

WHAT COLLINGWOOD THOUGHT OF OTHER PEOPLE?

Was Collingwood a grumpy old man or did he think kindly of people. Maybe he was a mixture of both.

Look at the evidence and see what you think.



The death of Lord Nelson in the cockpit of the ship 'Victory'.

National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, London

Our dear Admiral Nelson is killed! so we have paid pretty sharply for defeating the French. I never set eyes on him, for which I am both sorry and glad; for, to be sure, I should like to have seen him - but then, all the men in our ship who have seen him are such soft toads, they have done nothing but blast their eyes, and cry, ever since he was killed. God bless you! chaps that fought like the devil, sit down and cry like a wench. I am still in the Royal Sovereign, but the Admiral (Collingwood) has left her, - I saw his tears with my own eyes, when the boat hailed and said my lord was dead.

Sam, seaman on Royal Sovereign at Trafalgar, October 1805

Mr Gold, midshipman, fell from the gangway overboard, and every means to save him were hopeless, thus died a friendly young man, respected and beloved most by those who best knew him. Fresh breezes and hazy weather.

Collingwood, Log (March 30th 1773)