

THE MARY ROSE BY GEORGE PARKINSON

The Mary Rose is a carrack-type warship of the English Tudor navy of King Henry VIII. She served for 33 years in several wars against France, Scotland, and Brittany, after being substantially rebuilt in 1536, she saw her last action on 19th July 1545!



The Mary Rose and the Peter Pomegranate

The earliest reference to the *Mary Rose* is 29th January 1510, in a letter ordering the construction of “two new ships”. These ships were to be the *Mary Rose* and her sister ship, the *Peter Pomegranate*. The ships were built in Portsmouth, making the sinking of the *Mary Rose* in the Solent and her eventual resting place in Portsmouth’s *Mary Rose Museum* more poignant.

The first account that names the *Mary Rose* is a letter from June 1511. It is often claimed that the ship was named after Henry’s sister, Mary Tudor but no evidence supports this. Instead, it was the fashion to name ships for saints and the pairing of the *Mary* with the *Peter* supports this. The badges of the ships – the *Rose* and the *Pomegranate* – celebrate the royal couple; the rose being the symbol of the king, and the pomegranate being that of his first wife, Katherine of Aragon. Neatly, the Virgin Mary was known at the time as the ‘Mystic Rose’; the name of the *Mary Rose* therefore signifies not only the power of the Tudor dynasty, but also that of the Virgin Mary.

The *Mary Rose* was larger than her sister ship - 600 tons to the *Peter Pomegranate*’s 450 - but this was not the only difference between the ships. While both were carracks designed for war, the *Peter Pomegranate* was not built to carry heavy guns. The *Mary Rose*, on the other hand, carried six or eight large guns from the beginning of her career. This required a new design feature: gun ports. The *Mary Rose* was therefore of a state-of-the-art design. It has been suggested that Henry himself insisted on the design, which would add to the reasons why he was so proud of the *Mary Rose*.

INTERESTING DON’T YOU THINK???????

HERE ARE SOME FACTS ABOUT THE MARY ROSE!!!

- Construction of the *Mary Rose* began in 1510, and the ship was launched in 1511. It was built in Portsmouth.
- It was a ship built for war and it was armed with a variety of iron and cast bronze guns. The ship also carried a supply of pikes (very long spears) – to defend the ship against enemies trying to board it, longbows, and a few matchlock muskets.
- Another large warship was built at the same time as the *Mary Rose*. This ship was called the *Peter Pomegranate*, probably named in honour of St Peter and [Catherine of Aragon](#) (the pomegranate was part of her coat of arms).
- Many people believe that the *Mary Rose* was named in honour of Henry VIII's sister, Mary Tudor. This idea has been questioned by some historians. They think it is more likely that the *Mary Rose* was named in honour of the Virgin Mary and Henry VIII himself (the rose being the Tudor symbol).
- In peace time it is thought that the *Mary Rose* was crewed by less than 20 people. In times of war, however, the number of people on board would rise to 400 or more (sailors, soldiers, trumpeters, and staff).
- The *Mary Rose* first experienced battle in 1512 against the French. In 1522 the ship was used to escort troops.
- The *Mary Rose* led the attack on the French fleet (who were intending to land troops to invade England) in the Battle of the Solent on 19th July 1545. Something happened to the *Mary Rose* when it engaged the French ships in combat. The ship began to take on water and it quickly started to sink. Over 90% of its crew lost their lives.
- It is thought that the cause of the *Mary Rose's* sinking wasn't any actions by the enemy, but rather a freakishly strong wind combined with the ship making a sharp turn at just the wrong moment. This led to the gun ports on the main deck dipping underwater, and the ship taking on massive quantities of water.
- The Tudors tried to salvage the *Mary Rose* a few days after it was sunk. They were only successful in recovering some guns and rigging. Other attempts were made in 1547 and 1549.
- In 1836 a group of fishermen in the Solent rediscovered the *Mary Rose* after their nets got snagged on some timbers sticking out of the seabed. Henry Abbinett, a local diver, became the first person in nearly three hundred years to see the *Mary Rose*, when he dived to inspect the wreck.
- In 1971 the exact location of the wreck of the *Mary Rose* had been pinpointed. Excavation work started in 1978 and the ship was fully recovered and raised from the seabed on 11th October 1982.
- There were many finds from the wreck of the *Mary Rose*. These included: over 20,000 pieces of timber, casks for food and drink storage, woodworking tools, cannons, weapons, musical instruments, navigational equipment, surgeons' tools and much more.
- The timbers of the *Mary Rose* have been exposed to a high-tech conservation process. Drying waterlogged wood without damaging it and destroying its form is hard and time-consuming. The last phase of the conservation programme took place in 2015.
- Archaeologists have found plenty of evidence of what would have been eaten on the *Mary Rose*! Nine barrels recovered bones from fully grown cattle! Pig bones, as well as fish mainly North Sea cod. Also, plum and prune stones together with pea pods and peppercorn! STRANGE DIET DON'T YOU THINK?? OBVIOUSLY DIDN'T HAVE MCDONALDS OF KFC HAHA!

- It is said to believe that there were over 700 men a board when it sank, of which only fewer than 40 survived, most of the skeletons recovered were young men in their twenties!
- The ship was down in the ocean for some time! From 1945-1982 and it is said that there were 27,831 dives made to the wreck totalling 22,710 hours! NOW THAT'S DEDICATION!



RAISING MARY!!



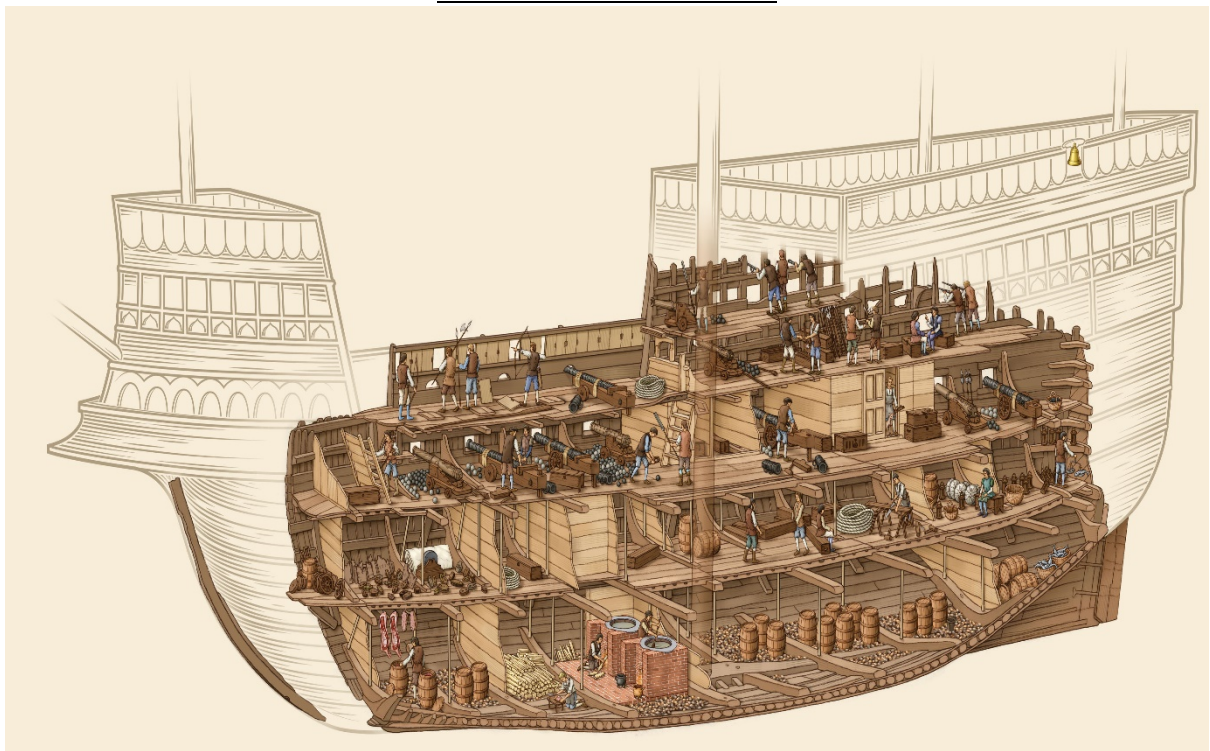
HERE YOU SEE, THE MARY ROSE BEING RAISED FROM THE WATER ON THE 11TH
OCTOBER 1982



THE MARY ROSE NOW PLACED IN THE MARY ROSE MUSIEUM IN PORTSMOUTH (MY MUM HAS SEEN IT) HAVE YOU?

IT WAS PLACED IN AN ENVIRONMENTALLY CONTROLLED HALL- WITH TEMPERATURES BELOW 5 DEGREES AND HUMIDITY OF 95%- IT WAS SPRAYED WITH CHILLED WATER; THIS WAS TO PREVENT THE TIMBER DRYING OUT AND TO CONTROL LEVELS OF FUNGI AND BACTERIA.

THE MARY ROSE TODAY





HERE BELOW IS A VIDEO LINK!!! VERY INTERESTING!

<https://www.bing.com/videos/search?view=detail&mid=884C0DDC911E541EDD51884C0DDC911E541EDD51&shtp=GetUrl&shid=66023376-5f85-41fd-a828-3a3573d7548a&shtk=TXlzdGVyeSBvZiB0aGUGr3JlYXQgTWfYeSBSb3NlIDogRG9jdW1bnRhcnkgb24gdGhlIE15c3RlcmlvdXMgU2lua2luZyBvZiB0aGUGr3JlYXQgTWfYeSBSb3Nl&shdk=TXlzdGVyeSBvZiB0aGUGr3JlYXQgTWfYeSBSb3NlIDogRG9jdW1bnRhcnkgb24gdGhlIE15c3RlcmlvdXMgU2lua2luZyBvZiB0aGUGr3JlYXQgTWfYeSBSb3NlIBUaGzIeRvY3VtZW50YXJ5IGlzIHZlcngZ29vZCBhbmQgYXMGZWR1Y2F0aW9uYWwgYXMGaXQgaXMgZnVuLiBjdCdzIHhcnQgb2YgYSBzZXlpZXMGb2YgZXhjaXRpbmcgYW5kIGluZm9ybWF0aXZlIGRvY3VtZW50YXJpZXMuIFRoXMGWW91dHViZSBjaGFubmVsIGlzIGZvciBsZWfYbmluZyBhbmQgZWR1Y2F0aW9uYWwgCHVycG9zZXMuIExlYXJuaW5nIGFuZCBFZHVjYXRpb24gYXJlIGZ1bmRhbmVudGFsIGFuZCBpbXBvcnRhbnQgaW4gdG9kYXkncyAuLi4%3D&shhk=sjkI6SOBO0WrLt4lBodYyXeiAn0hRcoTOEdW7Pao7rM%3D&form=VDSHOT&shth=OSH.qZde07579dur4R5DXgxJEA>

HERE IS A LINK FOR THE MUSEUM IF YOUR INTERESTED???

https://maryrose.org/?gclid=CjwKCAjw_qb3BRAVEiwAvwq6ViGhJMxWfXx8bV8RI7xXN5RTUt24SorFf1neAXGmgMMwZeJINFWXuxoCQqMQAvD_BwE