

Richard Waste was on his first voyage. This article deals especially with the others. Humphrey Rowland was lost 'going to Spain'. George Campe, Matthew Greenlefe and William and Thomas Dad drowned going to or in France, the former aboard the *Jonas*. Also lost from the *Jonas* was Thomas Lamney, who died in Bordeaux a few years later. Thomas Cason was lost from the *Nicholas*, but the register does not say where the ship was bound. Five, Edward Smith, John Brown, Robert Brooke, Edmund Fosdike and William Middleton, died on the *Hopewell* at 'Barbarie' in July 1589.

'Barbarie' generally described the north coast of Africa, where pirates, known as corsairs, operated for centuries but did not venture into the Atlantic until after 1600 when Dutch renegades helped them construct square-rigged sailing craft capable of withstanding ocean conditions. Following the defeat of the Armada in 1588 there was a Moroccan embassy to London a year later. The ambassador was sent by Sultan Ahmed al-Mansur, who believed that Queen Elizabeth would be a useful ally against Spain and France. This alliance may have been the reason that Orford men were prepared to sail into the Mediterranean Sea for trade.

Tobias Edmundes, alias Cooke, was the master of the *Jonas*, which traded in wine from Bordeaux and

also probably brought back salt and figs. He was a chief burgess of Orford in 1579 and contributed 20 shillings towards the cost of the Charter. Contributions by others lost at sea give an indication of their status in the town. John Stannard was one of those who drowned in the North Sea and he gave 13s 4d. Four others died with him and it is likely he was a master mariner and his ship sank.

John Brown is a name too common to be certain that he was the man who died on the *Hopewell*, but if he were then his contribution of 6s 8d may mean he too was a mariner rather than a mere sailor. Those who are listed in the burial register and who contributed only 12d were Thomas Garrard and Richard Lyneham, among the eight mentioned earlier along with Humphrey Rowland who was lost on his way to Spain.

Why did Agas record these deaths? Perhaps he was told to stop doing so during an archdeacon's visit to the parish, or even by the bishop.

Published sources:

*Lords of the Sea* by Alan G. Jamieson, Reaktion Books, 2012.

*Black Tudors* by Miranda Kaufmann, Oneworld, 2017.