

0. PUSHED TO THE NORTH SEA - Story Preface

1. PRINCESS ELIZABETH

2. PHILIP II: KING CONSORT of BRITAIN

3. ELIZABETH BECOMES QUEEN

4. THE TROUBLE WITH MARY

5. THE BABINGTON PLOT

6. A QUEEN LOSES HER HEAD

7. SIR WALTER RALEIGH

8. PHILIP II and the ARMADA

9. THE ARMADA SAILS

10. NEGOTIATIONS FAIL

11. BRITISH SHIPS

12. THE FLEETS ENGAGE

13. FIRE SHIPS and the BATTLE OF GRAVELINES

14. PARMA'S NO-SHOW

15. PUSHED TO THE NORTH SEA

16. ELIZABETH'S SPEECH to her PEOPLE

17. SAILING HOME by a NORTHERN ROUTE

18. SPANISH SHIPS on IRISH ROCKS

19. MISERY IN IRELAND

20. CELEBRATING THE VICTORY

21. THE DEATH OF RALEIGH

22. THE GOLDEN AGE



Henry VIII ordered a fort to be built at Tilbury, located along the Thames Estuary. A similar fort was built at Gravesend, on the opposite river bank. If London was at risk, armed soldiers could defend the city by fighting against invaders and placing a chain across the river (between the two forts). It was at Tilbury where Henry's daughter, Queen Elizabeth, delivered her famous rallying speech in 1588. This image of the Tilbury Fort is maintained by the Essex Record Office.

British ships were close to home, but what would the Armada's commanders do next? The wind decided for them.

The day after Gravelines, the wind changed direction. Without motors, the ships had no choice but to sail where the wind pushed them. In this instance, they were forced into the North Sea. Camden tells us what happened:

The last day of the moneth [July 31, 1588] betimes in the morning, the West-north-west winde blew hard, and the Spanish fleete, labouring to returne to the narrow straight, was driven toward Zeland. The English gave over the chace [chase], because (as the Spanyards thinke) they saw them almost carryed to their ruine; for, the West-north-west winde blowing, they could not but runne aground uppon the sands and the shallows neere Zeeland.

Fortunately for the Spanish fleet, the wind spared them such destruction. Camden continues:

But the wind turning presently into the South-west and by West, they sayled before the winde, and being cleere of the shallows, in the evening they consulted what to doe; and by common consent it was resolved to returne into Spaine by the North Ocean, for that they wanted many necessaries, especially great shott, their shippes were torne, and no hope there was that the Prince of Parma could bring forth his fleete. (Camden, *Annales Rerum Angliae et Hiberniae Regnante Elizabetha*, 1588, Section 29)

As the Spanish fleet headed north, pushed by the wind, they neared the Thames Estuary. Invading Britain would be possible if Spanish troops were able to land and fight their way toward London - and the Queen.

Parma, meanwhile, had managed to arrive at Dunkirk. His presence there was meaningless, however. He could not assist his countrymen since he and his fleet were hemmed-in by Dutch rebels and British ships:

The same day that last fight was, the Prince of Parma, after hee had made his prayers to our Lady of Hall, came somewhat late to Dunkirke, where he was receaved with opprobrious speeches of the Spanyards, as if in favour of Queene Elizabeth he had overthrowne a good opportunity to worke some noble exploit ... Howbeit, that Parma might not come forth from Dunkirke, the Lord Admirall commanded the Lord Henry Seimore and the Hollanders to keepe watch upon the coast of Flanders ... (Camden, Annales Rerum Angliae et Hiberniae Regnante Elizabetha, 1588, Section 31)

Perhaps not knowing the extent of the Armada's damage, Elizabeth's land forces were assembled east of London at West Tilbury. To rally her troops, and calm their fears, the Queen paid a personal visit to the Tilbury Camp. Camden records her famous speech.

Let's listen in.

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/PUSHED-TO-THE-NORTH-SEA-Elizabeth-I-The-Golden-Age>

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/PUSHED-TO-THE-NORTH-SEA-Elizabeth-I-The-Golden-Age>

Media Stream

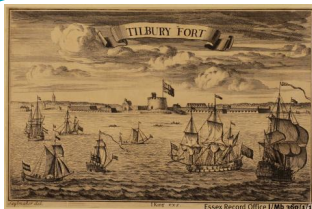


Spanish Fleet Headed North - Map of the English Channel Battles

Image online, courtesy the tudorplace.com website.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Spanish-Fleet-Headed-North-Map-of-the-English-Channel-Battles>



PUSHED TO THE NORTH SEA

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/>