

My log book

16th September 1577

Let me introduce myself, I'm Emilien, a sailor and I'm 18. It's my first voyage and I'm very excited about it. We embark on board The Pelican with Francis Drake as captain. I admire him, he is a great man. The legend says he was born on the sea. We are ready to leave Britain.

17th September 1577

My first night on board was very hard. I hardly slept a wink all night. We are 100 on board, all on the deck. No mattress, no pillow. The food is not good and the water is salty. I'm a novice and I have the worst role. It's really hard.

18th September 1577

Nothing happens. A long day on the sea. When I have some time, I think about Elizabeth, she is my love and the further I get from the coast, the more I miss her.

19th September 1577

A storm happens, it is devastating. 30 dead and a lot of damage. The other boats didn't survive this storm. We are survivors and the morale is low.

20th September 1577

We have repaired The Pelican and set off again. Everybody is happy when Francis Drake makes a speech. We are eager to find the Spanish boats, to find gold, to find glory.

21th September 1577

At last, we have attacked a Spanish boat. It was my first boarding, stories tell the first boarding determine our life as a sailor. I was impatient. The attack was a blood bath, many people died. I think I fought well because Francis Drake encouraged me ! I'm very happy.

22th September 1577

On this day, we have a day off. A real pleasure. I wrote a letter to Elizabeth and I think about my life. I never lived with my father. He was a captain and he was always at sea or drunk. My mother didn't have a happy life. We are a family of 5 children and I'm the youngest. Everybody died because of the lack of food. I survived thanks to a friend of my father. He found me this job on the Pelican.

11th November 1577

One part of my log book was destroyed, a lot of things happened in one year. Francis Drake is like a father for me. I have become a captain and I have my own ship. I will go back to see Elizabeth soon and we will marry. This is the story of a simple sailor.

Emilien

