Hug of Montcada i Gralla

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Hug de Montcada i Gralla was a Barcelona military man who commanded the gates of Naples in the so-called Invincible Army. He was the second son of Francesc I de Montcada , first Marquess of Aitona and Count of Osona , and his wife, Lucrècia Gralla.

Belonging to the noble family of Montcada, his brother Gastó de Montcada and de Gralla (first-born of 17 children) inherited the immense family fortune. His other brother was Joan de Montcada i Gralla , Archbishop of Tarragona (1613 - 1622) and Bishop of Barcelona (1610-1612).

Participation in the Invincible Navy

Charge

Hug de Montcada was appointed commander of the stolen town of Naples. The flagship was the San Lorenzo gale. The gallant-galley La Girona was part of that stolen. The four galls were:

The San Lorenzo (captain of the stolen)

The captain of the ship was Joan Setantí. [1]

La Zúñiga (patron of the stolen)

Captain Pere Centelles

The Girona

Captain Fabrizio Spínola, Genoese. [2]

The Napolitana [3]

Captain Perrucchio Morán

Galiassa San Lorenzo

Galiassa de Malta with apparatus.

This ship had 124 sailors, 50 artillery units, 300 sailors and 270 soldiers. [4] [5] [6] It was built in Naples. [7] It displaced 762 tonnes and was the largest ship and, according to some, the most splendid of the entire army.

Nautical Difficulties
One of the most difficult variables that made navigating the Channel of the Manguera dangerous were (and still are) the currents caused by the tides. Local pilots were greedy in those currents. [8]

Battle actions

According to various testimonials (documentaries and film documentaries), the San Lorenzo galaxy could not progress paddling against the tide caused by the tide.
The Duke of Medina Sidonia denied Hug de Montcada that he attacked the Ark Royal ship, when he was within reach in conditions of superiority. [9]
San Lorenzo was the first ship that warned with a pipe of the danger of the eight violins sent by Drake against the Spanish navy anchored.
The order of the Duke of Medina Sidonia, to cut the calabrots of the anchors of all the ships of the army, caused chaos and many approaches.

Final disaster
The references to the fact are numerous and not always coincident. [10] [11] [12] [13] [14] [15] [16] [17] [18] [19]

In the confusion brought about by the brulots, an approach rendered unusable the rudder of San Lorenzo. The maneuver with the oars was not sufficiently agile to fight the marigold and the attack of the enemies (from the Ark Royal in particular). Hug de Montcada decided to go to refuge in the port of Calais (under French control and, in theory, neutral). He did not get it Progressing with the ratchet sailing and the oars, the galiassa tried to enter the port of Calais but shook near the plate. Being half lying sideways. The soldiers (probably terrified by the storm and incident) deserted the ship, jumping to the water. They were very much drowned. Only a few faithful remained aboard.

The English, sent a few bots with soldiers to seize the galiassa. Finally Howard sent a reinforcement with the Ark Royal's Panescalm boat and could reduce the last resistance. Hug de Montcada was shot down with an arcabuz shot in the head and Joan Setantí and other Catalans defenders also died.

News of the defeat and commentary on the Dietari of the Generalitat de Catalunya

«
Tuesday, October 4, 1588, Saint Francis's Day: On this day came and published again as the army that his magistrate had done and sent to England also returned in Spain split by bad weather part in La Coruña and part in Laredo and Santander, it was very badly marinated due to bad weather and lack of provisions in the way if many people died, and among others lost a galease of which was captain Don Hugo de Moncada son of the account of Aytona which is stuck and the opposites fight With them, and Mr. Hugo and Joan Setanti and other cathalans, dying and fighting arms and hands like brave knights, are killed, so that they only fight and die in a cathalan fight and not another nation, God is all served and hated.
»

- Manual of novice ardits: commonly called Diario del antich consell Barcelona.

Tribute poem
A "romance" tribute to Hug de Montcada was published by the "bachelor of Borja" Pedro de Moncayo. [20]

The first verses summarize quite well the cause of the unnecessary defeat.

«
Broken the broken cape and mast,

overgrown the galley,
Useless your artillery
and that of the brave opponent.
Leaving your soldiers
They spit out on the water
at the sight of the French
They are defending the beach ...

»

- Romance , Pedro de Moncayo.

Important testimonial
According to the work Armada Invencible , by Cesáreo Fernández Duro, there is a description of the final attack and the death of Hug de Montcada according to the statements of a slave of the Marquis de Santa Cruz (Volume I, page 118 , document K.1467, item 18). [21]

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