



Lesson 2.1

# Setting sail



Fort Rammekens, located by the entrance to the Western Scheldt, was built between 1547–1552. Fort Rammekens is the oldest Western European sea fortress that is still standing. The most important function of the fort, for much of its history, was to guard the shipping route to the harbors of Middelburg and Antwerp

## ① Fort Rammekens

On the Western Scheldt, just before Fort Rammekens, trade vessels were loaded.

Why were they not fully loaded in the harbor?

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Who, or what, do you think pulled the ships from the harbor to Fort Rammekens?

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At Fort Rammekens the ship was brought up stream. What does this mean?

- a. Electrically loaded.
- b. Brought to a specific point.
- c. Rigged with electric cables.



Can you explain?

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## Crew

Mustering the crew happened in Middelburg and Vlissingen (Flushing). Part of the crew was needed to help load the ship. For this they did not receive wages. The crew was not paid until the ship began her voyage.

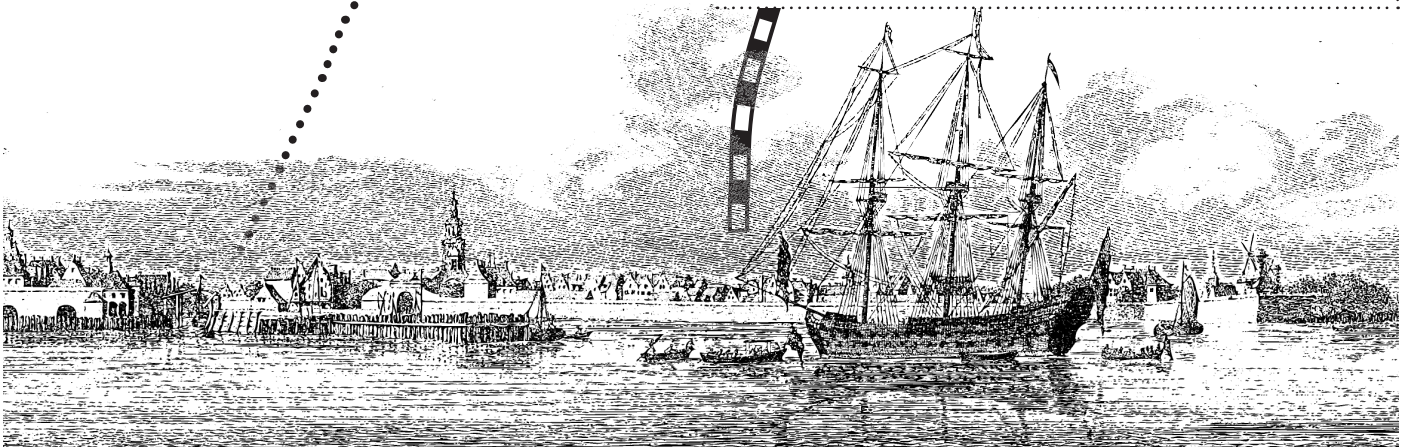
Drums were beaten in Middelburg and Flushing to muster the crew.

## ② Summoned

To summon the crew to Fort Rammekens, drums were beaten in Middelburg and Flushing.

What does that mean?

- a. They were brought back from the dead.
- b. They were required to come and work.
- c. They were cleaned.



③ **Waiting for departure**

Upon arrival to Fort Rammekens the ships were fully loaded and the crew was brought aboard. Sometimes it would still take days before the ship could depart. Why do you think this was?

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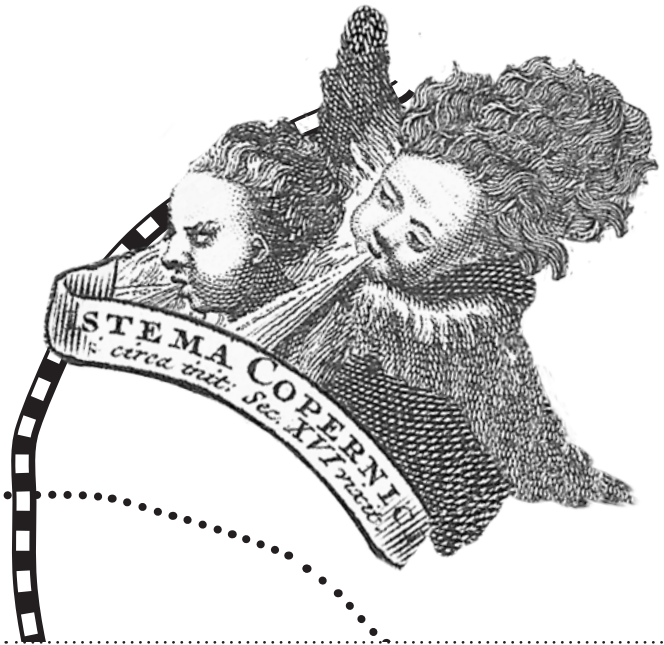
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Fort Rammekens is located by the entrance to the Western Scheldt. Middelburg harbor was connected to the Western Scheldt via the Channel of Welzinge. Fort Rammekens was built between 1547-1552 and is the oldest Western European sea fortress. Why was the fort built?

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④ **The last order**

On Wednesday September 30, 1 day prior to departure, a last order was received. What was this?

- a. ammunition
- b. gold
- c. bread
- d. water

Why do you think this?

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How did the cook get fresh food on board?

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