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De Baay En Stadt van Gibraltar

Stock#: 61745
Map Maker: Van Keulen
Date: 1710 circa
Place: Amsterdam
Color: Uncolored
Condition: VG+
Size: 24 x 20.5 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

The Anglo-Dutch Capture of Gibraltar in August 1704

Rare early sea chart of the Bay and Town of Gibraltar, illustrating a military and naval engagement at Gibraltar in August 1704, which resulted in the taking of Gibraltar by a combined British and Dutch Naval invasion in support of the Grand Alliance, during the War of Spanish Succession.

Oriented with east at the top, the image shows a pitched battle between the Spanish Garrison at Gibraltar defending against the massive Dutch and British invading forces, which lasted for 4 days, before the Spanish surrender.

The naval engagement shows the Dutch fleet, under the command of Philips van Almonde, Gerard Callenburgh and Jacob van Wassenaer Obdam, and the English Fleet, under the command of George Rooke, Edward Russell and Cloudisely Shovell.

Grand Alliance was ultimately unsuccessful in its support of Charles III as the next King of Spain, the battle would result in England's retention of Gibraltar as its foothold at the entrance to the Mediterranean.

The Capture of Gibraltar

Since the beginning of the war, the Anglo-Dutch Alliance had eyed the capture of Gibraltar as a means of strengthening its position against the French fleet in the western Mediterranean Sea. An attempt to



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take Cádiz failed September 1702, but after a successful raid on Vigo in October 1702, the combined Alliance forces became the dominant naval power in the region.

The new naval power was a factor in King Peter II of Portugal's decision to end Portugal's alliance with France and Spain, shifting allegiance to the Anglo-Dutch forces in 1703. With access to Lisbon, the Alliance fleets could effectively campaign in the Mediterranean and operate in support of the Austrian Habsburg candidate to the Spanish throne, the Archduke Charles, known to his supporters as Charles III of Spain.

In May 1704 the Prince George of Hesse-Darmstadt and Admiral George Rooke, commander of the main Grand Alliance fleet, failed to take Barcelona in the name of 'Charles III'. The Alliance commanders resolved to capture Gibraltar, a small town on the southern Spanish coast. Following a heavy bombardment the town was invaded by English and Dutch marines and sailors. The governor, Diego de Salinas, agreed to surrender Gibraltar and its small garrison on August 4, 1704. Three days later Prince George, entered the town with Austrian and Spanish Habsburg troops in the name of Charles III of Spain.

The Grand Alliance failed in its objective of replacing Philip V with Charles III as King of Spain, but in the peace negotiations Gibraltar was ceded to Britain.

A month after its capture, British Secretary of State Sir Charles Hedges described it as 'of great use to us for securing our trade and interrupting the enemy's'. The position significantly deterred the Moorish pirates of the Barbary Coast from attacking English merchant shipping, and resulted in their allying themselves with Queen Anne.

The English embarked on a program to strengthen its position and John Methuen recommended an English garrison. This was supplied by the marines that had helped take the place, and by several companies of regular troops. Gibraltar was, therefore, held by English troops and at English cost, but in the name of 'Charles III'.

Following an attempt by the French Grand Fleet to retake Gibraltar, in 1711, the British and French Governments started secret negotiations to end the war leading to the cession of Gibraltar to the British by the Treaty of Utrecht in 1713.



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Detailed Condition: