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Title of Proposal: Soldiers of Fortuna: Re-Contextualizing the Spanish Attack of Brunswick Town, NC (1748)

Abstract: In September 1748, three Spanish privateers sacked the British colonial port at Brunswick Town on the Cape Fear River. A counter-offensive led by local militia resulted in the explosive loss of the Spanish sloop, La Fortuna, and the retreat of the Spanish invaders. While this incident was described in contemporary newspapers, less is known about the Spanish privateer vessels, captains and crew that instigated the encounter. During the War of Jenkin's Ear and King George's War (1739-1748), privateer movements along the North American coastline were documented in colonial newspapers now available in digital repositories. This paper will utilize historic accounts and recent scholarship to delineate hidden details regarding the main actions of the Spanish Alarm in North Carolina. Analysis will focus on contextualizing who the Spanish privateers were and track the final voyage of La Fortuna to gain further insight into the historical significance of its loss at Brunswick Town.