

NATIONAL COMMISSION OF THE FIFTH CENTENARY OF THE FIRST GLOBAL CIRCUMNAVIGATION

By honour of Their Majesties the King and Queen, a National Commission has been established to commemorate the fifth centenary of the expedition of the first global circumnavigation by Fernando de Magallanes and Juan Sebastián Elcano. Hereinafter, the National Commission will operate as an inter-ministerial collegiate body attached to the Ministry of Education, Culture and Sports. The National Commission will promote and coordinate the celebratory activities carried out by the General State Administration, other Public Administrations and other public or private entities.

ACTIVITY PROGRAM

On the occasion of the Five Hundredth Anniversary of the First Circumnavigation of Magallanes and Elcano, a presentation titled "Embracing the World. 500 Hundred years of the First Circumnavigation", and delivered by CAPT José Ramón Vallespín Gómez, will take place aboard supply ship "Cantabria" at 1800 hours on May 10.

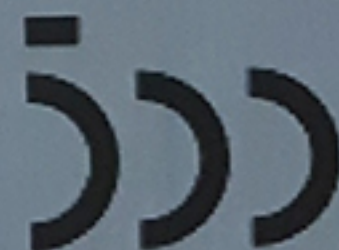
At 1930 hours a subsequent reception will be hosted to commemorate this historical achievement.



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SUPPLY SHIP CANTABRIA A-15

FIRST GLOBAL CIRCUMNAVIGATION V CENTENARY



THE GREAT MILESTONE.

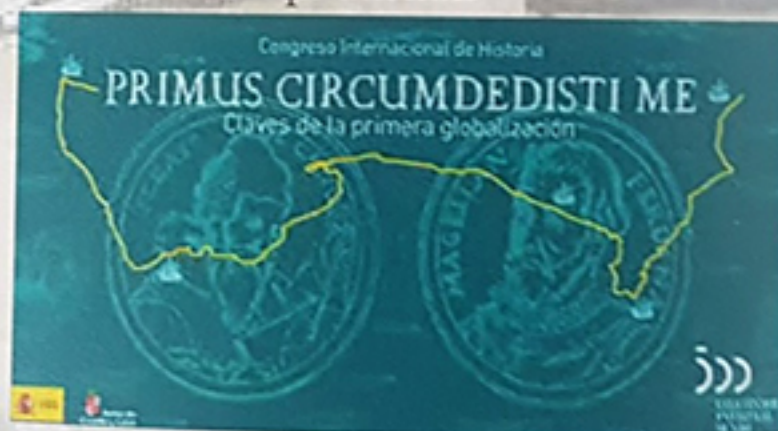
2019 marks the 500th Anniversary of the start of the naval expedition commanded by the Portuguese navigator, Fernando de Magallanes, which sought to open a new commercial route westward to the Spice Islands. Magallanes, appointed by the young King Carlos I of Spain as «governor, advanced, Captain General of the Navy for the discovery of spices», departed from Seville on the morning of August 10, 1519. He led five ships and a crew of 239 men, of which 64 percent were Spanish and the rest were sailors from nine different nationalities.

The journey took them from Sanlúcar de Barrameda to Tenerife, the coast of Sierra Leone, Rio de Janeiro, Río de la Plata (formerly known as Río de Solís), Patagonia, Tierra del Fuego, Magallanes strait (the strait that would later be named after the Captain General himself), the Pacific ocean and the Mariana Islands, the Philippines, Sumatra, the Maluku islands, the Cape of Good Hope and finally Cape Verde, before returning to Seville.

Their naval enterprise required enormous tenacity and effort to overcome multiple hardships. However, it ultimately led to the first successful circumnavigation.

This triumph was only possible thanks to the courage, skill, and vision of Guipuzcoa native Juan Sebastian de Elcano, who led the fleet back to Seville on September 6, 1522 after the death of Magallanes. Only 18 men and one nao returned, after having circumnavigated the globe.

The remarkable accomplishments of Elcano continue to inspire the Spanish Navy which has named one of its representative ships after the Basque seaman ninety years ago. Four-masted tall ship Elcano is the Spanish naval school vessel and acts as a symbolic ambassador wherever it drops anchor.



The amazing journey of our Navy across multiple oceans and continents was ground breaking in that it confirmed the contemporary theory that the Earth is round.

Thus, the old world experienced revolutionary changes as to how our planet was understood, taking a giant leap forward in the advancement of knowledge, communications and global exchange of all kinds.

It also contributed to the development and international projection of Europe and, in particular, of the Iberian countries.

The world would never be the same after this expedition.



Our Spanish Navy sailors continue to sail around the world. Our Supply Ship "Cantabria", the second largest ship of the Spanish fleet, has recently circumnavigated the globe with many members of the current crew, who have proudly become true heirs of the accomplishments achieved by Magallanes and Elcano 500 years ago.