

# Lt-Cdr Peter Whitlock

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LT-CDR PETER WHITLOCK, who has died on Trafalgar Day aged 64, was a leading authority on warship construction in the days of Nelson.

In 1974, he was appointed Commanding Officer of HMS Victory, Nelson's flagship at Trafalgar, which is now at Portsmouth flying the flag of C-in-C Naval Home Command, and on his retirement from the Navy in 1978, served on the Victory Advisory Technical Committee.

Whitlock's lectures and after-dinner speeches proved that a plain seaman could be the equal of any scholar. He wore his learning lightly, though. One April Fools' Day he assured some earnest journalists that Victory would act as guardship for the next Cowes Week.

Peter Charles Whitlock was born in 1925 and joined the Navy as a boy seaman in 1940, having first endured the draconian discipline of the training ship Mercury.

In the 1939-45 War he served as a seaman gunner and range finder in the cruisers Kent and Cumberland and in the battleship King George V before specialising as a bosun.

Whitlock was given the now-defunct rank of commissioned bosun in 1952. His subsequent advance to the rank of lieutenant-commander was a difficult and meritorious one — as hard as promotion to full admiral would be for a Dartmouth cadet.

He served in the assault-ship Intrepid and the carrier Centaur and twice held the historic post of bosun and master rigger in Portsmouth dockyard. In 1957 he was bosun of the salvage vessel Swin, supervising the raising of ships sunk in the Suez Canal during the conflict of the previous autumn.

He also served in the dockyards in Malta and Auckland New Zealand and was assistant captain of the dockyard in Gibraltar before going to Victory.

Whitlock's professional work

as a bosun awakened his interest in the rigging and fitting out of sailing warships, and in retirement he took readily to his second career as a maritime historian and archaeologist.

He became treasurer and later vice-president of the Society for Nautical Research and was an adviser to a variety of marine archaeological undertakings, from the raising of the Mary Rose sunk in the Solent in 1545, to an investigation of the French liner-battleship L'Orient, De Bruey's flagship sunk in Aboukir Bay in 1798.

Whitlock was appointed MBE in 1978. On Trafalgar Day, as he lay dying in the Royal Naval Hospital Haslar, he was specially remembered at the service held on HMS Victory across the harbour.

He leaves a widow, Kathleen, and a son.

Stephen Hatch-Barnwell. Aged 80. Worked with Food and Agricultural Organisation of United Nations. CBE in 1953.

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WHITLOCK—On Jan. 11, EDWARD (Ted), aged 66. Beloved husband of Margaret and loved father to Dunc and James. Funeral, 3 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 12 at Eltham Crematorium, Falconwood. Family lovers only. Donations, to British Heart Foundation.

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LEEDS

## WHITELOCKS

Hardly changed since 1886, a well preserved city-centre tavern that's always lively. There's good food, like bubble and squeak; served from a food counter with hams hanging over it. Well-kept Younger's IPA, Scotch and No 3 ales on handpump.