

HMS Cambridge (1755)



The launch of HMS *Cambridge*, right, in 1755
(with [HMS Royal George](#) shown fictitiously, left).

Career (Great Britain)



Name:	HMS <i>Cambridge</i>
Ordered:	12 July 1750
Builder:	Deptford Dockyard
Launched:	21 October 1755
Honours and awards:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Participated in: Capture of Havana, 1762
Fate:	Broken up in July 1808

General characteristics after 1713 rebuild^[1]

Class and type:	1706 Establishment 70-gun third rate ship of the line
Tons burthen:	1,615 long tons (1,640.9 t)
Length:	166 ft (50.6 m) (gundeck)
Beam:	44 ft 9 in (13.6 m)
Depth of hold:	20 ft (6.1 m)
Propulsion:	Sails
Sail plan:	Full rigged ship
Armament:	80 guns: Gundeck: 26 × 32 pdrs Middle gundeck: 26 × 18 pdrs Upper gundeck: 24 × 9 pdrs Quarterdeck: 4 × 6 pdrs

HMS Cambridge was an 80-gun [third-rate ship of the line](#) of the [Royal Navy](#), launched at [Deptford Dockyard](#) on [21 October 1755](#).

Cambridge's first captain was Sir [Peircy Brett](#), who had previously been in command of [HMY Royal Caroline](#). He was moved to the *Cambridge* in expectation of the outbreak of hostilities with France. With the outbreak of the [Seven Years' War](#), Brett left the command in November or December 1756. He was replaced by Captain William Gordon. Gordon also did not spend long aboard the *Cambridge*, leaving in April 1757 to take command of the newly launched [HMS Princess Amelia](#). His successor was Captain Thomas Burnet, who was promoted to [Post-Captain](#) on [5 May](#). The *Cambridge* then became the [Commodore Sir John Moore's flagship](#) on the [West Indies Station](#).

Cambridge remained on this station for several years. In January 1759 Sir John was reinforced with a fleet dispatched from England under the command of Commodore Robert Hughes, consisting of eight two-deckers, a [frigate](#) and four [bomb ketches](#). They were also transporting a number of troops under the command of General [Peregrine Hopson](#). They were instructed to make attacks on French settlements in the West Indies. The first of these was a [British expedition against Guadeloupe](#), for which Moore transferred his flag to [HMS Woolwich](#). The *Cambridge*, in company with [HMS Norfolk](#) and [HMS St George](#), were ordered to attack the main citadel. The resulting attack lasted from nine in the morning until four in the afternoon, and succeeded in silencing the defenses. After this success Commodore Hughes returned to Britain in June, taking Burnet and the *Cambridge* with him.

Both Burnet and *Cambridge* were back in the West Indies later in 1759, *Cambridge* again serving as Commodore John Moore's flagship on the [Leeward Islands](#) Station. In 1760 Burnet was replaced by **Captain William Goostrey**, and *Cambridge* became the flagship of Rear Admiral [Charles Holmes](#), who had replaced Moore and was commanding out of [Jamaica](#). *Cambridge* then formed part of Sir [George Pocock](#)'s fleet at the [taking of Havana from the Spanish in 1762](#). During that action she, [HMS Dragon](#) and [HMS Marlborough](#) were ordered on [1 July](#) to bombard and capture the [Moro Fort](#). The *Cambridge*'s captain, [William Goostrey](#), was killed by rifle fire from the fort and [John Lindsay](#) - then captain of [HMS Trent](#) - took over command whilst the battle was still in progress. *Cambridge*'s eventual casualties were 24 killed, including her captain, and 95 wounded.

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