

COLLINGWOOD AND NELSON

Nelson was ten years younger than Collingwood. They first met in 1773 when Nelson was just fifteen.

Nelson was promoted ahead of Collingwood. At the battle of Trafalgar in October 1805, Collingwood was Nelson's second in command.

Were they good friends? Was Collingwood jealous of Nelson? Make up your own mind by looking at the evidence.



The young Horatio Nelson. The painting was begun in 1777 but not finished till 1781. Nelson was Collingwood's life-long friend.

National Maritime Museum,
Greenwich, London

No one can compare to Lord Nelson, a blessing to any country that is at war. His successes in most of his undertakings are the best proofs of his genius and his talents.

Without much previous preparation or plan he has the ability to discover advantages as they arise, and the good judgement to turn them to his use. An enemy that makes a false step in his view is ruined, and a plan comes on him suddenly that allows the enemy no time to recover.

Collingwood to Dr Alexander Carlyle (August 1801)

I thank you sincerely for your two kind letters, the list of congratulations on the safety of My Dear Husband and on his great and glorious Victory tho' it has cost us dear in the death of the gallant and brave Nelson whose fate saddens me not only as a public loss but being the intimate and beloved friend of My Husband, who was in great sorrow at the event.

Sarah Collingwood to Miss Mary Woodman