

The Adventures Admiral William Brown

Admiral William Brown gained his fame from creating the Argentine Navy and acting as the first Admiral of Argentina's maritime forces nearly 200 years ago. Although Admiral Brown is a national hero in Argentina, he was born in Ireland in a small town called Foxford in Co Mayo.



When William Brown was nine years old his family moved to the United States. While he was still a young boy, William Brown met a captain of a ship when he was out wandering near the river and was offered a job onboard the captain's ship as a cabin boy. After years of working on boats at sea, William Brown eventually became captain of his own ship and joined the British navy to fight against the French in the Napoleonic wars.



During the war Captain Brown was captured by the French but escaped from prison by dressing up like a French officer.

After returning to England, in 1809 William Brown got married and then decided to move again, this time to South America. As owner of a ship called the Eliza, Brown began a career in trading between Argentina and Uruguay, two countries in the southern cone of South America, shown as dark green on the map. Sensing a threat to their supremacy over trade routes, the Spanish authorities in Argentina destroyed a ship that Brown owned. In retaliation, William Brown joined the Argentines in their war against Spanish occupation. Brown immediately became Commander-in-Chief of what was later to become the



Argentinean Navy and attacked the Spanish ships off the coast of Argentina. After a fierce battle Brown captured the Spanish ships and became a hero in Argentina. He was promoted to Colonel and his ship, the Hercules, was presented to him as a gift and reward for his brave and gallant services. Brown went on to lead the Argentine Navy in many successful battles.

Today Admiral William Brown's memory lives on in Ireland and Argentina with statues and memorials found in both countries. In 2006 the Irish Naval Service travelled to Buenos Aires in Argentina to bring back a statue of Admiral William Brown for display on Sir John Rogerson's Quay in Dublin.

Fun Fact: The Wolf Tones, a traditional Irish music group, has a song about the adventures of Admiral William Brown which you can listen to on Follow the Fleet's YouTube page: <http://www.youtube.com/user/FollowTheFleetIRL>