

The Spanish Armada

July – August, 1588



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Political Build-Up

- England/Spain allies for much of 16th Century
- Protestant England. Elizabeth the 'heretic'
- Catholic Spain
- Protestant/Catholic Netherlands
- 1568 Spain invades Netherlands
- 1585 Elizabeth sends support to Dutch rebels
- Drake 'sings' Phillip's beard
- 1587 Mary Queen of Scots executed

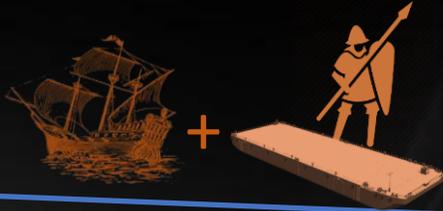




The Spanish Plan
'Enterprise of England'
Planned by Phillip II

- Send a huge fleet to the Netherlands (Dunkirk)
- Meet up with General Parma and Spanish Army
- Ferry the combined Army by barge to England
- Destroy Elizabeth
- Restore Catholicism to England

England



Dunkirk



Spain





Major Players

England
Elizabeth I



Spain
Phillip II



Howard



Drake



Hawkins



Juanmar



Medina Sidonia



Parma



Combatants

English Navy – 200 vessels

30 'Fast ships'
4 Galleons
8 Fireships
126 Support ships
35 Dutch flyboats

1,500 soldiers
14,000 sailors
2,000 guns
(600 naval)



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Defence Force
13,000 soldiers
2,000 veterans

Spanish Armada – 132 vessels

10 Galleons
6 Galleys
8 Guardships
108 Armed Transports

20,000 soldiers
7,000 sailors
2,500 guns
(many land type)



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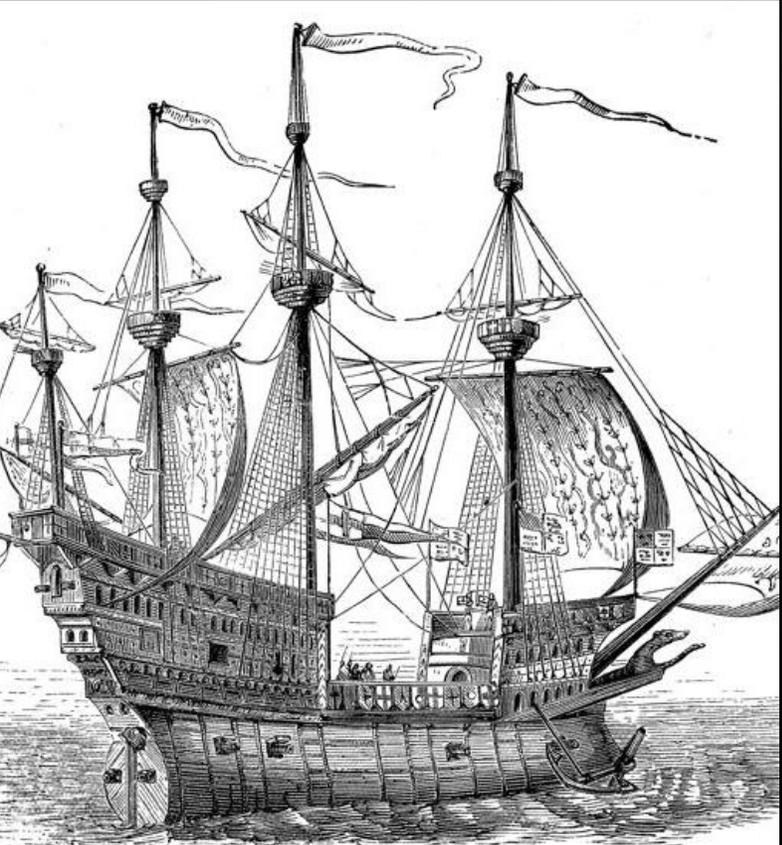


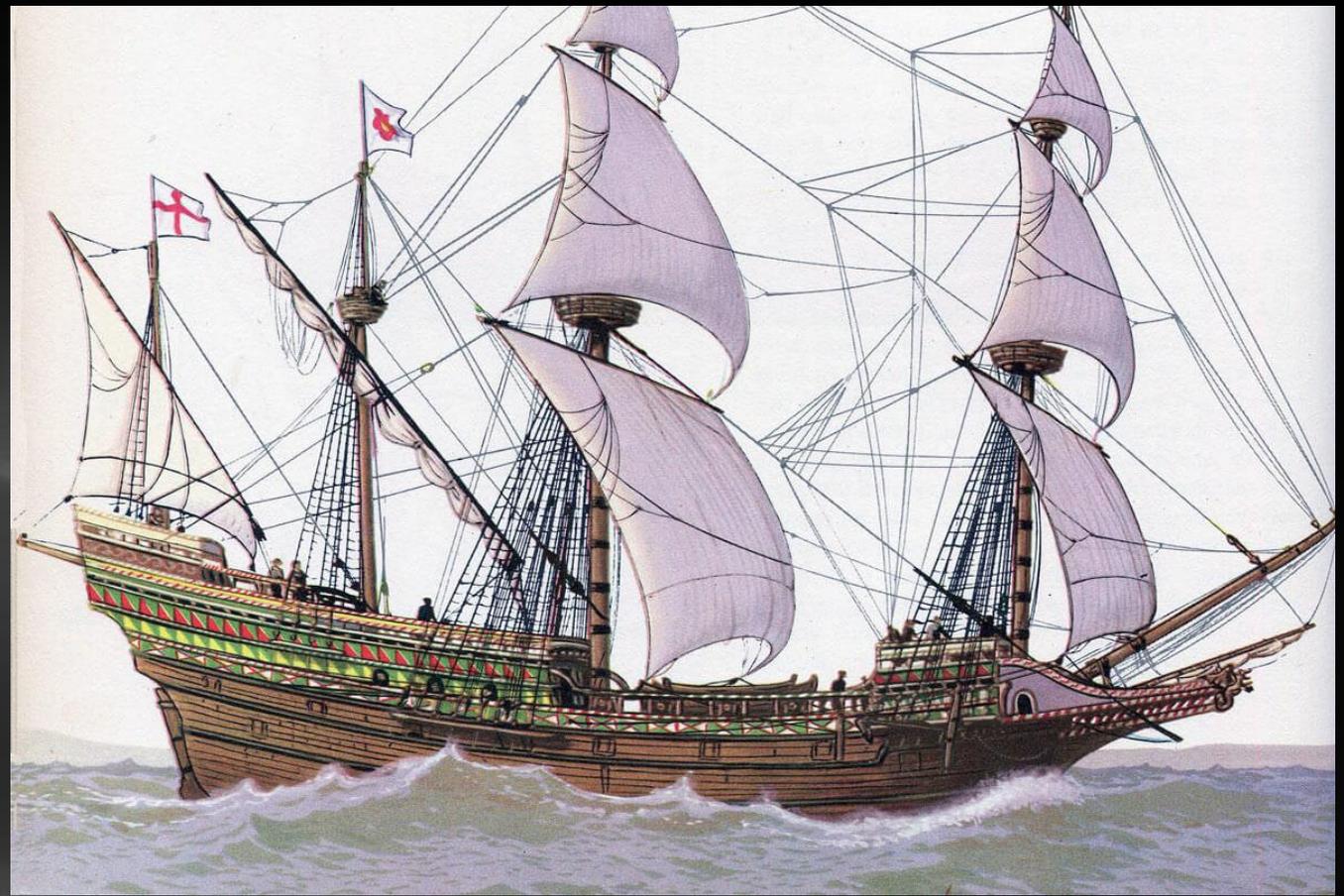
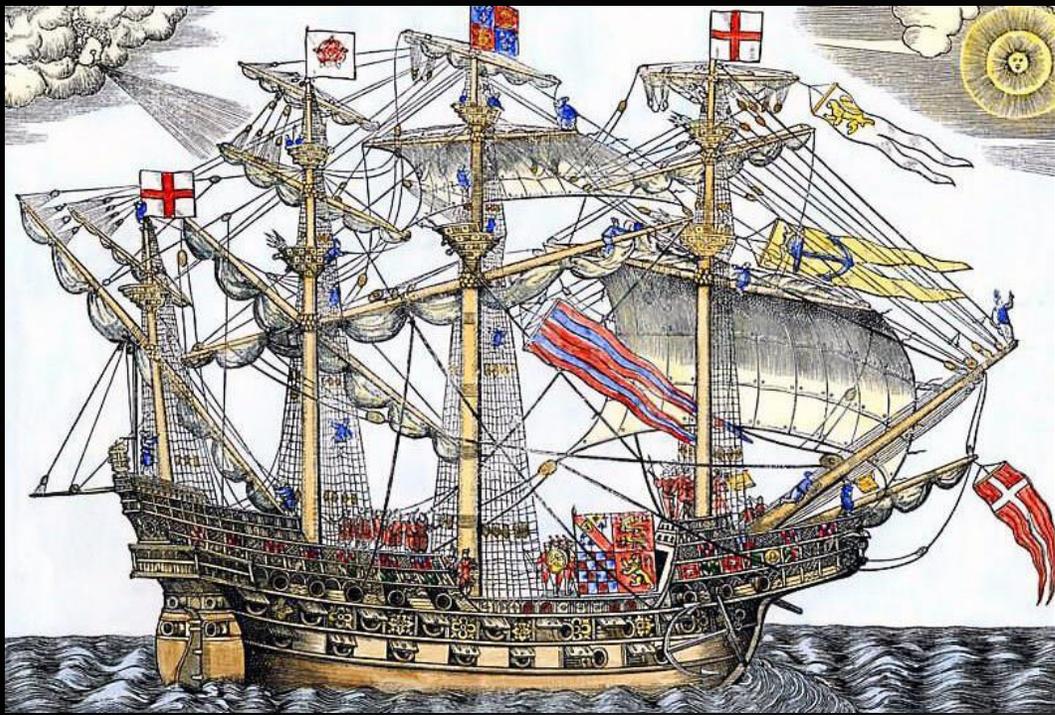
Invasion Force
30,000 soldiers
(in Flanders)





Spanish Ships





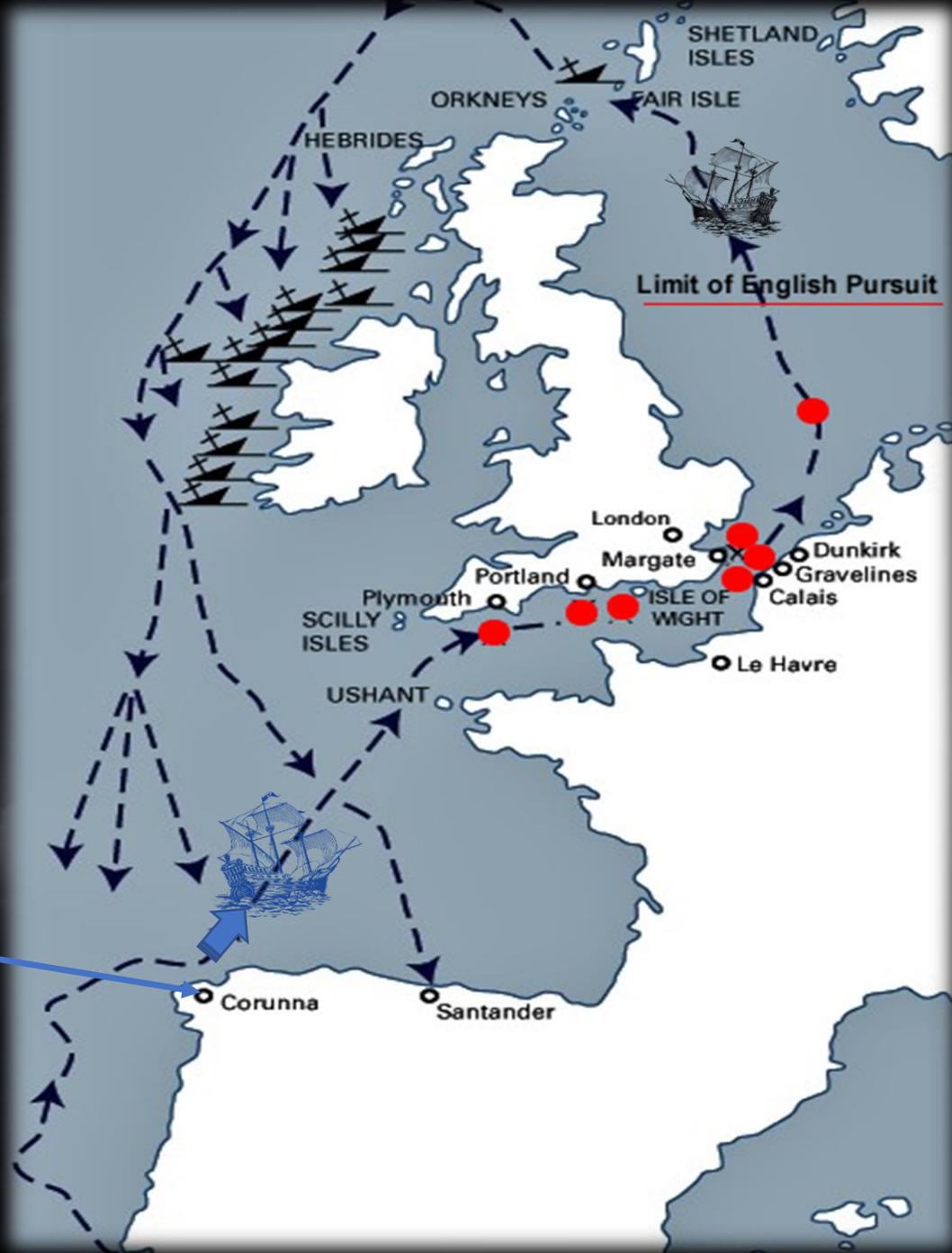
English Fleet



The Fight begins



20 July
Armada assembles
and departs
Corunna



29 July
1st sighting
Scilly Isles



30 July
2nd sighting
Penzance
English fleet holed up
in Plymouth Harbour

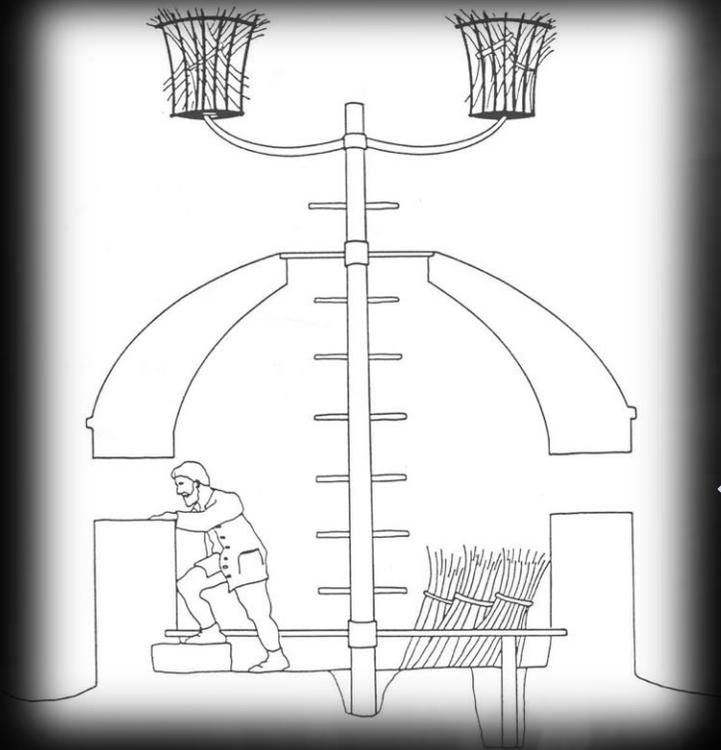






Anyone for bowls?





Cumstock Beacon, Devon





Skirmishes in the Channel
'Rosario' taken







Dunkirk,
Rendezvous point with
Duke of Parma





6/7 August
Armada anchors at Calais
English fireships
'Cut and run'







8/9 August
Armada regroups.
Risk of wrecking at Gravelines
English attack





Wind against Channel return.
Heads up east coast
Pursued by English
Chase abandoned off Newcastle



The Tilbury Speech

19 August 1588

'I know I have the body of a weak and feeble woman, but I have the heart and stomach of a King, and of a King of England too, and think foul scorn that Parma of Spain, or any Prince of Europe should dare to invade the borders of my realm. I myself will be your general, judge and rewarder of every one of your virtues in the field.'



An artist's likeness



Armada in Retreat



"Following our encounter with the Spanish fleet on 29 July, God has stricken the enemy with a wonderful fear. The Spanish fleet was followed up the Eastern coast but we had to return to port to relieve the wants of water and provisions. The want of powder, shot and victuals has caused us many problems."

Letter from Sir Thomas Fenner, a captain of a ship in the English fleet, to Sir Francis Walsingham, August 1588.



Battle Losses

Spain

- 20,000 men, 63 ships lost
- Only four ships sunk or seized by direct English fire.
- 59 wrecked off the Scottish and Irish coasts, or simply disappeared
- Losses through disease, typhoid, dysentery and starvation
- 5,000 men died, by drowning or executed by English forces in Ireland





What went wrong for Spain

- Planning and command
- Ships
- Tactics
- Weather (probably most significant)



'I sent the Armada against men, not God's winds and waves'

Phillip II after the Spanish Fleet returns



After the Armada

- Victory for Tudor Propaganda – Armada Portrait
- Elizabeth sends Armadas to Spain in 1589 and 1596
- Phillip provides troops to Ireland against the English
- England continues support for Dutch independence
- Elizabeth died in 1603
- 1604 a Treaty between the two countries
- 1609 Spain bankrupt
- Spain acknowledges Dutch independence



Dutch National Anthem

William of Nassau
am I, of German blood.
Loyal to the fatherland
I will remain until I die.
A prince of Orange
am I, free and fearless.
The king of Spain
I have always honoured.



Treaty of London

(Somerset House Conference)

- Spain renounces intention to restore Catholicism in England
- England renounces disruption to Spanish shipping and colonial expansion
- Agree English Channel open to Spanish shipping
- England agrees to withdraw military and financial support to Dutch
- Agree ship access to the ports of the other party



Postscript



England enters a time of peace and prosperity - sometimes known as the 'Golden Age'

Spain needs to rebuild and recover from its political and financial misadventure

Queen Elizabeth's defensive actions proved that she was a force to be reckoned with

England and Spain remain at peace at least for the next 20 years



