

#684 Dunkirk – John Churchill defects from James II to William III of Orange

Background. King James I reigned from 1603-1625. After his death, the struggle between England's Parliament and King Charles I became even more intense. Charles I did not allow Parliament to meet from 1629 to 1640. When Parliament finally met in 1640, it refused to grant the king any funds unless he again agreed to limit his power. Charles I refused, and the English Civil War broke out in 1642. Parliament's greatest supporters were the Puritans. Oliver Cromwell, a leader in Parliament, led the Puritan army in a series of victories. Charles I was beheaded on January 30, 1649. After his execution, England became a republic called the Commonwealth of England during the 1650's. The Commonwealth era came to an end in 1660, and a new Parliament actually restored the monarchy under Charles II, the son of Charles I.

John Churchill was born on May 26, 1650, a year and a few months after the beheading of King Charles I. The father of John Churchill, Sir Winston Churchill, had fought for the Royalists (King Charles I) in the English Civil War. His staunch support paid off during the Restoration. During Charles II's reign, 17-year-old John Churchill was appointed to the household of the man second in line to the throne, James, Duke of York. He remained at court for several years, but soon became a soldier.

In 1685, Charles II died without legitimate issue and his brother, James, Duke of York, became King James II of Great Britain. John Churchill was promoted to major-general in July 1685 and appointed head of the loyalist troops, but then was subordinated to Louis de Duras. It is believed that this lack of confidence in him by the Crown was what eventually turned John Churchill from his loyalty to the Stuart kings which had been the earmark of his father.



The future James II with his father, Charles I



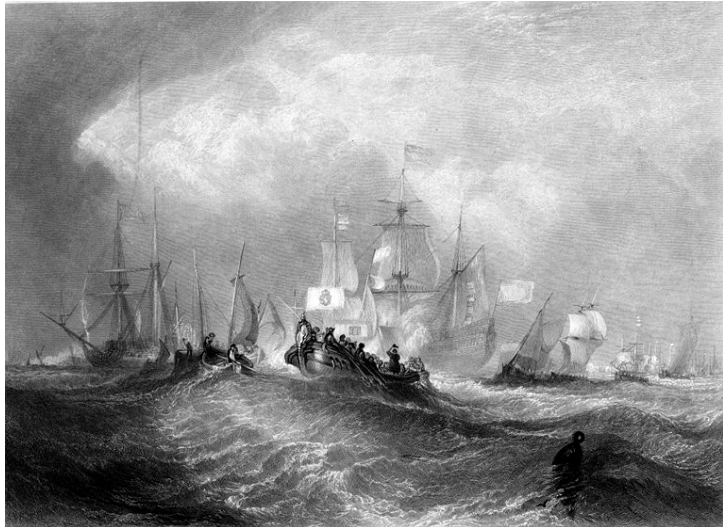
John Churchill

John Churchill (pictured left) defects from King James II to William III of Orange. James II was a Roman Catholic. It was feared that he would attempt to reintroduce absolute monarchical rule into the kingdom, as well as toleration of Roman Catholicism and the possible disestablishment of the (Protestant) Church of England. In 1688, William III of Orange invaded England with the support of much of the Protestant nobility. On August 4, 1688, Churchill had sent a letter to William III of Orange offering his 'entire obedience.' On November 5, 1688, William landed at Torbay, England. Facing him was James II's army of some 20,000, of which the second-in-command was John Churchill. On the night of November 22, 1688, Churchill slipped away to join the invaders, taking many with him. James II was shattered and galled by the defection of Churchill. The

Revolution was bloodless. By Christmas, James II had crept away from the shores of England, never to return. [Some of the information *above* was from the book *The Churchills*, by Kate Fleming, © 1975.]

Key Understanding: *John Churchill defected to the Glorious Revolution. In 1688, John Churchill defected from King James II to William III of Orange, thereby helping to insure the success of the Glorious Revolution and the advent of the English Bill of Rights.*

Revelation 13:1 (KJV) And I STOOD UPON THE SAND OF THE SEA [shore], **and saw A BEAST RISE UP OUT OF THE SEA, HAVING SEVEN HEADS AND TEN HORNS, and UPON HIS** [Ten] **HORNS TEN CROWNS** [representing the Crown Shift to the U.S. Bill of Rights, whose antecedent was the English Bill of Rights of 1689, the advent of which was aided by the defection of John Churchill in 1688 from King James II to William III of Orange], *and upon his heads the name of blasphemy.*



Prince of Orange Landing at Torbay,
engraving by William Miller published in
The Art Journal 1852 (New Series Volume IV)
George Virtue, London, 1852

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