

George Anson and his voyage of circumnavigation 1740 -- 1744

| Age | Date | Event | Notes |
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| | 1697 Apr 23 | Birth of Anson – Shugborough, Staffordshire | |
| 14 | 1712 Jan | Anson Volunteer HMS <i>Ruby</i> (Capt Peter Chamberlain) | |
| 20 | 1717 | Anson Lieutenant HMS <i>Hampshire</i> (Capt ditto) | |
| | | Duty in Baltic and Med. | |
| | 1718 | 2 nd Lieutenant HMS <i>Montague</i> – Battle of Passaro (Sir George Byng) | |
| | 1719 | HMS <i>Barfleur</i> . | |
| 23 | 1722 | Commander <i>Weazle</i> Sloop – fishery protection, North Sea | |
| 24 | 1723 Feb 1 | Anson Captain HMS <i>Scarborough</i> Frigate. Duty in South Carolina . Piracy patrols and illicit trading patrols, Bahamas | Buys 64 acres of plantation lands in 1726 from gaming profits. 12,000 acres 1730. Aside -- Place names in USA. |
| 31 | 1728 | HMS <i>Garland</i> Frigate – S. Carolina | |
| 33 | 1730 July | Return to UK | |
| | | Capt HMS <i>Squirrel</i> ; HMS <i>Diamond</i> ; then ashore (two and a half years) | 1732 back in Charleston on the <i>Squirrel</i> . Buys property in the city and 350 acres in Berkeley County. |
| 40 | 1737 | Capt HMS <i>Centurion</i> – W. Africa, Barbados, then home | |
| 42 | 1739 Nov | Appointed to command expedition -- Many changes to plans – originally expedition against Manila | Aside -- Invalids – seamen: 30 from Greenwich Hospital (?); soldiers: 259 from Chelsea (500 drafted – rest deserted or were discharged. Avg. age 55 – most disabled) |
| | 1740 Sep 18 | Squadron sails. Escorts convoy -- 40 days to Madeira (normally 10-12 days). | <i>Centurion</i> (60) 400 men, <i>Gloucester</i> (50) 300 men, <i>Severn</i> (50) 300 men, <i>Pearl</i> (40) 250 men, <i>Wager</i> (28) 160 men, <i>Tryal</i> sloop (8) 100 men, <i>Anna</i> Pink (victualler) 200 tons, <i>Industry</i> pink (victualler) 400 tons. |
| | 1740 Nov 3 | Departs Madeira. Sickness breaks out. Typhoid and scurvy | |
| | 1740 Nov 16 | <i>Industry</i> asks to be unloaded and dismissed. Takes 3 days. Sails for Barbados but is captured by Spanish. | |
| | 1740 Dec 21 | Arrives St Catherine's Brazil – many sick; 80 in <i>Centurion</i> alone (one fifth of company). <i>Centurion</i> buries 28 dead during stay. Still has 96 sick when they leave. <i>Tryal's</i> masts are in a poor state – mainmast sprung. Stay 1 month | Brazil is a Portuguese colony. Portugal is neutral but Governor of St Catherine's betrays Anson to the Spanish at Buenos Aires. Spanish commander Pizarro (5 ships) sails to cut-off Anson at Cape Horn. Pizarro runs into same weather as Anson. Fails to double Cape and turns back to BA. |
| | 1741 Jan 18 | Departs St Catherine's. <i>Tryal</i> loses mainmast and has to be taken in tow. HMS <i>Pearl</i> becomes separated. reports sighting Spanish fleet | |
| | 1741 Jan | Arrives St Julian's. Prepare ships for Cape Horn. | |
| | 1741 Feb 27 | Departs St Julian's | |

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| 1741 Mar 7 | Clears Lemaire's Straits in about 2 hours – immediately hits bad weather. Scurvy breaks out again. | | |
| | Squadron battered by a series of storms for 40 days. By April 1 Anson believes he has cleared the Cape and turns north. April 14 -- land sighted proves to be Cape Noir. Turns SW again. <i>Severn & Pearl</i> lose company. April 24 another storm hits. <i>Centurion</i> loses sight of the others. Endures hard gales for the rest of April. Anson takes until beginning of May to clear Cape. | “.I was obliged to reef my courses, which continued reefed for fifty-eight days”. <i>Severn & Pearl</i> turn back to Brazil. <i>Wager</i> wrecked – saga of <i>Wager</i> survivors. | |
| | Many now dying every day from scurvy. | Deaths from scurvy on <i>Centurion</i> – April 43; May 90+; by mid June, over 200. Only 6 foremast hands fit for duty. | |
| 1741 May 8 | Anson arrives at Socorro – first RV point. Waits 14 days before proceeding to Juan Fernandez Is. Weather remains bad. Terrific squalls. <i>Centurion</i> is struck by lightning. 4 to 6 a day dying from scurvy. | Turns east on latitude of Juan Fernandez – wrong way due to error of longitude. Cost an extra 11 (2+9) days – another 70 to 80 deaths.. | |
| 1741 Jun 9 | <i>Centurion</i> arrives at Juan Fernandez. Takes 3 days to find bay and anchor. | Juan Fernandez (Robinson Crusoe's Island – Alexander Selkirk rescued 1709 by William Dampier) | |
| | HMS <i>Tryal</i> arrives at Juan Fernandez | <i>Tryal</i> has lost 34 dead from 100 and only has 5 men fit to work the ship. Toasting bread over brandy to kill vermin. | |
| 1741 Jun 16 | Tents up ashore and sick landed | | |
| 1741 Jun 21 | HMS <i>Gloucester</i> sighted – two-thirds crew dead. Very short of water. Ship cannot be navigated into the harbour. Foul winds drive the ship away. | | |
| 1741 Jul 23 | <i>Gloucester</i> at last brought to anchor. Less than 80 survivors. | | |
| 1741 Aug 16 | Arrival of <i>Anna</i> Pink (store ship) at Juan Fernandez. <i>Anna</i> had made harbour (Inchin Is – largely deserted) on May 16 and been able to water and provision. Remained for two months. At Juan Fernandez <i>Anna</i> is found to be rotten and unloaded and broken up. | | |
| 1741 Sep | Squadron departs Juan Fernandez after 100 days | <i>Centurion</i> has 214 left of 521 <i>Gloucester</i> has 82 of 396 <i>Tryal</i> has 39 of 96 Mortality rate of 67% Of invalids & marines only 15 remain – mortality rate 88% | |
| | Squadron cruises for prizes off Chile coast. | Anson takes <i>Nuestra Señora del Monte Carmelo</i> with about £18,000 in silver dollars (23 serons). <i>Tryal</i> takes two prizes but now has all masts sprung and ship is leaking badly. <i>Arranzuga</i> renamed <i>Tryal's Prize</i> . <i>Tryal</i> is burned and scuttled. | |
| | | Anson gains intelligence from prize <i>Nuestra Señora del Carmin</i> about treasure in town of Paita. | |

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| | | Anson attacks and captures town of Paita . Captures a significant amount of plate and silver (£30,000). Frees prisoners from prizes. Town governor will not treat so Anson burns town but spares prisoners. | | |
| 1741 Nov | | Anson decides to proceed to Acapulco to cruise for the Manila Galleon. Squadron takes on water at Quibo. Waits four months at Acapulco without news of the Galleon. Puts into Chequetan for water. Prepares <i>Centurion</i> & <i>Gloucester</i> to cross the Pacific. Decides to scuttle prizes including <i>Tryal's Prize</i> . | Aside -- Manila Galleon | |
| 1742 Apr 28 | | <i>Centurion</i> & <i>Gloucester</i> depart Chequetan | | |
| 1742 Jul 29 | | <i>Gloucester</i> is burned and scuttled after main mast sprung, foremast lost and ship leaking badly. | Sickness spreading again. Many dying from scurvy | |
| 1742 Aug 28 | | Anson arrives at Tinian in Ladrone Islands (Marianas). Finds plenty of livestock and supplies. Converts store house into hospital and lands sick (128). Begins to refit ship. | Aside – Tinian 1945. | |
| 1742 Sep 28 | | Storm drives <i>Centurion</i> out to sea. 113 people (inc Anson) ashore at time. | Anson believes stranded -- begins to lengthen captured bark planning for survivors to make for China. | |
| | | <i>Centurion</i> returns after 19 days. | | |
| 1742 Oct 21 | | Departs Tinian | | |
| 1742 Nov 12 | | Arrives Macao . Expedition has been away for over two years. | | |
| | | Six months in Macao. Beaches and refits <i>Centurion</i> . Uneasy relationship with HEIC Masters and Supercargoes in Macao. Negotiations with Mandarins and Viceroy for provisions etc. Refuses to pay port dues on a warship. French hostile. | | |
| 1743 Apr 19 | | Departs Macao -- says bound for Batavia but plans to intercept Manila Galleon. Sails to Cape Espiritu Santo, Philippines. | Crew of 201 (incl. 23 recruited in Macao) | |
| 1743 Jun 20 | | Off Cape Espiritu Santo. Sights and takes Galleon <i>Neustra Senhora del Carvadonga</i> . Captures huge treasure. | Galleon has crew of 500-600. 1,313.843 pieces of eight. 35,682 oz of virgin silver. | |
| | | Returns with captured Galleon to Macao | | |
| | | Crew of <i>Centurion</i> fights fire at Macao. Viceroy becomes more cooperative. | | |
| 1743 Dec 15 | | Anson sells prize for £6,000 and departs Macao | | |
| | | Arrives Cape of Good Hope | | |
| | | <i>Centurion</i> sails through French squadron in fog at entrance to channel? | France declares war ? | |
| 1744 Jun 15 | | Arrives Spithead. | Aside – Tanners. Some sixpence coins of 1745 and 1746 have LIMA below the bust to indicate they were made from silver captured by Anson. John Sigismund Tanner designed some of the issues of George II. | |
| | | Parades through London | | |

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| | Anson's later career | | |
| | M.P. for Hedon in Yorkshire | | |
| 1747 | Victor at Cape Finisterre over Adm. Jonquierre. | | |
| | Becomes Baron Anson of Soberton | | |
| 1748 | Marries Elizabeth, daughter of Lord Chancellor Hardwicke. (no children) | | |
| 1757 | First Lord of the Admiralty | Member of Board of Longitude | |
| 1758 | Seven Years' War (1756-63) -- Commands fleet before Brest. Landing repulsed. | | |
| 1761 | <i>Charlotte</i> yacht to convey future King George III to England | | |
| 1762 | Catches severe chill while accompanying Queen's brother to Portsmouth | | |
| 1762 Jun 6 | Death of Anson | | |