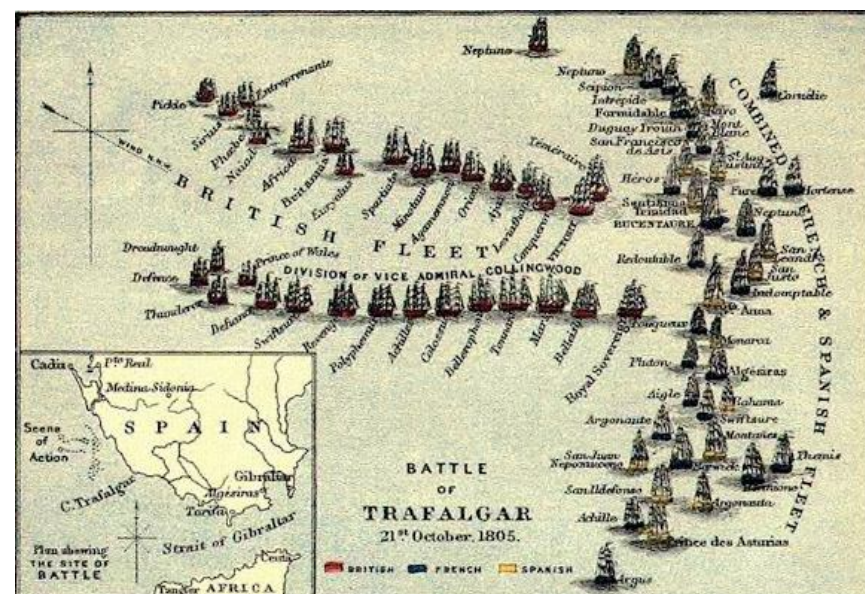


Frances Laforey was born in Virginia in 1767, and entered the service in 1780. Moving through the ranks, he was named Lieutenant 1789 and Commander in 1790. He Commanded the *Fairy* in the West Indies in 1791-1793 and following the capture of Tobago in the Windward Islands in 1793 he was promoted captain.

He Commanded the *Scipio* with his father, in the Leeward Island in 1795-96, and assisted in the capture of the Dutch settlements of Demerara, Essequibo, and Berbice in 1796. In command of the 38 gun frigate *Hydra*, he took part in the pursuit and destruction of the French frigate *Confiante* near Le Havre in 1798.

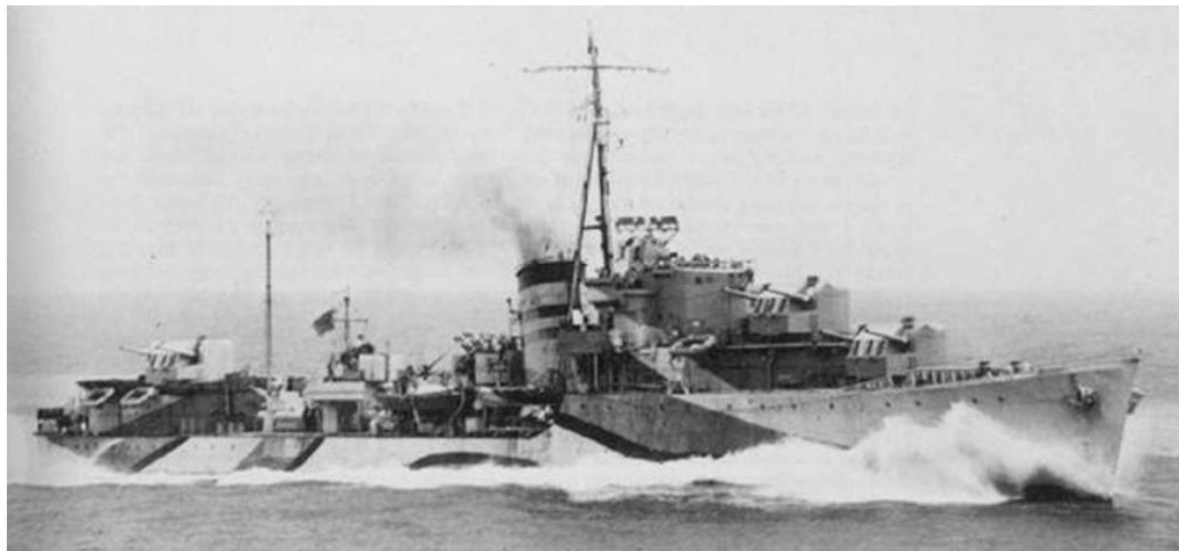
He Commanded the *Spartiate* at the Battle of Trafalgar 1805 - after which he was awarded a gold medal, the thanks of Parliament, and a sword of honour from the Patriotic Fund. He carried the standard in the first barge in Lord Nelson's funeral from Greenwich.

Still in command of the *Spartiate*, he was at Rochefort in 1807-8, blockading Vice-Admiral Almand's fleet; and in 1809 assisted in the capture of the Neapolitan islands of Ischia and Procida. Promoted to Rear-Admiral in 1810. Commander-in-Chief, Leeward islands, 1811-14. he was knighted in 1815. Made Vice-Admiral in 1819 and Admiral 1830, he died at Brighton in 1835





THE *HYDRA* WAS COMMISSIONED IN APRIL 1797 UNDER CAPTAIN SIR FRANCIS LAFOREY



H. M. S. LAFOREY

LAUNCHED IN 1941 THE NAME COMMEMORATES THE SERVICE OF SIR FRANCIS LAFOREY, (1767 - 1835) WHO WAS CAPTAIN OF HMS SPARTIATE DURING THE BATTLE OF TRAFALGAR IN 1805.

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF TRINIDAD
AND TOBAGO.

Publication No 715.

Admiral Laforey reports the Capture of Tobago to the Admiralty.

Source:-Public Record Office. State Papers Admiralty.
Adm. 1/316.

Published by the courtesy of the Master of the Rolls
and the Deputy Keeper of the Public Records.

H.M.S. Trusty.
Great Courland Bay.
22nd April 1793.

Sir

I beg to acquaint you for their Lordship's information, with the capture of the Island of Tobago.

I sailed with part of my squadron from Barbados on the 12th inst, accompanying Major General Cuyler with the land forces, destined for the expedition, and put them on shore in this Bay, on the evening of the 14th. General Cuyler, having received intelligence that rendered it necessary to lose no time in his advance, marched immediately across the Island to Scarborough. At 3 o'clock on the next morning, after having summoned the Fort to surrender ineffectually, stormed the works and carried them against a strong resistance with some loss, the numbers of the enemy who defended being fully equal to that of His Majesty's troops who made the attack.

I dispatch Captain Laforey, Commander of His Majesty's sloop Fairy, with this account.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant
Jno Laforey.

Philip Stevens Esq.

Secretary to the Admiralty.

Sacred to the memory of
Sir FRANCES LAFOREY,
Admiral of the Blue and
Commander of the Bath,
who died June 17th 1836
aged 67 years