
Remember Pearl Harbor

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NAVAL ORDER OF THE UNITED STATES - SAN FRANCISCO COMMANDERY



Mission: History



Studiorum Historiam Praemium Est

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1941: Those Who Could Fought Back

1812: Old Ironsides Defeats HMS Java In Battle off Brazil

An engagement fought on 29 December 1812 between the American frigate *Constitution* and *Java*, a British frigate, was one of the most intricate actions between single ships during the War of 1812 and had the lasting effect of changing the way British ships dealt with American frigates.

On Christmas Day, *Constitution* had been blockading the Brazilian port of Bahía, the present-day city of Salvador, located where a moustache would be beneath the "nose" of the Portuguese possession. In company with *Hornet*, a brig re-rigged as a sloop, she was keeping the English sloop *Bonne Citoyenne* bottled up inside the bay. On the 26th, Commodore William Bainbridge left *Hornet* to mind the store and put to sea.

On 29 December, Bainbridge was cruising offshore when his lookouts sighted two sails at about 0900. The ships turned out to be *Java* and an American merchant ship she had taken as a prize. *Java* was commanded by Captain Henry Lambert and was bound for Bombay with material for ships under construction at the Indian city and 68 British civil servants on India service.



DORIS 'DORIE' MILLER, Mess Attendant 1c, who had never been trained to fire any sort of weapon, manned a .50 caliber machine gun on stricken *West Virginia* and maintained a steady fire at Japanese aircraft. He was awarded the Navy Cross.

Bainbridge was eager for a fight, but was in neutral Portuguese waters, so he took *Constitution* seaward. Lambert, also ready to fight, thought the Americans were running and gave chase. Despite her heavy load, *Java* gained on *Constitution* and, at about 1400, action was joined between the 44-gun American and the 46-gun Englishman.

Constitution fired the first gun, imme-(Continued on page 8)

Negro Mess Attendant Among Many Heroes Of Jap Sneak Attack

The midwife that assisted in the birth of a child to Henrietta Miller, wife of Connery Miller, on 12 October 1919 knew it would be a girl, so she entered the name "Doris" on the birth certificate before the blessed event. It is to be hoped that she was not a horseplayer as well as a midwife.

Born in Willow Grove, Texas, Doris attended the local elementary school and went on to W. L. Moore High School in Waco, where he played football. This was the mid-1930s, the depths of the great depression, and Dorie, as he had convinced others to call him, also worked as a cook in a Waco hash house.

Following high school, Miller found it impossible to land a job. This was not unusual, for 23 percent of the American workforce was unemployed, and, to make matters more difficult, Miller was colored, which is what Texans called black people then when they weren't calling them worse names.

Finally, in September 1939, with his family seriously in want, Doris Miller joined the Navy to get a job. Following boot camp at Norfolk, he was assigned to USS West Virginia (BB 48) as a mess

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'This is Certainly in Keeping with Their History of Surprise Attacks'

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attendant 3rd class. His "job" paid \$21 a month, about 70 cents a day as a dishwasher, the only job the Navy had for colored men in those days. Still, it was better than going hungry in Waco.

It should be noted that, while Caucasian sailors learned the ways of the sea and how to handle the tools of war, colored mess attendants learned only to follow Navy recipes better and get dishes cleaner

By the autumn of 1941, Miller had filled out on Navy chow and was the Joe Louis of West Virginia, the ship's heavyweight champ. He had also picked up, as sailors do, small "do me a favor and" assignments not associated with his billet. One of these was awakening each morning a reserve ensign fresh from the University of Wichita. This Dorie accomplished by grabbing reserve Ensign Edmond Jacoby by the shoulder and shaking him until he showed signs of life. That continued until an academy officer cautioned Jacoby that an enlisted man must never touch an officer. Thereafter, Miller would put his head inches from Jacoby's ear, bellow "Wake up, Jake!" and scuttle away.

On the morning of 7 December 1941, Jacoby was off duty and Miller was attending an almost empty junior officers' wardroom. West Virginia was tied up outboard of USS Tennessee (BB 43) off the southeast side of Ford Island at Pearl Harbor. Five other battleships were moored in battleship row and another was in drydock. At 0755, Miller heard the ship's bugler and the public address speakers blare "Away the fire and rescue party." Somebody must have really screwed up, he thought.

At 0756, the first of six or seven torpedoes struck "Wee Vee," as the crew called her. Captain Mervyn S. Bennion, reminded of the Japanese sneak attack on Russia's base at Port Arthur in 1904, turned to his Marine orderly and said "This is certainly in keeping with their history of surprise attacks," and headed for the bridge. He had no sooner got there when a bomb detonated on the No. 2 turret of *Tennessee*, showering *West Virginia's* bridge with shrapnel and disemboweling Bennion. Though he knew he must die, he insisted on continuing in command, to save his ship and fight her,

as best she could fight.

Officers whose stations were on the bridge hurried to their posts. One of them, passing Miller, thought the big heavyweight champ would come in handy and brought him along. When they reached the bridge, their captain, knowing the exposed position was untenable, asked them and others to leave him and save themselves. Instead, Miller gently lifted Bennion and moved him to a more comfortable spot. Ens. Victor Delano recruited Miller and another sailor to pass ammo to a pair of .50 caliber machine guns he and another officer would man, but Miller went straight to the machine gun.

Dorie had never been taught to shoot a machine gun, but he had watched the white sailors in their drills. He knew that you pulled back the handle on the side and let it snap forward to load the first round. He knew the ammo fed in the left side and he knew how to look through the sights. He knew how to pull the trigger. And Miller was pissed off.

Delano later reported that he saw Miller smiling for the first time since he won the ship's heavyweight crown and Lt. Cdr. Doir C. Johnson was so impressed with his courage, coolness and initiative that he recommended Dorie for the Navy Cross. After the last Jap plane had left, Miller went below, where the carnage was appalling. He and Lt. (jg) F. H. White fell to, lifting topsides shipmates unable to help themselves. In his statement that is part of *West Virginia's*

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"WEE-VEE" is a wreck, sitting on the bottom and still burning on the afternoon of December 7. Her side was rent with gashes 120 feet long and 12 to 15 feet high and her second deck was smashed down on her third deck which was smashed 10 feet below its normal level. She would return to sea and fight the Japanese Imperial Navy at Surigao Strait.

1914: Royal Navy, Defeated at Coronel, Exacts Revenge in Full at Falklands

The Famous Destruction Of von Spee's Asiatic Fleet In South Atlantic Waters

Two engagements between British and German forces that took place off Chile and Argentina in November and December 1914, respectively, are commonly thought of as "Coronel and the Falklands," one battle, though the places are separated by a continent and more than 2,000 nautical miles apart. The Germans won the first action off the central coast of Chile and the British exacted full vengeance at the second in the South Atlantic.

At the outbreak of the Great War, German shipping, naval and commercial, all but disappeared from the world's oceans, for Britannia ruled the waves. But there was a crack squadron in China, and it had to get home. Commanded by Vice Admiral Graf Maximilian von Spee and based at Tsing-Tau, north of Shanghai, the unit consisted of the heavy cruisers Scharnhorst and Gneisenau and the light cruisers Emden, Leipzig and Nürnberg. With Japan's entry into the war on the side of the British, Spee gathered his ships and disappeared into the Pacific.

The Germans' whereabouts was unknown until Emden showed herself, and did considerable damage, in the Bay of Bengal. Von Spee showed the main force at Samoa, and the British were thoroughly nonplused. The German admiral then sailed to Easter Island, where he was joined by another light cruiser, Dresden. Emden continued on her 30,000-mile journey of destruction in which she sank a cruiser and a destroyer, dispatched 23 merchant ships and occupied the attention of about 80 Allied naval vessels, before she herself was brought to bay and destroyed.

In England, the Admiralty believed that von Spee, wherever he was, would attempt to enter the Atlantic and disrupt the trade routes. Furthermore, it was believed that despite Emden's show off the coast of India, von Spee would enter the Atlantic around Cape Horn. Rear Admiral Sir Christopher Craddock was given the cruisers Good Hope and Monmouth, the light cruiser Glasgow and the armed liner Otranto and dispatched to the Falkland Islands. He was told that

the old battleship Canopus would fol-

Craddock decided to look for von Spee in the Pacific and took his ships through the Straits of Magellan in October 1914 and headed up the Chilean coast. At the same time, von Spee was off Valparaiso, having dispatched Nürnberg to pick up mail. The German admiral instructed Nürnberg to follow and headed south. The two squadrons were heading towards each other.

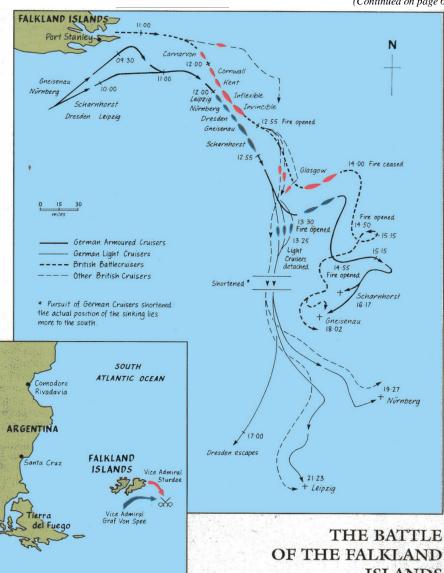
Toward the end of October, Glasgow picked up a wireless message, which she took to be from Leipzig. At about the same time, von Spee learned of Glasgow's presence off Chile. Thus it was that each squadron expected to meet only a cruiser. On 1 November, off the

Chilean port of Coronel, 250 nautical miles south of Valparaiso, von Spee and his two armored cruisers and three light cruisers met Craddock, who had two armored cruisers, one light cruiser and an ocean liner fitted out with guns. Superior speed allowed von Spee to control the ensuing battle in which superior gunnery and weight of ships was decisive. Both British armored cruisers, Monmouth and Good Hope, were lost with all hands, including Craddock. The two lesser ships fled.

The English were thunderstruck by the news of the defeat. Their navy had fought against long odds before, starting with their defeat of the Spanish Armada in 1588, and had met with few reverses. First Lord of the Admiralty Winston

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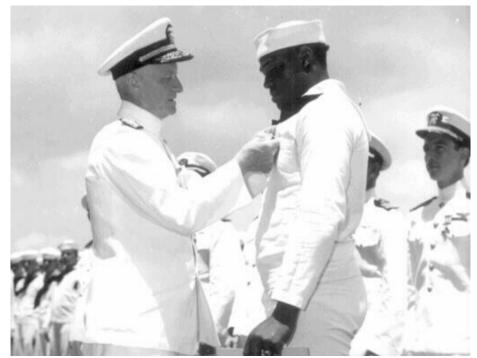
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FROM Great Battles of the Royal Navy, North American edition, Naval Institute Press, undated.

December 6, 1999

Miller Lost with Liscome Bay in Gilberts Torpedoing



ADMIRAL CHESTER W. NIMITZ pins the Navy Cross on "MILLER, Doris, MA 1c, USN (Negro)" but he said that, while Miller was the "first of his race" to earn the award, "I am sure that the future will see others similarly honored for brave acts."

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action report, Cdr. H. H. Hillenhoetter, Wee Vee's exec, wrote that Miller was "instrumental in hauling people along through oil and water to the quarterdeck, thereby unquestionably saving the lives of a number of people who might otherwise have been lost."

A year following the Jap attack on Pearl Harbor, Dorie was transferred from West Virginia and, after a Christmas leave spent with his family in Waco, reported aboard USS Liscome Bay (CVE 56), then building at Kaiser Shipyards in Vancouver, Wash. On 24 November 1943, following the Marine Corps invasion of Tarawa, Liscome Bay was hit by a single torpedo fired by Jap submarine I-175. The fish found the ship's bomb and torpedo stowage and Liscome Bay exploded like a giant bomb. Fifty-two officers and 591 enlisted men perished, Miller among them.

In an official Navy list of awards and citations for the Pearl Harbor attack, published in 1944, 52 recipients of the Navy Cross are listed, and Miller is among them, too. The line with his name reads "MILLER, Doris, MA 1c, USN (Negro)." It is fervently wished that later

editions of that list omit the final word, for Miller was a sailorman.

On 1 April 1942, Secretary of the Navy commended Miller, and on 27 May 1942, (then) Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, in ceremonies held aboard USS *Enterprise* (CV-6), personally pinned the Navy Cross on his tunic. In his remarks, Nimitz said "This marks the first time in this conflict that such high tribute has been made in the Pacific Fleet to a member of his race, and I'm sure that the future will see others similarly honored for brave acts."

On 30 June 1973, the Navy commissioned USS *Miller* (FF-1091), a *Knox*-class frigate named for Mess Attendant First Class Doris Miller.

1983: *New Jersey* Flexes Her 16" Muscles at Beirut

The battleship USS *New Jersey* (BB 62), in the Mediterranean on 14 December 1983, fired her 16-inch batteries in anger for the first time since 1969 when she sent 11 shells into a hostile Druze militia position near the Beirut, Lebanon, International Airport.

Propaganda Posters Blossom Across U.S.





BE A MARINE...
Free a Marine to fight



1937: On a Sunny Sunday in December, Japs Attack Panay Without Warning

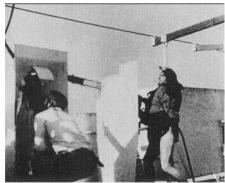
Nips Bomb U.S. Gunboat On Yangtze, Survivors Strafed in Their Lifeboats

From 1854 until the beginning of World War II, the U.S. Navy maintained a presence on the Yangtze River in China, in support of American diplomatic initiatives and personnel at first, eventually in support of American missionaries and commercial interests as well. Until the end of the 19th Century, patrols on the Yangtze were conducted by the Navy using leased vessels.

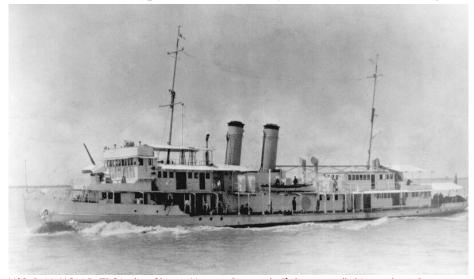
Beginning with USS *Monocacy* and USS *Palos* in 1914, a series of shallow-draft gunboats were built for the Yangtze patrol. According to Jane's Fighting Ships, those two vessels were built at Mare Island Navy Yard, knocked down for shipment to China, and reassembled by Shanghai Dock and Engineering Co. In 1924, six gunboats were authorized as *PG-43-48*. They were laid down in 1926 by Kiangnan Dock and Engineering Works in Shanghai and completed over the next two years. Among them was USS *Panay*.

Panay displaced 385 tons, was 180 feet long and had a mean fresh water draught of 5½ feet. She was armed with two 3-inch 50 caliber guns and 10 .30 caliber machine guns. On 12 December 1937, she was sunk by Japanese dive bombers in a deliberately planned attack. The United States had problems at home with 23 percent of its male workforce unemployed and issued a mild protest. The Japanese had their hands full in China and said "so sorry."

The Japanese claimed the sinking was a case of mistaken identity, but the facts



WHEN HIS SHIP IS ATTACKED a sailor drops everything and goes to his position. In this case, a machine gunner either dropped, or hadn't the time to pull on, his trousers.



USS *PANAY* ON PATROL plies China's Yangtze River. A half-dozen small ships such as *Panay* gave the Navy its "Old China Hands," a legendary breed of sailor who could do anything and was suspected on occasion of magical capabilities.

do not bear out that claim and the Japs had said that two or three hundred times already, after American churches, schools and hospitals had been bombed, despite having American flags painted on their roofs. Subsequent discovery of Japanese maps pinpointing the American facilities gives the lie to Jap protestations. *Panay*, incidentally, had the American flag painted on her awnings. The Stars and Stripes were obviously a favorite Jap target.

The Japanese army, advancing on Nanking, was experiencing unaccustomed tough going and was becoming barbarous, a barbarity that would lead to the infamous Rape of Nanking. In Japan, a military faction hoped to prod the United States into a declaration of war and thus take control of the Japanese government. There had even been a plot to assassinate Joseph Grew, the American ambassador to China. Jap colonels seeking to become Jap generals supported these initiatives.

In late November 1937, Grew and most diplomatic personnel headed upriver on one of *Panay's* sisters, USS *Luzon*. On 11 December, Panay followed in company with two British gunboats, a few other vessels and three Standard Oil barges. She carried the few remaining American officials and several civilians, including American and foreign journalists. Among them was a Universal Pictures newsreel photographer, who shot 4,500 feet of film. There is no shortage of evidence.

Japanese forces commanded by a colonel named Hashimoto guarded the banks of the Yangtze and Hashimoto was one of the Jap colonels that wanted to be a Jap general. He ordered his shore batteries to fire on the little flotilla, which was making slow headway against the strong Yangtze current. When it became apparent his gunners couldn't hit anything, he brought in Jap navy planes under his command.

On 12 December 1937, *Panay* and the three barges paused for lunch, the main Sunday meal. A heavily armed detachment of Jap soldiers boarded the gunboat, demanding information about Chinese troop movements. Lt. Cdr. James Joseph Hughes, *Panay's* captain, explained politely that, as a neutral he could not provide information to one side or the other. The Nips were threatening, but departed.

Aboard the gunboat, awnings were spread (with American flags painted on them) and guns were secured and covered. At about 1330, nine Nip planes attacked *Panay*, bombing, dive-bombing and strafing the little ship. The first bombs put her 3-inch guns out of action, destroyed the sick bay, wrecked the bridge, damaged the boilers and injured several Americans, including Hughes and Lt. Arthur F. Anders, the exec. *Panay's* bluejackets fought back with .30 caliber machine guns, but the peashooters were little help. By the time the attack was over, 20 minutes after it

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Coronel Loss Stuns English; Churchill and Fisher Send Heavy Ships After von Spee

(Continued from page 3)

Churchill met with the sea lords, including the first sea lord, Admiral Sir John Fisher, who had returned to the Admiralty only days earlier. Two battle cruisers, Invincible and Inflexible, under command of Vice Admiral Sir Frederic Doveton Sturdee were dispatched to the Falklands, and were joined on the way south by three armored cruisers, Carnarvon, Cornwall and Kent, and the light cruisers Bristol and Glasgow (which had been patched up in the drydock at Rio de Janeiro). Macedonia joined up later and the flotilla reached the Falklands on 7 December, in need of coal and maintenance, but vastly superior to anything

von Spee could muster.

After rounding Cape Horn, von Spee had encountered a British collier. The delay was balanced by the opportunity to fill his ships' bunkers. Believing all he would find at Port Stanley would be the remains of Craddock's force, he decided to attack the Falklands, refuel once more with British coal, and move on to the Atlantic trade routes. On 7 December, he headed for the Falklands.

At 0750 on 8 December, British lookouts at Port Stanley spotted *Gneisenau* and *Nürnberg* approaching from the south and saw the smoke of von Spee's other ships on the horizon. *Canopus*, which had been beached, was manned and opened fire with her big guns at 0920. The two Germans turned away but, when *Kent* emerged from the harbor (she was the only one of Sturdee's ships ready to sail) they turned toward her. Von Spee, at this point fearing a trap.

Von Spee, at this point fearing a trap,

SCHARNHORST heels over and will sink rapidly with all hands, including von Spee. Gneisenau, in the background, comes under fire from the British battle cruisers. From a painting by W.L. Wylie

signaled the two ships to follow him at full speed to the east. He was unaware of the presence of the battle cruisers and believed he had sufficient speed to escape.

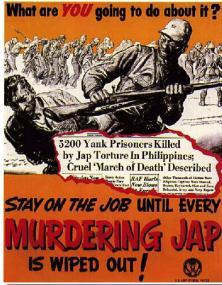
On learning of the Germans' presence at about 0800, Sturdee had ordered his ships to raise steam and feed their crews. At 1000, Invincible, Inflexible, Carnarvon, Cornwall and Glasgow had sufficient steam to sail and moved out of the harbor to join Kent. Sturdee, in Invincible, began the chase at a leisurely 18 knots to allow his ships to build more steam. Even so, he gained on von Spee, whose ships were badly in need of boiler and engine maintenance. At 1220, he began increasing speed and by 1300 had attained 25 knots, which brought the German ships within range of the battle cruisers' 12-inch guns.

Though he wasn't hit by this opening punch, von Spee knew his opponent's longer reach could destroy him so, at 1320, he ordered his light cruisers to escape to the south and turned *Scharnhorst* and *Gneisenau* to meet the English battleline. Sturdee had considered this possibility, and his captains had orders to deal with it. *Invincible* and *Inflexible* prepared to deal with the German heavy ships and *Cornwall*, *Kent* and *Glasgow* broke off to chase *Leipzig*, *Dresden* and *Nürnberg*.

The British battle cruisers not only enjoyed greater weight and range of guns, they were firing shells with a powerful new picric acid-based explosive called Lyddite, after the borough of Lydd, in Kent. It was the first time it had been used in a naval engagement, and its effect was telling. Sturdee fought a deliberate battle, pounding von Spee's ships to pieces as the German gunners responded with their 8.2-inch guns. Englishmen in Invincible and Inflexible found themselves admiring the perfect timing and grouping of the German fire, got off despite the wreckage growing on the ships' decks.

By 1545, *Scharnhorst* was a wreck, afire fore and aft, funnels leaning crazily, a huge gash torn in her side below the quarterdeck, and still she fired. But at 1600 she ceased firing abruptly, turned — apparently without steering

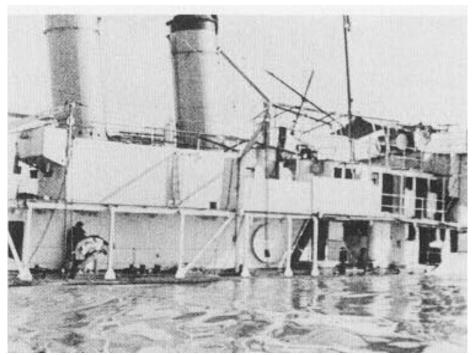
Later Posters Tried To Bring War Home







Japanese Sought to Provoke War with U.S. by Attacking Lightly-Armed American Gunboat, Ambassador Said



HER TOPSIDES A SHAMBLES, *Panay* settles in the Yellow River. Her executive officer, unable to speak because of a throat wound, gave the order to abandon ship by scrawling it on the back of a blood-spattered chart.

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started, the ship was sinking.

Hughes was on his back with a badly broken leg, so it was up to his exec to give the order to abandon ship. But Anders had been wounded in the throat and was unable to speak. Turning over a chart, which became spattered with his own blood as he wrote, Anders scrawled "Get all small boats alongside. Can we run ship aground if not Abandon Ship." The Jap planes returned to strafe *Panay's* boats and Hashimoto's soldiers combed the reeds along the Yangtze, looking for survivors. Two sailors and one civilian were killed, of the 30 sailors and civilians wounded, 11 members of the crew were seriously injured.

The U.S. bought the accident claim. Some accident.

Scharnhorst, Gneisenau, Leipzig, Nürnberg All Sunk

(Continued from previous page)

control — directly at her tormentors, slowed to a stop and heeled over. At 1610 she rolled on her side and sank, taking all with her.

Now the unfortunate *Gneisenau* became the sole target of the British battle cruisers. That she would join *Scharnhorst* was beyond doubt and Sturdee, not wishing avoidable damage inflicted on his ships, punished her at long range. At 1730, *Gneisenau* had lost steerage way, her upper decks were a shambles of wreckage lying on the armored deck and half her crew was dead or wounded, but

she would not sink. Eventually, her captain scuttled her. Only 187 of her crew of 765 survived.

Kent had caught Nürnberg and sank her at 1927. Leipzig, after a gallant fight against both Glasgow and Cornwall, was sunk at 2123. Only Dresden escaped, but she was tracked down by Glasgow and Kent, who found her hiding in Cumberland Bay on Juan Fernández Island off the coast of Chile. On 14 March 1915 her captain ran up the white flag, debarked his crew and blew up Dresden's magazines.

Admiralty Rules Against British Frigates Engaging Americans Single-Handed

(Continued from page 1)

diately followed by two broadsides from her long 24-pounders at a range of about a half mile. *Java* continued until she was abeam of *Constitution* and leading by the length of her bowsprit, and then replied with a broadside from her lighter guns wounding Bainbridge in the thigh. Under American tactical doctrine, early firing was aimed at the opponent's rigging to impair her handling, while the British fired at the hull. The American system was to prove decisive.

Following this first exchange, both ships came about to starboard, with the wind aft, and again exchanged fire. At 1430, a broadside from *Java* wounded Bainbridge for the second time and shot away *Constitution's* wheel, rendering her unmanageable for a time. The advantage allowed *Java* to jibe and rake *Constitution* from astern, which had little effect because the American ship sat higher in the water. Before long, Bainbridge had his ship under control and *Java's* edge was lost without profit.

At about 1500, Constitution shot away the outer portion of Java's bowsprit and much of the rigging for her headsails, a disaster for the British ship for she lost much of her handiness and Constitution was able to sail rings around her - and did so, raking her opponent from stem to stern. Java's main and fore masts had also suffered damage, but Lambert believed he could salvage the situation if he could board Constitution. However, as he turned his ship toward the American, his fore mast went over and he drifted down on Constitution, with what was left of his bowsprit fouling her after rigging. Java's crew attempted to use the bowsprit as a means of boarding, but Constitution broke free and raked Java from the bow, bringing down her main mast. Lambert was mortally wounded at about this time, but Java fought on until 1635, when her mizzen mast went over, leaving only a stump to which the Union Jack was quickly nailed.

Java was now defeated, but Bainbridge did not at this point demand her surrender. Instead, he sailed some distance away and spent almost an hour repairing damage done to his own rig-

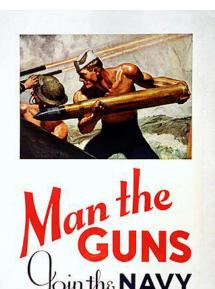


WITH HER STEERING DAMAGED, *Constitution* suffered *Java* to cross her stern and rake her, but the British ship's guns were too low to bear on the American's deck. This event took place about a half-hour into the two and one-half hour battle.

ging. This action deserves some explanation, as no British ship would have done the same. In 1812, British ships were ubiquitous on the seas of the world. Nelson had destroyed the French and Spanish fleets in several actions, culminating in his victory at Trafalgar in 1805. The United States had not yet developed much presence on the oceans. Thus, any British ship expected that the next sail it sighted would be friendly. An American ship expected the next sail sighted to be an enemy and knew it had better be prepared to fight.

At 1730, her rigging repaired, *Constitution* returned and took position across *Java's* bow, with twenty-two 24-pound guns pointing down the mastless deck. *Java* struck her colors immediately. The Americans had suffered 14 killed and 20 wounded, the British, 22 dead and 102 wounded. Bainbridge took *Java's* officers and crew aboard *Constitution* because the British ship was not worth the risks entailed in bringing her home. Their ship was sunk and the English sailors were paroled in Brazil.

When word of the defeat reached England, the Admiralty issued orders that henceforth no British frigate would take on an American frigate single handed, which was not only a tribute to the American ships and their builders, but forced the Royal Navy to concentrate its forces, opening the seas ever so slightly to American navigation.



AFTER PEARL HARBOR, the Navy no longer offered recruits a chance to "see the world."

How to Get in Touch

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Submissions are not encouraged because of constraints on the time available for editing. If such are sent, they should be sent as e-mail attachments in Microsoft Word 6.0 or as type-written copy, double-spaced, accompanied by a 3½-inch diskette containing the submission in Microsoft Word 6.0 for Windows.

Quite welcome, however, are suggestions of events for coverage. Please offer suggestions two months ahead of the anniversary of an event.