

# Trafalgar

## The decisive battle reinvented by tourism

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In mid-June my neighbour invited the family for a river excursion on his boat, to watch the festival of the Thames islands, in which our island took part. The boats were made by the amateur contestants from simple materials. I was taken by a surprise to discover that the occasion was the 200th anniversary of the naval Battle of Trafalgar between France and Britain, which were led by the British Captain Nelson, who beat the French.



Nelson's ship: HMS Victory.

مركب نيلسون.



Mr. Shakiry enjoying the day.

الناشر، الشاكيري، يستمتع بالمهرجان.

The battle is well known and the British are proud of it: they named a famous square after it. The statue of Nelson stands high over Trafalgar Square (about 17 feet) on a column of about 185 feet. There is also a pond surrounded by a number of lion statues. The famous square is the focal point of festivals, political demonstrations and other activities. The celebration of the battle of Trafalgar was not limited to our area but was also held on other rivers and water ways in Britain.

The picture published here shows the simplicity of the boats which took part in the rowing competition: they were collectively made and manned. The distance was less than two miles and the event took about three hours. There was a play ground set up especially for the children on the day of the festival and then moved to the next festival site, allowing the children and their families to enjoy themselves.



The river was crowded with boats.

إكتظ النهر بالزوارق المشاركة.

The festival provided an opportunity for reflection on states and nations who re-enact past conflicts. How many rivers and natural resources are not exploited because of

conflicts and intrigues? If the energy spent arguing was channelled into various kinds of tourism, nations would be more secure and more prosperous. ■