

Francisco de Cuellar

Verses:

My name is Francisco de Cuellar, I am a sailor for the Crown
I know the sea my memories, I'm still haunted by the sounds
For I survived the raging sea and the failure of our quest
For I sailed with Sidonia and still I search for rest (rpt)
Chorus

I left my wife and child the King's work to be done
Le Trinidad Valencera, my home it would become
We hauled our anchor from the sand, we sailed to England's shores
But Fate she had another plan of torment and much more (rpt)
Chorus

Routed by the English, we travelled ever north
Supplies of food and water were getting ever short
To Ireland's coast we hoped and prayed our failing ship would last
But the sands of Kinnegoe Bay would see our ship was sinking fast (rpt)
Chorus

Not knowing who was friend or foe my shipmates were cut down
So many of us left our homes, so few would be found
But with God's Grace my life was saved to tell the world my tale
Of how my soul is trouble since Sidonia and I did sail (rpt)
Chorus

My name is Francisco de Cuellar, I am a sailor for the Crown
I know the sea my memories, I'm still haunted by the sounds
For I survived the raging sea and the failure of our quest
For I sailed with Sidonia and still in search of rest (rpt)
Chorus

Chorus

And the wind did blow
And the sea did roll
All for the fancy of the King

19th October 2018

Notes:

Francisco de Cuellar was Captain of the San Pedro with the Spanish Armada of 1588. Disobeying orders, he broke formation in the North Sea and was taken to the San Juan de Sicilia for execution, but before the deed was done, the ship ran aground at Treedagh Strand, Co.Sligo. He survived 2 actions and the flight of the Armada around Scotland, but was captured on reaching shore. Unlike many others, he was not killed, but was marched to Dublin to ransom or trial. En route he escaped with about 30 others and stole a boat and reached the Netherlands. In Antwerp he wrote a letter to his wife. About a year later, he got home. No Spanish ships were sunk by the English. Of 120 ships some 80 returned. The English had 200 ships but less effective guns.

A Song by Chris Rogan
www.chris-rogan.com

E.chris@chris-rogan.com T.07725 647980

La Trinidad Velencera sank at Kinnegoe Bay Co.Donegal.

In 1589, an English Armada sailed to Spain and suffered significant losses. Little of this episode was ever reported in England.