



Veere 1809-2019

British landing at Walcheren



The landing site at Breezand in 2018

In the night of 28 -29 July 1809 a British fleet of over 400 ships with on board about 40.000 sailors and soldiers arrived before the coast of the island Walcheren in the Netherlands. The intention was to put ashore a considerable force of soldiers to capture the island and its coastal batteries and make it possible for the fleet to sail up to Antwerp to destroy the French fleet

and shipyards.

The landing took place on the 30th of July 1809 around 4.30 pm on the beach near Breezand. The regiments under Lt. General Fraser were the first to land, in total about 17.000 soldiers were disembarked.

The rest of the land forces landed on the island of Zuid-Beveland near Kattendijk on the 1st of August.

Within a few days Walcheren and Zuid-Beveland were captured, but difference in opinion about the military strategy between the commander of the land forces, John Pitt, Earl of Chatham, and the commander of the naval forces, Sir Richard John Strachan, together with the effect of the Walcheren Fever, were the main reasons that the success of the landing didn't result in the destruction of the French fleet and shipyards near Antwerp.



In total between 5000 and 7000 British soldiers died during the campaign, of which only ± 200 in military action, the rest due to the Walcheren Fever. By the end of December 1809 all British troops had left the Dutch islands.

To commemorate this landing on Walcheren the Stichting Promotie Veere together with the Equipage De Delft have decided to organise an event at Walcheren. The event will take place on the 23th to 25th of August 2019 in Veere

Veere is a small, partly still fortified, picturesque town, with historical buildings and small streets with nice little shops, situated in the north-east of the island on one of the estuaries of the East-Scheldt.

During these days Veere will be inhabited by hundreds of re-enactors.

You will be able to visit military bivouacs and attend the 'replay' of the landing and following fights between the British and French/ Dutch soldiers. The 'wounded' from the battle during the landing will be treated by surgeons in a military field hospital. **A good reason to visit Veere on one of these days.**

