

Cambridge University Press  
978-1-108-01339-0 - The English Navy in the Revolution of 1688  
Edward Barzillai Powley  
Frontmatter  
[More information](#)

---

## CAMBRIDGE LIBRARY COLLECTION

*Books of enduring scholarly value*

### History

The books reissued in this series include accounts of historical events and movements by eye-witnesses and contemporaries, as well as landmark studies that assembled significant source materials or developed new historiographical methods. The series includes work in social, political and military history on a wide range of periods and regions, giving modern scholars ready access to influential publications of the past.

### **The English Navy in the Revolution of 1688**

First published in 1928, this was one of the first in-depth studies to investigate why the English navy was unable to prevent William of Orange's invasion in 1688. Edward B. Powley argues that a combination of bad strategic choices as well as adverse weather, William's so-called 'Protestant wind', resulted in the Navy failing to stop the Dutch Fleet landing, and ultimately enabled William to take possession of the country and crown. In a detailed chronological narrative of naval events between the spring of 1687 and February 1689, Powley charts the key decisions as documented in the archival record, focusing particularly on the Admiral of the Fleet, Lord Dartmouth's surviving papers and what they reveal about the input of King James II to naval affairs.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-01339-0 - The English Navy in the Revolution of 1688

Edward Barzillai Powley

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

---

Cambridge University Press has long been a pioneer in the reissuing of out-of-print titles from its own backlist, producing digital reprints of books that are still sought after by scholars and students but could not be reprinted economically using traditional technology. The Cambridge Library Collection extends this activity to a wider range of books which are still of importance to researchers and professionals, either for the source material they contain, or as landmarks in the history of their academic discipline.

Drawing from the world-renowned collections in the Cambridge University Library, and guided by the advice of experts in each subject area, Cambridge University Press is using state-of-the-art scanning machines in its own Printing House to capture the content of each book selected for inclusion. The files are processed to give a consistently clear, crisp image, and the books finished to the high quality standard for which the Press is recognised around the world. The latest print-on-demand technology ensures that the books will remain available indefinitely, and that orders for single or multiple copies can quickly be supplied.

The Cambridge Library Collection will bring back to life books of enduring scholarly value (including out-of-copyright works originally issued by other publishers) across a wide range of disciplines in the humanities and social sciences and in science and technology.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-01339-0 - The English Navy in the Revolution of 1688

Edward Barzillai Powley

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

---

# The English Navy in the Revolution of 1688

EDWARD BARZILLAI POWLEY



CAMBRIDGE  
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-01339-0 - The English Navy in the Revolution of 1688

Edward Barzillai Powley

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

---

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town, Singapore,  
São Paulo, Delhi, Dubai, Tokyo

Published in the United States of America by Cambridge University Press, New York

[www.cambridge.org](http://www.cambridge.org)

Information on this title: [www.cambridge.org/9781108013390](http://www.cambridge.org/9781108013390)

© in this compilation Cambridge University Press 2010

This edition first published 1928

This digitally printed version 2010

ISBN 978-1-108-01339-0 Paperback

This book reproduces the text of the original edition. The content and language reflect the beliefs, practices and terminology of their time, and have not been updated.

Cambridge University Press wishes to make clear that the book, unless originally published by Cambridge, is not being republished by, in association or collaboration with, or with the endorsement or approval of, the original publisher or its successors in title.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-01339-0 - The English Navy in the Revolution of 1688

Edward Barzillai Powley

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

---

THE ENGLISH NAVY  
IN THE REVOLUTION  
OF 1688

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-01339-0 - The English Navy in the Revolution of 1688

Edward Barzillai Powley

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

---

Cambridge University Press

Fetter Lane, London



*New York*

*Bombay, Calcutta, Madras*

*Toronto*

Macmillan



*Tokyo*

Maruzen-Kabushiki-Kaisha

All rights reserved

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-01339-0 - The English Navy in the Revolution of 1688

Edward Barzillai Powley

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

# THE ENGLISH NAVY IN THE REVOLUTION OF 1688

*By*

EDWARD B. POWLEY

*Of Balliol College, Oxford, and King's College, London;*

*Assistant Master, Merchant Taylors' School, Great Crosby;*

*Temporarily R.N.*

FOREWORD BY

*Admiral of the Fleet*

THE EARL JELlicoe

G.C.B., O.M., G.C.V.O., HON. D.C.L. OXFORD,

HON. L.L.D. CAMBRIDGE



CAMBRIDGE

AT THE UNIVERSITY PRESS

MCMXXVIII

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-01339-0 - The English Navy in the Revolution of 1688

Edward Barzillai Powley

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

---

PRINTED IN GREAT BRITAIN



Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-01339-0 - The English Navy in the Revolution of 1688

Edward Barzillai Powley

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

---

*To*  
THE MEMORY  
*of*  
W · H · & H · LEE W ·  
THIS RESEARCH IS  
DEDICATED

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-01339-0 - The English Navy in the Revolution of 1688

Edward Barzillai Powley

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

## PREFACE

THE part played by the Royal Navy in the Revolution of 1688 was obviously important; but no proper investigation of the subject has been made by students of Naval History. It is hoped that this full presentation of the facts and the findings here reached will be of value. Wrong notions of the preparations of James II and the Secretary Pepys should not prevail; the recognition of the professional merits of Admiral Lord Dartmouth is overdue; historians and their readers must grow accustomed to think of the *invasion* of William of Orange as a colossal gamble—for such it was. Incidentally it may be remarked that some of the circumstances of the surrender of the English fleet to William are quite picturesque; and certain of the details of the frustration of James's attempt to spirit the baby Prince of Wales out of Portsmouth into France are amusing. A curious unsolved problem emerges in connection with James's own flight in France.

An exhaustive search of the English authorities has been made. Most of the materials on the Dutch side perished, some years since, by fire at the Hague. Happily the historian de Jonge had already studied them; and his work has availed, with other accessible data, to check and supplement, as far as necessary, the story revealed by the English sources. James II received information from, but refused the assistance of, Louis XIV, during the crisis. It is believed that the essential facts of the correspondence between the French and English courts have been gathered from D'Avaux, Mazure and Ranke into this narrative.

I wish to express my thanks to Sir Charles H. Firth for the help he so readily tendered to me as a student. In Mr G. N. Clark, Fellow of Oriel College, I found, such is his expert knowledge of Dutch history, an invaluable adviser; and his concern for the completion of my work I recall with gratitude. Mr L. G. Carr Laughton, of the Admiralty Library, to whom I

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-01339-0 - The English Navy in the Revolution of 1688

Edward Barzillai Powley

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

---

viii

## PREFACE

have long owed a debt of inspiration, has read my manuscript with critical care. The Index is the work of a reader at the University Press, and I tender acknowledgement to him. Lastly, I count myself happy that the Earl Jellicoe, greatest of living admirals, commends, by his Foreword, this research to the historian and general reader. For that compliment and kindness I accord him my sincere thanks.

EDWARD B. POWLEY

AUTHORS' CLUB

*January 1928*

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-01339-0 - The English Navy in the Revolution of 1688

Edward Barzillai Powley

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

## CONTENTS

<i>Foreword</i>	. . . . .	<i>page xi</i>
<i>Chap. I. The Failure of Diplomacy—Spring 1687 to October 2nd, 1688.</i>	. . . . .	<i>I</i>
II. Hostilities begun; the Prince's False Start— October 3rd to 29th	. . . . .	<i>33</i>
III. The Successful Sailing of the Prince—October 30th to November 7th	. . . . .	<i>78</i>
IV. Dartmouth's Attempt on Torbay—November 7th to 22nd	. . . . .	<i>98</i>
V. Inaction in the Royal Fleet—November 22nd to December 1st	. . . . .	<i>120</i>
VI. The Surrender of the Royal Fleet—December 2nd to 14th	. . . . .	<i>134</i>
VII. From December 14th, 1688, to February 13th, 1688/9	. . . . .	<i>150</i>
<i>Appendix to Chapter I. The English Navy—Adminis- tration, Matériel and Personnel; a brief survey of the Dutch Naval Organisation; remarks upon the Navy of Louis XIV</i>	. . . . .	<i>161</i>
<i>List of Authorities</i>	. . . . .	<i>176</i>
<i>Note</i>	. . . . .	<i>180</i>
<i>Index</i>	. . . . .	<i>183</i>

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-01339-0 - The English Navy in the Revolution of 1688

Edward Barzillai Powley

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

---

## FOREWORD

**I**N this interesting volume the author presents us with a clear narrative of the proceedings of the English Fleet just prior to, and during the Revolution of 1688.

He investigates closely the reasons for the failure of the Fleet to prevent the successful landing of the Prince of Orange and indicates the extent to which that failure was due to the choice of the original base anchorage selected for the Fleet off the Gunfleet Buoy as well as to what can only be termed most unfortunate weather conditions. Incidentally the reader will learn the extent to which the proposals for Fleet movements were submitted by the Admiral, Lord Dartmouth, to the King or were directed by his Majesty. As a result of this work a critical gap in our Naval History is filled in and the most interesting part of the career of that too long neglected sailor, Lord Dartmouth, is effectively brought to light. Both for his place in the evolution of naval strategy and for his conduct as an English gentleman, placed by circumstances over which he had no control in an impossible position, Lord Dartmouth is shown to deserve the closest study.

The preparation of this volume has involved much research. And Mr Powley will certainly earn the gratitude of all his readers for the thoroughness with which he has fulfilled his task.

JELLICOE

*Admiral of the Fleet*