

ADMIRAL ROBERT LINZEE



Robert Linzee was born in Portsmouth in 1739 and died 4th October 1804. He is buried in St Nicholas Churchyard, Wickham. Linzee was twice married and had one son by his first wife. For some time, he lived at Little Park Mansions, located to the north of Wickham Village.

Robert joined the Royal Navy and was promoted to Lieutenant during the Seven Years War. Just before the American War of Independence, in 1769, he got his own command, the sloop *HMS Viper*.



HMS Suprize

Robert was made Post Captain in 1768 and then commanded a ship of the line, *HMS Romney*, under Commodore Samuel Hood. Early in the French Revolutionary Wars, Robert was given command of *HMS Suprize* in which ship he participated in the Relief of Quebec and captured three American privateers; the *Maria*, *Gaspee* and *Harlequin*.



The Relief of Quebec



Luis de Córdova y Córdova

In 1780 he was given command of the 32-gun *HMS Thetis* and sent as convoy escort under the command of Captain Sir John Moutray. His ship managed to escape when the rest of a convoy was overwhelmed and captured by the Spanish fleet under Luis de Córdova y Córdova.

On the 12th May 1781, *Thetis* struck a rock off Saint Lucia and was wrecked.



Spanish fleet under Luis de Córdova y Córdova

In 1781 he was given command of the 74-gun *HMS Magnificent* in which he saw action in a number of important engagements between British and French fleets and was with Admiral Sir George Rodney at the first clash with the Comte de Grasse's force in the Dominica Channel on the 9th April 1781, and then again at Rodney's decisive victory over de Grasse at the Battle of the Saintes on the 2th April 1781.

Robert's ship was then dispatched under the flag of Sir Samuel Hood to search for other French ships and, on the 19th April 1781, engaged them at the Battle of the Mona Passage during which she captured the 32-gun frigate *Aimable*.



The Battle of the Saintes



The taking of Concorde

On 15th February 1783, *Magnificent* sighted the 36-gun French frigate *Concorde*, which ship opened fire with her stern chasers. *Magnificent* overhauled the French ship and after fifteen minutes forced her to strike her colours. Soon after her surrender, the *Concorde's* main topsail caught fire, forcing the crew to cut away the mainmast to extinguish it. Two other British ships joined *Magnificent* towed *Concorde* to St. John's, Antigua.



Admiral Samuel Barrington

After the end of the American War of Independence in 1783, Robert commissioned the 74-gun HMS *Saturn* in May 1790 and joined the Channel Fleet under Samuel Barrington and, later, Lord Howe, and paid *Saturn* off in September 1791 after a relatively inactive period. In March 1793, shortly after the outbreak of the French Revolutionary Wars, he was appointed a Colonel of Marines and was given command of the 74-gun HMS *Alcide*.



Admiral Lord Howe

He then went out to join Lord Hood's fleet in April 1793 in support of the defense of Toulon, where he was appointed a Commodore in September 1793.

Hood then dispatched him with the 74-gun ships *HMS Alcide* and *HMS Courageux*, the 64-gun *HMS Ardent*, the 32-gun *HMS Lowestoffe* and the 28-gun *HMS Nemesis*, to support the Corsican insurgents under General Pasquale Paoli.

On the 30th September 1793, Robert and his squadron bombarded Forneille Tower in San Fiorenzo Bay, Corsica, suffering a number of casualties without inflicting appreciable damage. He was then sent to Tunis in an attempt to capture or destroy the French *Duquesne* but was refused to allow a breach of the neutrality of Tunis by the Dey, the local ruler.

Robert was promoted to Rear-Admiral on the 12th April 1794 and remained with *Alcide*, later shifting his flag to the ship of the line, *HMS Windsor Castle*, resuming operations off Corsica.



Toulon in 1793

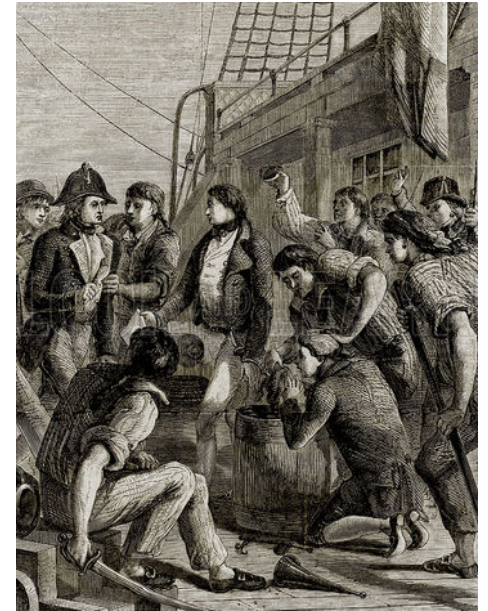


Tunis – old fortifications

While in San Fiorenzo Bay on the 10th November 1794, a mutiny broke out aboard Robert's ship, the mutineers being "unhappy with the Admiral, Captain, First Lieutenant and Boatswain". The mutiny was suppressed, the mutineers pardoned and the officers who were the source of the crew's unrest posted elsewhere.

On the 14th March 1794, Robert was again in action in the Naval Battle of Genoa and, on the 13th July 1795, the Battle of Hyères Islands, before which he had been promoted to Vice-Admiral. Then, for a short time, he flew his flag in *HMS Victory*.

He returned to Britain in *HMS Princess Royal* in June 1796. Though promoted to Admiral on the 1st January 1801, Robert Linzee commanded no further ships at sea. He died on the 4th October 1804, aged 64, at Wickham and is buried in St Nicholas Churchyard.



Mutiny!

