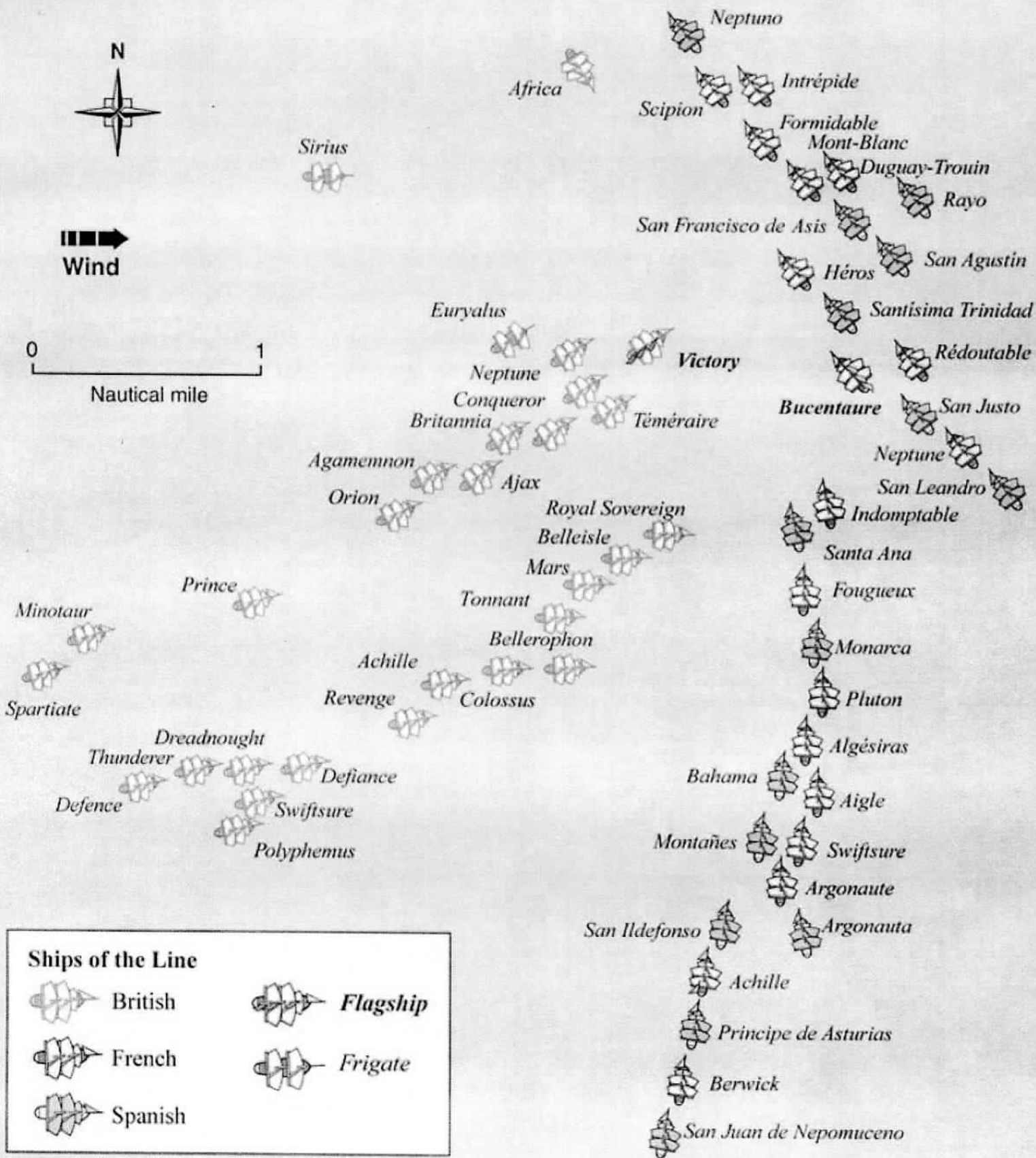
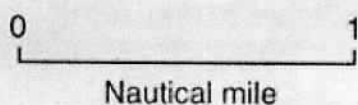
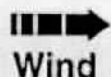
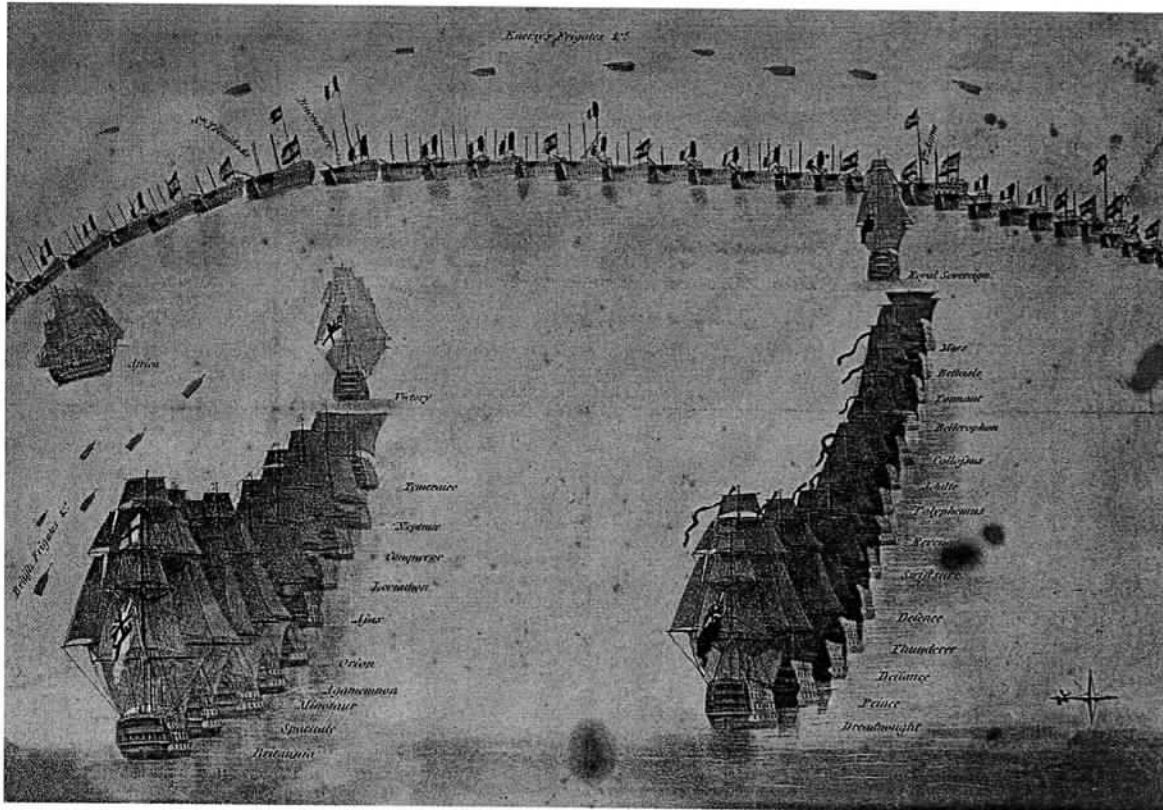


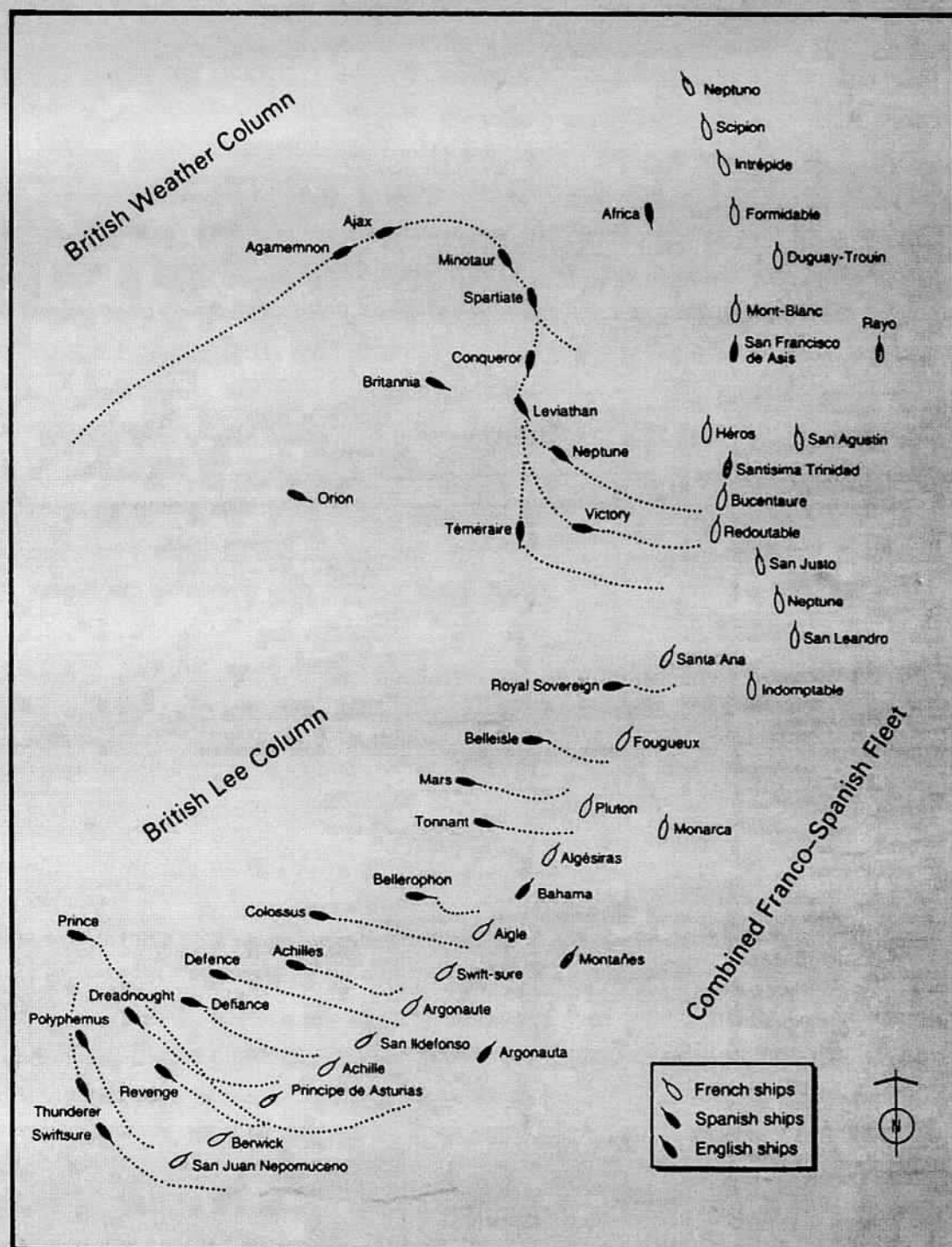
# Battle of Trafalgar, 21 October 1805





**BATTLE OF TRAFALGAR, 1805, BY ROBERT DODD** This illustration was published less than a month after the battle. Although the British fleet is shown with full rigging, the ships of the Franco-Spanish fleet are almost diagrammatic. Under the plate is a note from Dodd explaining that, for clarity's sake, he 'has judged it best (to avoid confusion that the smallness of scale would occasion), to dispense with exhibiting their sails and rigging, which if introduced, would in this view, have prevented their different flags from being seen'. At Trafalgar, the fighting quality of individual British ships, which was based on seamanship and the rapid rate of close-range fire by a trained crew, was combined with a bold command culture which emphasised manoeuvre and seizing the initiative in order to close with the opposing fleet and to defeat it in detail after it had been divided by intersecting the opposing line. Nelson's plan and tactics provided the opportunity for British gunnery and seamanship to yield their results. Nineteen French and Spanish ships of the line were captured, giving Britain clear naval superiority, but Napoleon's victories over Austria, Prussia and Russia in 1805-7 ensured that the War of the Third Coalition ended with France in a far stronger position in Europe than at the start of the conflict.

**SURVEYS BY OTHER NATIONS**



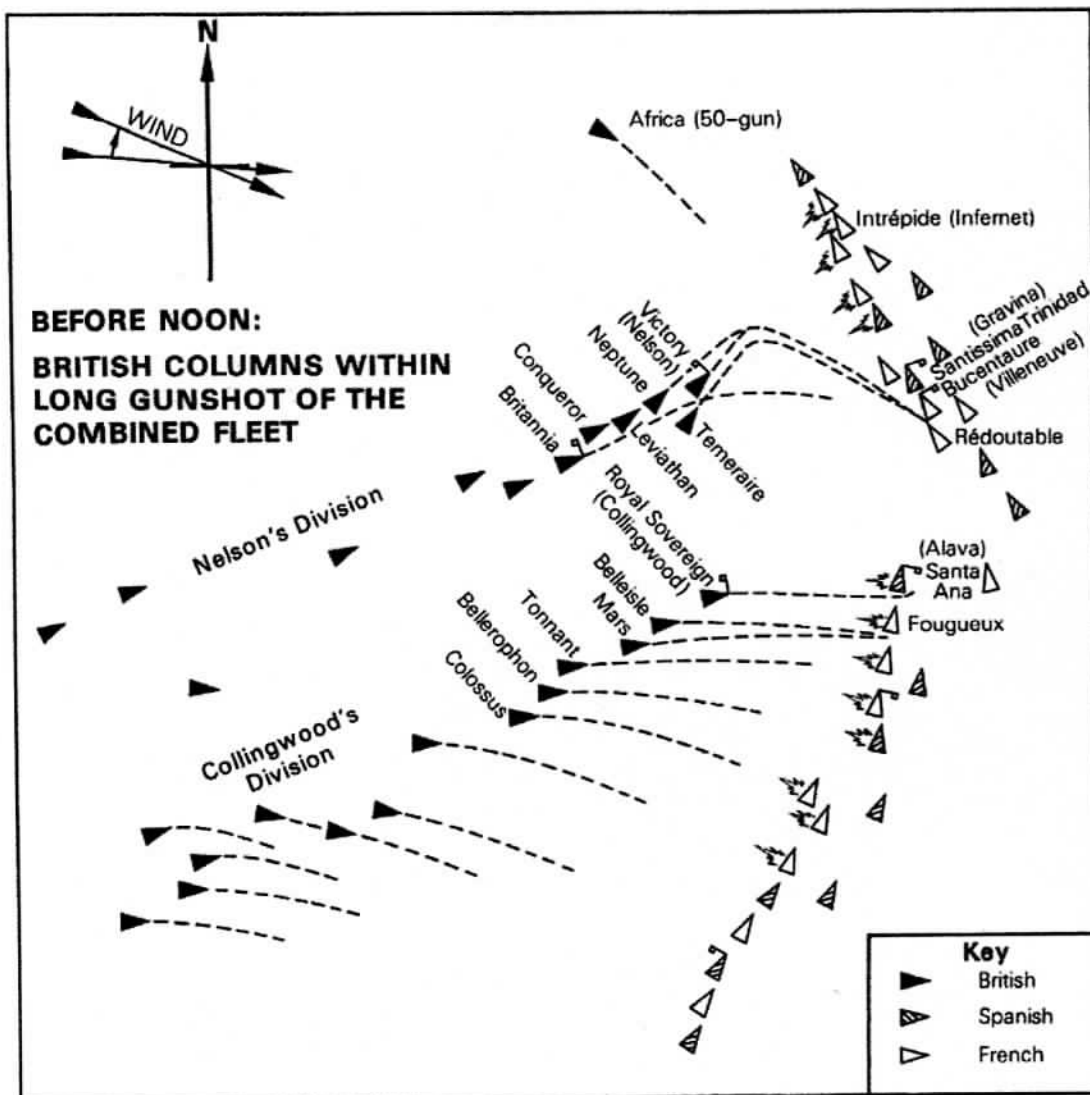
Commencement of hostilities.

back to inform him of his change of plans, that he would go for the centre of the enemy line at the thirteenth or fourteenth ship after all, and not for the van. Blackwood rushed off with orders to inform the ships directly astern of *Victory*, as shots from *Santisima Trinidad* and *Redoutable* peppered

humane attitudes of the age, had raised health standards. In any  
 1 was in the tradition of Howe and St Vincent in caring for his  
 wrote at the time:

*Peter Padfield "Nelson's War" 1976  
 p. 164. 2021*

great thing in all military service is health. You will agree with me that it is easier for a  
 physician to cure them. Situated as this fleet has been w  
 y port where we could get all things necessary for us, yet I have, by changing the  
 , not allowed the sameness of prospect to satiate the mind – sometimes by looking at  
 anche, Barcelona and Rosas; then running around Minorca, Majorca, Sardinia and  
 o or three times anchoring for a few days and sending a ship to the last place for  
 I find the best thing that can be given to seamen; having always good mutton for t  
 when we can get them, and plenty of fresh water ...



Map 7

Opening of the Battle of Trafalgar. 21 October 1805.

BLOOD RAN IN STREAMS ABOUT THE DECK ... AND THROUGH A THOUSAND HOLES AND CREVICES IN HER HULL THE SEA SPURTED IN AND BEGAN TO FLOOD THE HOLD.

SPANISH OFFICER, DESCRIBING THE SCENE ABOARD THE STRICKEN SANTISIMA TRINIDAD

