

Battle of the Nile hero returns home to British shores - and lands at Gorleston as

Third blue plaque marking

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He is hailed as Norfolk's greatest hero. But when Nelson returned to British shores for the first time in seven years - after his triumph at the Battle of the Nile - he actually landed in Suffolk.

The famous Admiral was rowed to shore and dropped off on Gorleston beach on November 6, 1800 after enjoying a victory tour through Europe following his defeat of the French fleet two years earlier.

In those times Gorleston still lay within the Suffolk county border and more than 200 years later, with the town moving into Norfolk, his historic landing has now been marked with a commemorative plaque.

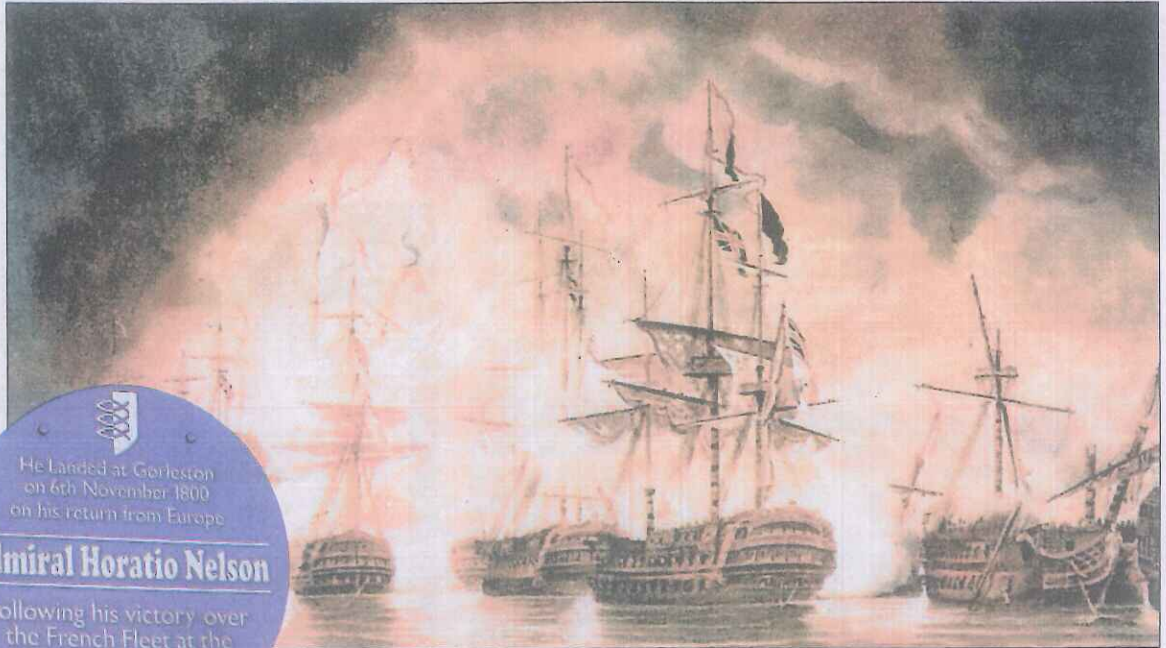
The blue disc was unveiled at the Pier Hotel on Monday in front of a crowd of history buffs, who then raised a tot of rum in Nelson's honour.

Les Cole, from the Great Yarmouth Local History and Archaeological Society, told guests that after defeating Bonaparte, Nelson had gone to Naples to recover and then travelled across Europe, with his pregnant mistress Emma Hamilton in tow.

"He requested leave of admiralty but wasn't allowed to come back by ship, so he came back by land. He headed back from Naples in June 1800 and four months later arrived in Hamburg.

"He was expecting a ship to bring him back but none materialised so he was reduced to taking a mail ship sailing for Yarmouth."

The mail ship dropped anchor off the Yarmouth coast and a crowd of dignitaries, including the Mayor



SHIPS BLAZE: An artist's impression of the Battle of the Nile, a victory for Horatio Nelson



Samuel Barber, gathered to greet the great Naval hero - but he never arrived. Mr Cole added: "The plan was the mail would be rowed ashore

to Yarmouth jetty and Nelson would accompany it. Samuel Barker was waiting at the jetty but there was no sign of him.

"Nelson rowed ashore onto Gorleston beach. He claimed it was bad weather, whether that was true or he wanted to avoid the dignitaries we don't know."

Upon hearing he had landed at Gorleston a carriage was sent and he was transported back to Yarmouth, and across the county border, to the Wrestler's Inn in Church Plain where he was given a hero's welcome and the freedom of the borough.

After the plaque was unveiled by Bertie Patterson of the Nelson

Society the crowd enjoyed tots of spiced rum as they toasted "the immortal memory" of Nelson.

The marker now completes a trio of plaques dedicated to the Admiral and his memory, complementing one at Nelson's Monument and another on the site of the Wrestler's Inn.

