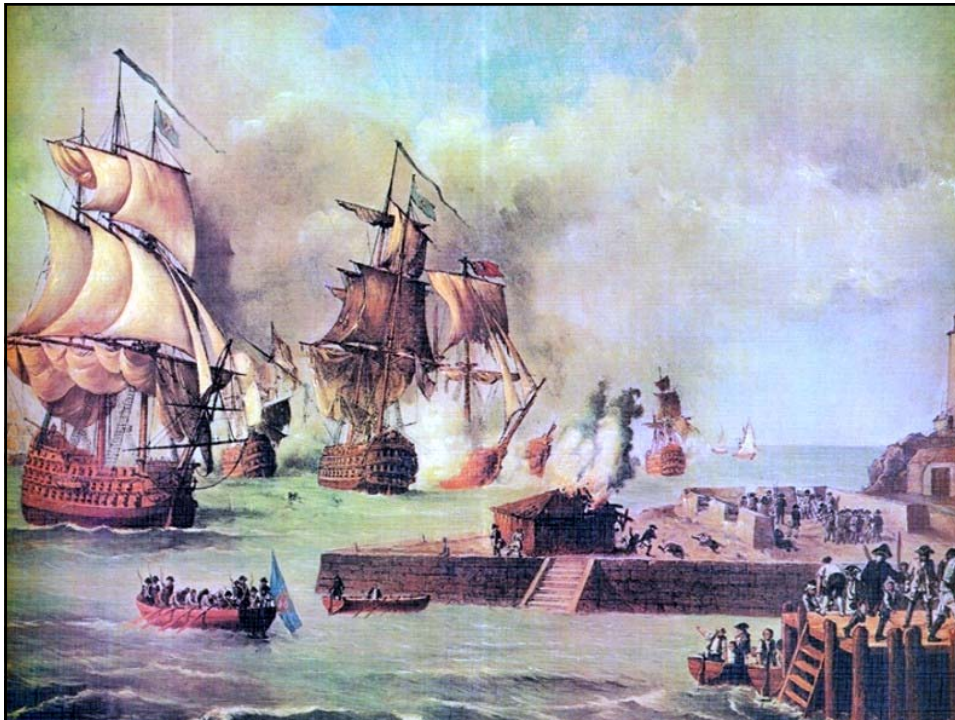




1



2



## Battle of Cartagena de Indias

- The Battle of Cartagena de Indias was an amphibious battle between Britain under Vice-Admiral Edward Vernon and Spain under Admiral Blas de Lezo.
- It was most significant battle in the War of Jenkins' Ear and one of the largest naval campaigns in British history.
- It took place in March 1741 at the city of Cartagena de Indias in present-day Colombia.
- The battle ended in a disastrous defeat with heavy British loss: 50 ships badly damaged or abandoned, and some 10,500 soldiers and sailors KIA and 7,500 WIA. Many of the 18,000 casualties were from disease, especially yellow fever.



3

- The result of long-standing tensions over Spain's established colonies in the Caribbean, the War of Jenkins' Ear was fought to improve Britain's trading opportunities in the Caribbean. The British attempted to capture key Spanish ports including Saint Augustine, Florida; Portobello and Chagres, in Panama; Havana, Cuba; La Guaira, Venezuela; and Cartagena de Indias.
- Two previous naval attacks against Cartagena failed in 1740, while the third attempt in March 1741 was a combined naval and ground assault.
- The result of the **Battle of Cartagena de Indias** was a decisive Spanish victory. The British retreated with huge losses, many from yellow fever; some units suffered death rates of 80-90%.
- Victory demonstrated Spain's ability to defend its position and largely ended active operations. Both countries switched focus to the wider European War of the Austrian Succession and hostilities ended with the 1748 Treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle.

4

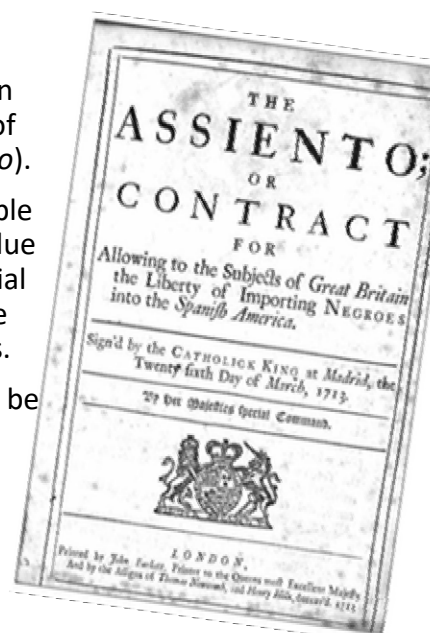




5






### Battle of Cartagena de Indias

- The Battle of Cartagena de Indias was an amphibious battle between Britain and Spain during the War of Jenkins' Ear (Sp. *Guerra del Asiento*).
- It occurred during an era of unstable European international relations due to commercial competition, colonial rivalries, and royal meddling in the affairs of relatives in other nations.
- Diplomats assumed warfare could be used to further national interests, and wars were seen as legitimate opportunities to expand empires.
- Alliances and strategic concerns morphed frequently.



6



<div>   <b>Political</b> </div>		
<div>    </div>		
<b>Philip V</b> 1st Bourbon King of Spain Heir to both French and Spanish thrones, defeat of France and Spain in War of the Spanish Succession (1701-14) ensured separate thrones. Made some reforms but history sees as weak	<b>George II</b> King of Great Britain Last British monarch born outside of Great Britain. Noted for numerous conflicts with his father and, later, his son. He exercised little control over policy in his early reign.	<b>Sir Robert Walpole</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> de facto PM of Great Britain Sought to keep Great Britain at peace, secure the Hannoverian Dynasty, and countervail Jacobitism, thus contributing to the country's prosperity. Resigned after Cartegena.

7

<div>   <b>Military</b> </div>		
<div>    </div>		
<b>Don Blas de Lezo</b> Admiral A heroic figure, great naval strategist, and model for the "peg-legged pirate" stereotype, he comprehensively beat the French, Ottoman Empire and English military on land and sea.	<b>Thomas Wentworth</b> Lieutenant-General Expedition Army component 3IC thrust into command on deaths of superiors to disease, received no support from navy commander who felt himself to be in overall charge.	<b>Edward "Old Grog" Vernon</b> Vice Admiral Hitherto successful admiral, his feud with Wentworth led to a catastrophic defeat against an enemy 1/10 <sup>th</sup> the size. Politically savvy, he laid the blame on Wentworth and became an MP.

8



1702 (12) HÉROES, MALTRECHOS (BATTERED HEROES)...

## BLAS DE LEZO: HISTORIAL MÉDICO



FACEBOOK: EL FISSÓN HISTÓRICO TWITTER: @FISSONHISTORICO


FUENTE: BLAS DE LEZO SUS ORIJANOS Y EL NACIMIENTO DE LA CIRUGÍA ESPAÑOLA MODERNA. ANTONIO PÉREZ-PIQUERAS GÓMEZ. TESIS DOCTORAL (2015)

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1704 (15) HÉROES, MALTRECHOS (BATTERED HEROES)...

## BLAS DE LEZO: HISTORIAL MÉDICO

CON 15 AÑOS, BLAS DE LEZO PERDIÓ LA PIERNA, PERO ESA FUE TAN SÓLO LA PRIMERA DE MUCHAS\*



LUGAR:  
NAVIO FOUROYANT,  
BATALLA NAVAL DE VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA, 1704

LESIÓN:  
ROTURA DE TIBIA Y PERONÉ Y  
AMPUTACIÓN TRAUMÁTICA DEL PIE

CAUSA:  
IMPACTO DE UN PROYECTIL DE CAÑÓN. LAS HERIDAS LAS  
PRODUJERON UN FRAGMENTO DE DICHO  
PROYECTIL O UN TROZO DE MADERA DE LA CUBIERTA.

CONSECUENCIA:  
PÉRDIDA DE LA PIERNA IZQUIERDA

\*At 15 years old, Blas de Lezo lost his leg,  
but that was only the first of many.

FACEBOOK: EL FISSÓN HISTÓRICO TWITTER: @FISSONHISTORICO

FUENTE: BLAS DE LEZO SUS ORIJANOS Y EL NACIMIENTO DE LA CIRUGÍA ESPAÑOLA MODERNA. ANTONIO PÉREZ-PIQUERAS GÓMEZ. TESIS DOCTORAL (2015)

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**HÉROES, MALTRECHOS (BATTERED HEROES)...**

**1707 (18)**

**BLAS DE LEZO: HISTORIAL MÉDICO**

CON 15 AÑOS, BLAS DE LEZO PERDIÓ LA PIERNA, PERO ESA FUE TAN SÓLO LA PRIMERA DE MUCHAS \*



**LUGAR:**  
FORTALEZA DE SANTA CATALINA DE TOLÓN. 1707

**LESIÓN:**  
HERIDA PENETRANTE EN EL GLOBO OCULAR IZQUIERDO

**CAUSA:**  
ESQUIRRA DE PIEDRA PROCEDENTE DEL IMPACTO DE UN PROYECTIL EN EL MURO DE LA FORTALEZA

**CONSECUENCIA:**  
PÉRDIDA COMPLETA DE LA VISIÓN

**LUGAR:**  
NAVÍO FOUROYANT, BATALLA NAVAL DE VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA. 1704

**LESIÓN:**  
ROTURA DE TIBIA Y PERONÉ Y AMPUTACIÓN TRAUMÁTICA DEL PIE

**CAUSA:**  
IMPACTO DE UN PROYECTIL DE CAÑÓN. LAS HERIDAS LAS PRODUCIERON UN FRAGMENTO DE DICHO PROYECTIL O UN TROZO DE MADERA DE LA CUBIERTA.

**CONSECUENCIA:**  
PÉRDIDA DE LA PIERNA IZQUIERDA

\*At 15 years old, Blas de Lezo lost his leg, but that was only the first of many.

FACEBOOK: EL FISSÓN HISTÓRICO TWITTER: @FISSONHISTORICO

FUENTE: BLAS DE LEZO SUS ORIJANOS Y EL NACIMIENTO DE LA ORUGIA ESPAÑOLA MODERNA. ANTONIO PÉREZ-PIQUERAS GÓMEZ. TESIS DOCTORAL (2015)

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**HÉROES, MALTRECHOS (BATTERED HEROES)...**

**1714 (25)**

**BLAS DE LEZO: HISTORIAL MÉDICO**

CON 15 AÑOS, BLAS DE LEZO PERDIÓ LA PIERNA, PERO ESA FUE TAN SÓLO LA PRIMERA DE MUCHAS \*



**LUGAR:**  
ASEDIO DE BARCELONA. 1714

**LESIÓN:**  
HERIDA PENETRANTE EN LA AXILA DERECHA

**CAUSA:**  
DISPARO DE MOSQUETE

**CONSECUENCIA:**  
PÉRDIDA DE LA MOVILIDAD DEL BRAZO DERECHO. AUNQUE PODÍA MOVER LA MANO

**LUGAR:**  
FORTALEZA DE SANTA CATALINA DE TOLÓN. 1707

**LESIÓN:**  
HERIDA PENETRANTE EN EL GLOBO OCULAR IZQUIERDO

**CAUSA:**  
ESQUIRRA DE PIEDRA PROCEDENTE DEL IMPACTO DE UN PROYECTIL EN EL MURO DE LA FORTALEZA

**CONSECUENCIA:**  
PÉRDIDA COMPLETA DE LA VISIÓN

**LUGAR:**  
NAVÍO FOUROYANT, BATALLA NAVAL DE VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA. 1704

**LESIÓN:**  
ROTURA DE TIBIA Y PERONÉ Y AMPUTACIÓN TRAUMÁTICA DEL PIE

**CAUSA:**  
IMPACTO DE UN PROYECTIL DE CAÑÓN. LAS HERIDAS LAS PRODUCIERON UN FRAGMENTO DE DICHO PROYECTIL O UN TROZO DE MADERA DE LA CUBIERTA.

**CONSECUENCIA:**  
PÉRDIDA DE LA PIERNA IZQUIERDA

\*At 15 years old, Blas de Lezo lost his leg, but that was only the first of many.

FACEBOOK: EL FISSÓN HISTÓRICO TWITTER: @FISSONHISTORICO

FUENTE: BLAS DE LEZO SUS ORIJANOS Y EL NACIMIENTO DE LA ORUGIA ESPAÑOLA MODERNA. ANTONIO PÉREZ-PIQUERAS GÓMEZ. TESIS DOCTORAL (2015)

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**1733 (44)** **HÉROES, MALTRECHOS (BATTERED HEROES)...**  
**BLAS DE LEZO: HISTORIAL MÉDICO**  
 CON 15 AÑOS, BLAS DE LEZO PERDIÓ LA PIERNA, PERO ESA FUE TAN SÓLO LA PRIMERA DE MUCHAS \*

**LUGAR:**  
ASEDIO DE BARCELONA, 1714  
**LESIÓN:**  
HERIDA PENETRANTE EN LA AXILA DERECHA  
**CAUSA:**  
DISPARO DE MOSQUETE  
**CONSECUENCIA:**  
PÉRDIDA DE LA MOVILIDAD DEL BRAZO DERECHO,  
AUNQUE PODÍA MOVER LA MANO

**LUGAR:**  
NAVIO NUESTRA SEÑORA DE BEGOÑA,  
ORÁN, 1733  
**ENFERMEDAD:**  
FIEBRE TIFOIDEA  
**CAUSA:**  
INGESTA DE ALIMENTOS EN MAL ESTADO  
**CONSECUENCIA:**  
HEMORRAGIA, CEFALEA, NÁUSEAS,  
ANOREXIA, FIEBRE ALTA

**LUGAR:**  
FORTALEZA DE SANTA CATALINA DE TOLÓN, 1707  
**LESIÓN:**  
HERIDA PENETRANTE EN EL  
GLOBO OCULAR IZQUIERDO  
**CAUSA:**  
ESQUIRRA DE PIEDRA PROCEDENTE DEL  
IMPACTO DE UN PROYECTIL EN EL MURO DE LA FORTALEZA  
**CONSECUENCIA:**  
PÉRDIDA COMPLETA DE LA VISIÓN

**LUGAR:**  
NAVIO FOUDROYANT,  
BATALLA NAVAL DE VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA, 1704  
**LESIÓN:**  
ROTURA DE TIBIA Y PERONÉ Y  
AMPUTACIÓN TRAUMÁTICA DEL PIE  
**CAUSA:**  
IMPACTO DE UN PROYECTIL DE CAÑÓN, LAS HERIDAS LAS  
PRODUJERON UN FRAGMENTO DE DICHO  
PROYECTIL O UN TROZO DE MADERA DE LA CUBIERTA.  
**CONSECUENCIA:**  
PÉRDIDA DE LA PIERNA IZQUIERDA

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but that was only the first of many.

FACEBOOK: EL FISSÓN HISTÓRICO TWITTER: @FISSONHISTORICO FUENTE: BLAS DE LEZO SUS ORILLANOS Y EL NACIMIENTO DE LA ORUGIA ESPAÑOLA MODERNA. ANTONIO PÉREZ-POVERAS GÓMEZ. TESIS DOCTORAL (2015)

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**1741 (52)** **HÉROES, MALTRECHOS (BATTERED HEROES)...**  
**BLAS DE LEZO: HISTORIAL MÉDICO**  
 CON 15 AÑOS, BLAS DE LEZO PERDIÓ LA PIERNA, PERO ESA FUE TAN SÓLO LA PRIMERA DE MUCHAS \*

**LUGAR:**  
ASEDIO DE BARCELONA, 1714  
**LESIÓN:**  
HERIDA PENETRANTE EN LA AXILA DERECHA  
**CAUSA:**  
DISPARO DE MOSQUETE  
**CONSECUENCIA:**  
PÉRDIDA DE LA MOVILIDAD DEL BRAZO DERECHO,  
AUNQUE PODÍA MOVER LA MANO

**LUGAR:**  
NAVIO NUESTRA SEÑORA DE BEGOÑA,  
ORÁN, 1733  
**ENFERMEDAD:**  
FIEBRE TIFOIDEA  
**CAUSA:**  
INGESTA DE ALIMENTOS EN MAL ESTADO  
**CONSECUENCIA:**  
HEMORRAGIA, CEFALEA, NÁUSEAS,  
ANOREXIA, FIEBRE ALTA

**LUGAR:**  
FORTALEZA DE SANTA CATALINA DE TOLÓN, 1707  
**LESIÓN:**  
HERIDA PENETRANTE EN EL  
GLOBO OCULAR IZQUIERDO  
**CAUSA:**  
ESQUIRRA DE PIEDRA PROCEDENTE DEL  
IMPACTO DE UN PROYECTIL EN EL MURO DE LA FORTALEZA  
**CONSECUENCIA:**  
PÉRDIDA COMPLETA DE LA VISIÓN

**LUGAR:**  
CARTAGENA DE INDIAS, 1741  
**LESIÓN:**  
HERIDAS EN MANO Y MUSLO.  
**CAUSA:**  
METRALLA DE UN IMPACTO DE  
PROYECTIL  
**CONSECUENCIA:**  
INFECCIÓN

**LUGAR:**  
NAVIO FOUDROYANT,  
BATALLA NAVAL DE VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA, 1704  
**LESIÓN:**  
ROTURA DE TIBIA Y PERONÉ Y  
AMPUTACIÓN TRAUMÁTICA DEL PIE  
**CAUSA:**  
IMPACTO DE UN PROYECTIL DE CAÑÓN, LAS HERIDAS LAS  
PRODUJERON UN FRAGMENTO DE DICHO  
PROYECTIL O UN TROZO DE MADERA DE LA CUBIERTA.  
**CONSECUENCIA:**  
PÉRDIDA DE LA PIERNA IZQUIERDA

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FACEBOOK: EL FISSÓN HISTÓRICO TWITTER: @FISSONHISTORICO FUENTE: BLAS DE LEZO SUS ORILLANOS Y EL NACIMIENTO DE LA ORUGIA ESPAÑOLA MODERNA. ANTONIO PÉREZ-POVERAS GÓMEZ. TESIS DOCTORAL (2015)

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**HÉROES MALTRECHOS (BATTERED HEROES)...**

**(52) BLAS DE LEZO: HISTORIAL MÉDICO**

CON 15 AÑOS, BLAS DE LEZO PERDIÓ LA PIERNA, PERO ESA FUE TAN SÓLO LA PRIMERA DE MUCHAS \*



**LUGAR:** ASEDIO DE BARCELONA, 1714  
**LESIÓN:** HERIDA PENETRANTE EN LA AXILA DERECHA  
**CAUSA:** DISPARO DE MOSQUETE  
**CONSECUENCIA:** PÉRDIDA DE LA MOVILIDAD DEL BRAZO DERECHO, AUNQUE PODÍA MOVER LA MANO

**LUGAR:** NAVIO NUESTRA SEÑORA DE BEGOÑA, ORÁN, 1733  
**ENFERMEDAD:** FIEBRE TIFOIDEA  
**CAUSA:** INGESTA DE ALIMENTOS EN MAL ESTADO  
**CONSECUENCIA:** HEMORRAGIA, CEFALEA, NÁUSEAS, ANOREXIA, FIEBRE ALTA

**LUGAR:** CARTAGENA DE INDIAS, 1741  
**ENFERMEDAD:** PESTE  
**CAUSA:** LA GRAN CANTIDAD DE CADÁVERES DE SOLDADOS INGLESES MUERTOS EN COMBATE Y POR FIEBRE AMARILLA  
**CONSECUENCIA:** MUERTE

**LUGAR:** FORTALEZA DE SANTA CATALINA DE TOLÓN, 1707  
**LESIÓN:** HERIDA PENETRANTE EN EL GLOBO OCULAR IZQUIERDO  
**CAUSA:** ESQUILA DE PIEDRA PROCEDENTE DEL IMPACTO DE UN PROYECTIL EN EL MURO DE LA FORTALEZA  
**CONSECUENCIA:** PÉRDIDA COMPLETA DE LA VISIÓN

**LUGAR:** CARTAGENA DE INDIAS, 1741  
**LESIÓN:** HERIDAS EN MANO Y MUSLO  
**CAUSA:** METRALLA DE UN IMPACTO DE PROYECTIL  
**CONSECUENCIA:** INFECCIÓN

**LUGAR:** NAVIO FOUROYANT, BATALLA NAVAL DE VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA, 1704  
**LESIÓN:** ROTURA DE TIBIA Y PERONÉ Y AMPUTACIÓN TRAUMÁTICA DEL PIE  
**CAUSA:** IMPACTO DE UN PROYECTIL DE CAÑÓN, LAS HERIDAS LAS PRODUCIERON UN FRAGMENTO DE DICHO PROYECTIL O UN TROZO DE MADERA DE LA CUBIERTA.  
**CONSECUENCIA:** PÉRDIDA DE LA PIERNA IZQUIERDA

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FACEBOOK: EL FISIÓN HISTÓRICO TWITTER: @FISGONHISTORICO FUENTE: BLAS DE LEZO SUS ORILLANOS Y EL NACIMIENTO DE LA ORUGIA ESPAÑOLA MODERNA. ANTONIO PÉREZ-POVERAS GÓMEZ. TESIS DOCTORAL (2015)

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**Nickname "Mediohombre" (Half-man)**

**HÉROES MALTRECHOS (BATTERED HEROES)...**

**BLAS DE LEZO: HISTORIAL MÉDICO**

CON 15 AÑOS, BLAS DE LEZO PERDIÓ LA PIERNA, PERO ESA FUE TAN SÓLO LA PRIMERA DE MUCHAS \*



**1** LUGAR: NAVIO FOUROYANT, BATALLA NAVAL DE VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA, 1704  
**LESIÓN:** ROTURA DE TIBIA Y PERONÉ Y AMPUTACIÓN TRAUMÁTICA DEL PIE  
**CAUSA:** IMPACTO DE UN PROYECTIL DE CAÑÓN, LAS HERIDAS LAS PRODUCIERON UN FRAGMENTO DE DICHO PROYECTIL O UN TROZO DE MADERA DE LA CUBIERTA.  
**CONSECUENCIA:** PÉRDIDA DE LA PIERNA IZQUIERDA

**2** LUGAR: FORTALEZA DE SANTA CATALINA DE TOLÓN, 1707  
**LESIÓN:** HERIDA PENETRANTE EN EL GLOBO OCULAR IZQUIERDO  
**CAUSA:** ESQUILA DE PIEDRA PROCEDENTE DEL IMPACTO DE UN PROYECTIL EN EL MURO DE LA FORTALEZA  
**CONSECUENCIA:** PÉRDIDA COMPLETA DE LA VISIÓN

**3** LUGAR: ASEDIO DE BARCELONA, 1714  
**LESIÓN:** HERIDA PENETRANTE EN LA AXILA DERECHA  
**CAUSA:** DISPARO DE MOSQUETE  
**CONSECUENCIA:** PÉRDIDA DE LA MOVILIDAD DEL BRAZO DERECHO, AUNQUE PODÍA MOVER LA MANO

**4** LUGAR: NAVIO NUESTRA SEÑORA DE BEGOÑA, ORÁN, 1733  
**ENFERMEDAD:** FIEBRE TIFOIDEA  
**CAUSA:** INGESTA DE ALIMENTOS EN MAL ESTADO  
**CONSECUENCIA:** HEMORRAGIA, CEFALEA, NÁUSEAS, ANOREXIA, FIEBRE ALTA

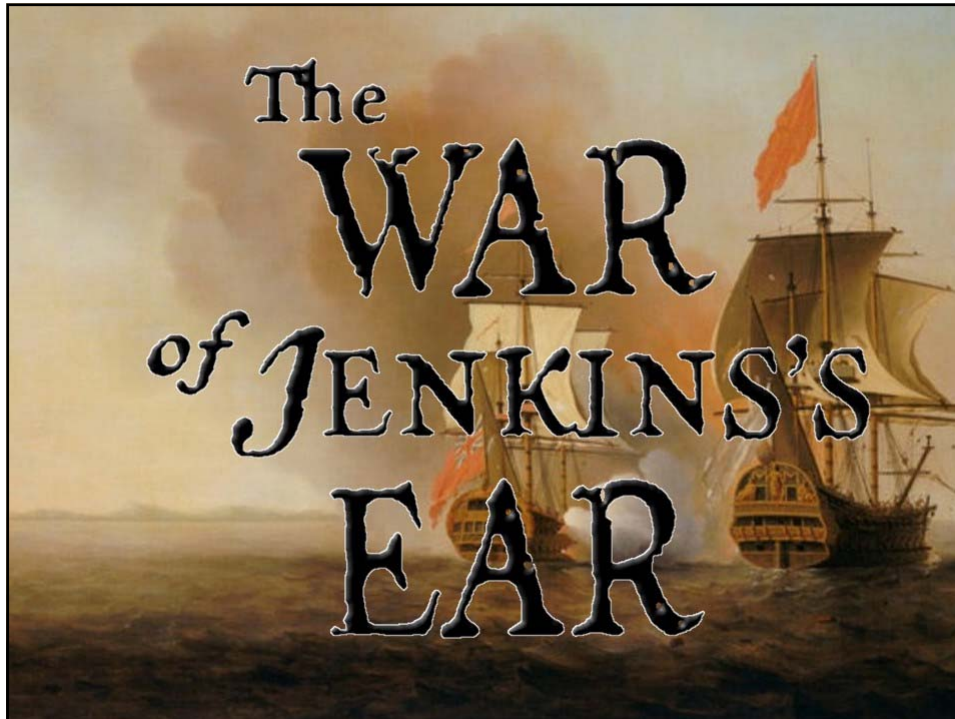
**5** LUGAR: CARTAGENA DE INDIAS, 1741  
**LESIÓN:** HERIDAS EN MANO Y MUSLO  
**CAUSA:** METRALLA DE UN IMPACTO DE PROYECTIL  
**CONSECUENCIA:** INFECCIÓN

**6** LUGAR: CARTAGENA DE INDIAS, 1741  
**ENFERMEDAD:** PESTE  
**CAUSA:** LA GRAN CANTIDAD DE CADÁVERES DE SOLDADOS INGLESES MUERTOS EN COMBATE Y POR FIEBRE AMARILLA  
**CONSECUENCIA:** MUERTE




\*At 15 years old, Blas de Lezo lost his leg, but that was only the first of many.

16



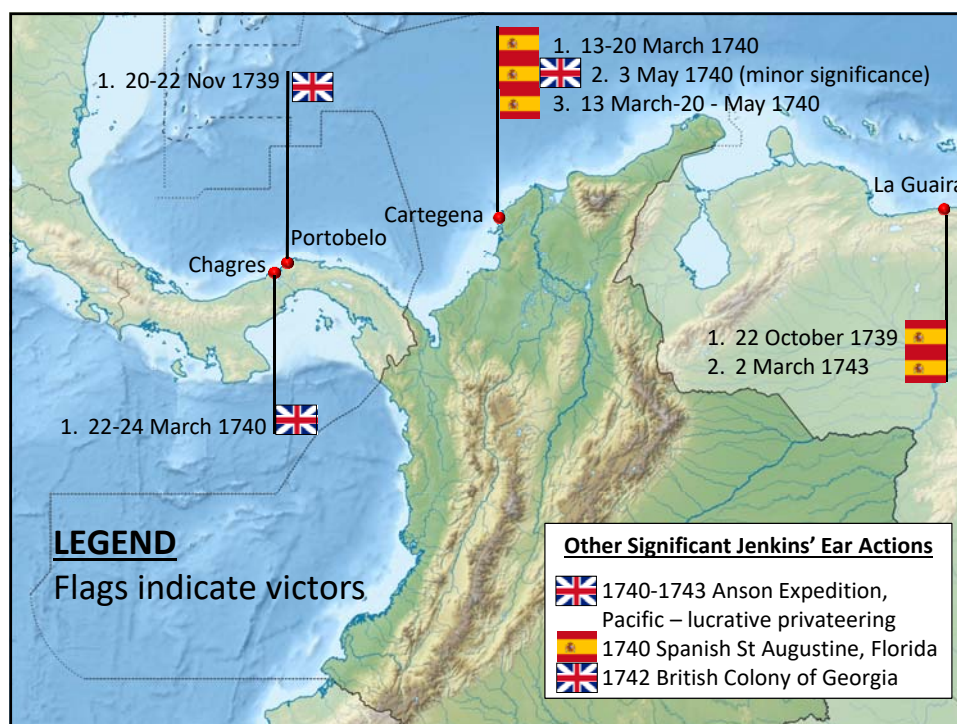


17

War of Jenkins' Ear	
Belligerents	
 Great Britain	 Spain
Commanders and leaders	
 Sir Robert Walpole, P.M. (1721-1742)  Lord Wilmington, P.M. (1742-1743)  Henry Pelham, P.M. (1743-1754)  Admiral Chaloner Ogle, RN  Admiral George Anson, RN  Admiral Charles Knowles, RN  Vice Admiral Edward Vernon, RN  LTG Thomas Wentworth	 Philip V, King of Spain  Sebastián de Eslava, Governor, N Grenada  Manuel de Montiano, Governor, Florida  Gabriel de Zuloaga, Governor Venezuela  Admiral Blas de Lezo  Admiral Andrés Reggio
Strength	
<b>Military forces: 27,400–30,000</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>12,000 regulars, marines and militia</li> <li>15,398 Royal Navy sailors</li> </ul>	<b>Military forces: 3,000–4,000 militia</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2,700 regulars and 400 marines</li> </ul>
Casualties	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>20,000 dead, wounded, missing, or captured</li> <li>407 ships lost</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4,500 dead</li> <li>5,000 wounded</li> <li>186 ships lost</li> </ul>

18





19

### The War of Jenkins' Ear (1739-1748)

- The War of Jenkins' Ear was essentially fought between Great Britain and Spain over trade opportunities in the Caribbean. The British opposition and the British South Sea Company colluded to spur public outrage against Spain using an obscure incident that occurred eight years previously.
- Strategic friction between Spain and England prompted numerous limited wars (e.g., 1718-20, 1726 and 1727-29) and trading Treaties (Utrecht 1713 and Seville 1729).
  - *Utrecht* ceded Gibraltar to Great Britain and gave the English a **30-year right to supply unlimited slaves** and 500 tons of goods annually to Spanish colonies.
  - *Seville* accorded Spanish the right to board and check British ships.
- In 1731, British brig *Rebecca* was boarded near Florida by *La Isabella*, Captain Robert Jenkins was accused of smuggling, and his left ear was cut off. His testimony to the House of Commons in 1738 was seen as a *casus belli* to start a war.



20



Robert Jenkins hands a dismissive Prime Minister Robert Walpole his severed ear, as his companions lift off his wig to show the scar; one of Walpole's associates displays total indifference, preferring to converse with a lady. Satirical Cartoon, 1738.











21



22




Battle of Cartagena de Indias (present Columbia)	
Belligerents	
 Great Britain	 Spain;  New Grenada/Possession
Commanders and leaders	
 Vice Admiral Edward Vernon, RN  LTG Thomas Wentworth	 Don Sebastián de Eslava, Governor  Admiral Don Blas de Lezo  Privateer Jose Polanco Campuzano
Strength	
<b>Military forces: 27,400–30,000</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>12,000 regulars, marines and militia</li> <li>15,398 Royal Navy sailors</li> </ul> Ships of the line: 29 Naval ships: 22 frigates; 71 sloops-of-war Other: 2 hospital ships; 80 troop ships 50 merchant ships	<b>Military forces: 3,000–4,000 militia</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2,700 regulars and 400 marines</li> <li>600 sailors and 300 militia</li> <li>600 native archers</li> </ul> Ships of the line: 6 Fortifications: 9 Numerous shore-based guns
Casualties	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>KIA/MIA: 9,500-11,500</li> <li>WIA: 7,500</li> <li>Guns lost: 1,500</li> <li>Ships of the line*: 6 lost, 17 damaged</li> <li>Other ships*: 4 frigates, 27 transports</li> </ul> * Many abandoned for lack of crews	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>KIA/MIA: 800</li> <li>WIA: 1,200</li> <li>Batteries lost: 3; Forts lost: 5</li> <li>Ships lost: 6 (100%)</li> </ul>

23

### 9 months before the battle

- Almost a year prior to the arrival of the fleet, the Governor of Spanish Florida received remarkable intelligence from English colonists taken prisoner during the siege of St. Augustine.

... they have learned of the preparation in England of a considerable expedition against Havana, consisting of 30 ships of the line, and of a landing party of 10,000 men. I am sending this dispatch to give you this information as possibly of great importance to the service of the King.

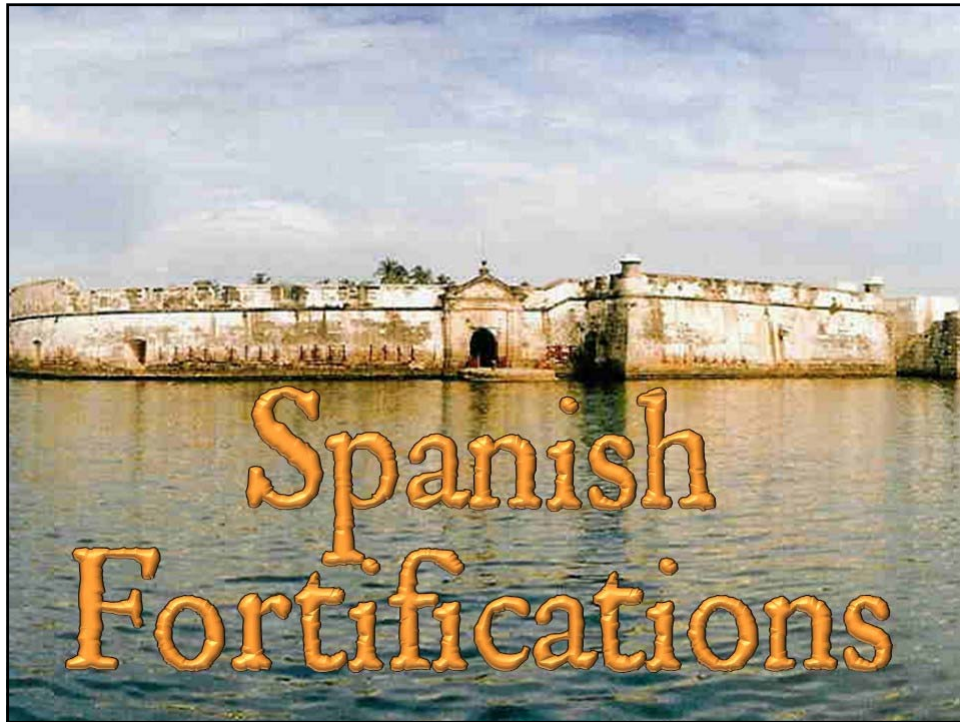


Manuel Joaquín de Montiano y Sopelana

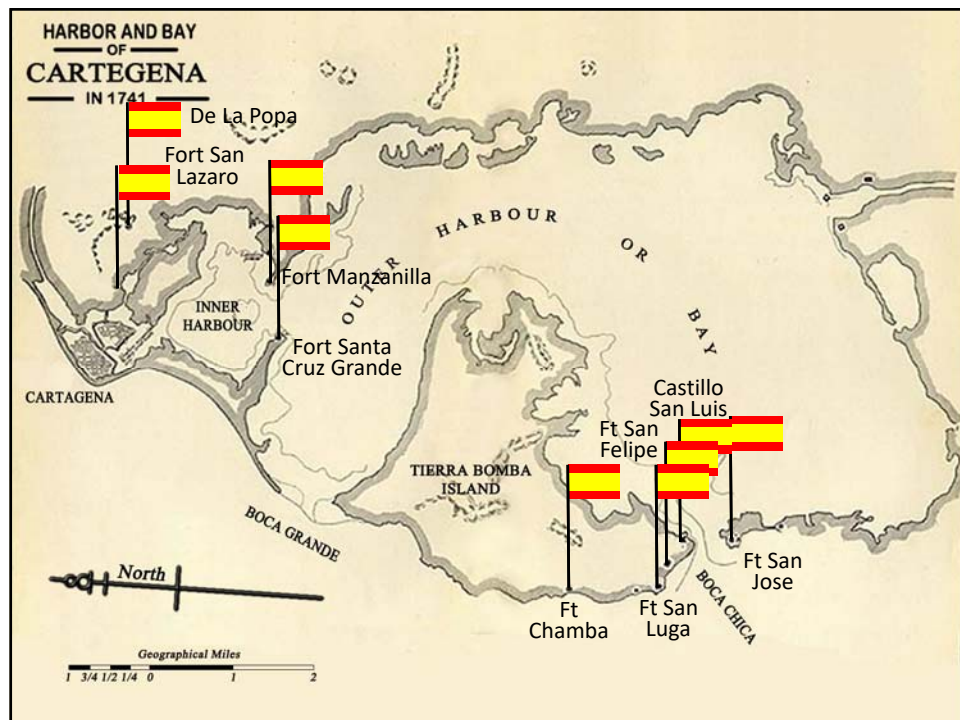
- Letter from Governor Montiano, July 6, 1740, Collections of the Georgia Historical Society. (Vol. VII. – Part I) Published by Georgia Historical Society, Savannah, Ga.

24





25



26



### Bateria de San Felipe

Bocachica also had some batteries that reinforced its defense in the western part of the island, called Santiago (the bigger one with eleven cannons), San Felipe and Chamba. In the attack on the city by Vernon in 1741 they were inefficient and were rapidly destroyed. They were never repaired and today the remains that have survived the passage of time can still be seen.



27

### Bateria de Santiago



28



### The Battery-Fortress of San José

- The Battery-Fortress of San José has seven explosion-proof vaults and an elevated platform in two lines formed by the Battery of Punta Abanico, with fourteen embrasures, and the Varadero Battery with seven cannons.



29

### El Fuerte de San Jose



30



### Fuerte San Jose de Bocachica



31

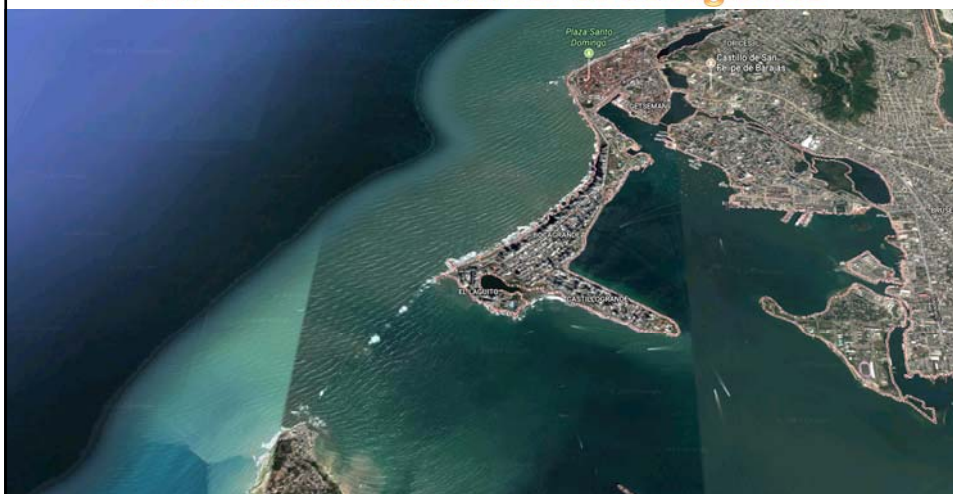
### Fuerte San Luis de Bocachica



32

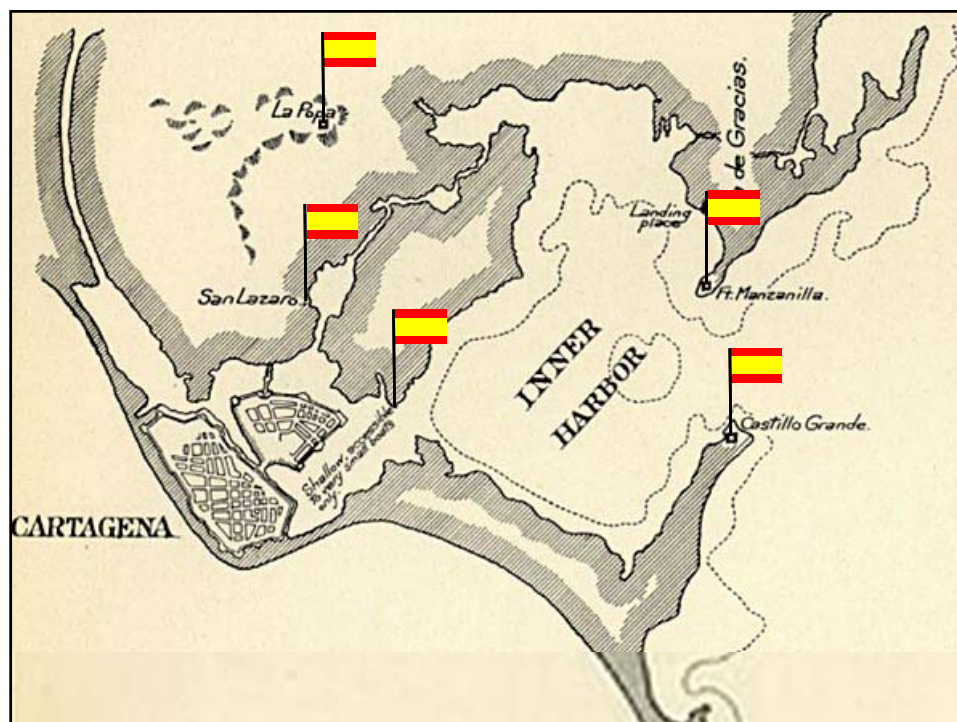


### The Underwater Barrier of Bocagrande



In 1640 some Portuguese ships ran aground in a bank of sand formed at the entrance to Bocagrande, completely obstructing access to the bay at that point and forming an isthmus that connected the island of Tierrabomba with the peninsula. A century later, the channel began to widen because of the tides. Blas de Lezo fixed that muy pronto.

33



34



## The Walled City of Cartagena de Indias



35



36



## The Walled City of Cartagena



37

## The Walls of Cartagena

Built for the defense of the city, it began in the late 16th century after the attack of the legendary Sir Francis Drake.

The fortification is the most complete on the continent of South America and one of the best and well-preserved walls of any walled city in the world. It is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

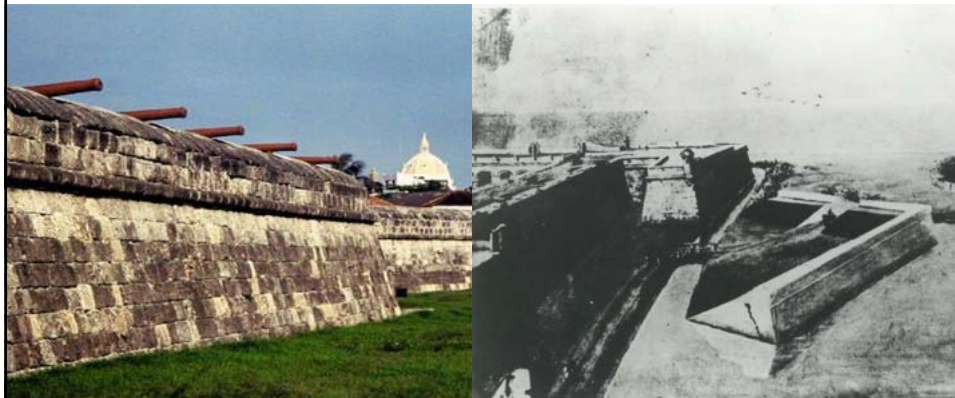
Since the founding of Cartagena de Indias in 1533, and throughout the Spanish colonial era, it was one of the most important ports in America. From there came the greatest riches that the Spanish Crown sent to its ports in Spain.

For this reason was necessary to build a wall with all the forts like the castle of San Felipe and Bocachica to avoid invasion by the English or French or looters or pirates. The port of Cartagena became important thanks to its protected bay protected, the Spanish military, construction of the forts and ramparts, and its closeness to the important Spanish port city of Panama.

38



- From the end of the 19th century in Europe demolition of the walls surrounding cities was initiated, motivated by the expansion of urban centres, the walls' inefficacy to defend against modern artillery, and their supposed public health risks. America followed the European example demolished walls of its great urban areas.
- The Heroic City, because of its limited economic resources, did not carry out the total destruction of its walls and bulwarks and, therefore, a large part are still in existence.



39



40



- At the beginning of the XVII century the defensive strategy changed, giving preference to fortifying the entrance to the inner bay instead of the Bocagrande passage, the demolition of the fortress of San Matías and the Platform of Santángel, situated in Punta Icacos and Tierrabomba respectively, were ordered by a Royal Decree of 1626. The governor Francisco de Murga promoted the construction of the fortress of Santa Cruz in Punta Judío and the platform of San Juan, erected about 1631 on the island of Manzanillo. The Santa Cruz, also known as Castillogrande, and the San Juan, prevented access to the port by means of their crossfire.
- The shipwreck that closed the Bocagrande passage in 1640 again modified the defensive plan, Bocachica now becoming the place where greater military force was concentrated, and, therefore, the dismantling of Castillogrande and Manzanillo was ordered. The work dragged on and Manzanillo was not dismantled, but it did remain abandoned until the attack of Baron De Pointis in 1697, when it was partially destroyed.
- In 1724 the engineer Juan de Herrera y Sotomayor proposed enlarging the platform that was being used as a storage facility, but the Crown preferred to make some repairs to store artillery and ammunition. Its lack of importance in a military sense would be demonstrated during Vernon's siege in 1741, when the English forces did not attack the garrison located there, and it remained isolated during the siege. Bocachica would be the defense of the city from then on and San Juan would be relegated to a storage facility.

41



42



### The Fortress of Santa Cruz or “Castillogrande”

- At the beginning of the 17th century it was decided to fortify the inner bay, and in a royal decree of 1608 the construction of the Santa Cruz fort was ordered. Known familiarly as Castillogrande, it was constructed between 1626 and 1636. It was a fortress with a square base, having bulwarks in each of the four corners, a central yard of arms and a moat.
- When the Bocagrande entrance was closed in 1640, the defensive strategy of the bay changed, centering on Bocachica. This fact affected the existing fortresses of the bay, ordering their dismantling in 1647 to reuse the materials in the construction of San Luis de Bocachica. Notwithstanding, Castillogrande would survive until the French attack led by the Baron De Pointis in 1697, when it was severely ruined.
- Juan de Herrera y Sotomayor considered it key for the defense of the port, therefore, in 1728 he directed its reconstruction which was not completed when Vernon attacked the city. The fortress was partially destroyed and would not be rebuilt, its remains being used from then on as ammunition for the artillery. This use continued until 1938, when an explosion in a munitions deposit maintained there by the Navy destroyed its vaults, leaving only a portion of the rampart next to the port and other vestiges. It is currently integrated into the installations of the Officers' Club of the National Navy

43

### Fuerte San Sebastian del Pastelillo



44

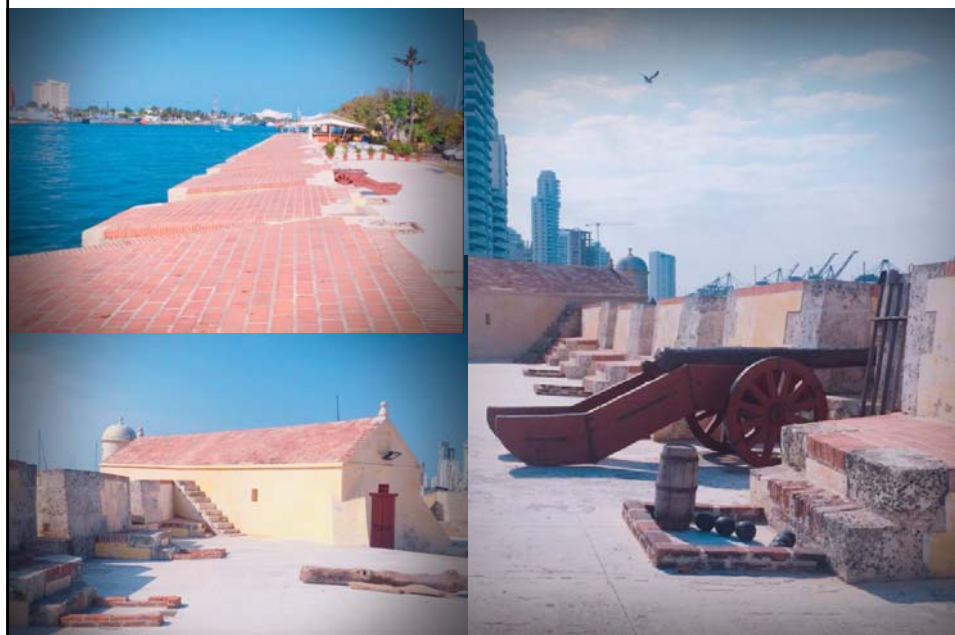


## Fuerte San Sebastian del Pastelillo

- The fortress of San Sebastián del Pastelillo, on the island of Manga, was constructed where the first fort of Cartagena, known as El Boquerón, was located. Built between 1741 and 1744 under orders of the viceroy, Sebastián de Eslava, it followed the plan of the engineer Juan Bautista Mac Evan and the direction of Carlos Desnaux, also an engineer.
- It was named San Sebastián in honor of the viceroy who ordered its construction and Pastelillo for its special shape like a “pie,” since it was controlled by the lighthouses of the city which prevented the enemy from remaining there in case it was seized.
- San Sebastián defends the entrance to the Bay of Animas and access to the city from the Island of Manga. It has an irregular base adapted to the land, surrounded by a wall with embrasures, a guard squad, a cistern, a castle warden’s quarters, a warehouse and a pier.

45

## Fuerte San Sebastian del Pastellio



46

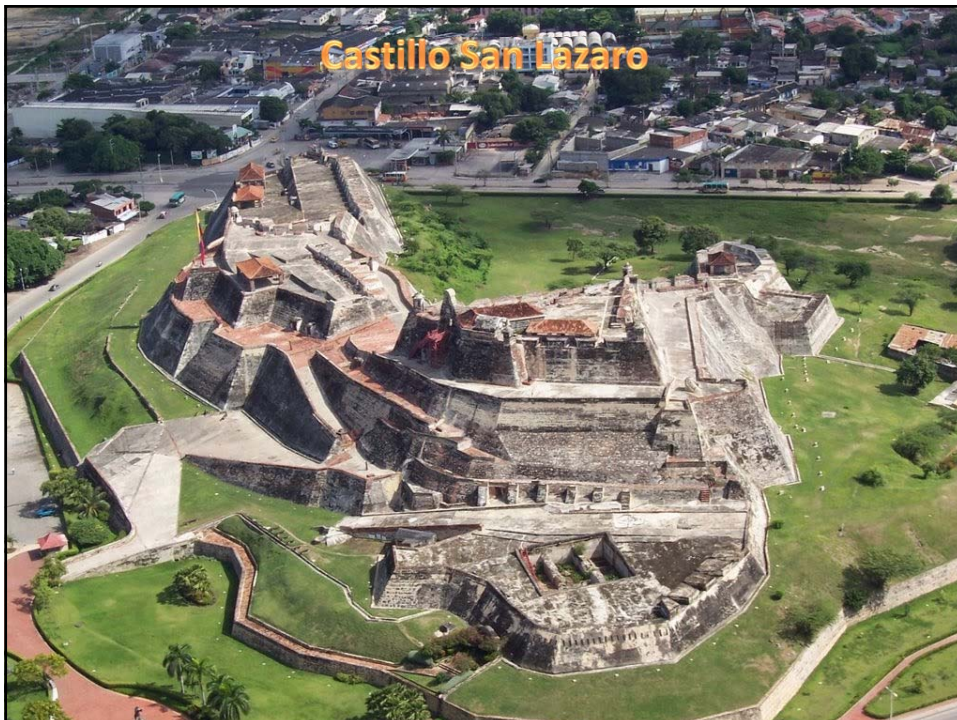


### Castillo San Felipe de Barajas, San Lázaro Hill

The fortress was begun in 1536. It was significantly expanded in 1657. It was built in a triangular shape on top of the hill, with eight batteries and a garrison of 20 soldiers and 4 gunners. Its name was given in honour of Philip IV of Spain. The different levels have batteries, squares, and checkpoints outside and a labyrinthine network of tunnels and interior rooms inside.



47



48



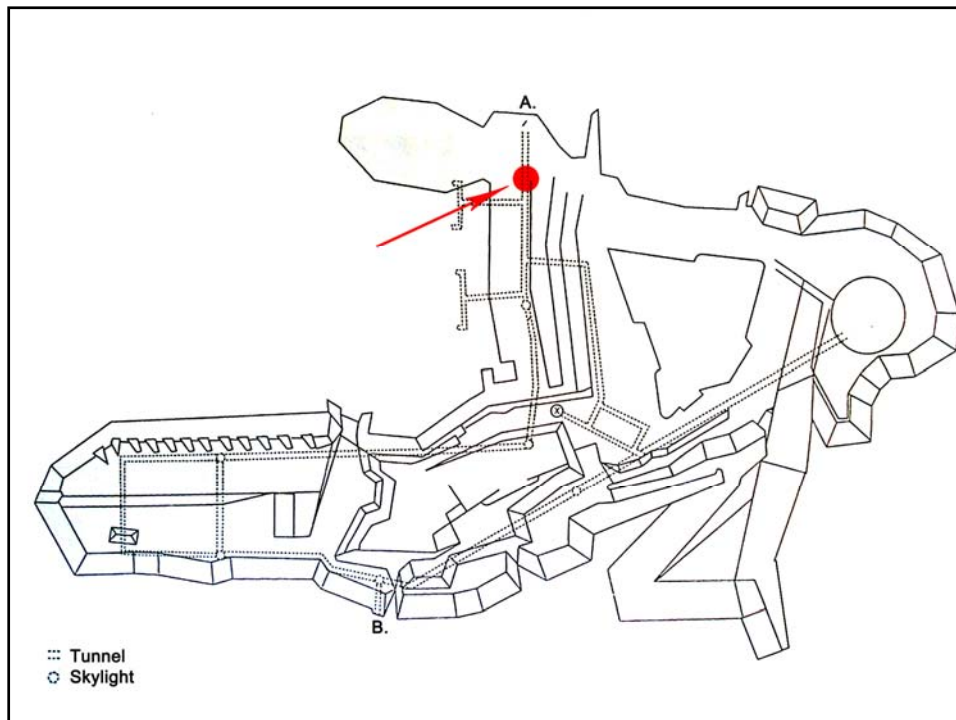


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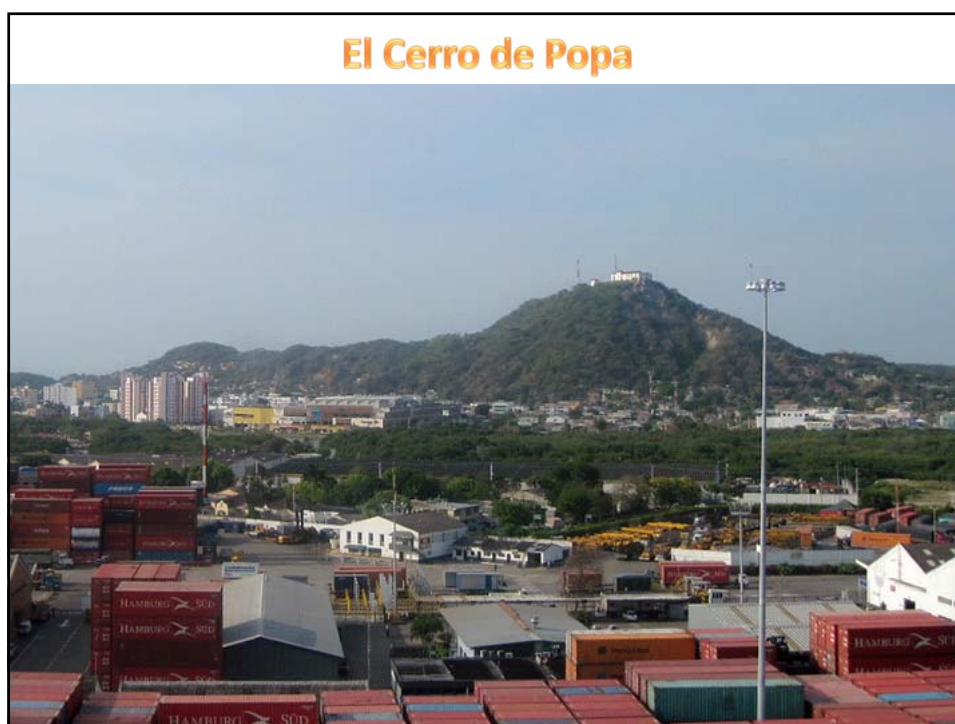


51



52





53





54










55

Mustered Force*			
● Ships	<u>180-195</u>	<u>6</u>	
● Third-rate ships of the line (80-90 guns)	8	-	
● Fourth-rate ships of the line (50-70)	28	6	
● Fifth-rate ship of the line (40)-Frigate	12	-	
● Hospital ships	2	-	
● Transport boats	130	-	
● Troops	<u>22,600</u>	<u>3,810</u>	
● Regular soldiers	6,237 English	2,230 Spanish	
● Other soldiers	2,763 American	80 Gunners	
● Auxiliaries	1,000 Jamaican**	600 Indian***	
● Sailors	12,600	900	
● Cannons	<u>4,000</u>	<u>990</u>	
● Naval guns	2,620	360	
● Field guns	1,380	630	

NOTES: \* As at~13 March showing attrition to date; \*\* Macheteros; \*\*\* Indigenous archers.


56



Rating of Royal Navy Ships (pre 1756)							
Type		Rate	Guns	Gun decks	Crew	Approx. burthen (tons)	
Ship of the line or great frigate		1st rate	100+	3	850 to 875	2,500	
		2nd rate	90 to 98	3	700 to 750	2,200	
		3rd rate	64 to 80	2	500 to 650	1,750	
		4th rate	50 to 60	2	320 to 420	1,000	
Great frigate or frigate		5th rate	32 to 44	1 to 2	200 to 300	700 to 1,450	
Frigate or post ship		6th rate	28	1	200	450 to 550	
			20 to 24	1	140 to 160	340 to 450	
Sloop-of-war		Unrated	16 to 18	1	90 to 125	380	
Gun-brig, brig, cutter, or schooner			4 to 14	1	20 to 90	< 220	

57

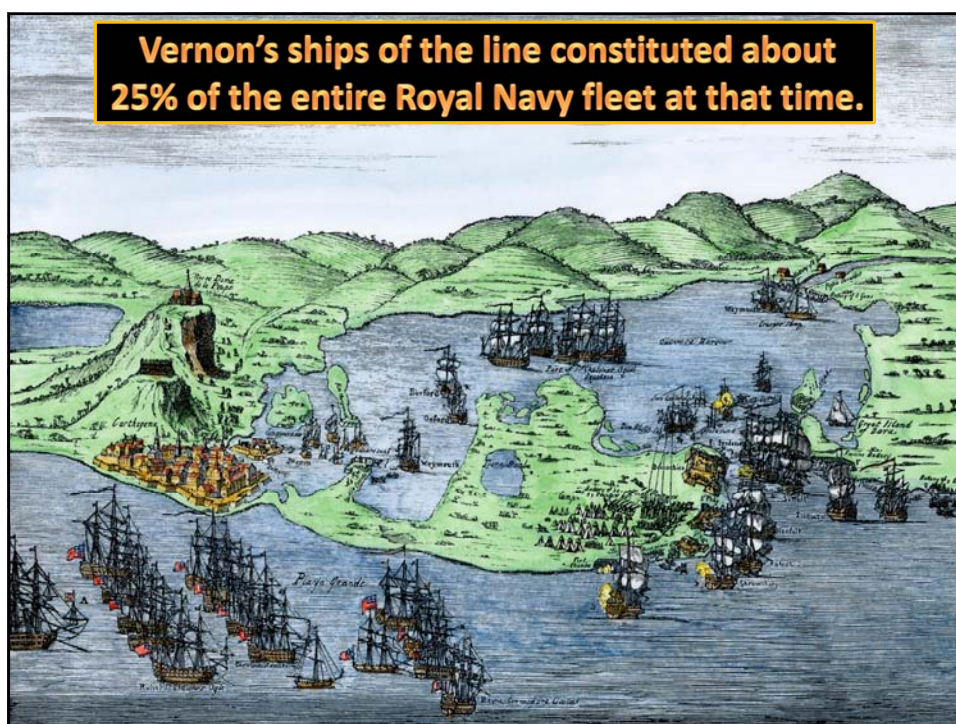
### HMS Shrewsbury



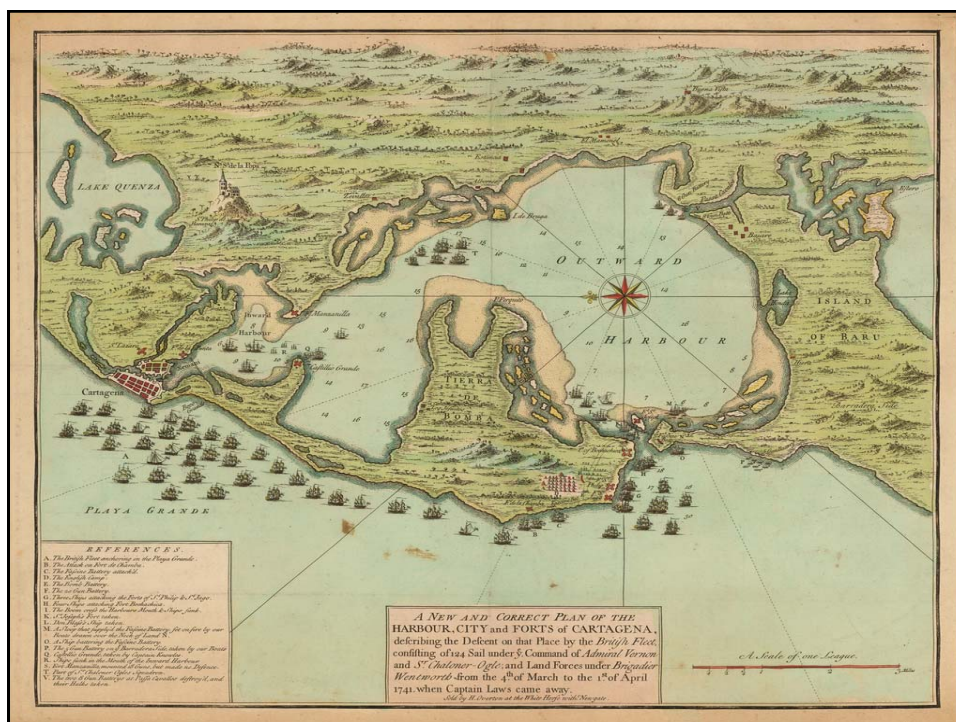
- **HMS Shrewsbury** was a three-decker 80-gun third-rate ship of the line of the Royal Navy, launched at Portsmouth Dockyard on 6 February 1695.
- The *Shrewsbury* was part of Vice-Admiral Edward Vernon's fleet and took part in the expedition to Cartagena de Indias during the War of Jenkins' Ear.
- *Shrewsbury* continued in service until 1749, when she was broken up.

58





59



60





61

### Admiral Vernon's line of battle - I

- The Princess Amelia to lead with the starboard, and the Suffolk with the Larboard Tacks on Board.
- But if I shall find it necessary, from the different motions of the enemy, to change our order of battle, to have those who are now appointed to lead on the Starboard Tack, to continue to lead the fleet on the Larboard Tack on our going about, or those now to lead on the Larboard Tack, on the contrary to do the same, as the Exigency of the Service may require; I will with my Signal for Tacking, hoist a Dutch Jack on the flag staff, under the Union Flag, the usual signal for Tacking, when they are to continue to lead the fleets on their respective tacks accordingly.
- When the Admiral would speak with the Captain of any ship undermentioned, he will raise a pendent, as against the ships name, and of the colour set above it; if a Lieutenant, the same signal with a west of the ensign; and if a boat without an officer, the west will be hoisted but half staff up.

62



## Admiral Vernon's line of battle - II

- When I would have any of the Fireships, Bombs, or Tenders, taken in tow at the same time, I make the signal for the Ship that is to tow, and for the Ship that is to be tow'd I will hoist up a Flag Blue and White, at the Flag Staff of the main-top mast head.
- When the Ships are in Line of Battle, the Frigates, Fireships, Bombs, and Tenders, are to keep on the opposite side of the enemy, when I make the Signal in Line of Battle, for the Van of the Fleet to tack, first in order to gain the Windward of the enemy, then each ship is to tack in the head most ships weak, for losing no ground.
- For all other signals they are referred to the General Printed Sailing and Fighting Instructions.



General Printed Sailing  
and Fighting Instructions

63

## Extract of a letter from Cartagena

A gentleman from onboard the Shrewsbury writes us thus.

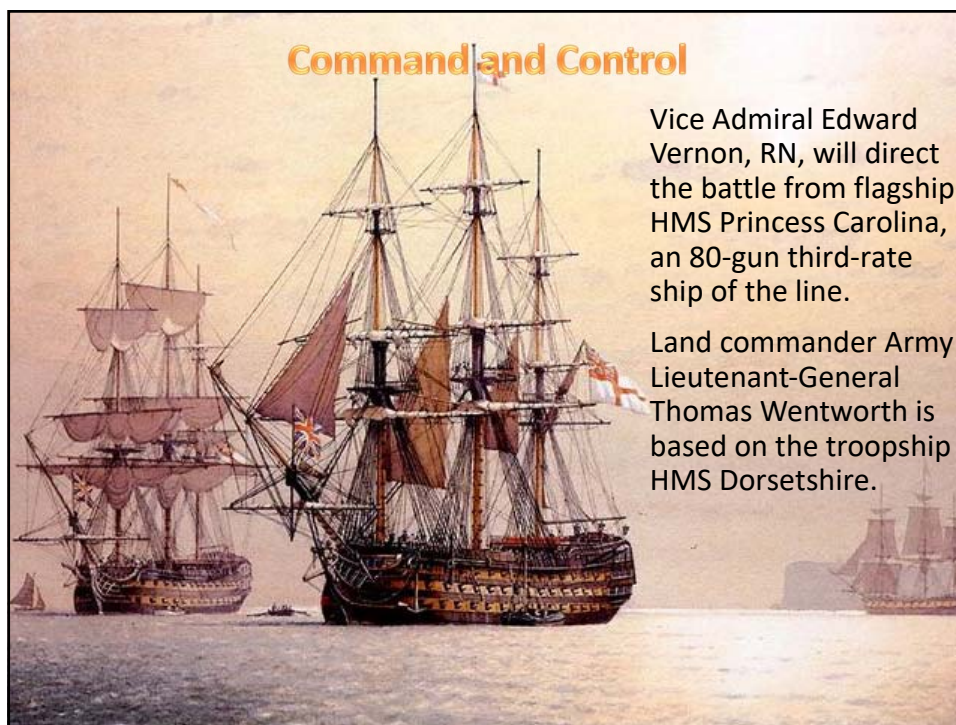
- As our ship was one of the ordered to the attack of the Forts St. San Luga and St. Philip, our cable was unluckily shot before we could bring her up, and we drove towards the mouth of the Harbour, into the midst of the enemy, having a battery of 15 guns, the forts of Bocca Chica and St. Joseph, with four men of war, all firing at us together, with about a 160 guns, which we could return with only 26.
- In this situation we engaged seven hours, when, to our no small joy, night coming on, put a stop to the enemies firing, and we weighed our anchor, and went about our business.
- We had 20 men killed and 40 wounded, 16 shot between wind and water, 250 shot in our hull and our masts, yards, and rigging shot to pieces.

64





65



66





67

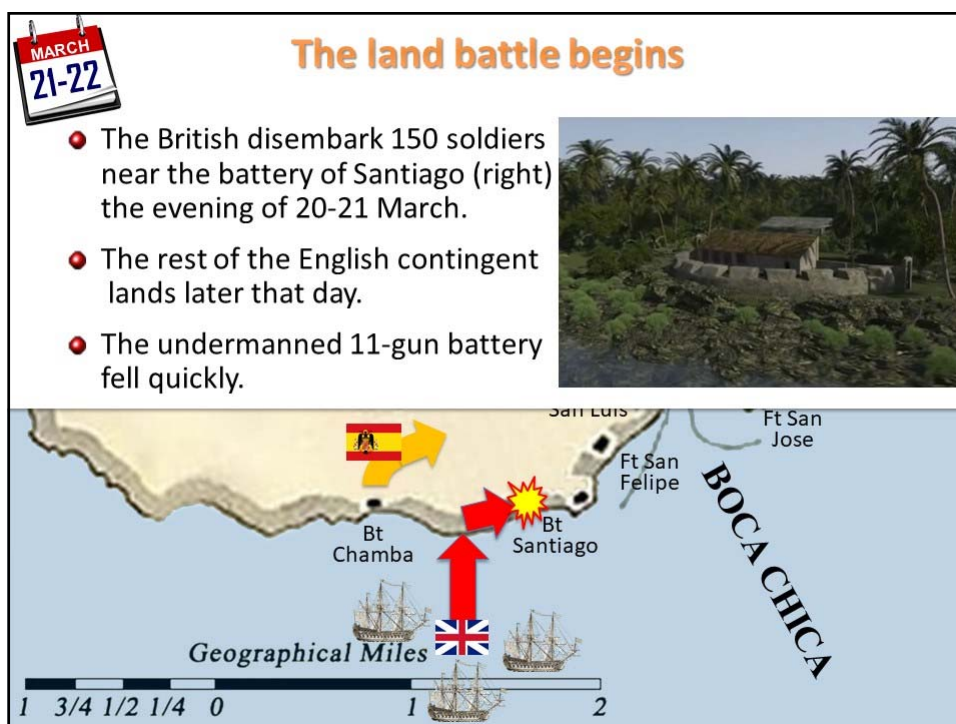


68






69



70






**MARCH 24**

## Blas de Lezo's cunning plan

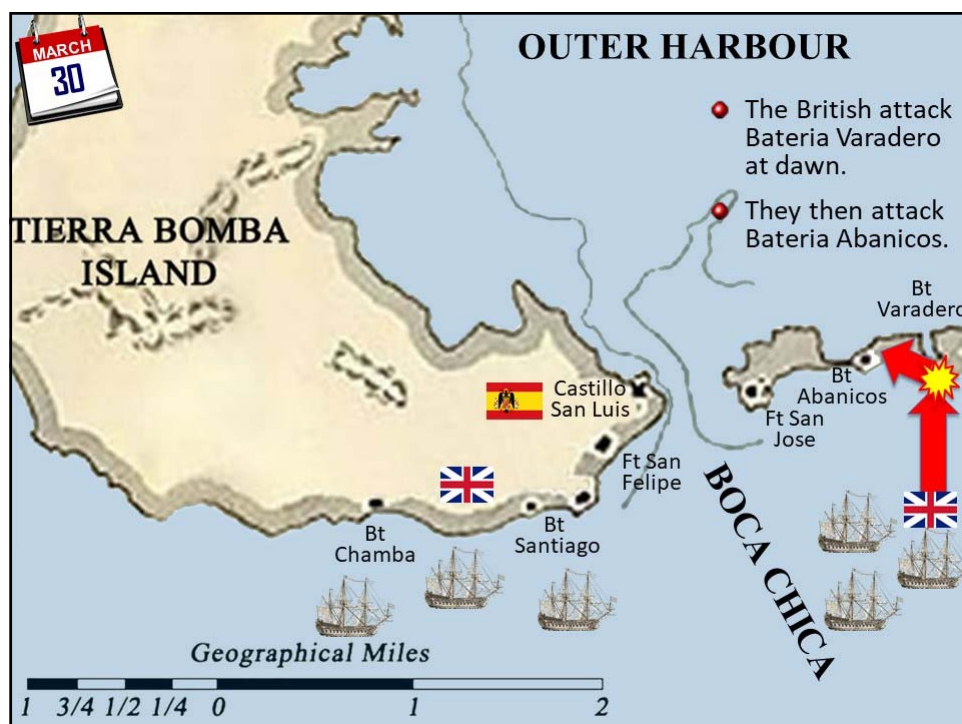
- Given the overwhelming force against the defenders, Don Blas de Lezo's planned to conduct a fighting withdrawal and delay the British long enough until the start of the rainy season at the end of April.

Tropical downpours which commenced in late April each year would effectively end campaigning for at least two months.

- On 24 April, Blas de Lezo ordered a staged orderly withdrawal to begin from the outer harbour to the four fortifications guarding Cartagena's inner harbour.
- Troops from the exposed batteries of Chamba and San Filipe (right) were withdrawn.



71



72





## The not-so-cunning British plan

- A general council of war was held on the Princess Caroline at which it was resolved to land troops and invest Cartagena.
- Based on the plan, Admiral Vernon sent a letter 1 April to Admiral Sir Charles Wager in Whitehall describing the operations of the expedition to date including the taking of the Bocachica forts. It also described the planned assault.
- In the meantime, Generals Wentworth and Guise returned to the HMS Dorsetshire transport, and sent a letter 2 April to Admiral Vernon advising that they had insufficient troops to capture the main fortress at San Lazaro. They requested reinforcement by Vernon's Marines and the 1,500 men of the American Regiment, who were spread throughout the fleet guarding individual ships.

Three interesting developments arose from the two grey dot point items above.

73



## Britain went wild with joy



- Details of Admiral Vernon's 1 April letter "inadvertently" were "leaked" to the British press.
- Headlines trumpeted "**VERNON'S GREAT VICTORY**" and "**VERNON'S CAPTURE OF CARTAGENA**".
- The enthusiastic British public celebrated wildly! Victory parades were held and commemorative victory coins sold out.



Stocks of official commemorative coins were soon exhausted, supplemented by hastily minted unofficial coins from over 40 sources of variable repute.



74





## Captain Lawrence Washington



- Among the four captains in Gooch's American Regiment of Foot was Lawrence Washington, the older half-brother of George, who later became the first USA President.
- Captain Washington was assigned as captain of the guard on Admiral Vernon's flagship HMS Princess Caroline. He dined with the Admiral and developed a healthy admiration for him.
- Upon return to Virginia, he named his estate **Mount Vernon**.



75



## The 43<sup>rd</sup> Regiment of Foot



- For the expedition, the British raised the 43d Regiment of Foot in the American Colonies, under command of former Virginia Governor Spotswood, who died and was replaced by the then current Governor Colonel William Gooch. Called Gooch's Marines, the 3,600 American troops served admirably at Cartagena, suffering heavy casualties. Gooch himself was wounded during the attack on Fort Lazaro when a cannon ball brushed both ankles, causing pain the rest of his life.



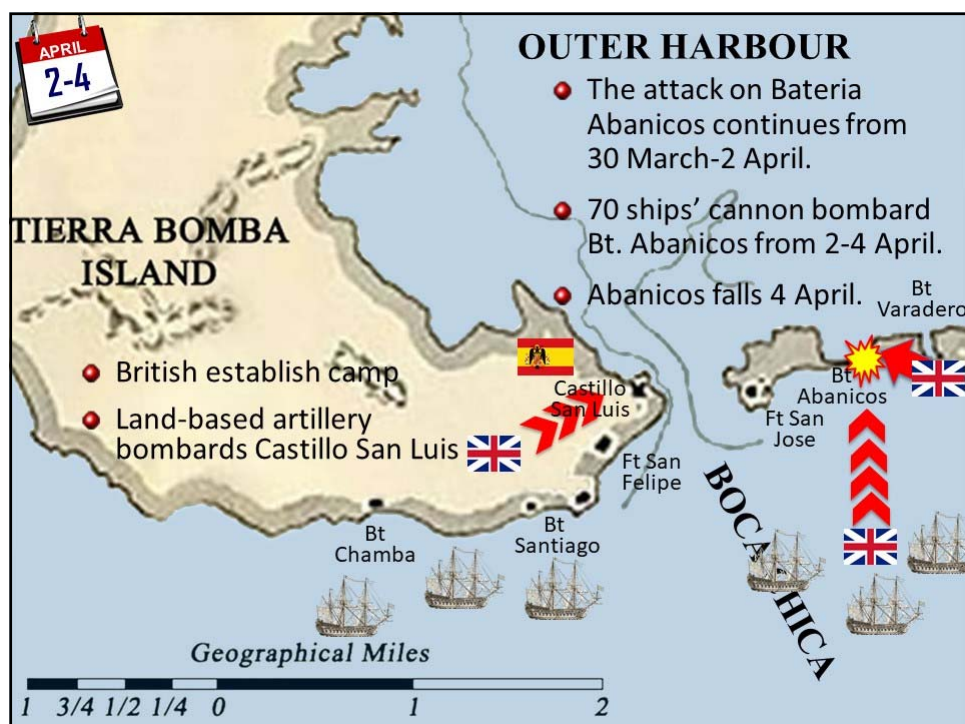
- Gooch's Marines are considered the forerunners and origin of the **United States Marine Corps**.
- An able political administrator while governor from 1727-1749, Sir William was made a baronet in 1746 and promoted to major-general. He retired to England in 1749 and died two years later.



Officially formed  
10 November 1775

76





77

**APRIL 3**

### The empire strikes back

- A navy council of war was held on the Princess Caroline by Vernon, Ogle and Lestock (and excluding Wentworth and Guise) to discuss the Army demands for reinforcements by fleet personnel.
- The council reiterated the advantages gained by the Navy including naval gunnery and derring-do. It noted the necessary requirements to secure the fleet's ships from Spanish misadventure.
- The council concluded that the number of troops requested was unnecessary. The request was rejected.
- Direct orders were given for an imminent attack. Wentworth was directed to present a detailed plan of attack on 4 April for Vernon's review.

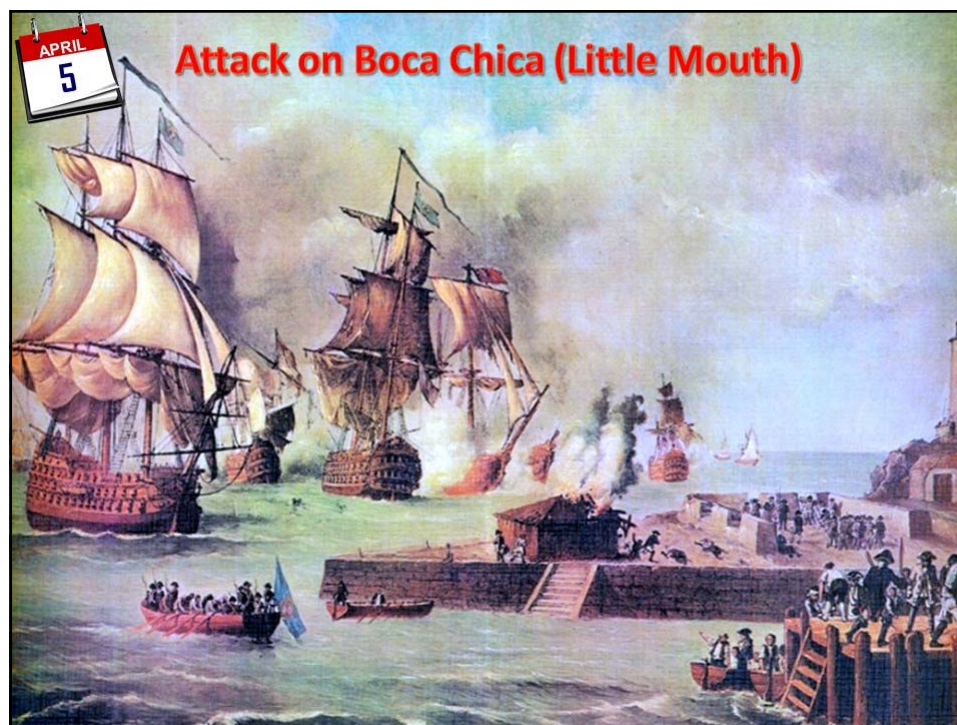
78



## Yessir! Thank you, sir!

- Wentworth sent Vernon the plan of attack by letter from HMS Dorsetshire. It covered the plan for landing of the troops, logistics, command and signals, etc.
  - Naval support requested included boats to debark troops, communications, etc.
  - Naval gunfire was also requested.
- Vernon responded from HMS Princess Caroline agreeing to furnish boats for debarking troops. Naval gunfire support was not mentioned, but Vernon pressed on Wentworth the necessity of pushing matters expeditiously.
- Wentworth responded by letter to Vernon designating troops to be embarked.

79

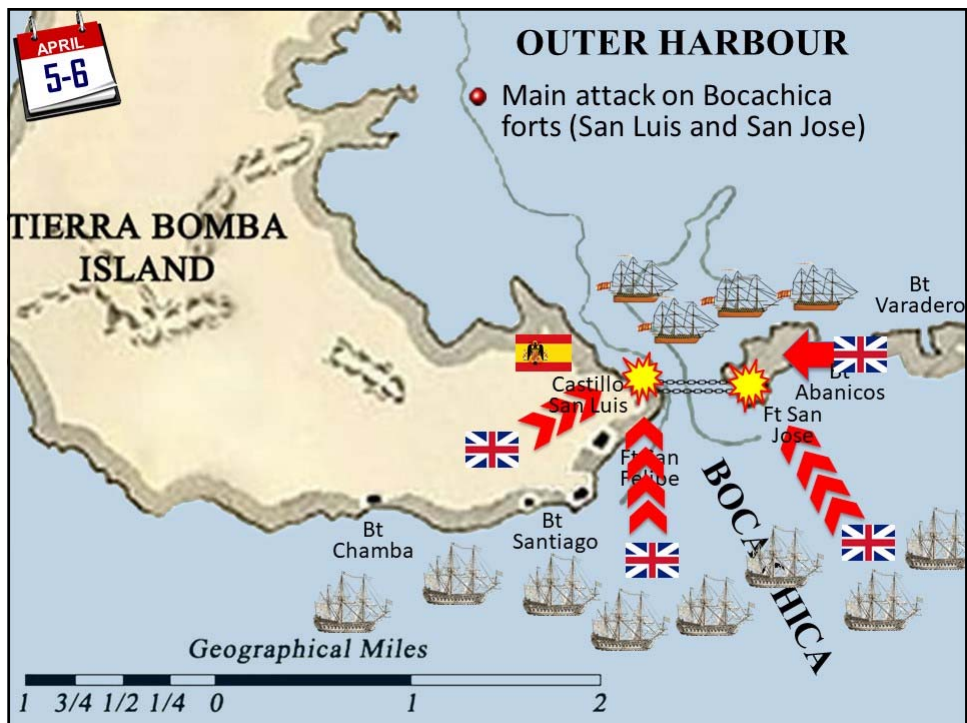


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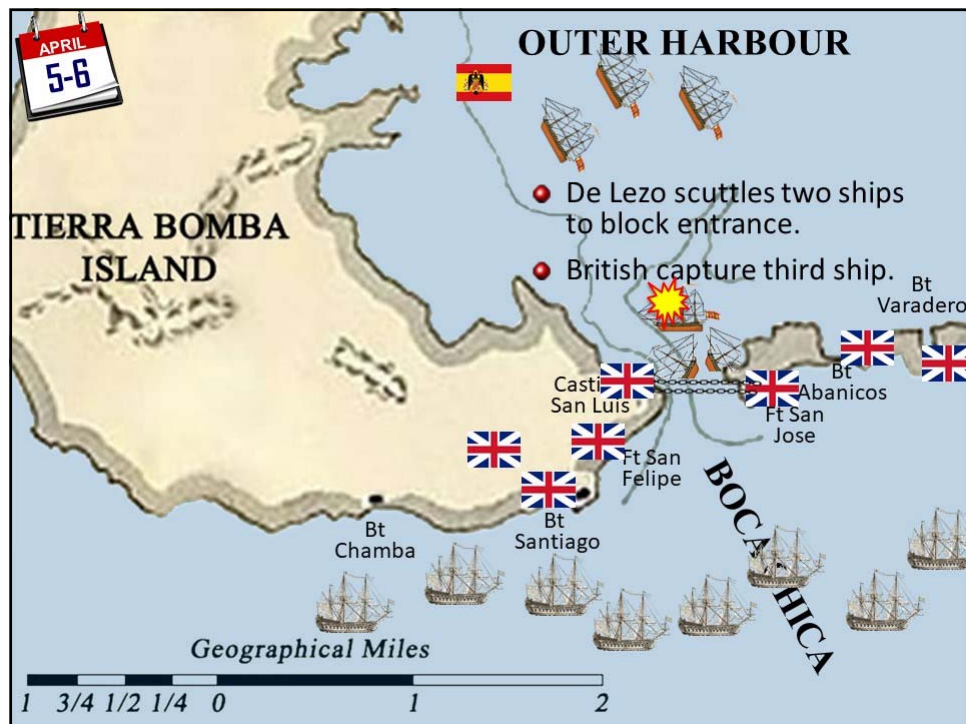


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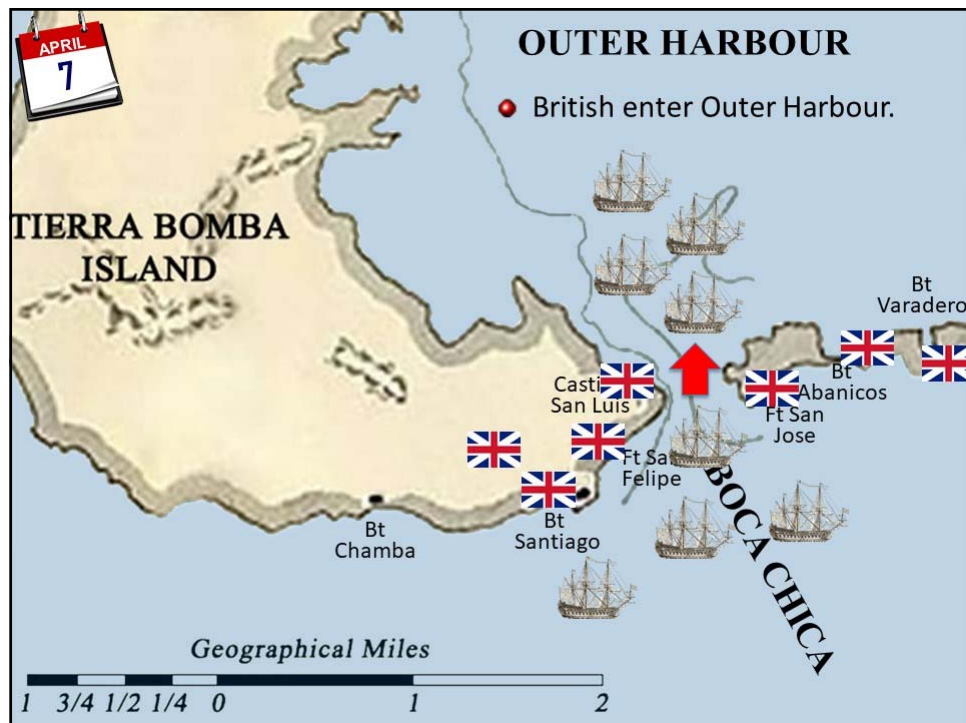


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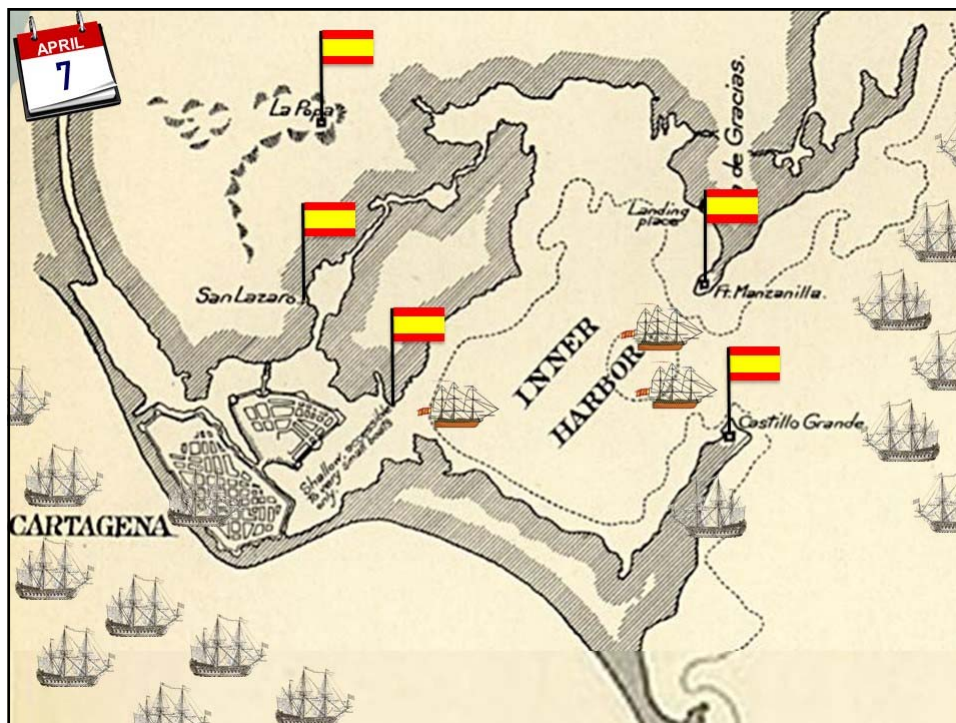


84





85



86





### A paper war now ensues

- Wentworth sent Vernon letter requesting boats for landing facines, ships to shell Lazaro, and American reinforcements.
- Vernon and Ogle sent letter to Wentworth urging speedy action; requesting plan for investing the town; recommending summons to surrender be sent to Blas de Lezos.
- Wentworth letter to Vernon stressed walls of Lazaro must be breached and requesting ships to bombard it. He wanted to erect batteries to breach walls of Lazaro.
- Vernon, having heard from British prisoners in Cartagena, sent letter to Wentworth complaining works could have been carried the first day if assault had been pushed with vigour. In his view, erecting batteries against so small a fort as Lazaro is a great waste of time; navy has fulfilled every duty and will continue to comply with every request practicable whilst denying ships to shell Lazaro and reinforcements.

87



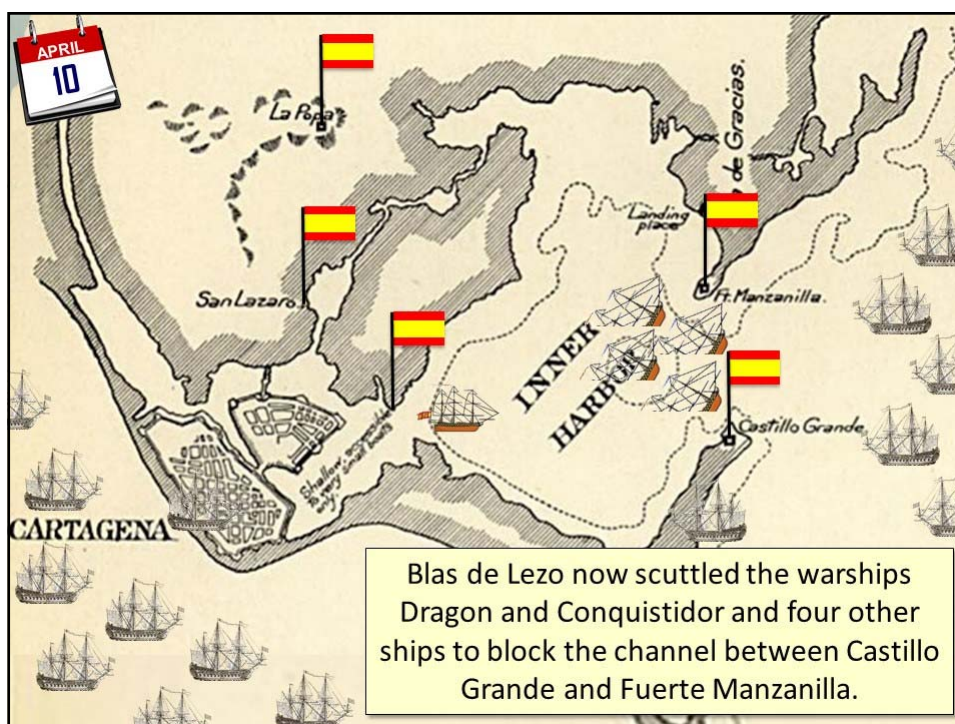
88





The fortress dominated approaches to Cartagena by land or sea. Begun in the 1536, it was expanded in 1657.

89



90



Divers off Fort Manzanilla recently found this cannon from one of the scuttled ships. The fort now houses Columbia's Naval Academy.



91

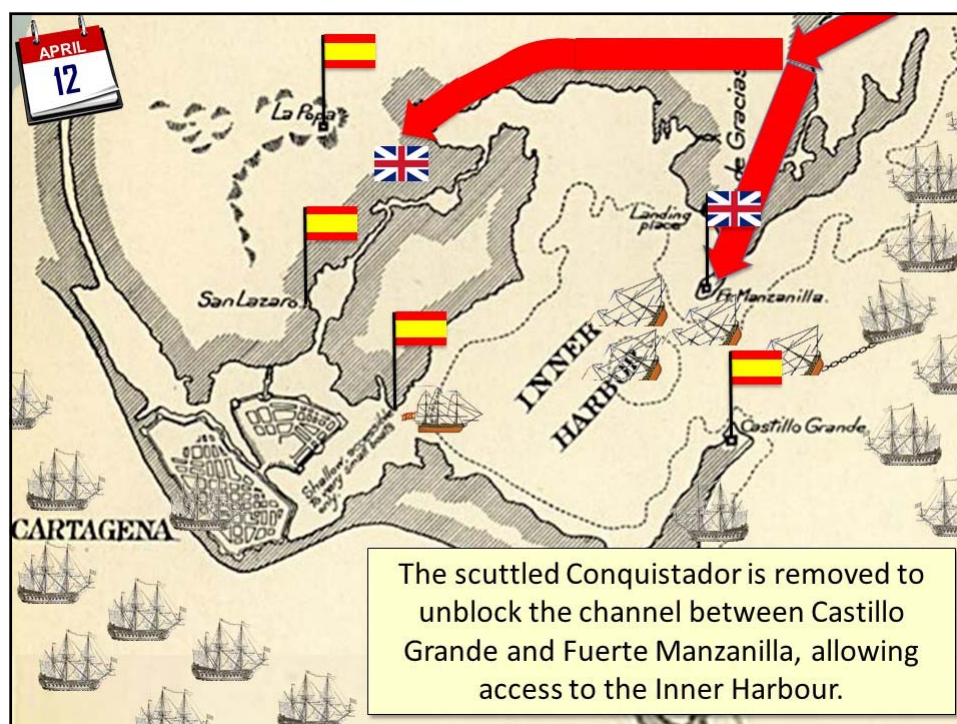
### The real war continues

- Wentworth held an army council of war to determine how to attack the Inner Harbour forts with his rapidly dwindling number of army troops, less those Vernon still had guarding the ships at sea. No solutions were forthcoming.
- Wentworth sent Vernon a letter reiterated how he had insufficient troops to capture Lazaro. He stated that if Vernon could not provide batteries and troops, the expedition should be abandoned.
- Meanwhile, Wentworth's troops landed and assaulted Ft Manzanilla only to find it deserted. Army losses due to combat and disease mount.
- Wentworth set up army camp at La Quinta.


An aerial photograph of a coastal fortification, likely Fort Manzanilla. The fort is a large, circular stone structure with a central tower. A Spanish flag (red and yellow) is flying from a pole on a small island to the left of the fort. A British flag (Union Jack) is flying from a pole on the fort itself. The surrounding area is lush with green vegetation and palm trees, and the water is a clear turquoise color.

92






93



APRIL 12

### Now back to the real paper war

- Another Vernon council of war on the HMS Princess Carolina heard the representations of the 10 April council of war of land forces and its unanimous opinion of inadvisability of continuing the siege. The navy surprisingly concurred in same and recommended method and plan of re-embarcation.




APRIL 13

- Wentworth held another council of war and noted neglect of the navy to furnish support and supplies. He sent another letter reiterating necessity of retreat.
- Vernon and Ogle responded denying implications and recitals of things navy had done and not done. Vernon reversed earlier concurrence with withdrawal and ordered assault on San Lazaro from the land. Naval cannonade commenced.


94





### A general council of war on end strategy

- Vernon convened a general council of war on HMS Princess Carolina; noted army strength daily decreasing through sickness, unanimously agreed to raise the siege; artillery to be embarked first. Forts would be blown up. Wentworth to plab embarkation.




- Wentworth letter to Vernon with detailed plan for embarkation of troops.
- Vernon responded with alternate arrangements for embarking troops. They are to disembark on the Jefar coast and camp in La Quinta and in the Jefar de Lozano the night of 16 April before occupying El Cerro de Popa on the 17<sup>th</sup> to support the final attack on the Castillo San Felipe de Barajas on San Lázaro.

95




### A general council of war on end strategy

- 0400. The English army disembarked on the Jefar coast. They camped in La Quinta and in the Jefar de Lozano.

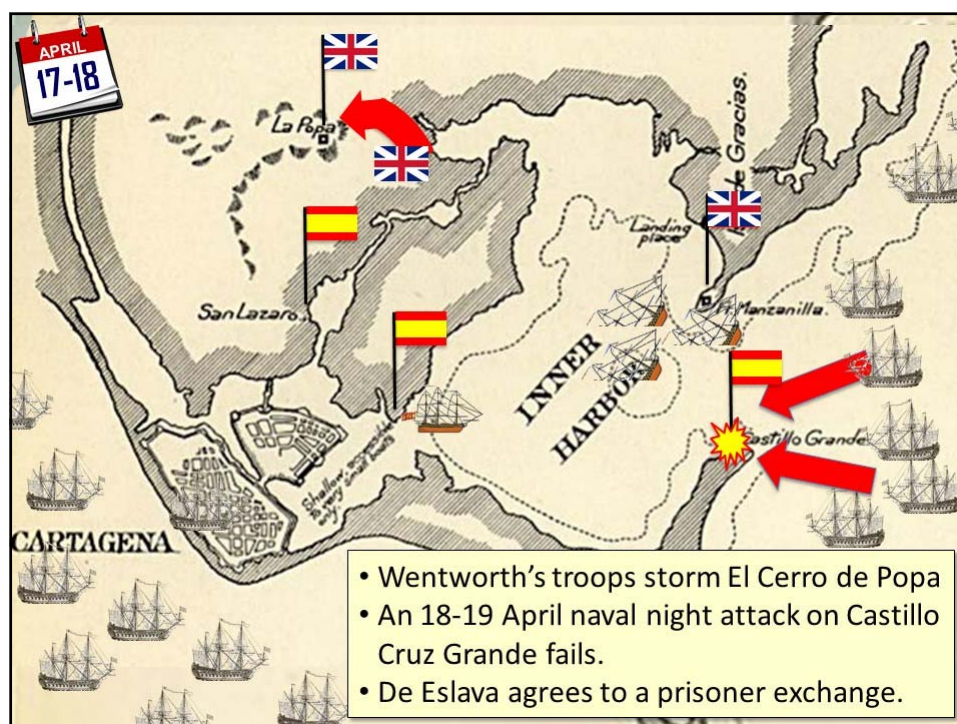


- A military unit attacked and occupied El Cerro de Popa.
- Admiral Vernon sent a letter to New Grenada Governor Sebastian de Eslava to propose an exchange of prisoners.



96





97

### English and Spanish exchange prisoners

- Admiral Vernon dispatched Spanish prisoners, padres, etc. to Cartagena with a covering letter to Governor de Enslava.
- Governor de Enslava sent Vernon a letter of thanks for the returned prisoners of war.
- Generals Wentworth and Guise rush together a plan of attack for assaulting el Castillo de San Felipe de Barajas with all the force they can muster (the Army having lost half their original strength of 12,000 by this time).
  - Artillery was rushed up to La Popa to fire down on the castle supporting a downhill infantry assault.
  - Vernon provided the 2,600 Americans, 800 sailors, and the Jamaican 1,000 Macheteros (labourers), bringing the land force up to 10,200.
  - The plan was to attack on all four sides at once.

98







### Enemy situation

Viceroy Sebastiano de Eslava and Admiral Don Blas de Lezo were fighting like cats and dogs. The governor was interfering in military decisions, and Lezo asked to be relieved.

Defences proposed by Lezo for La Popa, Manzanillo and Castillo Grande were overruled, and many left helpless.

The focus was on defending the walls of the city, defended by 650 soldiers with a reserve of 200 sailors.

The fortress had only about 600 defenders, half sailors who manned the castle's cannons.

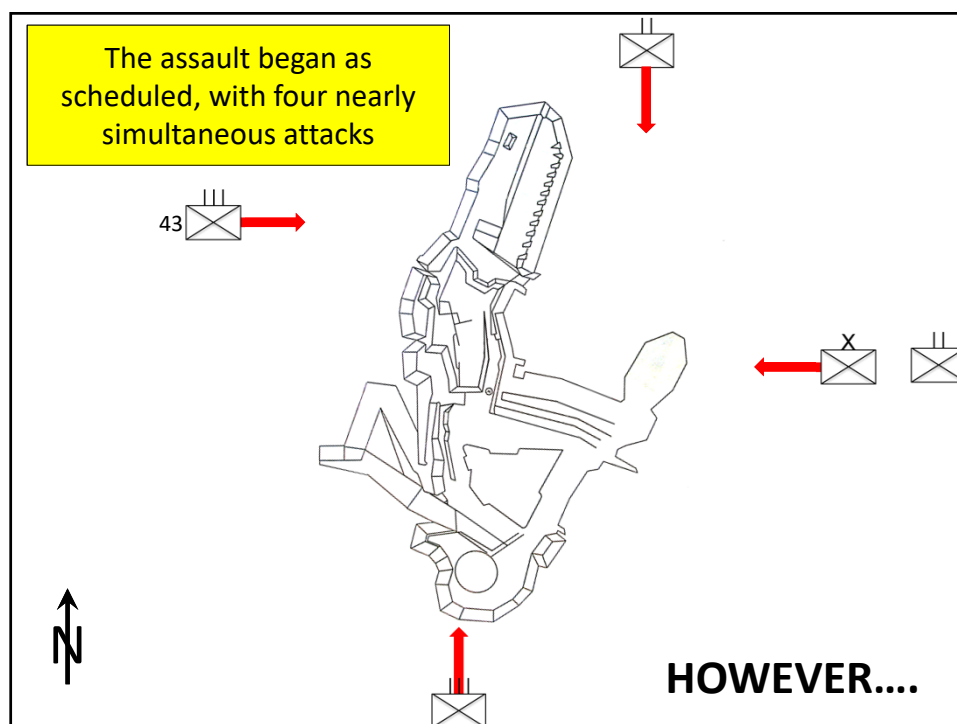
The steep slope on the east made attack from there unlikely.

Attack from west was unlikely due to overlook by the town.

The castle was built to protect from an attack from the south.

Northerly approach unlikely due to difficulty landing from sea.

101



102





103



104



The diversion from the north faced a u-shaped killing ground.



105

### What about the main attack from the east?

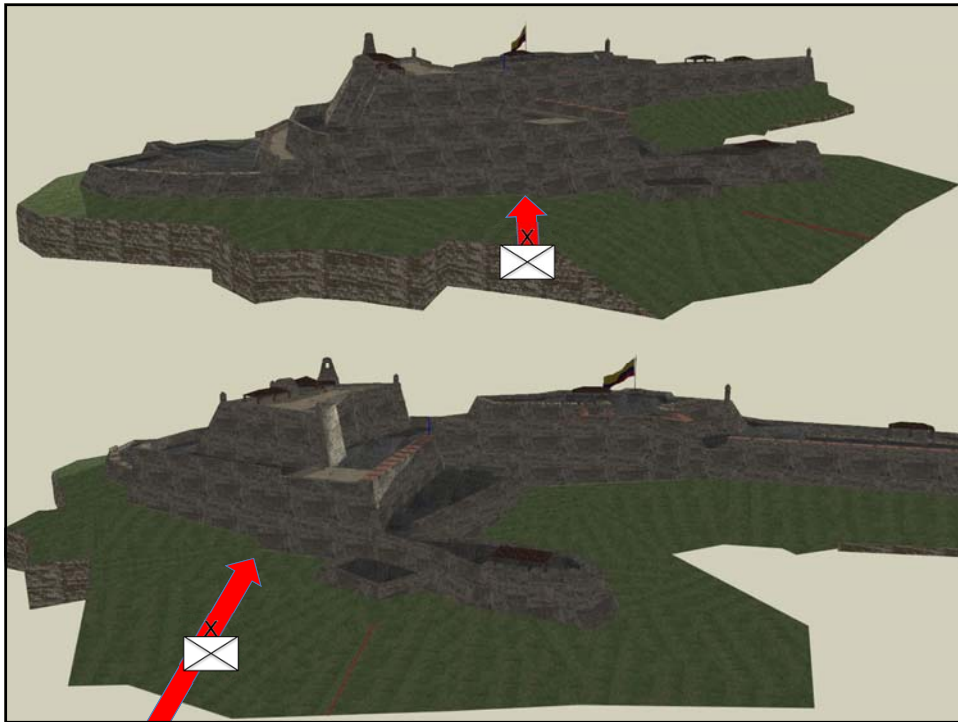
Even if they emerged at the shorter walls where expected, which they did NOT, their ladders would have been 2 metres too short.



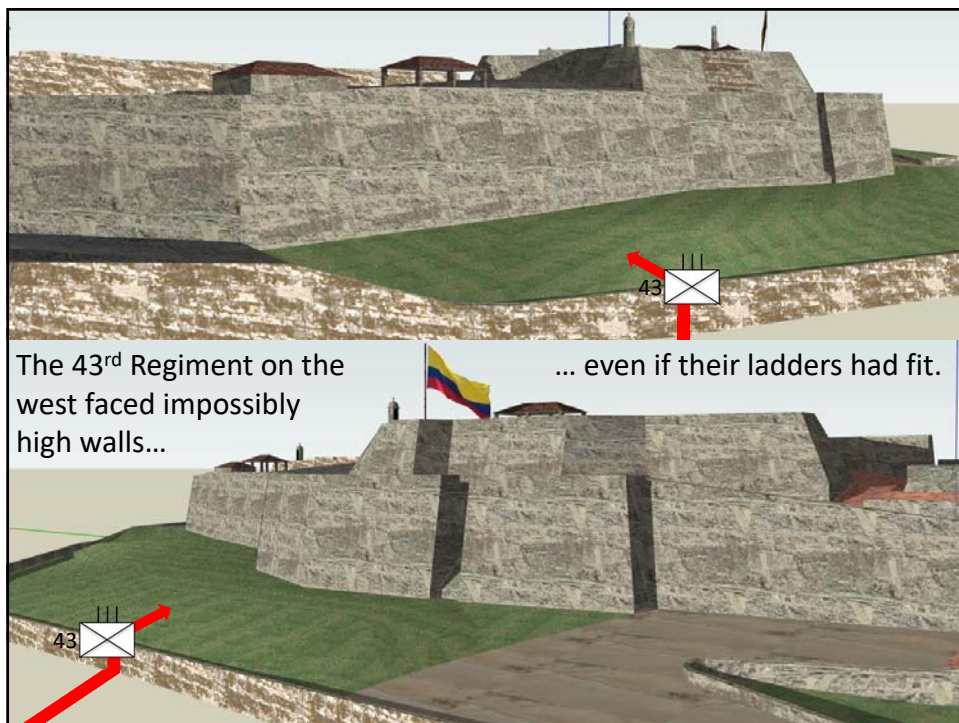
Precisely the depth of the trench that Don Blas had dug around the castle walls. Trenches filled with the 650 soldiers brought from town.

106





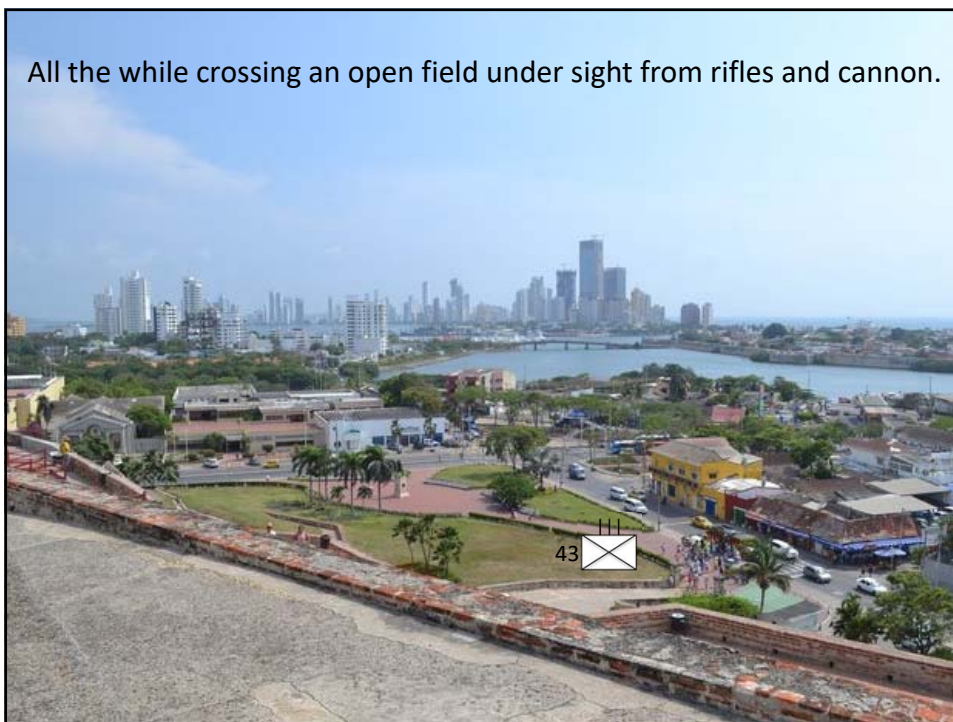
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108

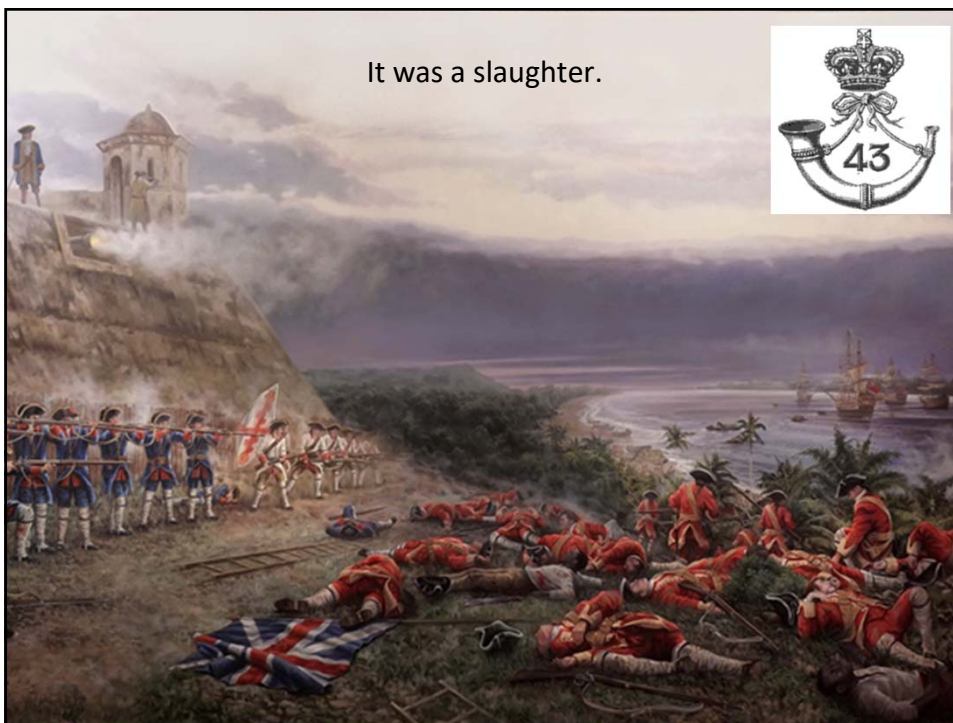


All the while crossing an open field under sight from rifles and cannon.



109

It was a slaughter.

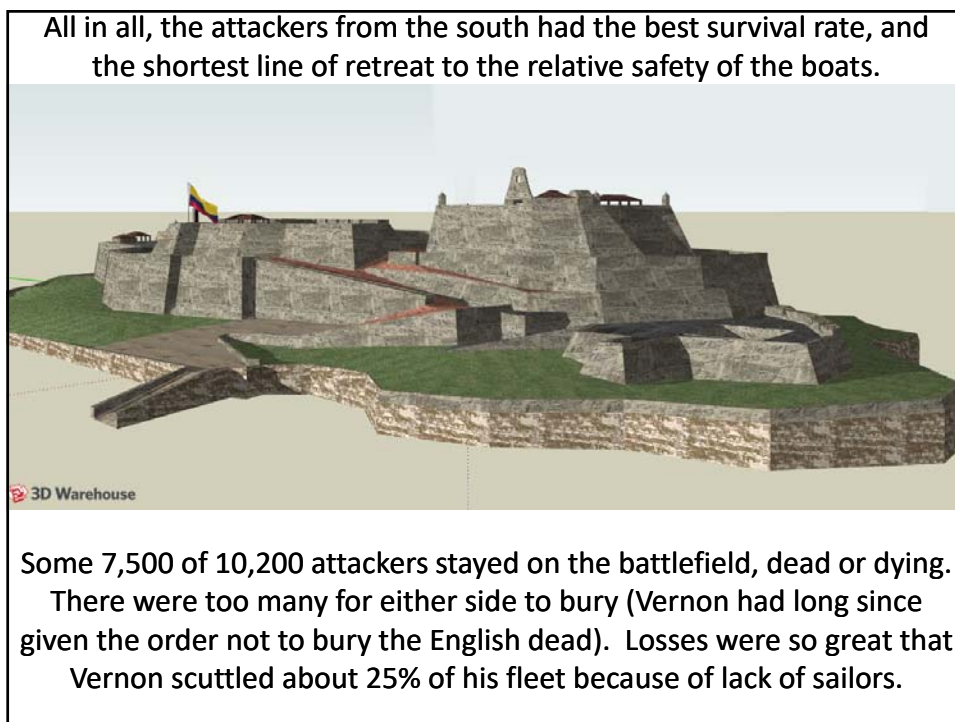


110













111



112



Battle of Cartagena de Indias (present Columbia)	
Belligerents	
 Great Britain	 Spain;  New Grenada/Possession
Commanders and leaders	
 Vice Admiral Edward Vernon, RN  LTG Thomas Wentworth	 Don Sebastián de Eslava, Governor  Admiral Don Blas de Lezo  Privateer Jose Polanco Campuzano
Strength	
<b>Military forces: 27,400–30,000</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>12,000 regulars, marines and militia</li> <li>15,398 Royal Navy sailors</li> </ul> Ships of the line: 29 Naval ships: 22 frigates; 71 sloops-of-war Other: 2 hospital ships; 80 troop ships 50 merchant ships	<b>Military forces: 3,000–4,000 militia</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2,700 regulars and 400 marines</li> <li>600 sailors and 300 militia</li> <li>600 native archers</li> </ul> Ships of the line: 6 Fortifications: 9 Numerous shore-based guns
Casualties	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>KIA/MIA: 9,500–11,500</li> <li>WIA: 7,500</li> <li>Guns lost: 1,500</li> <li>Ships of the line*: 6 lost, 17 damaged</li> <li>Other ships*: 4 frigates, 27 transports</li> </ul> * Many abandoned for lack of crews	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>KIA/MIA: 800</li> <li>WIA: 1,200</li> <li>Batteries lost: 3; Forts lost: 5</li> <li>Ships lost: 6 (100%)</li> </ul>

113

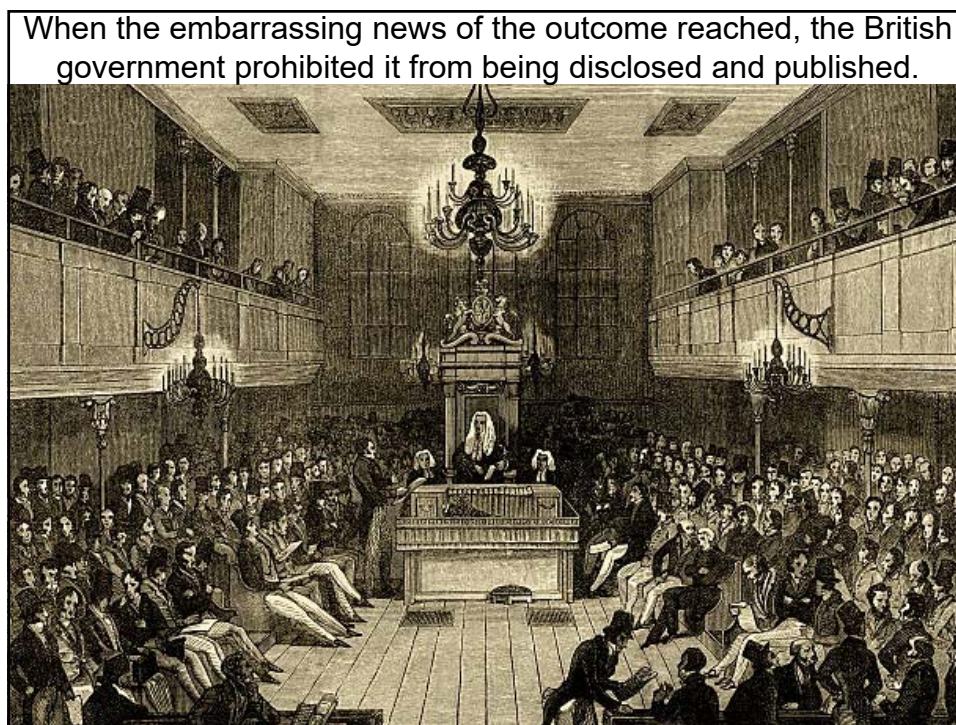


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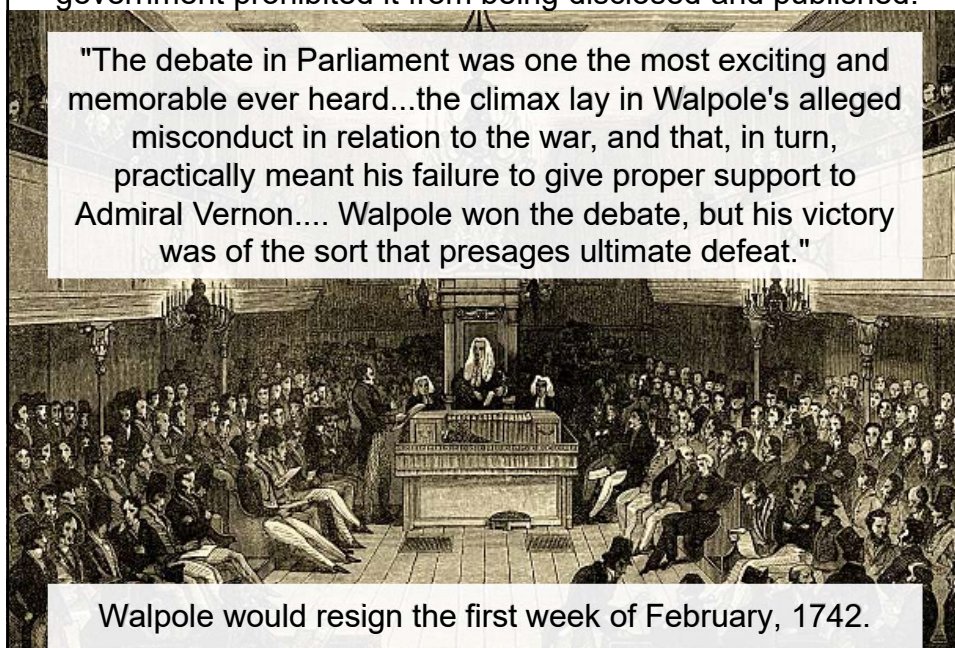


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When the embarrassing news of the outcome reached, the British government prohibited it from being disclosed and published.

"The debate in Parliament was one the most exciting and memorable ever heard...the climax lay in Walpole's alleged misconduct in relation to the war, and that, in turn, practically meant his failure to give proper support to Admiral Vernon.... Walpole won the debate, but his victory was of the sort that presages ultimate defeat."



Walpole would resign the first week of February, 1742.

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### Cartagena weakened Britain's hand abroad



Spain retained control over its lucrative colony and a strategic port in the Caribbean to secure defense of the Spanish Main.

News of Britain's defeat reached Europe at the end of June, 1741 and had immense repercussions. George II of Great Britain, who had been mediating between Frederick the Great of Prussia and Maria Theresa of Austria, withdraw British guarantees of armed support. That encouraged France and Spain, the Bourbon allies, revealed now to also be allied with Prussia, to move militarily against a now isolated Austria.

A greater and wider war, The War of the Austrian Succession, was now inevitable.

What was left of Vernon's naval forces was forced to remain in the Caribbean. Britain's weakened Mediterranean fleet was unable to prevent the Spanish from convoying troops to Italy.

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## War of the Austrian Succession

The War of the Austrian Succession (1740–48) – also known as King George's War in North America, and incorporating the War of Jenkins' Ear with Spain and two of the three Silesian wars – involved nearly all the powers of Europe, except for the Portuguese and Ottoman Empires and the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth.

The war began under the pretext that Maria Theresa of Austria was ineligible to succeed to the Habsburg thrones of her father, Charles VI, because Salic law precluded royal inheritance by a woman, though in reality this was a convenient excuse put forward by Prussia and France to challenge Habsburg power.

Austria was supported by Great Britain and the Dutch Republic, the traditional enemies of France, as well as the Kingdom of Sardinia and Saxony. France and Prussia were allied with the Electorate of Bavaria.

The war ended with the Treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle in 1748. The most enduring military historical interest and importance of the war lies in the struggle of Prussia and the Habsburg monarchs for the region of Silesia.

It also re-established Spanish influence in northern Italy, further reversing an Austrian dominance over the Italian peninsula that was achieved at the expense of Spain as a consequence of that country's own war of succession earlier in the 18th century.

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## An Alleged Correspondence

After the defeat, Admiral Vernon allegedly sent a letter to Blas de Lezo, which read:



"We have decided to retreat, but we will return to Cartagena after we take reinforcements in Jamaica."

Blas de Lezo allegedly responded,



"In order to come to Cartagena, the English King must build a better and larger fleet, because yours now is only suitable to transport coal from Ireland to London."



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### The Battery of Santa Bárbara

- This battery, projected by the governor Ignacio de Sala and named in honor of Barbara de Braganza, queen and consort of Ferdinand VI, was created to cross fire with San José and complete the defense of the Bocachica passage.
- Initiated in 1752 in the place called “Gateway of Remedios Pobres”, today part of the town of Bocachica, the Battery of Santa Barbara was a fort of twelve cannons, with a rectangular base having a trench and low-lying stonework.
- It also had rooms for the commander and the troops, a guard corps and a warehouse for explosives. Several tunnels connected Santa Barbara to the Angel San Rafael so that in case of attack, the troops would have a safe passage from one fort to the other. Currently only a part of the battery structure remains, in the area next to the Bocachica pier.



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## El Fuerte Batería del Ángel de San Rafael



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## Fuerte San Fernando de Bocachica

It is shaped like a horseshoe facing the sea with two large bulwarks on the northern side facing land, named the King and Queen. San Fernando was given an esplanade that ended in the empty space of a splendid moat twenty feet high without a covered walkway, nine bomb-proof vaults, and a hornwork facing the countryside.

The King's bulwark, on the west, faces the sea and is the most complete. It has thirteen cannons, a cistern, a covered walkway and a sentry-box. The Queen's bulwark, somewhat smaller, defends the castle from a land attack thanks to its eight cannons; it ends with a sentry-box and a cistern, just like the King's.



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## El Bouqueron



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