

AVISO

Ministerio de Defensa

Conmemoración de la Batalla de Trafalgar

Gibraltar, 22 de octubre de 2018

Con el fin de conmemorar el 213º aniversario de la Batalla de Trafalgar, se ha celebrado el tradicional Acto Conmemorativo en el Cementerio de Trafalgar de Gibraltar. El Comandante de la Royal Navy Mark Savage, el Oficial al Mando (Commanding Officer) de la Royal Navy y Comandante Stuart Lawrence de la Unidad de Apoyo Conjunto de la Royal Navy (Joint Support Unit) colocaron coronas de flores en las tumbas de aquellos que murieron como resultado de la batalla.

Durante la ceremonia, el Gobernador de Gibraltar, el Teniente General Edward Davis, leyó el mensaje del Almirante Collingwood al entonces Teniente Gobernador [de Gibraltar] en el que se informaba de que el Comandante en Jefe, el Vicealmirante Horatio Nelson, había fallecido:

“Ayer, la Flota de su Majestad libró una batalla y se alzó con la victoria. Un día que se recordará como uno de los más brillantes y decisivos que jamás haya vivido la Armada británica... Hemos perdido a muchos hombres, pero lo que resulta irreparable y constituye motivo de lamento universal es la muerte del noble Comandante en Jefe, que murió en los brazos de la victoria. Aún no tengo ningún informe de los barcos...”.

A continuación, el Ministro Principal, Fabián Picardo, leyó el preámbulo y recordó a todos los presentes que “desde hace más de dos siglos, la flota de la Royal Navy visita Gibraltar para realizar maniobras y entrenamientos en el Peñón en tiempos de paz. En tiempos de guerra, las embarcaciones se daban cita aquí antes de zarpar para plantar cara a los peligros de los mares y la violencia del enemigo”.

El capellán de la base, el Reverendo Mike Wagstaff, dirigió las oraciones y pronunció la bendición antes de que sonara el *Last Post and Reveille* y la primera estrofa del Himno Nacional [británico].

Este aviso es un resumen del comunicado original. Texto íntegro en inglés, en PDF adjunto.

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Para cualquier ampliación de esta información, rogamos contacte con
Oficina de Información de Gibraltar

Miguel Vermehren, Madrid, miguel@infogibraltar.com, Tel 609 004 166
Sandra Balvín, Campo de Gibraltar, sandra@infogibraltar.com, Tel 637 617 757
Eva Reyes Borrego, Campo de Gibraltar, eva@infogibraltar.com, Tel 619 778 498

Web: www.infogibraltar.com, web en inglés: www.gibraltar.gov.gi/press-office

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22 October 2018

BATTLE OF TRAFALGAR REMEMBERED

To mark the 213th anniversary of the Battle of Trafalgar, the traditional Act of Remembrance was held within the Trafalgar Cemetery, Gibraltar. Commander Mark Savage OBE Royal Navy, Commanding Officer Royal Navy and Commander Stuart Lawrence Royal Navy Commanding Officer Joint Support Unit placed wreaths on the graves of those who died as a result of the Battle.

During the service, His Excellency The Governor of Gibraltar, Lieutenant General Edward Davis CB CBE KStJ read the despatch from Admiral Collingwood to the then Lieutenant Governor which informed Gibraltar that Commander-in-Chief had died:

‘Yesterday a Battle was fought by His Majesty’s Fleet, and a Victory gained, which will stand recorded as one of the most brilliant and decisive, that ever distinguished the British Navy... Our loss has been great in Men; but what is irreparable, and the cause of Universal Lamentation, is the death of the Noble Commander-in-Chief who died in the arms of Victory; I have not yet any reports from the ships...’

This was followed by the preamble which was read by the Honourable Fabian Picardo QC MP MA, Chief Minister and reminded everyone that ‘for over two centuries the Fleets of the Royal Navy have gathered at Gibraltar for exercise and training in time of Peace. Here in time of War, the ships have assembled before sailing to face the dangers of the seas and the violence of the enemy.’

This year’s Trafalgar address was delivered by Commodore Tim Henry Royal Navy who said: “Many have heard about the unorthodox tactics where the British sought to break the enemy’s line. It was a tactic high in risk – those lead ships forced to endure repeated broadsides without answer, their commanders knowing that a crippling blow might, at any time, stunt the advance of the entire formation. But the risk was a calculated one; balancing the enemy’s poor seamanship and lack of battle experience against the ability of their British counterparts to rapidly achieve fire superiority once they could bring their guns to bear. And a risk that brought with it huge reward once the British returned fire down the length of the French and Spanish ships, gun by gun as they came to bear, with devastating

consequences to opposing ships and crews alike...We have chosen to come together in this place and pause our hectic lives to reflect on, and remember, the deeds of people we have never met but whose stories we think we know. To remember those individuals from 58 nations that fought that day, to acknowledge the sacrifice of the 6000 or so that lost their lives on the day or in the days and weeks that followed. Most were committed to the deep from the ships in which they served; two of those that perished are buried here in this cemetery. Many more, like the veterans of today, carried the memories and, for some, the physical and mental scars of the battle for the remainder of their lives. Memories that can endure for a long time; such as for Joseph Sutherland, a young sailor in Nelson's Fleet, aged 16 at Trafalgar, who died 85 years after the battle."

The Command Chaplain, the Reverend Mike Wagstaff led the prayers and pronounced the Blessing. This was followed by the Last Post and Reveille and the first verse of the National Anthem.

ENDS

For further information please contact Command Media Officer Caroline Parkes on 5461 8000.

Editor's Notes:

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