

# 1808

## **The North Sea Flood of 1808.**

In this flood 31 residents of Vlissingen lost their lives. Floods have been a part of Vlissingen's history for centuries.

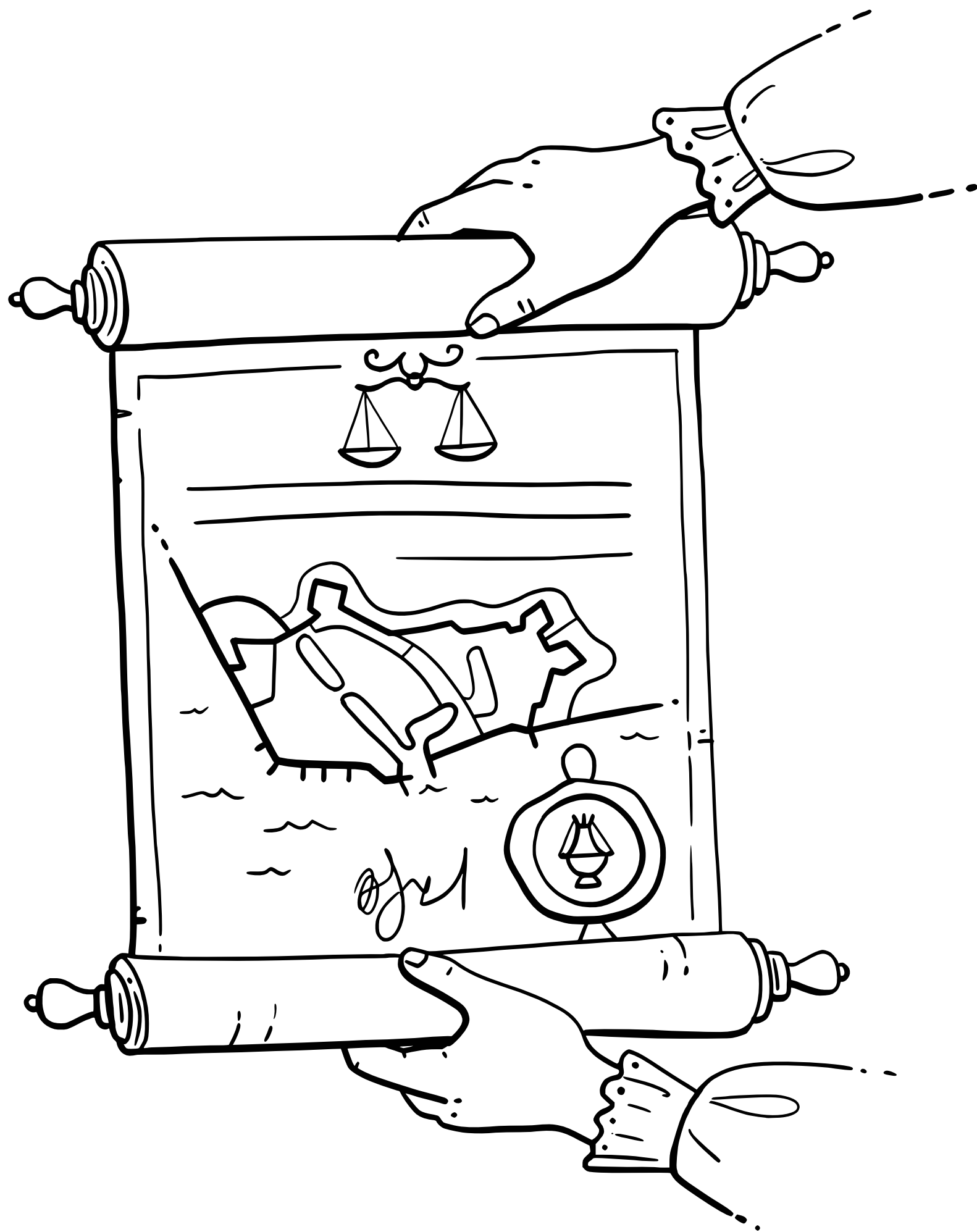
The city is favorably located by the sea, but it must also continually fight against the water.



# 1315

## City rights of Vlissingen.

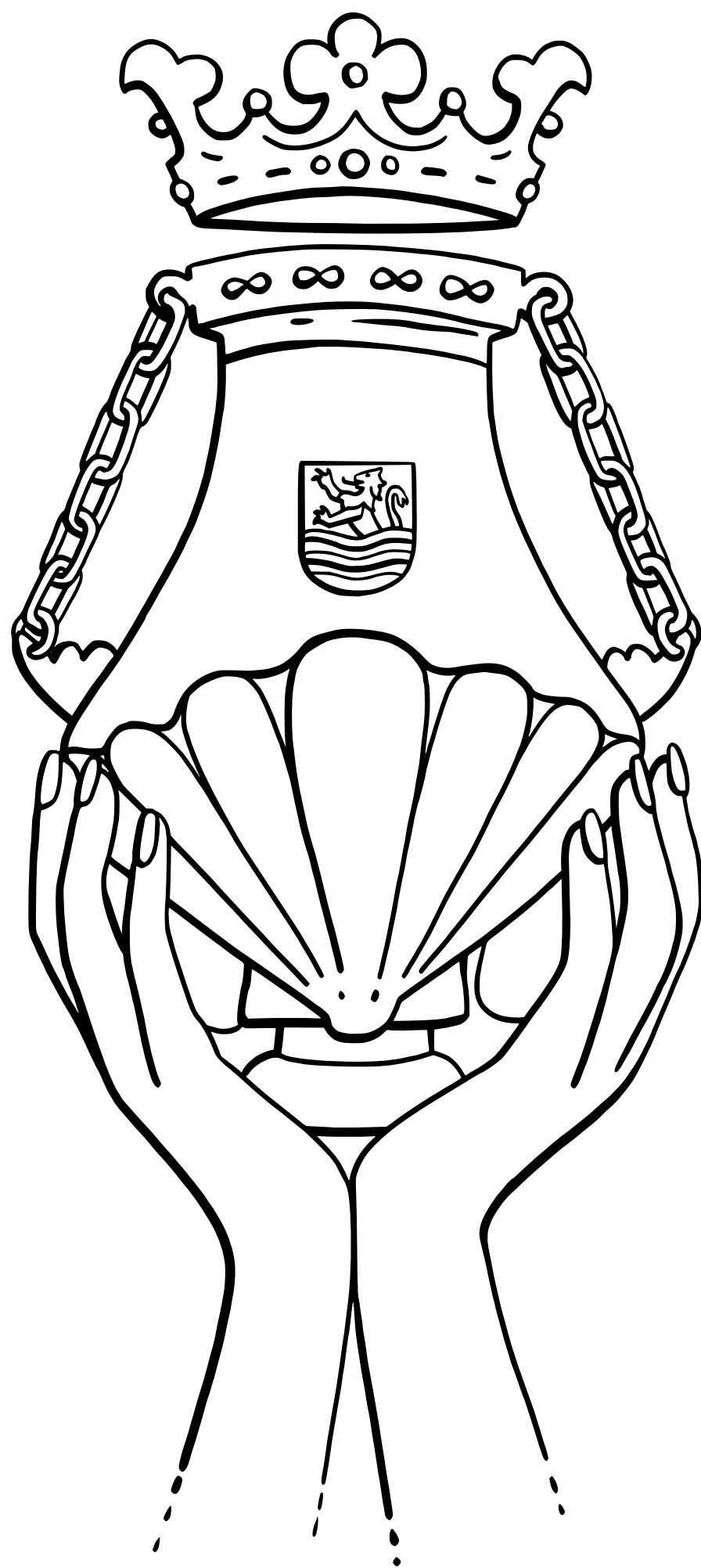
Old Vlissingen is first mentioned in 1235. Near Old Vlissingen, the port town of New Vlissingen emerges. In 1315, the town receives city rights from Count Willem III. Due to its proximity to the sea Vlissingen is deemed important.



# 1369

## **The coat of arms of Vlissingen.**

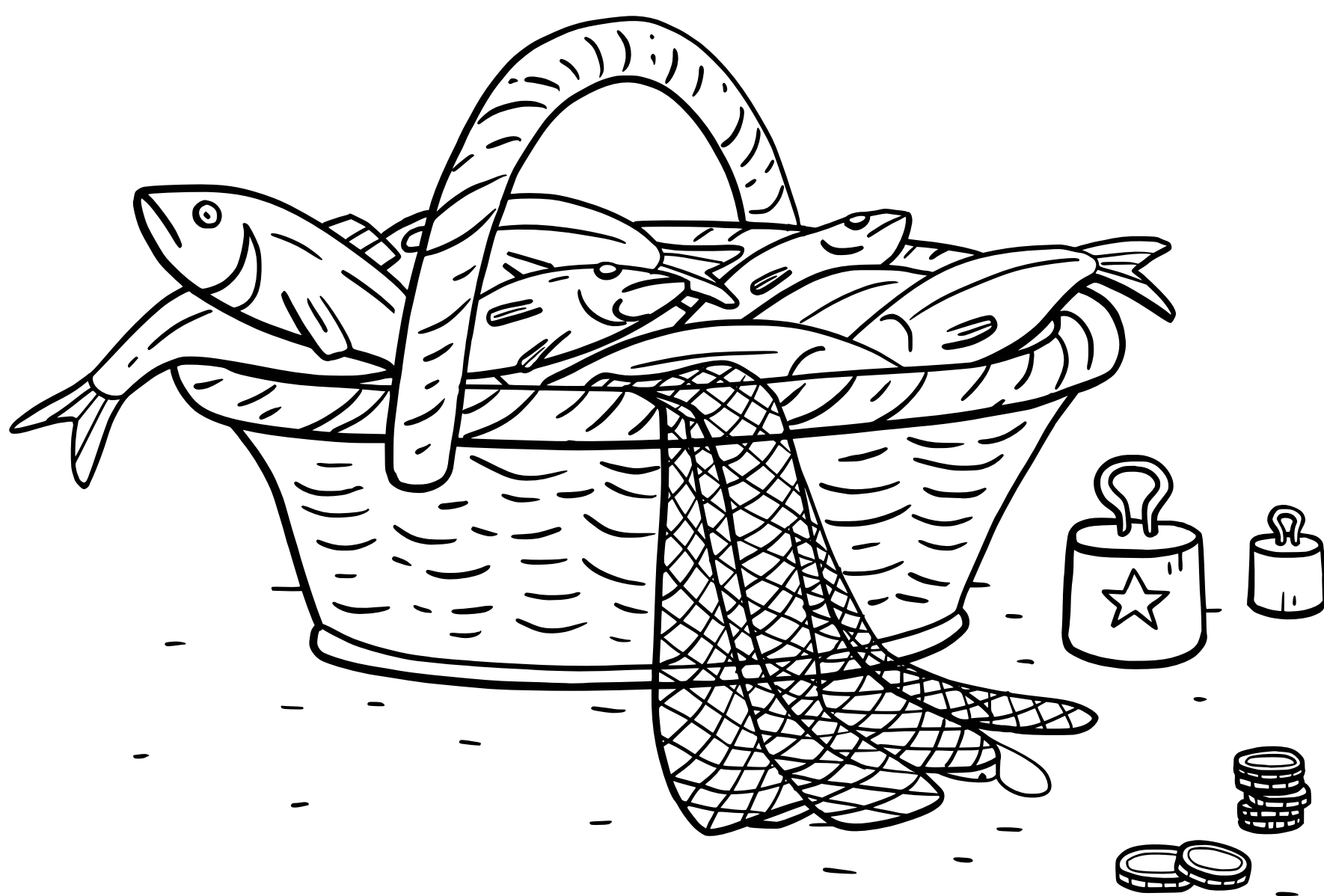
The coat of arms first appeared in 1369, on a seal of a letter. It depicts a pilgrim's bottle. The exact meaning of the coat of arms is not clear, there are several explanations/interpretations. The shape of the bottle also changes over the centuries.



# 1444

## **Vlissingen a Fishermen's town.**

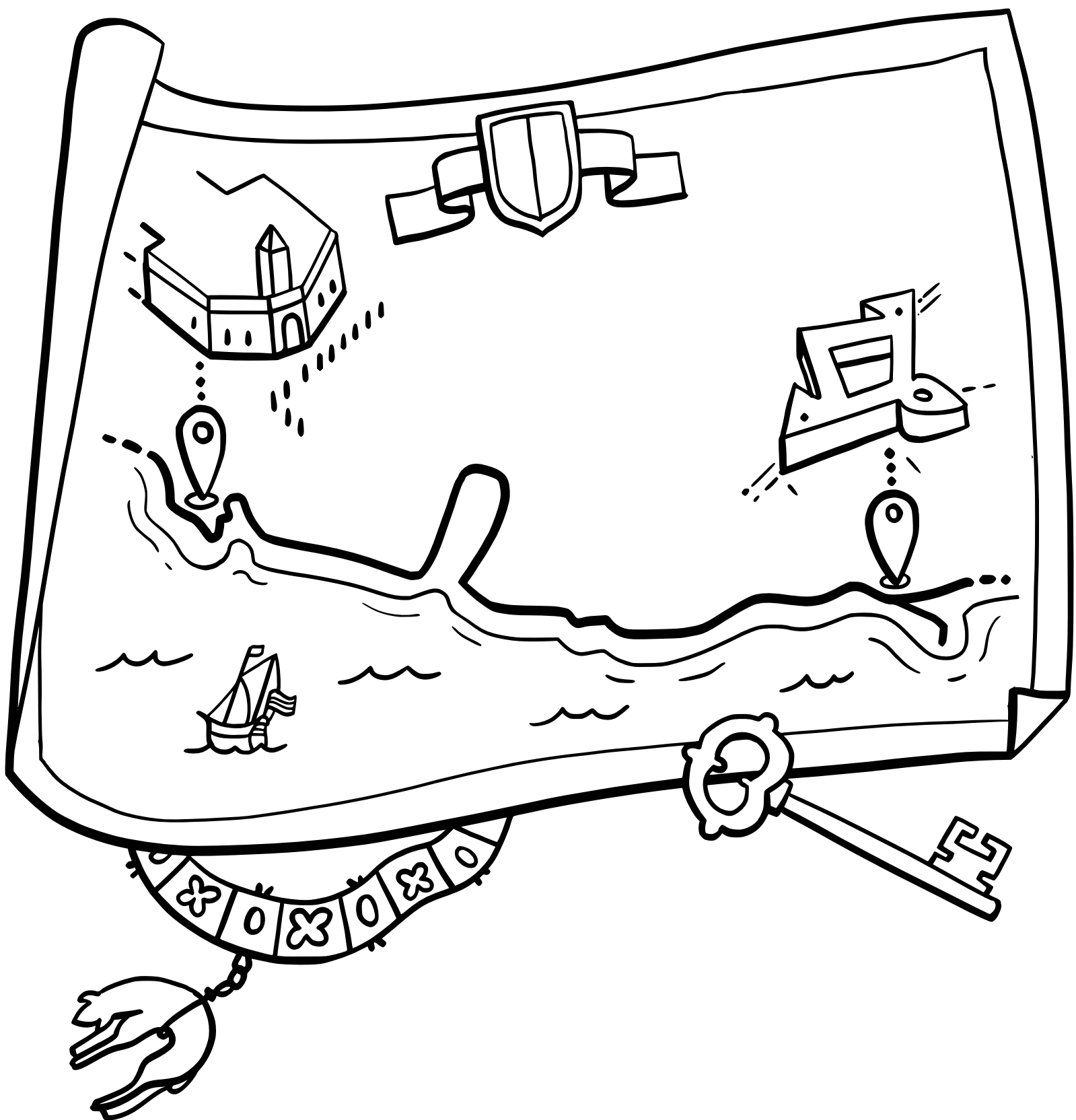
In the Middle Ages, Vlissingen was a fishing town, mostly known for herring. Fishermen from southern Walcheren had to bring their herring to shore in Vlissingen. The construction of the new harbor in 1444 highlighted the importance of fishing for the city.



# 1547

## **Fortification of the city.**

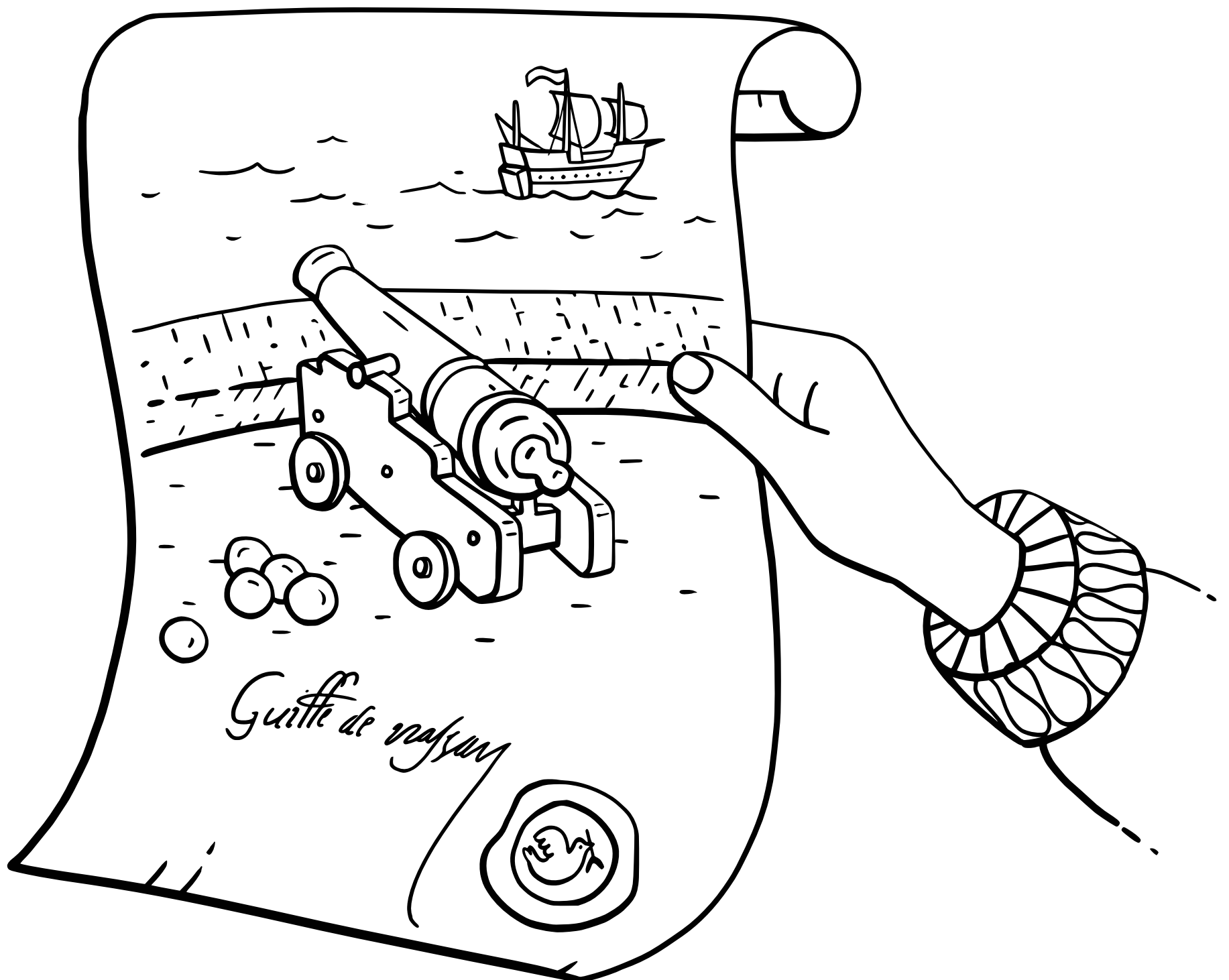
Vlissingen is located at the crossroads of the Noordzee and the Westerschelde. Karel V therefore called Vlissingen “the key to the Netherlands”. He has the Keizersbolwerk and Fort Rammekens built to defend the city and its surroundings.



# 1572

## **Vlissingen in revolt.**

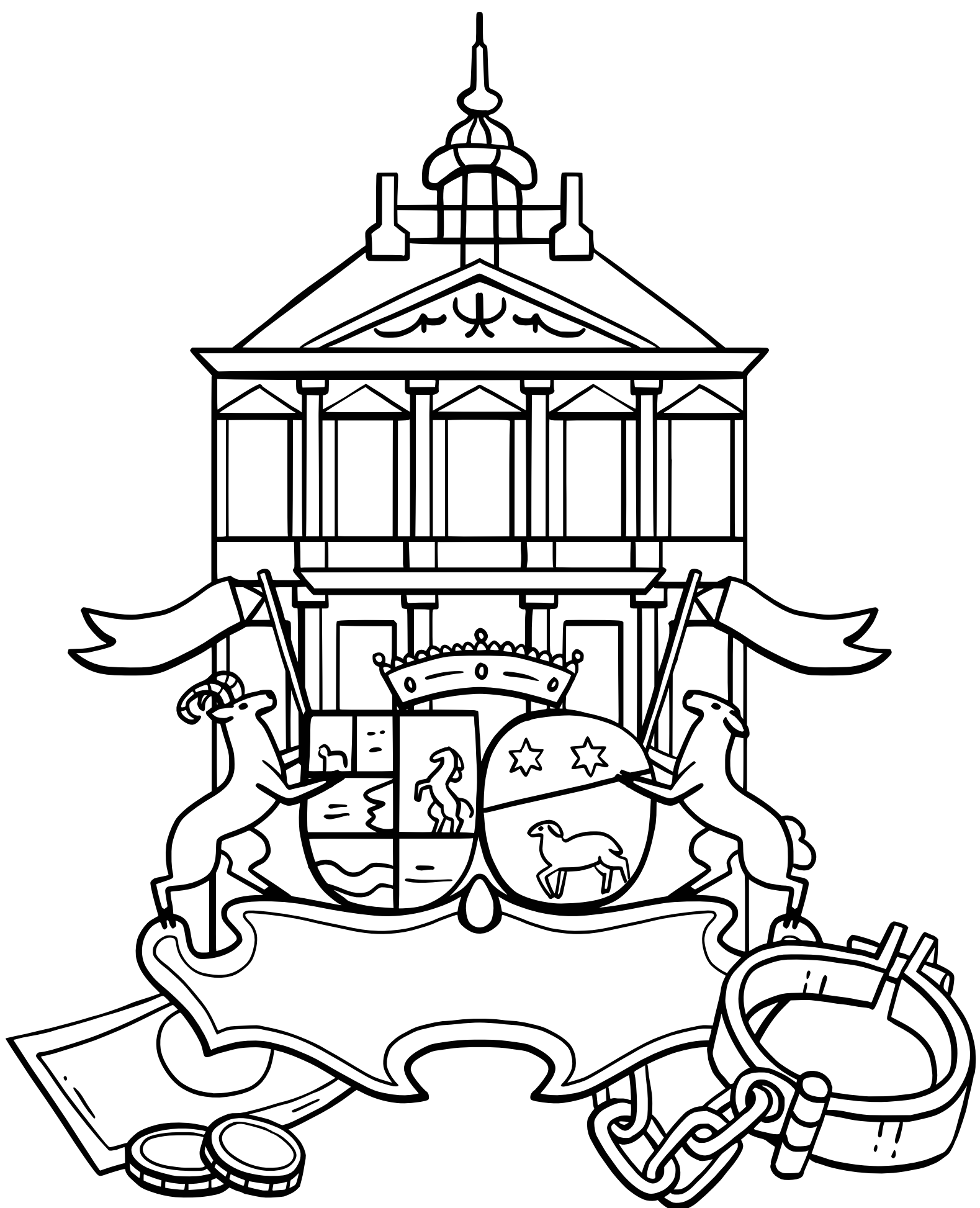
During the Eighty Years' War, Vlissingen manages to free itself from the Spaniards. It is the first city in the Netherlands to succeed in doing so. This event takes place on April 6, 1572. The city receives an encouraging letter from Willem van Oranje.



# 1654

## **Trading house Lampsins.**

The Lampsins trading house in Vlissingen is a symbol for the trade and slave trade in the West Indies, privateering and management. Adriaan and Cornelis Lampsins founded a colony on the island of Tobago in 1654. Cornelis had the Lampsinshuis built on the Nieuwendijk.



# 1666

## **The Four Days' Battle.**

During the Anglo-Dutch Wars, Michiel de Ruyter defended the trade interests of the Dutch Republic. He played a big role as admiral of the fleet, for example, during the Four Days' Battle (1666). His flagship was called the *Zeven Provinciën*.



# 1738

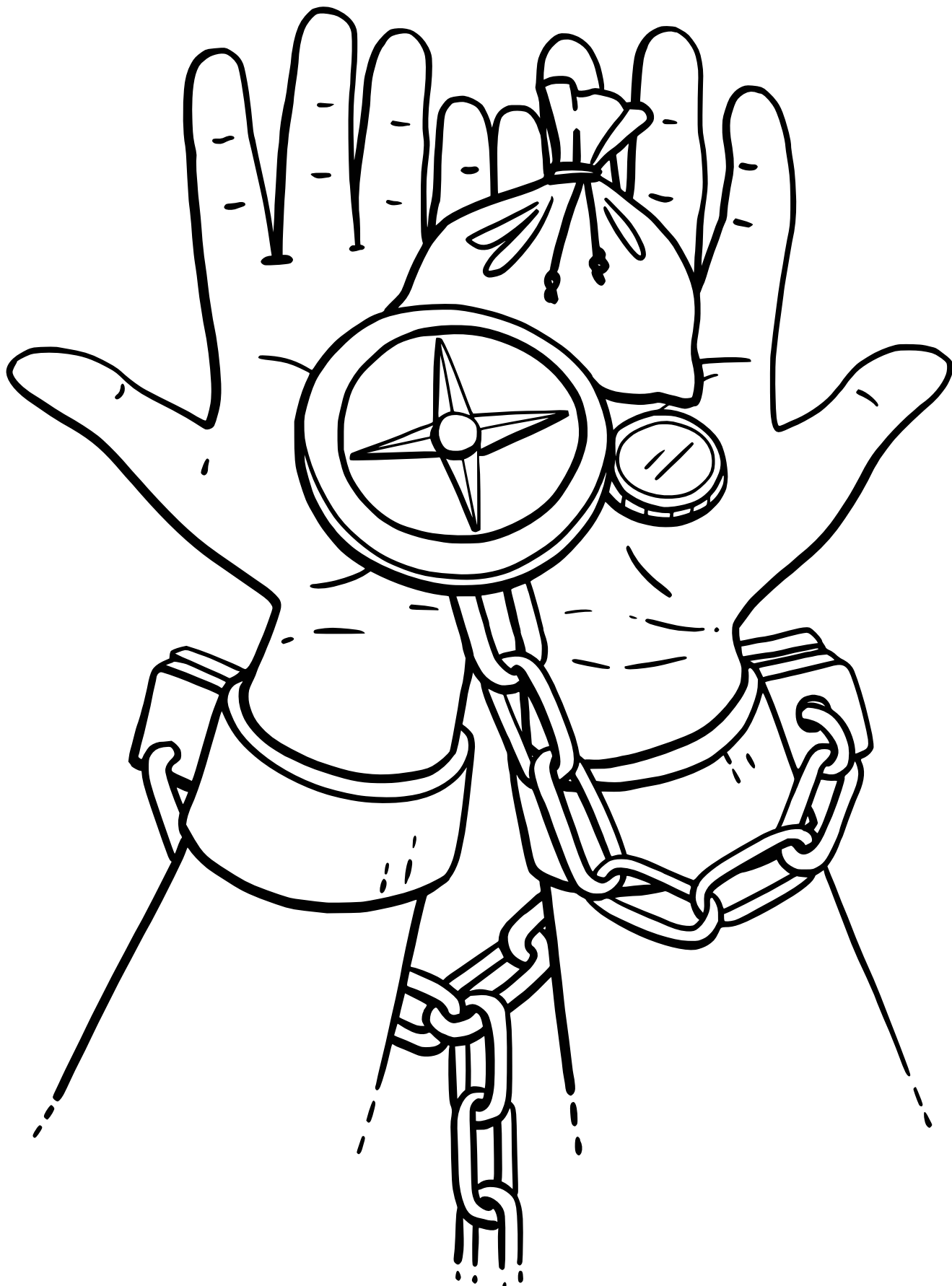
**The sharp pen of Betje Wolff**  
(1738-1804). Writer and poet Betje Wolff is a pioneer of women's emancipation and fought against intolerance and injustice. She possessed a sharp pen, as did her contemporary Jacobus Bellamy (1757-1786).



# 1770

## **Vlissingen and the slave trade.**

Between 1750 and 1780 Vlissingen's economy was largely dependent on the slave trade. Ships from Vlissingen transported 60.000 enslaved Africans from West Africa to the West Indies. A dark chapter in history.



# 1779

## **Rescuer Frans Naerebout**

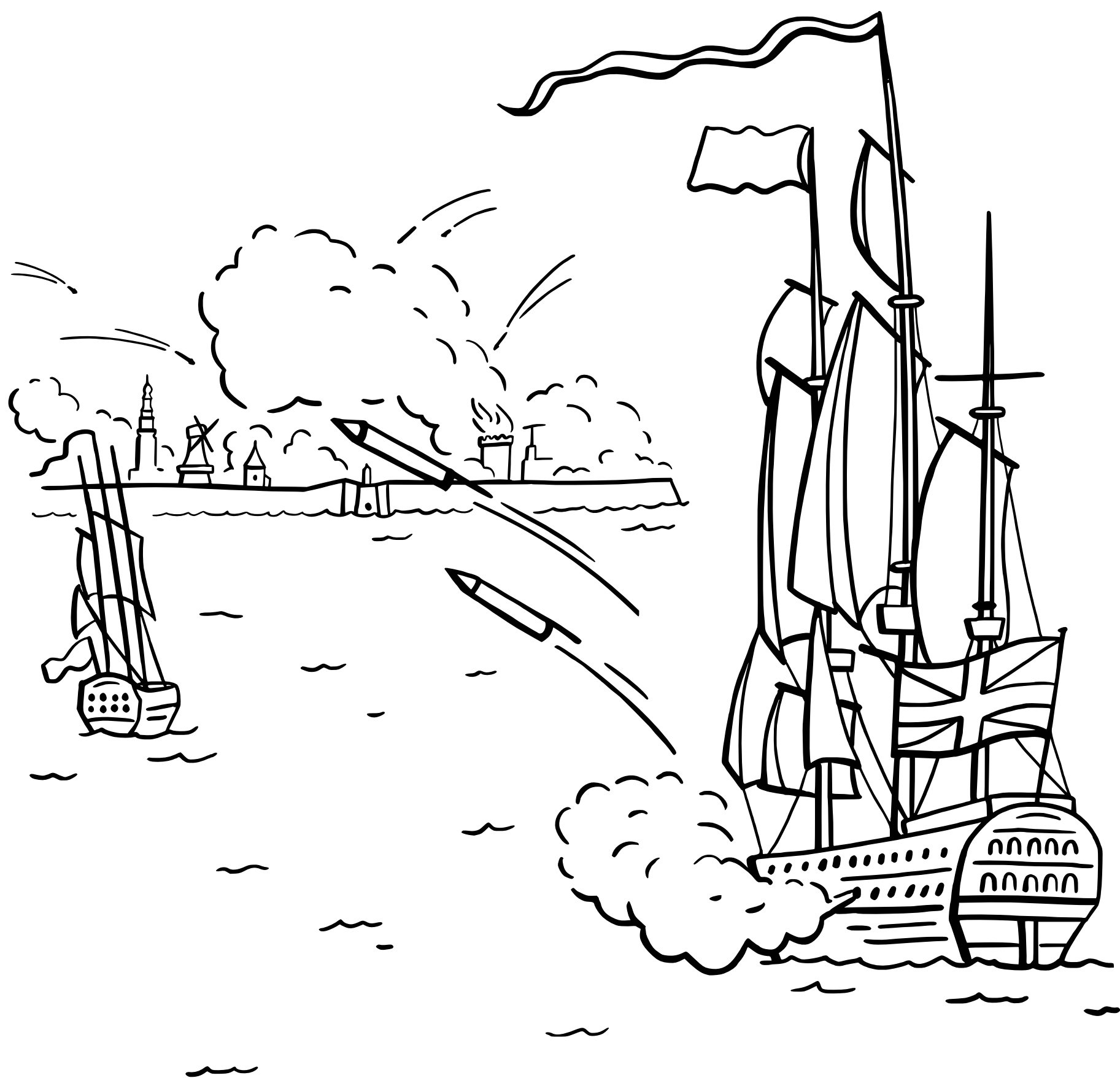
**(1748-1818).** Pilot and fisherman Frans Naerebout rescues a large number of the crew of the VOC ship *Woestduyn* off the coast of Zoutelande. Frans's brother Jacob as well as other fishermen also participate in this heroic rescue.



# 1809

## **An English bombardment.**

The city is vulnerable due to its location along the Westerschelde and Noordzee. During the English bombardment, the townhall on the Grote Markt and numerous other buildings were lost. After the withdrawal of the French occupiers in 1813, the city was left destitute.



# 1841

## **Erection of the statute for Michiel de Ruyter (1607-1676).**

In the nineteenth century, appreciation for the seventeenth century grows.

Famous naval heroes, painters and writers from that period are honored with statues. What would Michiel de Ruyter himself have thought of this?



# 1875

**Establishment of the shipyard De Schelde.** Thousands of workers find employment here. The shipyard dominates the city, and strikes would occasionally halt work. The Willem Ruys is the most famous ship built by De Schelde. Throughout the Second World War it remained on the slipway.



# 1911

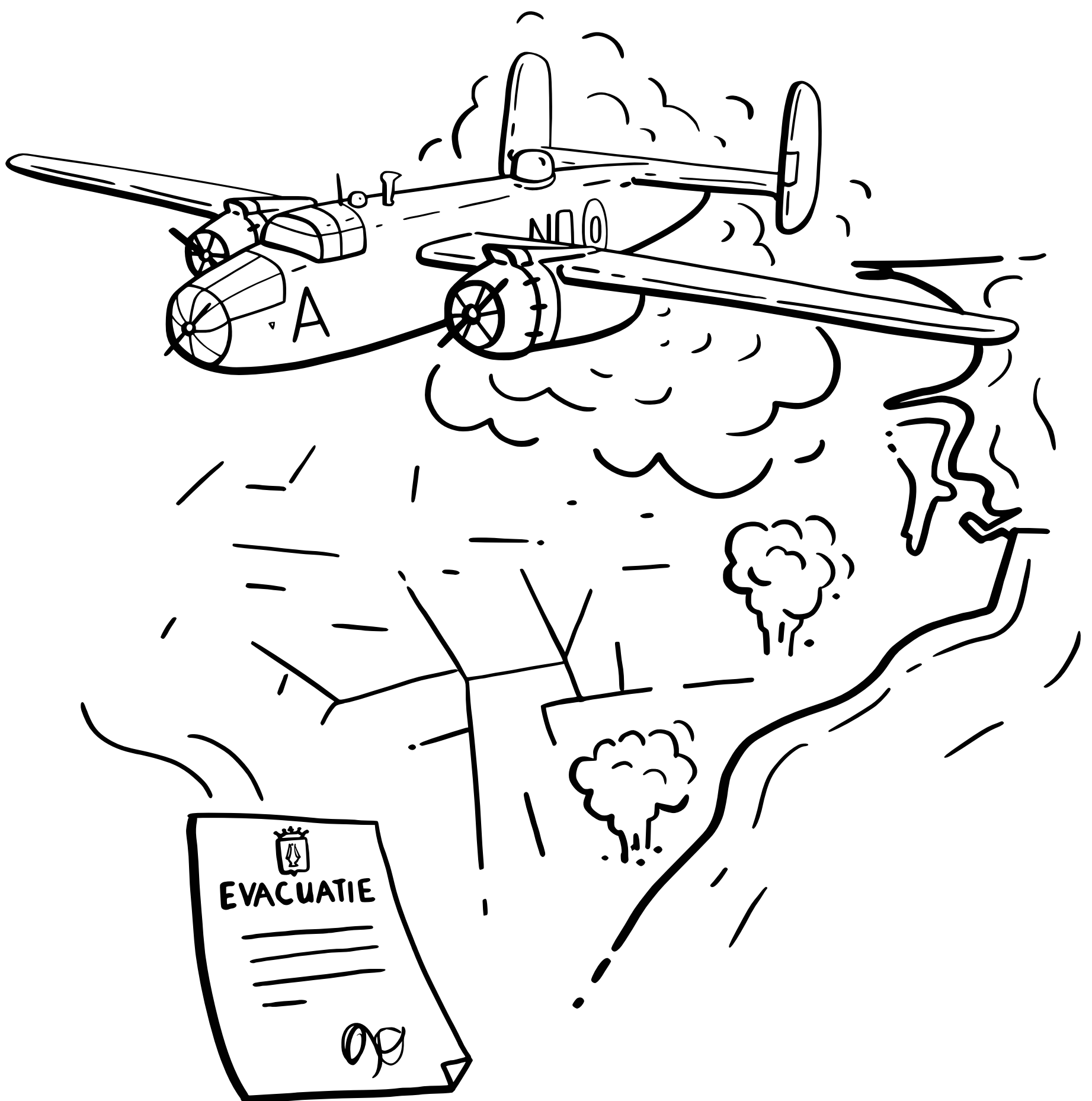
**De Sint Jacobskerk was destroyed by fire.** The church dates back to the early fourteenth century. Religion played an important role for centuries. For a long time, the deceased were buried in and around the church. Even after the reconstruction, the church remains as a landmark in the center of Vlissingen.



# 1944

## **A frequently bombed city.**

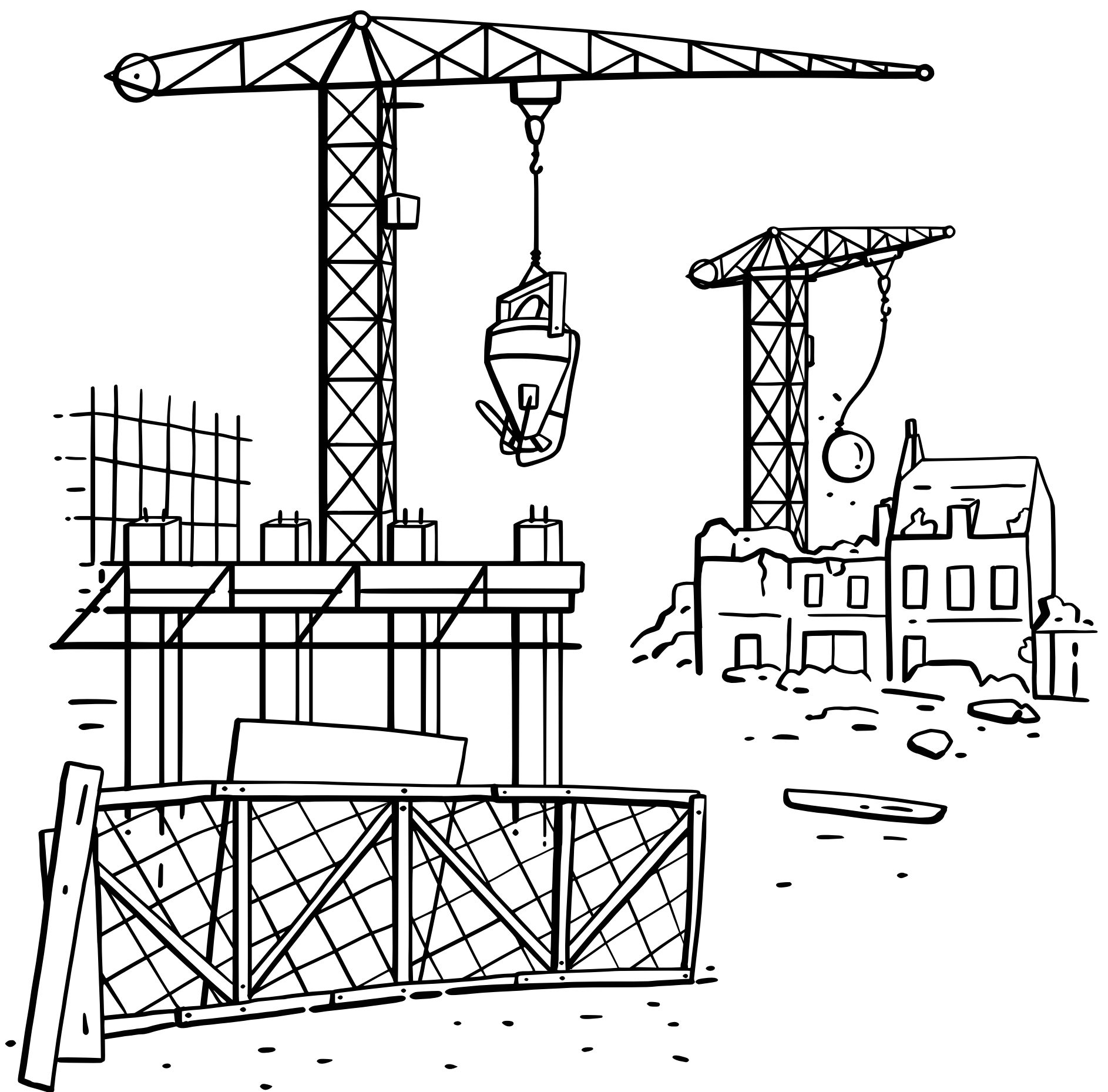
Vlissingen endured over 75 bombardments during the events of the war, countless times has the air raid sounded. The Battle for the Schelde in late 1944 causes many casualties and destruction for Vlissingen.



# 1946

## **Reconstruction and redevelopment.**

At the end of the Second World War, there were hardly any undamaged buildings in the city. Destroyed parts of the city were rebuilt. In the years that followed, the city center was redeveloped and redesigned. It was a period of decisiveness and resilience.

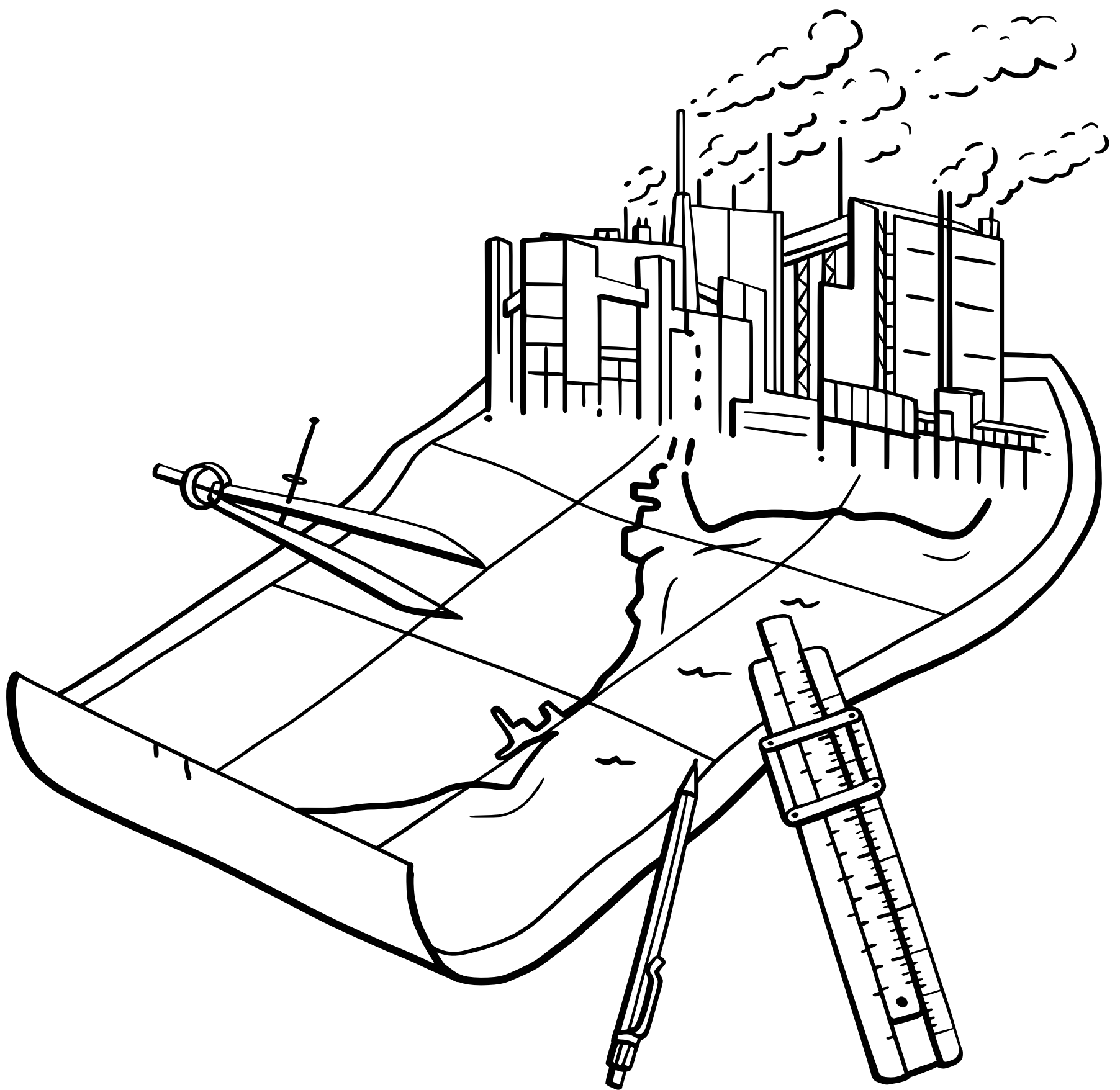


# 1960

## **Vlissingen-Oost Industrial Area.**

After the reclamation of the Sloe, a large industrial area was created.

Major industrial companies established themselves in Vlissingen-Oost. De Schelde largely relocated their operations to this location.



# 2000

## **The Boulevard as a focal point.**

Vlissingen-bad and Vlissingen-stad are both located on the boulevard and give Vlissingen a seaside character. Nowadays, high-rise buildings also define the boulevard's appearance. And let's not forget: nowhere else do the ships sail this close.



# 2025

## **Rememberance.**

Vlissingen is a city of falling, getting back up, and perservering. Its location by the sea is no exception. Throughout the centuries, this has cost the lives of countless civilians and soldiers. By commemorating them, we do justice to history.

