

# Nelson's Waistcoat



told by Robert Prins

# Nelson's Waistcoat

© Robert Prins, October 2025

**told by Robert Prins**

“Reporting for duty, Lord Nelson, Sir!”

“Ah, you must be Rogers, my new mid-shipman. Welcome to the HMS Victory, and welcome to the crew. Have you settled into your quarters?”

“Yes, Sir. I am ready for duty.”

“Good man. I would like you up on the crow's nest this morning. The Spanish have been giving us a bit of trouble lately. Keep an eye out for any sign of Spanish galleons, pirates or anything unusual.”

“Yes, Sir.” Rogers replied. With a salute he shimmied up the mast to the lookout.

It was only an hour later that Rogers called a signal from the crow's nest.

“Spanish galleon off the starboard bow!”

The crew of the HMS Victory rushed to their stations, primed their guns and manned the cannons as they changed course to intercept the Spanish ship.

“Rogers, I need you on deck!” Lord Nelson bellowed.

“At your service sir,” Rogers replied after scurrying down the mast.

“Rogers, get me my red waistcoat.”

“Yes, Sir.”

Lord Nelson donned his red waistcoat and the battle commenced, resulting in the sinking of the Spanish galleon.

“Good work, Rogers,” said Lord Nelson after the scuffle was over. “I'd like

you to put my red waistcoat away.”

“Yes, sir,” and Rogers hurried off with the waistcoat.

Later that day another lookout cried another warning: “Lord Nelson, there are two Spanish galleons off the port quarter.”

“Sound general quarters!” shouted Lord Nelson, “And Rogers, get my red waistcoat.”

As Lord Nelson clad himself in his red waistcoat, the fierce battle began.

One against two. But the English prevailed and defeated the Spanish.

“Well done, Rogers,” Lord Nelson praised. “Please put my red waistcoat away.”

“Permission to speak, Sir.”

“Yes, Rogers. What is your question?”

“I notice that every time you go into battle you put on your red waistcoat, Sir. Why is that?”

“That is a good question, son. I always wear my red waistcoat during battle in case I might personally get hit. I don’t want my crew to be demoralised if they see any of my blood spilt during the battle.”

“That is a good answer, Sir,” replied Rogers, as he left to stow the valuable red waistcoat.

The next day Rogers was again up on the crow’s nest keeping watch. This time the sight was even more terrifying than it had been before. “Lord Nelson! Lord Nelson!” he cried, “The entire Spanish Armada is on the horizon!”

“Sound the battle alarm!” shouted Lord Nelson, and then, “Come down, Rogers,” he called.

“Would you like you like your waistcoat, Sir?”

“Yes, Rogers.”

“Yes, Sir.”

“And Rogers, while you are at it, bring me my brown britches!”



# Nelson's Waistcoat

*Mid-shipman Rogers joins Lord Nelson's crew on the HMS Victory. There is much to learn as they patrol the English waters from the threats of the Spanish. But will Lord Nelson's red waistcoat be enough to defeat the enemy?*

Published by

( **Thinky Things** )

[www.thinkythings.com](http://www.thinkythings.com)