

Battle of Trafalgar

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The Battle of Trafalgar, fought on 21 October 1805, is part of the War of the Third Coalition assembled by Britain against France. It was the most significant naval battle of the Napoleonic Wars and the pivotal naval battle of the 19th century. A Royal Navy fleet of 27 ships of the line destroyed an allied French and Spanish fleet of 33 ships of the line west of Cape Trafalgar in south-west Spain. The French and Spanish lost 22 ships, the British, none. The British commander Admiral Lord Nelson died late in the battle, by which time he had ensured his place as Britain's greatest naval hero.

The British victory spectacularly confirmed the naval supremacy that Britain had established during the eighteenth century. After the battle, the Royal Navy remained unchallenged until the rise of Imperial Germany prior to the First World War, 100 years later. However, by the time it was fought, Napoleon had abandoned his plans to invade southern England and instead was successfully fighting in Germany against Britain's allies..



[Turner, The Battle of Trafalgar \(1806\).jpg](#) (31KB, MIME type: image/jpeg)

Date: 21 October 1805
Location: Cape Trafalgar, Spain
Result: Decisive British victory

Combatants

| | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|
| United Kingdom | First French Empire, Spain |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|

Commanders

| | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| The Viscount Nelson † | Pierre Charles Silvestre de Villeneuve |
|---------------------------------|---|

Strength

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 27 ships of the line | 33 ships of the line |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|

Casualties

| | |
|----------------------|--------------------------|
| 449 dead | 4,480 dead |
| 1,214 wounded | 2,250 wounded |
| | 7,000 captured |
| | 21 ships captured |
| | 1 ship blown up |