

= HMS Amazon (1799) =

HMS Amazon was a frigate of the Royal Navy . She served during the French Revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars under several notable naval commanders and played a key role in the Battle of Copenhagen under Captain Edward Riou , when Riou commanded the frigate squadron during the attack . After Riou was killed during the battle , command briefly devolved to First @-@ Lieutenant John Quilliam . Quilliam made a significant impression on Rear @-@ Admiral Horatio Nelson who appointed him to serve on the flagship HMS Victory , and Amazon passed to William Parker , who continued the association with Nelson with service in the Mediterranean and participation in the chase to the West Indies during the Trafalgar Campaign . She went on to join Sir John Borlase Warren ? s squadron in the Atlantic and took part in the defeat of Charles @-@ Alexandre Léon Durand Linois 's forces at the Action of 13 March 1806 . During the battle , she hunted down and captured the 40 @-@ gun frigate Belle Poule .

Amazon continued in service for several more years , being active in combating raiders and privateers , before being withdrawn from active service in late 1811 . She was retained in ordinary until several years after the end of the Napoleonic Wars , when she was broken up .

= = Construction and commissioning = =

One of two ships built to a design by Sir William Rule , Amazon was ordered from Woolwich Dockyard on 27 April 1796 and laid down there that month . She was launched on 18 May 1799 and quickly put into service , having cost £ 33 @,@ 972 to build , including fitting her out . She was commissioned in May 1799 under her first commander , Captain Edward Riou .

= = British waters and the Baltic = =

Riou and the Amazon served initially in the English Channel , capturing the French privateer Bougainville on 14 February 1800 . She was out of Saint Malo , mounted eighteen 6 @-@ pounder guns , and had a crew of 82 men under the command of Pierre Dupont . The next day , she collided with Amazon and eventually sank , with the loss of one man drowned .

Amazon sailed from Portsmouth for Jamaica with Severn and Scorpion on 26 April 1800 as escorts for a large convoy . Amazon would only accompany the convoy to " a certain latitude . "

Riou and Amazon were then assigned to Sir Hyde Parker 's expedition to the Baltic in 1801 , to compel the Danes to abandon the League of Armed Neutrality .

Riou worked closely with Parker 's second @-@ in @-@ command , Rear @-@ Admiral Horatio Nelson , and Captain Thomas Foley in the lead @-@ up to the Battle of Copenhagen , and Nelson duly appointed Riou commander of the frigates and smaller vessels , instructing Riou to deploy his ships in support of the main fleet . As the battle began , several of Nelson 's ships of the line ran aground on shoals in the harbour , forcing the improvisation of a new plan of attack . As Nelson 's ships engaged their Danish counterparts , Riou took his frigates in to harass the Trekroner Fort and blockships . Although the frigates were heavily outmatched and dangerously exposed , they maintained the engagement for several hours . The ships suffered heavy casualties , and a splinter hit Riou on the head .

At 1 @.@ 15 pm , Parker was waiting outside the harbour with the reserve and raised a signal ordering Nelson to withdraw . Nelson acknowledged the signal but ignored it , while Nelson 's second in command , Rear @-@ Admiral Thomas Graves , repeated the signal but too did not obey it . Riou now found himself in a difficult position . Too junior an officer to risk disobeying a direct order , he remained in action for a further half an hour before reluctantly giving the order for his small squadron to withdraw .

Withdrawing forced his ships to turn their sterns to the Danish guns , thereby exposing their most vulnerable area . When HMS Alcmena and then HMS Blanche withdrew , this reduced the thick cloud of gunsmoke that was helping to obscure the British ships and left Amazon exposed to the full force of the Danish guns . Lieutenant @-@ Colonel William Stuart , commanding the soldiers of the

48th Regiment , recorded that Riou was killed :

[He] was sitting on a gun , was encouraging his men , and had been wounded in the head by a splinter . He had expressed himself grieved at being thus obliged to retreat , and nobly observed , ' What will Nelson think of us ? ' His clerk was killed by his side ; and by another shot , several marines , while hauling on the main @-@ brace , shared the same fate . Riou then exclaimed , ' Come , then , my boys , let us all die together ! ' The words were scarcely uttered , when the fatal shot severed him in two .

Command of Amazon devolved to her first lieutenant , John Quilliam , who completed the withdrawal . Nelson went aboard the badly damaged Amazon after the battle and asked Quilliam how he was doing . Quilliam replied ' Middlin ' , a response that apparently amused Nelson and may have contributed to Nelson 's subsequent appointment of Quilliam as first lieutenant aboard HMS Victory .

= = Parker and Nelson = =

= = = Mediterranean = = =

Command of the Amazon then passed to Captain Samuel Sutton , who was succeeded the following year by Captain William Parker . Under Parker , Amazon captured the 16 @-@ gun privateer Felix on 26 July 1803 , and survived a brush with a French fleet off Cape Capet on 2 May 1804 . Amazon was one of the ships to take part in the Trafalgar Campaign the following year , serving with Nelson in the Mediterranean . On one occasion in December 1804 Nelson ordered Parker to bring a consignment of live bullocks to supply the fleet off Toulon . The Amazon was a notably smart ship , and had just been repainted , so presumably the instruction to convert his ship into a floating farmyard was not received with much enthusiasm . Parker duly returned with a shipment , prompting Nelson to enquire with gentle humour ' Well , Parker , of course you would not dirty the Amazon for much for anything ; have you brought a dozen and a half , or a dozen ? ' Parker had in fact brought sixty bullocks and thirty sheep , prompting Nelson to promise a reward for his good service .

Parker and the Amazon remained with Nelson after the division of the Mediterranean commands left the Spanish coasts under the supervision of Sir John Orde . Nelson suspected that Orde was intercepting his despatches and commandeering Nelson 's frigates to use himself . Nelson therefore ordered Parker not to stop for any of Orde 's ships if this was possible . Parker attempted this but was intercepted by HMS Eurydice . He was however able to convince the Eurydice 's commander , William Hoste , to turn a blind eye and having delivered his despatches to Lisbon , acted on Nelson 's hint that he was not expected back until February by carrying out a cruise that netted him several prizes worth a total of £ 20 @,@ 000 . Orde complained about the ' poaching ' taking place on his station , but the prize money went to Parker and Nelson .

= = = West Indies and Atlantic = = =

Amazon went on to join Nelson in the chase to the West Indies and back during the Trafalgar Campaign . During the voyage across the Atlantic , Nelson wanted to pass on specific instructions to his captains about how he wished to engage the French , but did not want to lose time by ordering his ships to heave to . Instead he gave the plans to Parker , who was described by Pulteney Malcolm as the ' best frigate captain in the service ' , and Parker sped along the line in Amazon , delivering the instructions so efficiently that the fleet lost ' hardly a yard of ground ' . Once more in European waters after the fleet 's return , Amazon captured the Spanish privateer Principe de la Paz off Ushant on 17 September 1805 . Principe was armed with twenty @-@ four 9 @-@ pounder guns and four swivels . Her crew of 160 men , under the command of Captain François Beck , were principally French . She had been out five weeks and had captured the packet Prince of Wales from Lisbon , and the letter of marque Lady Nelson , which had been sailing from Virginia to Glasgow .

Part of Lady Nelson 's crew was aboard Principe , as was a considerable amount of specie .

Amazon was back in the Atlantic in 1806 , this time as part of Sir John Borlase Warren 's pursuit of Jean -Baptiste Philibert Willaumez . When Warren 's fleet unexpectedly encountered a separate French fleet under Charles -Alexandre Léon Durand Linois , Amazon became involved in the resulting Action of 13 March 1806 . During the battle she hunted down and captured the 40 -gun frigate Belle Poule in a running engagement . The Amazon lost four killed and five wounded during the engagement , while the Belle Poule lost six killed and 24 wounded . Amazon captured the 14 -gun privateer Général Pérignon on 21 January 1810 , and Captain John Joyce succeeded Parker as captain in May . Joyce captured the 14 -gun privateer Cupidon on 23 March 1811 .

= = Fate = =

In December 1811 Amazon was laid up at Plymouth . She paid off the following year and saw out the remainder of the Napoleonic Wars in Ordinary . HMS Amazon was finally broken up at Plymouth in May 1817 .