

# Elcano

## WHO PROVED THAT THE WORLD WAS ROUND

In September 1519 Charles I of Spain sent Ferdinand Magellan, a Portuguese maritime explorer in the service of the Spanish crown, with a fleet of five Galleons to find a westward route to the Spice Islands of Indonesia. He discovered the route between the Atlantic and Pacific Ocean at the bottom of the world, which have since been called the Magellan Straits.

Unfortunately Magellan did not complete his final westward voyage as he was killed during a skirmish with natives, some call it the Battle of Mactan, in the Philippines.

Captain Juan Sebastian de Elcano, who started the expedition as the Navigation officer aboard the *Conception*, was left as senior officer of the survivors. He took command of the *Victoria* and set out for the Moluccas with 47 Spanish survivors and 13 Islanders. He took on a cargo of spices and headed for the Cape of Good Hope. *The Trinidad* was to sail back through the Pacific Ocean, while the *Victoria*, captained by Elcano himself, would risk the passage of the Indian Ocean, a Portuguese controlled area. The *Trinidad* was left behind for repairs and was later stripped by the Portuguese and destroyed in a squall.

On September 8, 1522 the *Victoria* limped into Seville with 17 survivors aboard.

Elcano had completed the first circumnavigation of the world.