

## Captain of Calais

Calais and the 20 square miles of the Pale that surrounded it came under English control after the siege and capture of the city by Edward III in 1347, one year after Crécy. Calais became a vital trading center for the English wool industry and a strategic enclave on the European mainland. It came to be considered an integral part of the English Kingdom, returning its own Member of Parliament after 1372. Calais was recaptured by France in 1558 during the reign of Queen Mary I.

The “Captain of Calais” was a very important office, held for the Crown by many high-ranking noblemen. During the Wars of the Roses, Calais played a vital role in the power struggle between the Lancastrians and Yorkists and provided a refuge when events turned against the current Captain and his faction. Richard Neville, 16th Earl of Warwick (the “Kingmaker”) held the office from 1455-1458 and again from 1461-1471. Warwick used Calais as a base to make war on the Lancastrians, French, Hanseatic League merchantmen and Castilians. By 1458 he was acting as a virtual pirate.

## Warwick’s Ship as Captain of Calais

Zvezda makes a 1/72 scale model of the Cog “Thomas”. This was the flagship of Edward III at Sluys in 1340. It is a fine model in its own right, but I had other ideas for it...

Joseph Wheatley painted numerous water colour paintings of sailing ships from the 13th to the 19th Century for his book “Historic Sail”. One such plate is entitled “the Earl of Warwick’s cog, 1480-85”. The notes say it derives from an illustrated manuscript “The Pageant of Richard Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick” also known as “the Warwick Roll”. Wheatley’s title is a little misleading since the Kingmaker died fighting against the Yorkists in 1471, after a change of allegiance about 1467. The Earl of Warwick in the manuscript was the father-in-law of the Kingmaker, Richard Beauchamp, who died in 1439. The illustrator of the Warwick Roll was working in the 1480’s and used his knowledge of contemporary ships to illustrate his story of an earlier period. However, with some additional research, I felt that Wheatley’s water colour could become the basis for an accurate model of the Kingmaker’s carrack about 1458. It certainly provided the inspiration.

“Sailing Ships” by Dr. Frank Howard provided much of the technical detail we needed, including many reproductions of illustrations in “the Warwick Roll”. I

highly recommend this book specially for its coverage of the early days of fighting sail.

### The Model

I wanted to build the model in 28mm scale so that it would be compatible with my Wars of the Roses armies. This would require a great deal of conversion of the Zvezda model of 120 years earlier and 1/72 scale. The cog had undergone significant changes by 1458 as the technology and ship-fighting style evolved to produce the carrack warship and the incorporation of naval artillery. In order to build such a model, there was but one solution. I contacted my good friend, master modeler, Julián Fernández de Sevilla Campos, the proprietor of Model J Ship in Alicante, Spain who had already built some amazing Elizabethan ships for me in 1/350 scale. He had never built anything this big or in this period, but he agreed to try. Julián makes many ships in 1/1000 or 1/1200 scale, so this was a brave decision on his part.

The hull is basically the Thomas cog hull from which the quarterdeck and forward fighting decks were built up using plastic construction material. Creating the unique shape of a carrack with its bulky aft and tall, rakish foredeck was critical. Julián crafted this with only the Wheatley plate and his own experience to go from. I think he captured the shape perfectly which allowed everything else to follow.

The main deck was raised to give more freeboard and ship's rails were built through which the cannon will fire. The figurehead was hand carved using the design in Wheatley's plate. The single-masted cog was re-masted to provide a larger bowsprit, small foremast, new mainmast and lateen mast on the quarterdeck. All of the new masts were hand crafted. The deck details, arched windows in the quarterdeck, the protruding afterdeck structures and the canopy were all scratch built.

The crew, soldiers and civilians are all from Wargames Foundry, Wars of the Roses collection. They were removed from their bases, painted and installed before the rigging made this impossible. The cannon were converted from Front Rank Burgundian guns from which the carriages were removed and new sledges created.

After the standing rigging was installed, the mainsail was painted in the exact heraldry of the 16<sup>th</sup> Earl of Warwick. This is somewhat different from the 13<sup>th</sup> Earl's heraldry that appears in the Wheatley plate. A template from which the sail could be accurately painted was created by Geoff Buss of CitadelSix Custom

Design. Geoff also provided designs for all of the shields, banners and standards that were installed later. The heraldry and livery of Warwick and his known supporters and likely ship companions were researched by me with the help of Jeff Buss.

Julián personally painted all of the above and made the shields and then installed the running rigging, attaching all of the blocks and tackle in painstaking detail. The small sail on the foremast was cut from a second mainsail for which we had to buy a second Zvezda model kit!

The ship's boat being towed is the Zvezda longboat model.

The sea base is hand made by Julián from sculpted clay, carefully painted to represent the choppy waters off Calais. This is one of his many artistic specialties.

My next task is to incorporate the model in a wargame of the attack on Sandwich in January 1460 by the Sir John Dynham who defeated a Lancastrian fleet. This allowed Warwick, his father the Earl of Salisbury and Edward Earl of March to invade Kent via a landing in Sandwich with 2,000 men in June 1460.

Julián and I set out to make the most accurate model possible of Warwick's fighting carrack. I hope the reader will approve and enjoy.