LLOYD'S

THE NELSON COLLECTION
FACTSHEET 3

The Lloyd's Patriotic Fund

In 1802, The Treaty of Amiens was intended to bring to an end the nine years of fighting with France, but the peace was short lived. Napoleon, now Emperor of France, was intent on expansion and war broke out in the following year.

So, Lloyd's resolved to set up a permanent fund to replace the charitable subscriptions that had been raised following past battles. The Patriotic Fund was a national subscription that received contributions from every level of society, both in Great Britain and its colonies.

The purpose of the fund was to financially help the wounded and assist the dependants of those who had lost their lives. It also made awards, such as presentation swords and silver vases, to the officers whose courage, skill and seamanship had made the victories possible.

In five years a total of over 60 vases and 150 presentation swords were awarded. Most vases were £100 in value, though several varied from £150 to £500 each.

However, after 1809, the awards stopped. Heavy casualties following Wellington's victories in Spain and Portugal forced the Fund to devote all its resources to relieving hardship.