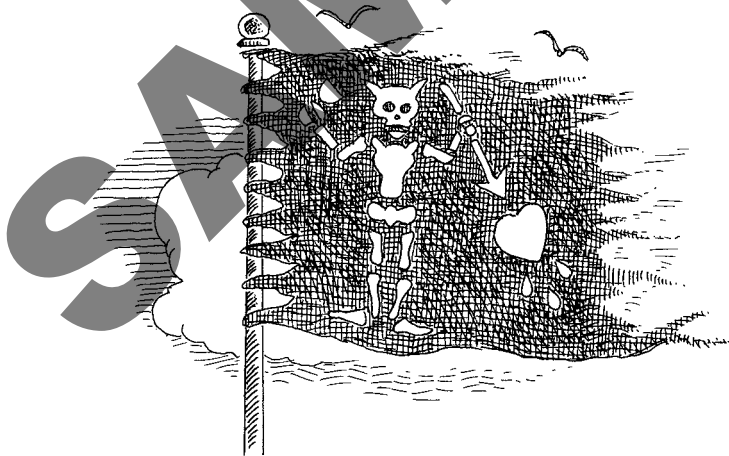


Blackbeard's Last Stand

Alan MacDonald

Illustrated by Brian Lee



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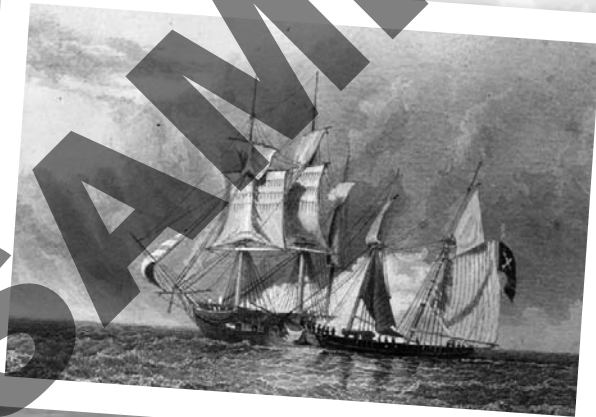
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Introduction

The legend of the British pirate Blackbeard is based on historical fact. Blackbeard was at the height of his fame between 1716 and 1718. In just two short years, one man became the most famous pirate of all time!

During the eighteenth century, pirates sailed the seas, attacking and robbing ships to make their fortune.



Pirate battle, around 1650.

The pirate ship is flying a pirate flag, which is attracting another ship.

Blackbeard was an actual man, originally named Edward Drummond. When he became a pirate, he began calling himself Edward Teach.

Nicknamed “Blackbeard” after his long braided beard, he was feared all along the East Coast of America. He was a huge man, and he struck fear into the hearts of his victims. Others were daring, but Blackbeard was a madman who was afraid of nothing. He was as cruel to his own crew as he was to his enemies.

The governor of Virginia begged the British Navy to help. Blackbeard must be stopped, or no ship would ever be safe!

This is the story of Blackbeard’s last stand.

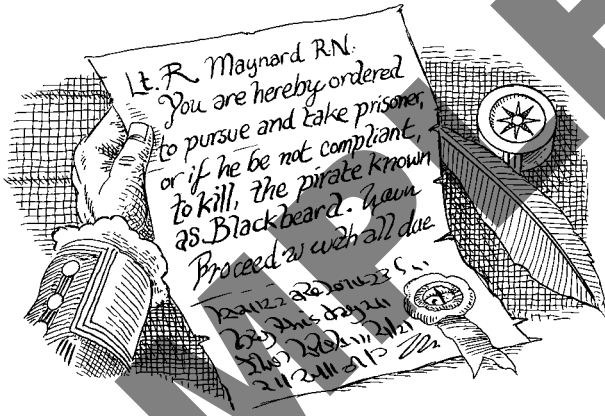
This picture shows the ideal pirate, holding the blade of a dagger in his mouth.



CHAPTER

1

He's Pure Evil



Blackbeard – the name made my blood run cold. I read the letter for the third time, hoping there was some mistake. Regrettably, there was no mistake. It was addressed to me – Lieutenant Robert Maynard – and my orders were clear. I was commanded to hunt down the pirate Blackbeard and bring him back, dead or alive.