

James Martin of Wivenhoe, 'Book Concerning the Battle of Trafalgar', Essex Record Office, Colchester
branch and microfilm in NMM
Notebook, c4 x 6", laid, Britannia watermark IB 1832

[fl] The Battle of Trafalgar

The junction of the Hostile fleet seemed to threaten the Independence of Great Britain Admiral Calder had fought them with but little advantage and they were now dayley collecting more Vigners and the British fleet was dispersed into different Elements and what few we could muster at Home was Altogether Incompetent under these Circumstances we Sailed from Cawsand Bay upon the 2^d day of August 1805 our Orders were to Call off the Island of Ushant in our way to Faroll we did not Retch our Distany untill the 14th instant [f2] and was Sorry then to finde our Small Force Unequill to the task a Speedy Retreat was theirfore Demed Nesersey and we Rejoined the Channel fleet upon the 13th and on the 15th was joined by Admiral Lord Nelson with 12 Sail of the Line his Lordship praceded to England but his fleet was a Envaluable Acqusatation at this Cretical Juncture the following morning a Signal was made to Close the prince of wales Sir R Calder and we proceeded with 18 Saile of the Line in Chace of the Enemy on the Morning of 21st a Stainge Sail hove in Sight under a press of Canviss and fired [f3] Signal Guns upon witch the fleet Hove two She proved to be HM Ship Naied with Intilagance that the Combind fleets had sailed from Farrole we then Stererd for Cape Finesture and Hove two off Viga and Cleared away far Battle But finding they had Continued their Rout we made Sail for Cape St Vincents upon the 23^d in the Latt of Lizbon Spake a English Priverteeer wich Informed us that the Enemy had passed their 6 Days Before in all 33 Saile of the Line the night Following a English Frigate Gave us Inteligance the Enemy was Laying in Cadize Harbour on [f4] 4th of September we Bore a way and Displayed our Force Before the town were we had a Vew of the Hostile Fleet from this time we keep on and off Gineraly in Sight of them the wether Being Extreemly fine tho we Being so Infeior in Number our Brave Comander in Cheif Admiral Coalingwood who had Superseded S^r R Calder on the 21st instant Semed no ways Averse to meet them with Only 25 Saile of the Line had thay Embraced the Opertunity of tryen what Numbers Could do Prehaps in Sum Respects they might have Succeeded but fate [f5] would have it otherways on the 28th of September was joined by H.M. Ship Victory Admirl Lord Nelson and the Ajax and the Thunderer it is Imposable to Discribe the Heartfelt Satisfaction of the whole fleet upon this Occasion and the Confidance of Success with wich we ware Inspired his Lordship proceeded in a Differant plan from his predesors in with Drawen to a Conserable Distance from Cadize and the wether Contuning very fine we ware mostly Laying two with our top Sails Lowered down and Sum times furld while at the Same time the Greatest Care was taken [f6] the Enemy Should be watched in this Situation we Remained untell October 19th when the Admirl was Informed by one of our Crusers that the Enemy had put to Sea a General Signal was made from the Victory to Give Chace and Make Saile and prepair for Battle wich was Ancered with Heartfull Satisfaction but it Being a Dead Calm we had but little hopes of falling in with them that day the day followen proved Hazey with Rain the first we had Since our Arivell of Cadize But During the night we Observ^d our Creuzers to Make sevrell Night Signels to the Admirl [gap... fl 3j In the Night the wether Cleard up and Semed to promes the warers of Great Britain the long wishfor Qpertunity of Displaying their Value we had Offred them Battle Sevrell times since the Conunecement of the war but thay had ever Avoided us but now the moment was fast advancing which was to Decide wether the Boasted Herosum of France and Spain or the Ginene Valour of free Born Britans was to Rule the Main a light Breze Sprung up with the day at 40 Minits past 5 am observed the Enemys fleet upon our Lee Beam holding their wind upon the [fl4]

The British Hearts did Lift for Joy

the Sight for to Behold

We Sone prepaired to fight them

for Honnor and for Gold

Larbord tack Consisting of 33 Sail of the Line 4 Frigates and two Brigs the British Fleet Consisting of 27 Saile of the Line a Frigate a Cutter and a Schoner this was prehaps the Grandest Sight of Hosteil Fleets ever Behild being no less then 60 Saile of the Line Besides Others of Smaller Force maned with the Flowr of their Respective Nations and Comanded By the Most Celibrated Admirals of the Nations the Enemy had [f15] Been Exersisen of Great Guns from the first Dawn of the day: wile our Captain on the Contrary allowed us the Same Rest nearley as was ushell we was now Baring Down upon them under a Great press of Canvess and tho Infeior to them in Numbers and Sensible that Sevrell of our Large Ships ware Dull Sailors and would be late to our Suport never was moor Coolness and Alacrity Displayed in the Howr of Dainger then now Appered in Every Countanasse wile the same Resolute Itrepidity Aminated [fl 6] Every Brest our Comander in Cheif made Se vrell Signells In respect of the mode of Attack Apprising the fleet In perticler of his Intention of

Crossing the Enemys Line about their 13 or 14 Ship and make Saile for their Van Ships to prevent their getting into Cadize again the last he made was to this Affect by p' Tallygraph England Expect Every Man will Do his Duty our fast Sailing Ships were so Crowded together Etch Being a like Anxious to Engage that our Ship the Neptunes Jeb Boom allmost Retched the Victory Taferail [f1 7] We ware Hailed and Requested not to Keep Quite so near so our Brave Captain in Compliance of the Last Signal made adressed us at our Diffrent Quarters in words few but Intimated that we ware all alike Sensable of our Condition our Native Land and all that was Dear to us Hung upon a Ballance and their Happyness Depended upon us and their Safty allso Happy the Man who Boldly Venture his Life in such a Cause if he shold Survive the Battle how Sweet will be the Recoleetion be and if he fall he fall Cowed with Glory and Honnor and Morned [f1 8] By a Greatfull Country the Brave Live Glorious and Lemented Die about Nine Minets Before twelve Oclock the Enemy Opened their Fiar Eight in Number upon the Royal Sovrain Admiral Coolingwood he Leading the Van of the Lee Line in short they opened their fiar on all of the Headermost ships of Booth Lines at this time a Lieutenant Came to our Quarters and informed us theair was a Mutiney in the Enemys Fleet they have two Hangen at the yard Arms now men you will be Conquers the Enemy was [f19] Drawen up in a Sort of a Double Line Evrey Second Ship was about a Cables Length to Leward of that on her Bow and Quarter the Royal Sovrain was the first Ship in the British Fleet to Return the Fiar Soon after 12 G clock we se her Closly Engaged with the Santa Ann of 110 Guns and Sevrell others of the Enemys Ships ware keeping up a Heavey Constant Fiar on her and at this time the Enemys Shot was flying like hail about us Doing us Considerable Damage wile we was Continuing our Rout Baring Right Down among them under a Cloud of [f24] of Sail Detirminated to follow the Brave Admiral Nelson thro Every pearile and Shear with him the Glory and the Daingers of the Day But not a Shot was Fired from us untill 15 minets past twelve then Braken] the Enemys Line ovr Leading Ships Opened a most Tremendous Fiar in a moments time the Victory was Engaged with the Le Redoutable of 84 Guns and us with the Le Beusentau she was a French 84 Gun Ship mounting 102 Guns Comanded by Admiral Valenuve and our other ships as [f21] thay Came up in Booth Lines with their Opotants and all was sane a sceane of Distruction the Shot flying Like a Shower of Haile and the Ocen seamed all on a Blaze and Evrey Element Shaken with the Afulfull Thunder of the Cannon and Evrey Moment added new Horrow to the Day as our Ships drew Near to Etch other and Braking the Enemys Line at all Quarters and Engagen the Enemy at the Muzzell of their Guns it was now found Imposible to make Saile for the Enemys van Ships as was at first Intended the [f22] Le Redoutable now Closed so Near the Victory she was Obliged to lay that Ship along Side wile the Timerearer Galently followen Lord Nelson fell on the other Side of the Le Redoutable and the Intreped a Longside the Timerearer these fower Ships a longside Etch Other and their Steams next to us the Le Beusentau had Stood our Fier about a Howr she was well maned with 900 men on Bord Baring the Flag of Admiral Valenuve Comander in Cheaf of the French Fleet but our [f23] attack was Imrestable she was Dismasted and forced to Strike we next passed on to the Santa Tristermer Trinadad who was Un Engaged and her Steam was exposed to our Fier she a Fine large Ship mounting 148 guns on fowr Decks the Largest Ship Ever Built maned with 1200 men at about 45 minets past 1 pm we Observed her main mast fall over Bord we then gave them three Hearty Cheairs and thay ded the same but we Accompanied our with a Broad Sider Emeditly by the loss of her Main Mast [f24] she fell of and Brought us on her Lee Beam nearley the Same time her main mast fell the mizen mast fell allso in a bout a Quarter of a Howr After the Fore mast fell and fell a Long on her Deck with its head on her Steam soon after a officer threw a Union Jack over her Starbord Quarter and Hailed our Ship and Say'd thay had Struck a few minets afater this thay fierd two Guns at us from their Middle Deck. We Emeditly Returned their Complence with two [f15] moor Bradsides Guns all Double Shoted we had now Been Enverloped with Smoak Nearly three Howers upon this Ships Striking the Smoak Clearing a way then we had a vew of the Hostle fleet thay ware scamed a Round us in all Directions Sum Dismasted and Susn were Compleat wrecks Sum had Left of Fireng and swn ware Engagen with Redoubled furey it was allmost imposible to Distinguish to what Nation thay Belonged and we had but a few minets to take [f26] a peep a Round us when we precived the van ships of the Enemy had wore Round and ware Coming Down on us to suport their admirl had thay Closed upon us we must Sunk as Death or Victory was the General Resolution of our Ships Crew but the Conquorer and the Liveathan flew to our Suport and puting our Helam a port and Engaged five saile of the Line.

Colombs of Smoak and Fiar now Assend the Skeys [f27]
 Grim Death and trinblin Ferrow
 Evrey Moment Flys

Two of them struck the others made Sail away to Windward one of them was shown us a Cowardly action of their for thay Fiard a Broadside in to a Spanish Ship who had Struck sum time Before after so doing prceded to windward and Escaped about Half past Fower PM the Fiering Begun to slacken on Booth Sides we then halled our winde on the Starbord tack and Begun to Repair our [f28] Repair our Damages a Bout Half past five the French Ship Le Achilles Blew up of 74 Guns a Head of us with Dreadfull Crash about Sun Sett the Remainder of the Enemys fleet Besides those fowr allreadey stated Consisting of 10 or 12 Ships of the Line to Leward with two or three Frigates with them their Heads in Shore and making for Cadize Harbor By the

number of Hulks around us we made out that 19 of the Enemy's [f29] Ships had fallen to our Shear but the Loss of Life in the British was severe tho we the Neptune had only Eleven Killd and 41 Wounded our Flaring been so tremendous Confounded the Enemy so much so they could take no Regular Aim at us many thousands of their shot over us and a Round us these were Expended in vain one of their men stated we so Confounded them by our well directed Fire that at His Gun was twice fired at us with out any Shot and that they were 100 men the worse for our first Fire [f30] our pricable loss being in wounded masts yards Rigger and Sailes our masts we Strengthened by Anchor Stocks and our yards by Stunsail Booms, Capstin Bars &c But the Greatest of Victory's was not adequint to the loss the British fleet and Nation Substained by the Death of admirl Lord Nelson the Comander in Cheif while Liven he was judged the pride and pattren of the British Navy and in his Deyen Howr he still Preserved the Same Magnamity [03 1] wich had Distuingished him through Life as one of the Greatest of Heros Admirl Lord Colingwood now Succeeded him in Comand and a Braver Officer never Drew his Sword his Ship was the first that Begun the Action and at a Earley Hower was Dismasted and Rendred nearly unmanagable Being Overpower'd by Numbers she kept up a Blazen Fire to the last But Could the Best or the Bravest do when Oposed by Elements a Gale of wind arose the next morning and continued sevrell days [f32] wich Laid us under the Neseset_y of sinking and Burning all our Prizes but Fower and we were still among the shoales of Cape Trafalgar and fownd it a Great Difficalty to save our own ships and of two Evills the Least is to be prefeard our admirl wisely followed this after much Difficalty in Gitting the prisoners on Bord of our ships the Neptune Cleared the San Tristermer Trinadad we then found they had lost in Action in Killed and wounded 450 men [03] the followen morning we had the good fortune to pick up 3 men floating on a peice of wreck and only them left wich twenty fowr Howers Before amounted to Nine Hundred Men the Le Redoutable and the Le Beucentau Sheared the same fate only 50 to 60 saved out of the best maned Ship of France Blew lights folce fiars and Signale Guns had been Used all night but we could give them no assistance the Coast of Spain from Cape Trafalgar to Cadize Exhibeted one scene the Wretched Remains of Mar-[f34]tality while the Unfortunate Spaniards instead of Indulgan a ill timed Resentment against our Victory Conducted them selves with the Most Unbounded Generosety they offred our admirl the use of a Hospittle for our wounded man and returned without Exchaingen Sevrell of our Men wich had fallen into their Hands During the Gale it is said they even wep at the Death of Lord Nelson for they had ever fownd him so Human that the tribett of a tear was [f35] his Due But the French acted otherways Confmding in Irons a few Brave fellows who had fallen into their Hands during the Gale as Unworthy of Enjoyen the privelage Granted to Sevrell Thousands of their Country men taken by the British Fleet

Vaine was their fleet with Gaulic sons
when Faced by British Ships and Guns

Indeed that amiable Generosety wich ever marks the British character was Extended alike to all and Admirl Valenuve wile our prisonor and many [f36] French officers Recived the same marks of Respects from our Captain Tho' Fremente as if the two Countrys had not Been at war with us Since the day after the Action our Leste Damaged Ships had been Attending the others to Gibaralter our Admirl now thought fitt to Repar thare with the Remainder of our fleet we accordingly Bore a way by pr Signal and the Neptune with the Remainder of the Fleet wich was in the Action of Cape Trafalgar Hapley Came [f37] to a Anchor In Rosa Bay Giberalter on the 14th of November we had three shot in the Fore Mast one went through one in the Main Mast one in Mizzen one in fore top mast one in the Fore Yard the Rigger Allmost all Shot away many in the Ship Between Winde and Water And Sevrell Lower Deck ports Disabled Many Shot through her uper works Sailes all Shot from the Yards Exept a few of the Rags hangen about Such was the End of this Expedetion the Most Brilliant and Decisitive in the Annals [f38] of Naviel Glory and we hope Such ever will be the c ssure when Jestese Directed by Reason Draw her Sword in Defence of the Rights of Civerlized Nations

Columbs of Smok and Fier
did assend the Skeys
Grim Death and trimbling
terrau every moment Flys

We faugt them as we got Nigh
The Lord a lone knew who must Die

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END

HERE FOLLOWS A SERIES OF NOTES THAT ACCOMPANIED  
JAMES MARTIN'S WRITINGS, TOGETHER WITH  
RESEARCHER'S NOTES

[f39]

On the Death of Nelson

The Mighty Soul that Nelson First Inspired

In Dien Hower the Godlike hero Feard

Lemented and Mournd on Britons Greatfull Shore

Peacefull he Sleep and Dreams of war no Moor

What Better End can Best of Heros Claim

Children yet unborn will lisp the Heros Name

And Age to Age Record thy Matchless Fame

ff40-41 lists British Fleet Tonnant, Ajax, Belleisle 80

ff42-43 lists Combined Fleet

The fower Ships witch made their Escape to windward was Captured a few Days After After a Smart Action of Cape Finesture the Le Ferritt Brig was Captured about three or Fowr weeks After and Sent to Giberalter the San Jaun was made a Shear Hulk at Giberalter the other three Sailed for England all others was Sunk Burnt and Distroyd

f40 Form of French and Spanish line of Battle [- horseshoe] British fleet in two columns for middle - wind marked as south west but in wrong direction

f41 about Six years after Being at Cheronte in France a French man Came on Bord of us he knew me at the first Sight again Sayd he came on Bord to talk with me about the Battle off Trafalgar and with a Large Mug of Cognac Brandy to talk it over but first to give a Tost of his Chosen Prosperity to England and France and may the two Nations be Long United in Peace

[f42] These Lines was Righten by a Colchester Sailor wile the Ship was Layen at Giberalter Repairing Damages

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1289 Martin, James aged 26 from Essex AB

Ann Martin born 30 April 1763

John Martin died 8 Jan 1770[?] aged 23

father James Martin born 25 June 1755 (christened 25 July 1762 at St Leonards Colchester IGI); married 5 Oct 1776

mother: Eliz [Rowel Martin wife of James inoculated for small pox 20 Apr 1788; died 31 Oct 1822

James Martin son of James & Elizabeth Martin born 11 March 1778 at a quarter past five in the evening; inoculated for small pox 20 Apr 1788; married Elizabeth Argent 4 November 1800 at Harwich; died I think 10 Apr 1855

Sarah Safer [Sophia?] daughter of James & Eliz Martin and granddaughter of James & Eliz Martin born 7 Aug 1801

James Martin son of James & Eliz Martin and Grandson of James & Eli.z Martin born 5 October 1843; married Mary Blyth 3 June 1833

William Henry son of James & Eliz Martin and grandson of James & Eliz Martin born 2 Sep 1807

John Argent Martin son of James & Eliz Martin [?born] 7 Sep [?] 1811 and grand son of James Martin

illegible [illegible might be Charles] I think Robert Charles Martin son to J E Martin born Feb 6 illegible; died Apr 1864

his sisters:

Letitia Martin daughter of James and Eliz Martin born 22 October 1780; inoculated for small pox 20 Apr 1788; married Peter Ladbrook at Leveden ; d 8 Oct 1854

Phoebe Martin daughter of James and Eliz Martin born 3 March 1783; inoculated for small pox 20 Apr 1788; married William Cant of Gt Bentley 1827; d 16 Apr 1849 Deborah Martin daughter of James & Elizabeth born 20 Feb 1786; inoculated for small pox 20 Apr 1788; m James Eves at Great Clacton 1832; died 13 July 1855

Maria Martin daughter of James & Eiiz born 20 Oct 1788; inoculated for small pox 6 Jan 1791 or 1797 at Wivenhoe; married 28 Dec 1807 at St Mary Colchester to John Nason [or Mason?] Miria Martin is my Name and England is my Nation / Wivenhoe is my Dwelling place and Crist is my Salvation

James Argent Martin son of James and Mary Martin born 4 April 1836 Henry Blyth Martin son of James and Mary born 21 Sep 1837

Robert Charles Martin son of James & Elizabeth Row Martin died April 1864 James John Smith son of John and Mary Elizabeth Smith born b December 1866 Hannah Beatrice daughter of Henry John and Hannah Martin born 5 April 1867

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