

Committee: Crew of Queen Anne's Revenge

Israel Hands-Sailing Master

Topic: Queen Anne's Revenge

The Golden Age of Piracy, during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, was the start of an era where privateers and sailors took advantage of the wars afflicting Europe at the time, in order to take over the cargo being sent across the Atlantic Ocean.<sup>i</sup> Amid the expansion of piracy, the War of Spanish Succession broke out from 1701-1714, when Charles II, a Spanish Habsburg, died without an heir. Yet, he had bestowed all of his possessions to Philip, Duke of Anjou as well as a grandson to King Louis XIV of France, and consequently became Philip V of Spain.<sup>ii</sup> In order to stop the expansion of the French as well as their alliance with the Spanish, the Holy Roman Empire, England, and the Dutch Republic worked together to defeat them. The war ended in the Treaty of Utrecht (1713) and Treaty of Rastatt (1714) paving way for English power in Europe as well as a peak in piracy.<sup>iii</sup>

At this time, Edward Teach, an experienced British privateer who had been previously given jurisdiction by Queen Anne of Britain to plunder French and Spanish ships during the War of Spanish Succession, now had joined a group of ruthless Caribbean pirates, the Flying Gang.<sup>iv</sup> In November of 1717, Teach captured a French slave ship known as *La Concorde* lead by Captain Pierre Dossett and Lieutenant Francois Ernaut.<sup>v</sup> The French slave ship had been sailing the infamous Middle Passage and it was taking a toll on the slaves and crewman, through scurvy and dysentery. So, by the time Edward Teach, now going by the name Blackbeard, reached the ship, they could not resist the pirates.<sup>vi</sup> Blackbeard was attracted to the ship for the fact that slave ships were often fast due to the fact they were designed to carry perishable cargo. Blackbeard took command of the slave ship, renamed it *Queen Anne's Revenge*, and added forty cannons to the ship making it one of the most fearsome warships of the era.<sup>vii</sup>

On board the *Queen Anne's Revenge* is I, Israel Hands a sailing master and first mate to Captain Blackbeard. Captain Blackbeard and I had assumed control of David Herriot's ship the *Adventure* in March of 1718, and gave it to me as acknowledgement of my increasing reign of power as well as ruthlessness as a pirate.<sup>viii</sup> To the general public most of my origin is unknown, and I will keep it that way, as I do not want false rumors spreading around about me.<sup>ix</sup> I do admit that I am a fearsome pirate, and no one better than I is fit to run my own sloop and be me Captain's loyal first mate.

One of the main problems we pirates face while sailing for long periods of time on the Atlantic Ocean is an outbreak of scurvy and dysentery. Scurvy affects teeth, turns them black, while dysentery affects the stomach and feces.<sup>x</sup> These ailments were are due to the fact that we do not immediate access to fresh fruits and water nor do pirates care about hygiene in the first place. To combat scurvy, I propose that we hornswaggle other pirates out of their oranges, lemons, and limes to have a plentiful stock of these fruits aboard our ship. Vitamin C is the cure to scurvy and so we must hoard these fruits on board, maybe even more than rum.<sup>xi</sup> In order to keep these fruits fresh, we must preserve them with sugar and water. Sugar is easy to obtain, as we can plunder small merchant ships for their cargo until we find what we need. On the other hand, dysentery requires fresh water, which is hard to come by. If it ever rains while on *Queen Anne's Revenge*, we must use a tarp or other gathering devices to collect the rain, as it is fresh

water. If our crew is desperate, we can always utilize the salt water and put it over a fire to distill it. To influence our crew members to keep good hygiene, especially in the mouth, we can add a law to the Pirate's Code on our ship to allow for a normal amount of cleanliness.

Another dangerous problem, that our crew could face is a storm, like a hurricane, that could destroy our beloved *Queen Anne's Revenge*. I suggest we buy (or steal) a mass amount of tarp to cover the deck of the ship so that it does not leak into our ship, causing it to sink at the hands of Davy Jones. We also must upkeep our ship to make sure there are no cracks where any amount of water could slip through. I can uphold a rigorous ship, threatening lazy crew members overboard as an example to other people on board. If our ship is not in top condition, as well as our own bodies, then we cannot even attempt to begin our careers of piracy on the *Queen Anne's Revenge*.

In addition to mother nature's problems, there may be discussion of a mutiny from our enormous crew. If we ever receive word of mutiny on board, I will threaten to cut off their hands, just like my name, or have them dance the hempen jig and throw them overboard to Davy Jones' Locker. For the most part, people want to be on our ship. Though we uphold a strict Pirate's Code, our crew is fiercely loyal and if a mutiny was to occur there those aligned with Blackbeard would be in the majority, if not, more skilled. Aye, our elite on board the ship have more experience and better weapons than the bilge rats that would try to defy us.

Besides potential problems our crew may face on board the ship, we must also look at tactics to use while pirating other ships. For example, a key way to obtain good loot is to shadow another ship, or fleet of ships, until confirming that it would be a good source of prey.<sup>xii</sup> Once a target is found, it is important to surprise attack them by following them for hours or even days. A neat trick to use to reverse these roles, in which I mean the target comes to you, is by putting up a false flag or even a flag signaling the necessity of help, which beckons the prey closer. After they have gotten closer, we should fire a gun in the air letting them know they can surrender or fight. Even if they surrender we may still kill them (but they do not need to know that). Depending on their response or size of the ship, we will either send out a smaller ship with our fiercest warriors on board to the other ship or hook onto their ship. Another option is utilizing our forty cannons to shoot key parts of the enemy's sloop down, like their sails, to inhibit their flight response. And based upon who or what is on board, we can sell them in famous ports, like Tortuga, for money or use it for later. If we encounter another slave ship, we can sell the slaves at different ports we stop at, or even add them onto our crew. These methods are extremely useful for being a successful and ruthless pirate and by upholding these tactics *Queen Anne's Revenge* can come out to be the most fearsome ship in the world.

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<sup>i</sup> <http://www.goldenageofpiracy.org/golden-age-of-piracy/golden-age-of-piracy.php>

<sup>ii</sup> [http://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/War\\_of\\_the\\_Spanish\\_Succession](http://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/War_of_the_Spanish_Succession)

<sup>iii</sup> <http://www.heraldica.org/topics/france/utrecht.htm>

<sup>iv</sup> <http://www.nationalgeographic.com/pirates/bbeard.html>

<sup>v</sup> [http://americanhistory.si.edu/onthewater/exhibition/1\\_5.html](http://americanhistory.si.edu/onthewater/exhibition/1_5.html)

<sup>vi</sup> <http://www.qaronline.org/history/ships-journey>

<sup>vii</sup> <http://www.manitoupontoonboats.com/blackbeard-most-terrifying-pirate>

<sup>viii</sup> [http://www.privateerdragons.com/pirates\\_famous3.html](http://www.privateerdragons.com/pirates_famous3.html)

<sup>ix</sup> <http://www.cindyvallar.com/Hands.html>

<sup>x</sup> <http://www.news-medical.net/health/Dysentery.aspx>

<sup>xi</sup> <https://dash.harvard.edu/bitstream/handle/1/8852139/Mayberry.html?sequence=2>

<sup>xii</sup> <http://www.piratesahoy.net/wiki/ship-capturing-techniques/>