA

The Guilty Parties

ID	Name		SL	NA	SP	
008	Knight Fernando Feghoot	FF	10	7	F	Captain HMS <i>Belle Poule</i>
012	Jack Sandwich	JS	10	5	F	Captain HMS <i>Waakzaamheit</i>
009	Tyler Brock	TB	7	6+	F	Midshipman HMS <i>Richard Lionheart</i>
001	Wayne Kin-Madley	WK M	5	4	F	
000	Guy Sandolls	GS	5	5	F	Brevet Master & Commander HMS <i>Swordfish</i>
005	John Doe	JD	5	2	RIP	Lieutenant RM, HMS <i>Glenmoranie</i>
005	X5	X5	5	6	NEW	
006	Puisee D'Assinute	PDA	3	4	RIP	Master's Mate HMS <i>Mars</i>
013	Josiah W. Kerr	JWK	3	8+	F	Master's Mate HMS <i>Surprise</i>
010	Jonah Albytross	JA	3	5+	F	Lieutenant RM, HMS <i>Sheik Yassouf</i>
016	Miles Attenborough-Davis	MAD	3	6	F	Subaltern RM, HMS <i>Mars</i>
006	X6	X6	3	5	NEW	

002

Andrew Goodman	AG	2	9+	F	Lieutenant HMS <i>Mars</i>			
011	John O’Groats		JOG	2	5+	F	Sailor EIC <i>La Poubelle</i>	
<div>Government</div>								
The King		Albert George III. of Hannover-Pumpernickel						
The Queen		Victoria Zephyra						
The Crown Prince		Charles William						
Prime Minister		Sir Havelock Brindle, Earl of Doomsday, KCB					NA 7	
Chancellor of the Exchequer		---						
Minister of Justice		---						
Minister of War		---						
Commissioner of Public Safety			Sir Julian Parselmouth, KCB NA 1					

The First Sea Lord							
N6							
1 st Lord of the Admiralty							
2 nd Lord of the Admiralty							
N7		N8					
Admiral				Admiral			
White Squadron		Red Squadron		Blue Squadron		Yellow Squadron	
N3		Sir Rodney Battersea, Marquis of Mayfair (NA 5) N7 N4					
Vice Admiral		Vice Admiral		Vice Admiral		Vice Admiral	
N3		---		N8 N7			
Rear Admiral		Rear Admiral		Rear Admiral		Rear Admiral	
N5 N7 N3		N6					

<div><i>The Ships</i></div> <div><i>White Squadron</i></div>				
	<div>Droits de l’Homme</div> <div>SoL 1st Class</div> <div>Being back repaired in September</div>	<div>Ferocious</div> <div>SoL 1st Class</div>	<div>Richard Lionheart</div> <div>SoL 1st Class</div>	<div>Sheik Yassouf</div> <div>SoL 2nd Class</div>
Post Captain	---	N6 N3 N7		
1 st Lieutenant	N6			

2nd Lieutenant				
	N7 *			
	N5			
3rd Lieutenant				
4th Lieutenant				
5th Lieutenant				
Midshipman			TB	
Master's Mate				
Crew				

Red Squadron

	Indomitable SoL 2 nd Class	Being back repaired in September Jupiter SoL 2 nd Class	Fiddler's Green SoL 2 nd Class	Swiftsure SoL 3 rd Class
(Post) Captain	---	N5	N4 N4	
1st Lieutenant			N2	
2nd Lieutenant	N3 N5* N8*			
3rd Lieutenant				
4th Lieutenant				
5th Lieutenant				
Midshipman				
Master's Mate				
Crew				

Blue Squadron

	Waakzaamheit SoL 3 rd Class	Berwickshire SoL 4 th Class	Bellerophone SoL 4 th Class	Mars SoL 5 th Class
Captain	JS	N9	N3	N4
1st Lieutenant		N3	AG*	
2nd Lieutenant	N5*	N2		
3rd Lieutenant			***	
4th Lieutenant		***	***	***
Midshipman				
Master's Mate				
Crew				

Yellow Squadron

	Glenmoranie SoL 5 th Class	Halcyon SoL 5 th Class	Belle Poule SoL 5 th Class	Alexander SoL 5 th Class
Captain	N4 N8	FF	N5	
1st Lieutenant		N5	N4	
2nd Lieutenant			N1	

Midshipman

Master's Mate				
Crew				

Blockade Squadron

	Salisbury Sloop	Sauve Qui Peut Sloop	Surprise Sloop	Swordfish Sloop
Captain	N8	N6 N3 GS		
1st Lieutenant	N5		N2	
2nd Lieutenant				
Midshipman			JWK	
Master's Mate				
Crew				

*=Ship's Adj.

The Royal Marines

General	N7
Lt-General	N4
Brigade General N4	

Colonel (DH) : N2		
Lieutenant-Colonel (FE) : N6	Lieutenant-Colonel (RL): N4	Major (SY): N2
Major (IN): N7		
Major (JU): N4		
Major (FG): N2		
Captain (SW):		
Captain (WA): N4		
Captain (BS): N4		
Captain (BE) : N5		
Lieutenant (MA): N6		
Lieutenant (GL): JA		
Lieutenant (HA):		
Lieutenant (BP): N5		
Lieutenant (AL):		
Subalterns : MAD (MA)		
Privates :		

*= Reg.Adj.

The Honourable Company

Chairman East India Company	Sir William Weatherwax	
Directors East India Company	Sir Guthrie Featherstone Mr. Peshawar Cannings Mr. John Mortimer	

La Poubelle (LP) Captain N6	
(sailed June 1 st 1791) 1st Lt.:	
	2nd Lt.: N9
3rd Lt.: N7	
	Mids: N6
Crew: JOG	

Shangri-La	Captain N6
Sails on September 1 st . 1st Lt.: N3	
2nd Lt.: N3	
3rd Lt.: N4	
Mids:	
Crew:	

The Patriotic Fund

Chairman Patriotic Fund	The Right Honourable Sir Ezram Blazentoe	
Commitee Mem. Patriotic Fund	---	

The Politicoes

Naval Estimates Spokesman	---	
Chairman Impress Service	---	
Naval Yards Supervisor	---	
Ordnance Board Supervisor	---	
Victualling Board Supervisor ---		
Port Admiral London	---	
Port Admiral Portsmouth	---	

The Blue Peter

August	September
ALL SHIPS	

Who's Who

ID	Name	E-Mail			
016	Jürgen Hossfeld	J.Hossfeld@tonline.de MAD	Miles Attenborough-Davis		
013	Toby Whitty	yaledor@yahoo.com JWK	Josiah W. Kerr		
012	Greg F.	onasilverwind@yahoo.com JS	Jack Sandwich		
011	Terry Crook	toppers@claraco.uk	JOG	John O’Groats	
010	John Cosgrave	JACKAL@jcosgrave.fr eeserve.co.uk JA	Jonah Albytross		
009	Christian Schotmann	Christian@Schotmann.de	TB	Tyler Brock	
008	Wayne Rutledge	Wayne100@emirates.net.ae FF	Fernando Feeghoot		
006	Neil Kendrick	HuwJorge@amsol.com X6	X6		

005	James Campbell	grevera@apexmail.com X5	X5	
002	Matthias Nitz	Matt.hias.nitz@helimail.de	AG	Andrew Goodman
001	Tony Brooks	tony@brookst2.fsnet.co.uk	WKM	Wayne Kin-Madley
000	"Red"HaJo Schlosser	redhajo@aol.com GS	Guy Sandolls	

Announcements

Sir Rodney, Vice admiral of the White, will face court martial in September, upon the charge of deserting his post of duty while under attack.

Captain N6 of HMS *Droits de L'Homme* will face court martial in September, upon the charge of neglecting his duty by loitering ashore.

Sir Louis Beanpole, Vice admiral of the Red, will face court martial in September, upon the charge of deserting his post of duty while under attack.

Captain N3 of HMS *Indomitable* will face court martial in September, upon the charge of neglecting his duty by loitering ashore.

General N3, General of the Royal Marines will face court martial in September, upon the charge of deserting his post of duty while under attack.

Applications for Capain's post of HMS *Droits de L'Homme* are welcome.

Third call for E.I.C. *Shangri-La* to the Far East,
sailing date 1st of September 1791. Applications for
crew members are welcome.

GM Waffle (Part One):

Just to let you know: August 1791 was the 21500 month after the holy night...

Also rumours have been heard that a visit in the opera next month could lead to a meeting with a member of the royal family...

GM Waffle (Part Two):

Yes, I know – I promised you that Briny would be under your Xmas tree, then I absolutely promised to have it ready in time for the New Year pyrotechnics parade, and now the year is already nearly over ...!! Well, all I can say is that I'm sorry as hell but I promised myself to make no promises this year, and that's one promise I want to keep! Oh well, you can't please everybody ...)

DEADLINE for ISSUE 010 : January 23rd, 2004

