

The British in Portugal and the Portuguese Empire

This article is based on a presentation given to each of three branches of BHS (Caldas, Porto and Lisbon) in January, 2015. Since members of BHS must be familiar with the British institutions in Lisbon, this paper will deal with other British connexions with Portugal and with the Portuguese Empire. By the very nature of this subject, I cannot claim that this paper is exhaustive.

By Peter Booker

“It is easy to see that the English hardly ever mixed; they had autonomy, special prerogatives national associations and well organised communities”, wrote Rose Macaulay. Macaulay visited Lisbon in 1943 after her house had been blitzed, and her library destroyed. In Lisbon, the British had founded an English College, a Factory, Assembly Room, hospital, church and cemetery. There was of course also a large British community in Porto, and in the distant past a British merchant community in the Algarve. It is clear that her remarks were true of Britons (I cannot tell why she refers to the English alone) even in the middle of the twentieth century.

Olivença

At 430km², the county of Olivença is slightly larger than the English county of Rutland (392km²). The town of Olivença and its adjacent territory was annexed by Spain after the brief War of the Oranges in 1801, and this annexation was confirmed at the subsequent Treaty of Badajoz. After the invasion of Portugal in 1807, Portugal renounced the Treaty of Badajoz, on the ground that the recent invasion disregarded the provisions of the Badajoz Treaty, which was therefore nullified. In secret negotiations in 1810, Great Britain agreed with Portugal, that in return for the cession of Bissau and Cacheu to Britain for a period of fifty years, Britain would give help to Portugal in her claim for the restitution of Olivença (and Juromenha), and for the re-establishment

of the ancient borders of Portuguese America. It is then strange that, after the siege and reduction of Olivença on 15 April, 1811 by an Anglo-Portuguese army under Marshal Beresford, Olivença should have fallen again into Spanish hands.

The Olivença question was raised in the Treaty of Paris in 1814, and at the Congress of Vienna in 1815. On both occasions, Spain unwillingly promised to restore the territories to Portuguese sovereignty, *and this adjustment should take place as soon as possible*, declared the signatories. The Spanish signature to the Congress of Vienna was appended only on 10th June, 1817. In that document, Spain promised to restore Olivença to Portugal. In 1840, to reinforce Spanish culture, the Spanish state forbade the teaching of Portuguese in this territory, and has also ensured that the remaining population is Spanish rather than Portuguese.

Spain and Portugal have signed two accords concerning border issues, in 1864 and 1926. On each occasion, the parties have left blank that part of the border between the two countries which corresponds with the boundary on the Guadiana of the county of Olivença.

Although many people in Portugal regard this state of affairs with a lack of acceptance, there seems to be extremely little likelihood that Spain will ever fulfil its obligations under the treaties of two hundred years ago, nor it appears, will British pressure make any difference.

The British Cemetery in Elvas

After the bloody battle at Albuera on 16 May, 1811, British officers sought to bury some of their fallen comrades at Elvas. Marshal Beresford and General Stewart sought permission for these burials from the Governor of Elvas under the provisions of the 1654 Anglo-Portuguese Treaty.

This small cemetery is one of the oldest British military cemeteries in existence outside Britain. It contains the five graves of:

Major General Daniel Hoghton: 1770 – 1811 Memorials to Major General Hoghton exist in his home parish of St Leonard at Walton in the Dale, and in St Paul's Cathedral in London

Lt Col Daniel White: 1771 – 1811

Lt Col James Ward Oliver: ? – 1811

Major William Nicholas Bull 1801 – 1850 was clearly not a casualty at Albuera, but was a veteran of both the Portuguese and Spanish Civil Wars. He and his family lived at Monforte after he left the Spanish forces in 1833.

Mrs Caroline Bull : ? – 1863, Major Bull's widow



The five tombs at the British Cemetery in Elvas

At Elvas, there is also the memorial to *Lieutenant Colonel Charles Bevan*. The conduct of this officer and his Regiment were publicly criticised by C-in-C Viscount Wellington after a part of the French garrison at Almeida was allowed to escape in May 1811. Much later it became known that the specific order had been pocketed by Bevan's Divisional Commander, General Erskine, and delivered to Bevan when

it was already too late. Shamed by this unjust criticism, Bevan shot himself. He was buried at Portalegre. The gravestone was lost when a road was built. Bevan's descendants placed a memorial at Elvas in 2000.

International Aid

Following the Great Earthquake of 1755 and at the request of George II, Parliament in London authorised a relief fund to the value of £100 000. This aid came in the guise of both money and useful equipment, such as tents and hand tools.

Another opportunity arose in 1811 for Britain to come to the aid of Portugal. During the retreat towards The Lines of Torres Vedras in the autumn of 1810, Portuguese had been urged by the British commander, Viscount Wellington, to destroy any food or equipment which might be of any use to the enemy. In consequence, most of the people from the centre of Portugal were in dire distress as they became refugees in their own country behind the Lines.

The occupying French, based on Santarém, slowly starved, and, forced to retreat in the spring of 1811, Marshal Masséna's troops conducted a campaign of attrition, destroying everything they could reach, and murdering at will. The centre of Portugal was thus twice devastated within a year. Returning to their homes, Portuguese found that they had no means of survival, for the centre of Portugal had become a wasteland.

In this context, Wellington asked for a British subvention. Parliament voted £100,000 to relieve the distress of Portuguese farmers, this sum being increased by a further £70,000 by public subscription.

It was necessary to determine how to distribute this British aid, and the two nations each chose one representative. Portugal's representative was *dezembargador* (High Court judge) João Gaudêncio Torres, and for Britain, John Croft (1778 – 1862). Croft had materially aided the war effort through undercover work behind enemy lines in 1810, where

he had set up a network of spies. He had been able to escape suspicion because he spoke excellent Portuguese and Spanish.

In charge of the Distribution Fund, Torres and Croft left Lisbon in September 1811 and returned in July 1812, having covered some 5 000 miles on horseback. They visited 77 000 families on 26 000 farms, donating beds, sheets, clothing, medicines, food, livestock and seeds. Sá da Bandeira was in Santarém soon after the French left, and movingly described the devastation he found in that city. The Santarém Câmara records show the amount of seed received by each of 58 farmers in their district.

Croft was a member of the port exporting dynasty, and the Croft brand is now owned by Taylor's. He was appointed to the Military Order of the Tower and Sword in 1814; a British baronet in 1818, and Barão da Serra da Estrela in 1854. He was also a Fellow of the Royal Society.

São Domingos

The mine at São Domingos near Mértola was worked by the British company Mason & Barry for just over 100 years (1858–1966). This mine will be the subject of a further article next year.

The English in the Algarve

Over the years in the Algarve, the English earned themselves an unenviable reputation. Throughout the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, English merchants used their economic muscle to the disadvantage of the Algarvian. Similar to the rest of Portugal, the Algarve was open to a foreign mercantile invasion because of the insidious influence of the Inquisition. New Christians, and by extension anybody with unusual wealth who might be a New Christian, were an especial target for Inquisitors and their familiars. Since each individual, after arrest by the Inquisition, was liable to the confiscation of all assets, including his house, there was every reason for wealthy merchants to

remove themselves and their businesses from the reach of inquisitorial denunciation.

The upshot was that there were no native Portuguese to benefit from the advantages of trade in the Algarve. But there were foreigners, and principally English, who were in a position to take up the opportunities offered. The foreigners from Northern Europe were not Catholic, and for that reason were out of the reach of the Inquisition, but even they did not keep their money in Portugal, but remitted their profits to the home country.

In the seventeenth century, there were English commercial houses in Faro run by Janson (Yorkshire), Mellor, Small and Parcar (London), and in the eighteenth century by Pitt (Somerset) and Lamprière (Jersey). We know of the continuous presence of English merchants in the Algarve as there was always an English Consul in Faro. That position was held in turn by at least three members of the Lamprière family, who dominated commercial life in the Algarve for 100 years from 1714.

Centred in Faro, the Lamprières employed agents throughout the Algarve, and they were hated because they could dictate prices for buying and selling, but there was no other merchant in the Algarve with the financial strength to challenge them. British businesses traded little on their own account, but charged a commission on the loading of foreign shipping, where they held a near monopoly.

Writing of the dominance of one British commercial house to King D José in 1759, a Lagos magistrate penned the following words:

“The wealth of this house is very great and the very great trade it carries in all kinds of grain, wines and spirits brings about a dependence and so the owners have become despotic in this land. The whole of Portugal owes a dependence to Britain, but here in the Algarve, the inhabitants have become slaves, so that their laws no longer have effect and they have to give great obedience and are vilely humiliated”.

Arthur William Costigan, a British traveller in 1778 to the Algarve wrote the following: *“The chief trade from this province consists in figs and almonds, some wine, orange, cork, and sumach carried on exclusively by three or four English houses established here, which make exorbitant gains, considering the reduced rates at which they purchase the different articles from the poor peasants of the country”*.

The Spanish and French invasions of the early nineteenth century had a marked and deleterious effect on the Portuguese economy, but one improvement which followed these invasions was the displacement of the English commercial dominance of the Algarve.

The Azores

The British have never occupied the islands of the Azores, and the earliest foreign military use of the islands was during WW1, when the US was granted rights in 1918 to use Ponta Delgada as a submarine base. Soon after the end of that war, the base was decommissioned by the US Navy, and one of the officers involved was one Franklin Delano Roosevelt, later 32nd President of the United States

During WW2, the British made a request to the government of Portugal for the use of an airfield on one of the islands. The request was made on the basis of the ancient treaties of alliance between the two countries. The obvious use for such a base was to combat the U-boat menace in the Battle of the Atlantic. Long-range patrol aircraft based in the Azores would be able to cover convoys bound for Britain during the whole of their crossing.

The British pressed and pressed for this concession, and eventually Salazar agreed that Britain might use new runways at Lajes, where they could build an airfield as from October 1943. As soon as the D-Day landings had occurred, and it was evident which side would eventually win the war, Salazar agreed that US forces should also be allowed to use this base. Salazar of course loathed the US and their economic domination and liberal principles. Because there was a sizeable Azorean community in the US, Salazar also feared that there would be

pressure on the US government to annex this archipelago. It was for this reason that Britain persuaded the Americans to stand well back, while the British conducted the negotiations, based on the ancient alliance.

Prime Minister Churchill was dissuaded from threatening to invade the islands (although both the US and Britain had plans for such an invasion) and on 18 June, 1943 after the North African landings had taken place Britain made a formal request for an air base in the Azores. Salazar was nervous of the German Army in the south of France, although advised that the High Command in Germany believed that the war could no longer be won. There was a misunderstanding between Sir Ronald Campbell (the British Ambassador, whose manner Salazar found irritating) and Salazar about the urgency of the issue, and even under severe pressure, Salazar held out. On 4th October, the deal was signed that 8th October 1943 was the earliest date on which the British might land their forces on Terceira.

It was on 12th October that Prime Minister Churchill was able to announce in the Commons: *“I have an announcement to make to the House arising out of the Treaty signed between this country and Portugal in the year 1373 between his Majesty King Edward III and King Ferdinand and Queen Eleanor of Portugal.....I take this opportunity of placing on record the appreciation by HMG, which I have no doubt is shared by Parliament and the British nation, of the attitude of the Portuguese government, whose loyalty to their British Ally never wavered in the darkest hours of the war”*.

It may be apocryphal, but Aneurin Bevan is reputed to have remarked in response: *“I am glad the Right Honourable Gentleman has at last got to the bottom of his in-tray”*.

At Angra do Heroísmo, in the entrance to the Castelo de São Sebastião, which is now a Pousada, there are two grey commemorative stones, one inscribed in English, and the other in Portuguese, saying:

World War II

This stone commemorates the arrival of the British-Azores Force on October 8th 1943 in accordance with the terms of The Anglo-Portuguese Agreement of August 1943 with the consent of the Military Commander of Terceira, Brigadier João Tamagnini de Sousa Barbosa the Commander of the Force Air Vice Marshal Geoffrey Bromet established his first Headquarters in this Castelo de São Sebastião on the above date

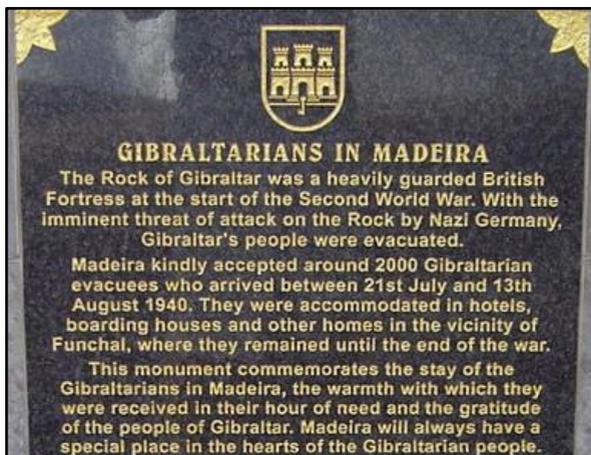
German reaction to the concession by Portugal was muted, since Germany still required Portuguese tungsten, and it made no sense at this stage in the war to open another military confrontation.

Madeira

Britain occupied the island of Madeira on two separate occasions during the French wars, first in 1801-1802, and second in 1807-1814. The reason for the occupation was Britain's fear that this important port of call for British shipping might fall to the French. The first occupation ended with the signing of the Treaty of Amiens in March, 1802.

Early in the morning of Christmas Eve, 1807 a large British convoy arrived at Funchal, and the Portuguese governor was given 30 minutes to agree to the landing of 3,600 British soldiers under the command of General Beresford. Madeira was occupied for a short time.

Beresford set about improving the defences of the island, and in March, 1808 a new treaty was signed by which Madeira was restored to the jurisdiction of the Crown of Portugal. British troops remained, however, and the local Portuguese militias remained under the command of the British general. Beresford was replaced in August, 1808 and British troops finally left the island in September, 1814 five months after Napoleon's abdication.



World War II saw another invasion of Madeira by Britons. In July, 1940, two thousand civilian Gibraltarians were evacuated to Madeira. Gibraltar had become an important naval station, and for a time in 1940 there was a real fear that Germany might attack Gibraltar overland through Spain. That attack never happened, but these civilians remained absent from The Rock while it served its part in the Mediterranean campaign. They were repatriated in May, 1944.

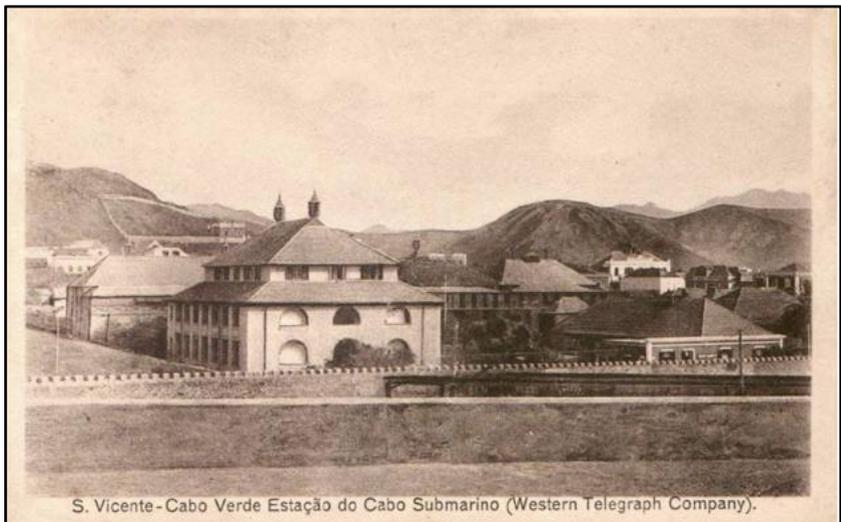
Cape Verde Islands

The Cape Verde Islands featured in the war between England and Spain as it attracted the attention of Francis Drake who sacked Cidade Velha in both 1582 and 1585. The islands were for a long time a staging post in the slave trade between Africa and the Americas. Under pressure from Britain, the slave trade south of the equator was abolished in 1836,

and that through Cape Verde in 1842. A major source of island income had disappeared.

The coal-fired ships of the nineteenth century needed coaling stations at points along their routes and the port at Mindelo on the island of São Vicente was developed from 1838 for this purpose; from 1858, it was also used by the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company. After 1900, as oil fired shipping predominated, Mindelo coaling station began to fall out of use. At its peak, however it was the fourth largest coaling station in the world. In 1898, a total of 1503 vessels called at Mindelo to coal.

In 1884, Mindelo also became a submarine cable station between Europe and both South Africa and South America, and the sub Saharan cables still pass through the islands.



The Western Telegraph Submarine Cable Station, S.Vicente, Cape Verde

Guiné

Guiné was contacted early in the period of the Discoveries, and was to become a slaving centre. In the eighteenth century, under the rule of the Marquês de Pombal, most of its exported slaves were exported to Maranhão-Pará in northern Brazil.

The British attempted to found a factory at Bolama in the 1790s, where there was no evidence of Portuguese settlement. Unsuccessful, they left in 1793, and it was not until 1837 that Portuguese occupied the island. Bissau and Cacheu were ceded to Britain for 50 years from 1810, as a part of the campaign against the slave trade and the Olivença question, but this arrangement was never implemented.

In 1838, Lieutenant Kellett RN was accused by the Portuguese Governor Barreto of kidnapping domestic slaves, seizing a Portuguese schooner, drinking too much wine and not paying for it, and lastly of insulting the flag of Portugal by using it to wrap wine bottles. Refuting these charges, Kellett asserted that Bolama was a British possession. Twenty years later in 1858, Captain Close of HMS Trident also claimed the island of Bolama for Britain, declaring all slaves free, and seized the magistrate because he was slaving. Britain and Portugal agreed to submit the case of Bolama to arbitration and US President Ulysses Grant awarded the island of Bolama to Portugal on the basis of historic claim and prior occupation.

São Tomé and Príncipe

These two islands excited a great deal of British Quaker interest at the turn of the 20th century. They had been Portuguese since the late 1400s and had been used since as an *entrepôt* in the slave trade. Although slavery was outlawed in the Portuguese Empire in 1869, the *roças* (large estates) continued to use indentured labour in the cocoa plantations.

Through reports made by consular officials, the British Foreign Office was well aware of the working conditions in São Tomé from the

date of the official abolition of slavery in 1869. Disingenuously, Britain kept quiet, since Britain also benefited from the work of indentured labourers from Mozambique and China to work the gold mines of the Transvaal.

In Britain, the Quakers had always been in the forefront of the anti-slavery campaigns and Cadbury, Fry and Rowntree were all Quaker chocolate companies, paternal, benevolent and ethical. By 1901 when Cadbury learned that São Tomé was in principle a slave economy, William Cadbury set about proving this allegation. Cadbury was at the time importing 55% of its cacao needs from São Tomé.

Newspaper articles and information gathered in visits to the islands all pointed in the same direction. In October 1908, William Cadbury himself made a visit to São Tomé and was convinced that its economy rested on slavery. By March, 1909 each of the three Quaker chocolate companies and the German-American Stollwerck had boycotted São Tomé cacao and began to buy their supplies from alternative sources. Other chocolate companies in USA stepped in to buy the slave produced cacao.

Mozambique

Portuguese claims in Africa were based on immense historic claims, but not on actual occupation, nor on military or administrative control. In 1868, the Transvaal Republic had challenged Portuguese control of Delagoa Bay, where Maputo now stands but Portugal withstood that challenge. At various times between 1823 and 1870, Britain also claimed Delagoa Bay, but the arbitration of President Macmahon of France in 1875 upheld the Portuguese position.

JP Hornung was the son of Transylvanian immigrants who had settled in Middlesbrough. In 1884 JP married Laura de Paiva Raposo, and went off to work in Portuguese East Africa. In 1890, Hornung founded the *Companhia do Assucar de Moçambique*, and on 12 March, 1909 D Manuel II inaugurated their *Refinaria Colonial* in Alcântara, whose capacity was 20 000 tonnes per annum. Hornung's company

became Sena Sugar Estates in 1920, and was floated on the stock exchange in 1950 as *SIDUL Sociedade Industrial do Ultramar SA*.



The Sena Sugar Estates headquarters

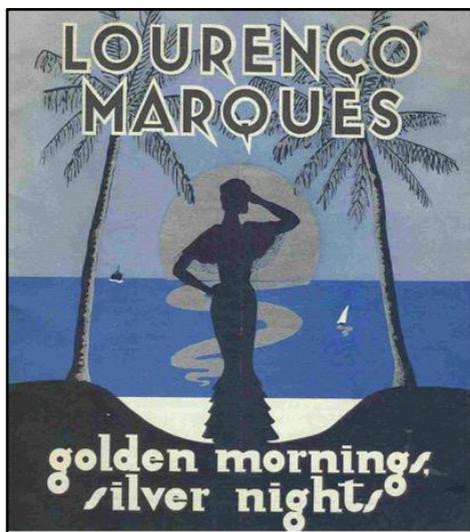
Sena Sugar was one of the largest sugar estates in the world, and had the largest sugar refinery in Africa. In the 1960s it employed 14,000 people on its estates on the Zambezi, although most of the engineers and managers were British. *SIDUL* lost its Mozambique estates in 1977 as a result of the civil war, and in 1983 the shareholders of the Alcântara business (two thirds being British) sold their shares to Tate & Lyle.



General plan of concessions along the Zambezi River, c1910

In 1913, JP Hornung bought the West Grinstead Park estate in Sussex. The house was demolished in the 1960s after suffering damage through requisition (I suppose during the war). A descendant of JP is Bernard Hornung, who in 2015 was Chairman of the Anglo-Portuguese Society.

The capital of Portuguese Mozambique from 1898 was Lourenço Marques, which since 1895 had a direct rail connection with Pretoria. Lourenço Marques was an outpost of Britain's empire, dominated by British banks and commercial houses, and largely English speaking. It was also a seaside destination for holidaymakers from central South Africa. As a measure of its Britishness, Lourenço Marques played host to the Duke and Duchess of Connaught on two occasions (1906 and 1910) as they journeyed to Cape Town. There was even a street named after them, and another after their daughter Patricia. When former President of Portugal Cavaco Silva served as an Army Lieutenant in Lourenço Marques, he lived on Patricia Street, and his daughter Patricia was born there. Mozambique has now joined the British Commonwealth.



There is not enough space here to discuss the campaigns of WW1 in Mozambique, in which British contingents were heavily involved.

Anglo-Portuguese Wars

England and Portugal have been at war for only one period in their history. We talk of the oldest alliance, but underplay the Spanish Captivity of 1580 – 1640 when Spain and Portugal were under the same flag. Spain was at war with England 1585 - 1604 and 1625 – 1630 and because Portugal was ruled by the same Spanish king, Portugal was also at war with England.

Just before Philip II of Spain inherited Portugal, England supported the claim to the Portuguese throne of the Prior of Crato, D António. Portugal suffered Drake's raids of 1587 (in both Algarve and Cabo Verde), the English Armada of 1589, and the Faro raid by the Earl of Essex in 1596.

England and Portugal also came to blows in India. At the Battle of Swally in November 1612, four East India Company men-of-war (Captain Thomas Best on the Red Dragon) overcame an equivalent Portuguese force and marked the start of the decline of Portuguese power in India. And at the Battle of Ormuz in 1622, the East India Company allied with the Shah of Persia to wrest Ormuz and Kishm Island from the Portuguese, and went on to develop a silk trade with Persia. The explorer William Baffin was one of the few casualties at Kishm. The English were therefore also instrumental in the decline of Portuguese power in the Persian Gulf.

It may not be well known that Goa was occupied by British forces during the Napoleonic War. In 1799, the British Raj sent 10 000 soldiers to Goa to protect it against possible attacks by France and the Netherlands, at that time a French dependency. They were stationed at Aguada, Dona Paula and Mormugão. The Portuguese Governor was not overjoyed that Goa was occupied, but what could he do? Looking on the bright side, he wrote that the British paid their bills in full and on time. A surviving witness to the presence of British troops is the British cemetery. The first interment was in 1808, and the last in 1912. The cemetery was described by a British visitor in 1855:

“I visited the burial ground at Cabo built and used by the British force of 10,000 (sic) men when they held possession of the seaboard points of Goa, to prevent the French entering India by this route in 1805. The massive laterite stone wall which surrounds it is as perfect as the day it was built, the laterite in this neighbourhood being the best I have anywhere seen, but the lofty arched entrance gates have long been despoiled of every particle of wood”.



The arched entrance to the British Cemetery, Goa

Bombay

Of the three great Indian coastal cities of the East India Company, Bombay was the odd one. First Madras as Fort St George and then Calcutta as Fort William had been founded by company men. Bombay on the other hand came into English possession as a going concern. Around the governor’s mansion there were about 10,000 people of Indian and Portuguese descent. When acquired by John Company in 1668, Bombay was already British, a Crown colony. It was leased to the Company by the crown for an annual rent of £10, to be paid in gold on 30th September.

Bombay came to Charles II of England as a part of the dowry of his Portuguese bride, Infanta Catherine of Braganza. The Treaty of

Whitehall of 1661 showed in a secret clause that Bombay was to be employed by the English in the defence of Portugal's other Indian settlements. This was a further defence pact between the English and Portuguese against the powerful Dutch VOC. The EIC was happy to give financial support to the re-instated Stuart monarchy, and agreed on the support to be offered to Portugal against the Netherlands.

King Charles sent a garrison of four hundred men to his new Indian possession in a small fleet of five ships. When it arrived at Bombay in late 1662, there was confusion about the exact extent of the territory to be conceded and the Portuguese governor declined to hand over his charge without direct orders from Goa. At this impasse, the English fleet sailed off to the EIC base at Suvali, known to the English as Swally, where the Mughul governor was not pleased to see 400 foreign regular soldiers drilling outside his window.

The English commander, the Earl of Marlborough, was in a quandary, and eventually offloaded his garrison at the island of Anjediva, barren, unhealthy and uninhabited. He left them one of his ships, and returned to England. Over the next year, between 200 and 300 of them died. By 1665, the nominated governor of Bombay, Sir Abraham Shipman, had also died, and it was left to his secretary and successor Humphrey Cooke to negotiate landing rights at Bombay for the 97 survivors of the 400-strong garrison. Even to achieve this limited objective, Cooke had to make heavy territorial concessions to the Portuguese, which were eventually repudiated in London. Pepys wrote in his Diary: *The Portugalls have choused [cheated] us.*

There had in fact been a Convention of Goa in 1635 between the EIC President in Surat and the local Portuguese. The EIC was able to open factories at Lahribandar in Sind and at Basra, both Portuguese places, and an English ship had been able to open trade at Macau. In fact, all Portuguese ports in the east suddenly became open to English trade.

Macau

Since 1555 – 57, Portugal had been established at Macau on the Pearl River downstream from Canton. The Ming authorities decreed that all foreign trade should pass through Macau and the Portuguese monopolised external trade with China until 1685. From 1620, English merchants tried to establish relations with China. In 1635, the Viceroy of Goa, victim of the Dutch blockade, chartered an English ship *London* to bring from Macau copper and 100 bronze cannon for the defence of India. Thus began a three way cooperation between Portuguese, Chinese and English, and in fact until the concession of Hong Kong to Britain in 1842, Macau served as a centre of business and residence for all European merchants in China and as base for diplomatic and consular missions.

The first British man-of-war to appear in Macau waters in 1743 was *HMS Centurion* (Commodore Anson) which towed in the captured Spanish galleon *Nuestra Señora de Covadonga*, out of Peru for Manila. She carried £1.5 million in bullion, and the ship was sold in Macau. Anson became a rich man. When in 1757, China again closed its ports to foreigners, Macau lifted all restrictions on the permanent residence of British subjects.

The EIC then set up a Superintendency of Supercargoes in Macau, and as Macau had become a base for the British EIC, it was their port for shipping and their place of residence. The British now took over almost the entire China trade as China tea and silk became very popular in Britain and British North America. As British merchants replaced Portuguese, so did the English language replace Portuguese as the Asian *lingua franca*.

The British sent two missions to China, the first under Earl Macartney in 1793 and second Lord Amherst in 1816. Macartney's mission made its first landing in China at Macau, before it went on to Beijing.

The Royal Navy arrived in Macau in 1802 and requested to land, alleging danger from the French. Governor José Manuel Pinto refused this help, saying he could defend the fort, but that the Royal Navy could help to defend the port. After much British pressure, the Governor agreed in 1808 that British troops could land. Although they left again three years later, British Protestants established a British cemetery. There were chaplains, a Missionary Society, and a British museum.

Many British firms established themselves in Macau, using disguise to avoid the East India Company monopoly, which in any case came to an end in 1833, and British government representatives continued to use Macau for their base. As demand for tea and silk boomed, Britain sought to open more Chinese ports to international trade. The Chinese attempt to suppress the import of opium, with which Britain paid for Chinese exports, led to the Opium War of 1839-42, and Macau stood by its commitment to shelter British subjects, as it was to do also in the next century.

The British victory led to the cession of Hong Kong by the Chinese Empire, and as Hong Kong became established, hundreds of Portuguese moved to Hong Kong from Macau to become officials, businessmen, clerks and police. They ran the printing presses, interpreted from Chinese, and operated dispensing chemists. The Portuguese community was the bulwark on which Hong Kong prospered.

After the Japanese overran Hong Kong in WW2, the population of Macau increased by 500,000, mainly British and Chinese from Hong Kong. The one British flag that flew throughout the war in the Far East was that of the British Consul in Macau. The British consul said after the war: *None of us can ever forget what has been done for us and for our families in Macau. We received the inestimable benefit of liberty.*

Nowhere else have Luso-British relations been so close. For over three centuries Macau has served the cause of the Luso-British Alliance. The effects of the Alliance on the borders of China demonstrate that for much of its term it has been one of world- wide importance.

Peter Booker spent most of his working life with British Coal, after taking his degree in Modern History at Pembroke College, Cambridge. After the collapse of the coal industry in Britain, he and Lynne in 1998 chose to emigrate to the Algarve. In 2006 they founded the Algarve History Association (Associação dos Historiadores do Algarve), whose aim is to bring Algarvian and Portuguese history and culture to the notice of a wider expatriate and Anglophone audience. AHA now has a circulation list of well over 800 people from many nationalities, from all over the Algarve. Peter has lectured on a number of occasions to all the branches of the British Historical Society and also to the Anglo-Portuguese Society in London.