

Daniel Francis Lauzun

The Battle of Trafalgar, fought off the Spanish coast between the British and a combined French and Spanish fleet, is one of the most famous conflicts in military history. Thirty-six Jerseymen fought at

A SPECIAL MEDAL AWARDED TO A JERSEYMAN who served in the Battle of Trafalgar was presented by an anonymous donor to the Jersey Heritage Trust in March 2006.

The Naval General Service Medal with a Trafalgar clasp was presented to Daniel Francis Lauzun, who had served as a midshipman on board HMS *Britannia* at the battle in October 1805. The generous donor gave the medal to the Trust in grateful memory of all the officers and ratings who served in the Royal Navy Reserve during the Second World War (1939-45).

Despite being awarded for service during the French Revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars, the Naval General Service Medal bears the head of Queen Victoria because the decision to award the medal was only taken in 1848. A selection of major fleet engagements or single-ship actions was commemorated by clasps carrying the name and date of the battle that were attached to a blue and white ribbon. These medals could be claimed by those men still surviving, or by the relatives of those men dying after 1st June 1847. Applications closed in 1851.

Trafalgar is probably the most important sea battle of the period as it involved about one-third of Britain's line of battle ships (27 out of 83) and about a fifth of the men serving in the Royal Navy (20,000). Less than ten per cent of the men who took part in the battle claimed the medal, and of those eight were Jerseymen:

Thomas Anthoine, AB¹ - HMS *Leviathan*
George (H)emery, OS² - HMS *Thunderer*
Joseph Henri, AB - HMS *Achilles*
Henry Le Vesconte, Lieutenant - HMS *Naiad*
Thomas Marat, Landsman³ - HMS *Illustrious*
John Noel, Landsman - HMS *Temeraire*
Nicholas Vesconte, Landsman - HMS *Neptune*
Daniel Francis Lauzun, midshipman - HMS *Britannia*

Daniel Lauzun was born in St Helier on 2 December 1789. His father, Francis Charles Lauzun, was in the army

and was working in the Island as part of the Duke of Richmond's survey that led to the publication of the first Ordnance Survey map of Jersey in 1795. His mother, Julie Suzanne Brohier, came from a Huguenot refugee family. In 1798 Daniel's father and his uncle, Henry William Lauzun, together with an uncle on his mother's side, Robert Charles Brohier, bought a controlling share in the mineral water company set up by Joseph Schweppes six years earlier.

Daniel's family obviously had connections.

When he joined the Royal Navy on 14 October 1800 he served on board HMS *Prince* (98)⁴ as one of Rear-Admiral Right Honourable William, Earl of North Esk's staff. When a peace treaty was signed in April 1802, the 12-year-old Daniel was discharged and returned home to his parents. However, when hostilities were renewed the following year he was taken on board the receiving ship HMS *Alcmene* (32) until he joined the *Britannia* (100) in late June 1803, where he rejoined North Esk's staff. It was on board the *Britannia* that he served at the Battle of Trafalgar.

In June 1806 he was transferred to the newly completed frigate HMS *Lavinia* (48) – this would have offered him greater experience in managing men under his command and offered a greater chance of seeing action. He served in the frigate until November 1808, when he moved back into a line of battle ship by joining the third-rate HMS *Norge* (74) that had been taken from the Danish following the second Battle of Copenhagen. It was while serving on board the *Norge* that he distinguished himself at the evacuation of Sir



Lauzun 1789 - 1861

Trafalgar and a medal presented to one, Daniel Lauzun, was recently added to the collection, as the Head of Community Learning, Doug Ford, explains.



John Moore's army at Corunna, Northern Spain, and in November 1809 he took and passed his lieutenant's examination.

In April 1810 he joined HMS *Ulysses* (44) in the Tagus River in Portugal, before he was appointed to the troopship HMS *Diadem* (64) as a lieutenant and joining her in Messina Harbour in Sicily in February 1811. He returned to the *Ulysses* in November 1811. His last ship was another ex-Danish third-rate line of battle ship, HMS *Dannemark* (74) on which he served

from January 1814 until the end of April 1814, when the war with Napoleon ended and he moved onto the Half-Pay list.

Little is known as to what he did following the war, although at 25 he must have had property rents to live on or some other means of support. He remained in the Plymouth area and lived in Trafalgar House, Stoke Damerel, a village much favoured by Royal Navy families, and it was there that on 13 June 1853 he married Mary Pollard Croft - two years after he had been promoted to the rank of commander. He died there on 24 March 1861.

The Soci t  Jerisiaise/Jersey Heritage Trust collections holds two other Naval General Service Medals, belonging to Charles Bertram from Jersey with clasps for the Boat Service, 4th June 1805 and the *Emerald*, 13th March 1808⁵, and John Wakeham, Royal Marines from Devon with clasps for Trafalgar 1805 and the *Sealark* incident⁶ 21st July 1812.

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¹ An Able-Bodied seaman (AB) had a great deal of experience in performing the sailing tasks on board a ship. He was able to handle the sails and rigging as well as taking his turn at the wheel to steer the ship. He earned £1 8s per lunar month and after the battle each man could claim £1 17s 8d Prize Money and a Parliamentary Award of £4 12s 6d.

² An Ordinary Seaman (OS) was useful aboard a ship and able to handle sails and rigging; with experience he could be promoted to AB. He earned £1 3s 4d per lunar month and after the battle each man could claim £1 17s 8d Prize Money and a Parliamentary Award of £4 12s 6d.

³ A Landsman was the lowest rated sailor on board a ship. Usually he had no naval training and was only able to perform the most basic tasks, such as hoisting and hauling on ropes. He earned £1 1s per lunar month and after the battle each man could claim £1 17s 8d Prize Money and a Parliamentary Award of £4 12s 6d.

⁴ The number in brackets refers to the number of cannon on board.

⁵ On 13 March 1808, while serving on the frigate *Emerald* (36), Lieutenant Charles Bertram led a landing party to attack a shore fortress in the harbour at Vivero in Spain. His party successfully captured the fortress and spiked the eight 24-pounder cannon positioned there before moving on to join another shore party who were attempting to cut out the *Apropos*, a large French armed schooner. In order to avoid capture the 70-strong crew had driven aground and, as they could not refloat her, Bertram's party set her on fire while fighting off a determined attack by the French and Spanish, during which nine of his party were killed and 15 others including him were wounded. For the gallantry he displayed, Bertram was immediately promoted to the rank of commander.

⁶ On 21st July 1812 Wakeham was serving as a corporal of the Royal Marines on board the schooner HMS *Sealark* (10) when they gave chase to a French privateer off Start Point. The *Ville-de-Caen* (16) was from St Malo and had a crew of 75 men. In the fight that followed the *Sealark* lost seven men killed and 22 men wounded from her complement of 70 and the *Ville-de-Caen* lost 14 dead and 16 wounded. Wakeham was one of only four recipients of the *Sealark* clasp.