

King Edward I returns from Flanders In early A.D. 1298

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“To John de Drokenesford, Keeper of the Wardrobe: As the King needs at least 100 ships for his passage and that of his subjects with him to England ... and as he cannot have more than 20 ships ... from the Port of Yarmouth upon this occasion ... he orders John to provide without delay ... the remaining 80 ships by all means from the ships of the Cinque Ports, which the King wills shall be at Sluys in Flanders on the first Sunday in Lent at the latest for making his passage speedily. (**John**) is enjoined not to neglect this as he loves the King and his honour and to use all diligence in this behalf ...”

“ To the Bailiffs, men and whole community of Portesmouth: As the King wills that his passage to England shall be accelerated ... he particularly requests them to cause all ships of that town suitable for the carriage of men, horses and other necessaries to be prepared with bridges and hurdles without delay ... and to come thus prepared with sufficient sailors and mariners to Sluys in Flanders on the first Sunday in Lent at the latest, in order to make the King’s passage speedily ... They are enjoined not to neglect this in any manner as they love the King’s honour and profit and is arrival in England and as the King trusts in them.

The King’s clerk, **John de Drokenesford**, Keeper of his Wardrobe, will satisfy those whom they shall appoint for this purpose for the expenses incurred in this matter when they shall arrive in Flanders.”

“To Adam Gurdon: Order to him to go to the aforesaid town, immediately upon sight of the letters directed to him, and to induce the Bailiffs and Community ... to cause all the ships of that town to be prepared and sent to Sluys in form aforesaid.”

