



Petit Minou lighthouse (1848) and former telegraph (later radar) tower, destroyed by Hornblower in 1803.

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Hornblower came out on deck with the earliest light - not very early on this almost the shortest day of the year - to check the position of the ship while Prowse took the bearings of the Petit Minou and the Grand Gouin.

"Merry Christmas, sir," said Bush.

It was typical of a military service that Bush should have to touch his hat while saying those words.

"Thank you. The same to you, Mr Bush."

It was typical, also, that Hornblower should have been acutely aware that it was December 25th and yet should have forgotten that it was Christmas Day; tide tables made no reference to the festivals of the church.

from *Hornblower and the Hotspur* (1962)

Merry Christmas & *Best Wishes for 2013*

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