

Guide to the Logs of His Majesty's Ships Phaeton, Tees, and Conqueror, 1817-1819 C0309

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1817-1819



Title Statement

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Descriptive Summary

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C0309

Unit ID

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Unit Date

1817-1819

box

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Language

English

Abstract

Log books from three early 19th-century British Naval ships.

Creator

Stanfell, Francis

Creator

Wallis, James

Creator

Rennie, George

Extent

0.25 Linear Feet

Physical Location

R 54, C 2, S 6

Repository

George Mason University. Libraries. Special Collections Research Center

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

There are no access restrictions.

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Public domain. No known restrictions.

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Historical note

The British Navy in the post-Napoleonic era was the most powerful navy in the world. As the Royal Navy notes in the historical timeline on its website, "for the century after the Battle of Waterloo the United Kingdom was supreme upon the world's oceans" ('1815-1914 Historic Periods: Maintaining Naval Supremacy'). His Majesty's Ships Phaeton and Conqueror, built in the late 18th and early 19th centuries, both took part in engagements during the Napoleonic Wars (according to the British National Archives, the Conqueror was at the battle of Trafalgar in 1805), while the Tees was completed in 1817, two years after Napoleon surrendered and was exiled to St. Helena ('Trafalgar Ancestors'). At the time the logs were kept, HMS Phaeton was captained by Francis Stanfell, the HMS Tees was captained by George Rennie, and the HMS Conqueror was captained by James Wallis. According to the logs and to the dealer's notes that came with them, the three ships were in the waters around St. Helena and the African coast during the years 1817-1819, and their mission was to disrupt the transatlantic slave trade. As noted by the British National Archives in a background document on abolition, the slave trade in the United Kingdom was abolished in 1807, and "under an 1817 treaty with Spain to abolish the slave trade, naval ships and other officials of both nations could seize any Spanish or British ships believed to be involved in the illegal trade in slaves" ('Abolition'). In spite of these efforts, the actual practice of slavery in Britain's colonies was not outlawed until 1833.

Scope and Contents

The collection consists of three logbooks of ships in the British Royal Navy dating from 1817-1819. The

entries for the Phaeton and the Tees record the date, ship's course, distance traveled, wind direction, latitude and longitude, bearings, and general remarks, while the entries for the Conqueror only record date, wind direction and general remarks.

Keywords

Regency -- Great Britain

Slave trade

Saint Helena, Ascension, and Tristan da Cunha

Warships

Logbooks

Great Britain. Royal Navy

Bibliography

The National Archives, "Trafalgar Ancestors," Nelson, Trafalgar, and Those Who Served, accessed September 6, 2017. http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/trafalgarancestors/advanced_search.asp The National Archives, "Abolition," accessed September 6, 2017. <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/slavery/pdf/abolition.pdf> Royal Navy, "1815-1914 Historic Periods: Maintaining Naval Supremacy," Royal Navy History, accessed September 6, 2017. <http://www.royalnavy.mod.uk/news-and-latest-activity/features/history-timeline>

Arrangement

The three logs are bound together in a single volume. The log for HMS Phaeton is on pages 1-141, the log for HMS Tees is on pages 142-188, and the log for HMS Conqueror is on pages 189-256.