

# DECKS AWASH

American Naval Heroes by AUGUSTUS J. ROBINSON



Captain JOHN BARRY

BORN IN COUNTY WEXFORD, IRELAND, IN 1745 THE GALLANT BARRY CAME TO AMERICA IN 1760.

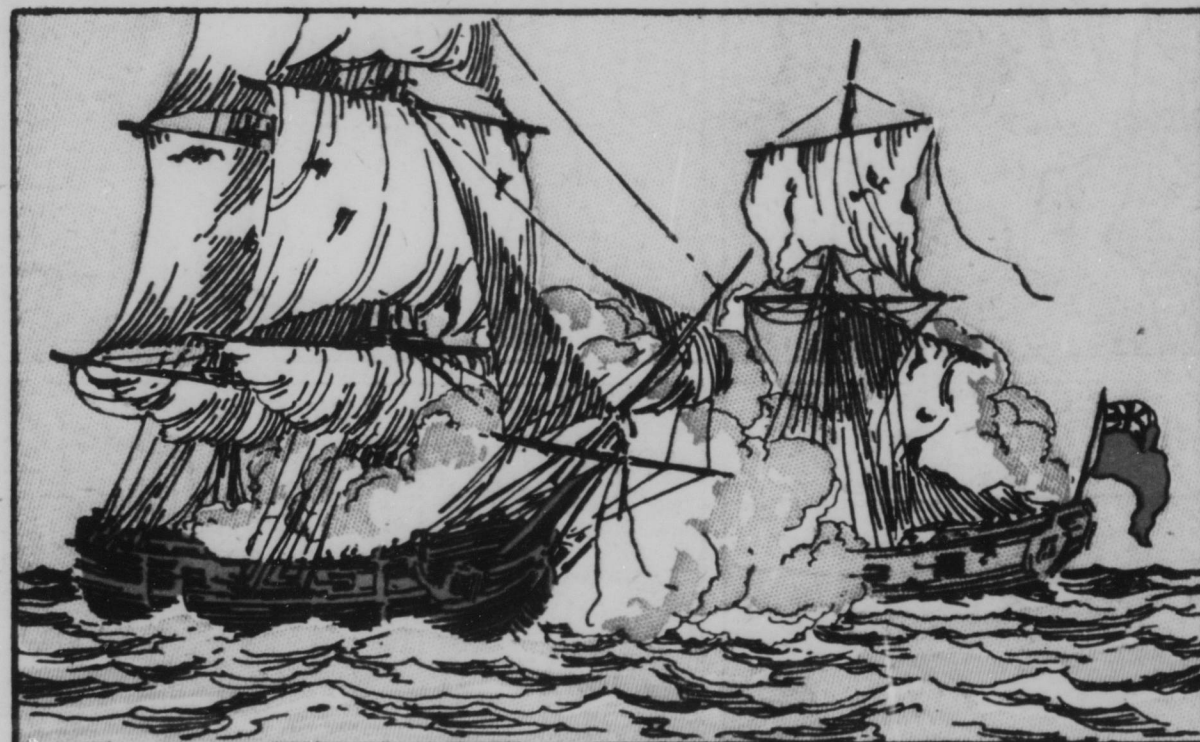
HE FOLLOWED THE SEA FROM CHILDHOOD — AND GIFTED WITH A SPIRIT OF ENTERPRISE AND ABILITY HE BECAME A PROSPEROUS SHIP-OWNER — SAILING PACKET SHIPS OUT OF PHILADELPHIA.

AT THE OUTBREAK OF THE REVOLUTION HE WAS COMMISSIONED A CAPTAIN IN THE COLONIAL NAVY.

WITH SKILL AND GALLANTRY HE FILLED ALL OF THE VARIOUS COMMANDS ENTRUSTED TO HIM — AND IS JUSTLY REGARDED AS THE FATHER OF THE AMERICAN NAVY.



BARRY WAS HONORED BY BEING PLACED IN COMMAND OF THE "LEXINGTON," THE FIRST SHIP PURCHASED BY THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS, AND THE FIRST TO SAIL UNDER GOVERNMENT ORDERS. THE SHIP WAS NAMED "LEXINGTON" TO COMMEMORATE THE FIRST BATTLE OF THE REVOLUTION AT LEXINGTON, MASS.



ON APRIL 7, 1776 WHILE BARRY WAS CRUISING OFF THE VIRGINIA CAPES, HE ENCOUNTERED THE ARMED BRITISH SLOOP "EDWARD."

THE "LEXINGTON" WAS LARGER AND CARRIED MORE GUNS THAN THE "EDWARD" — BUT THE BRITISH SHIP WAS MANNED BY A PICKED CREW AND COMMANDED BY AN EXPERIENCED ENGLISH NAVAL OFFICER.

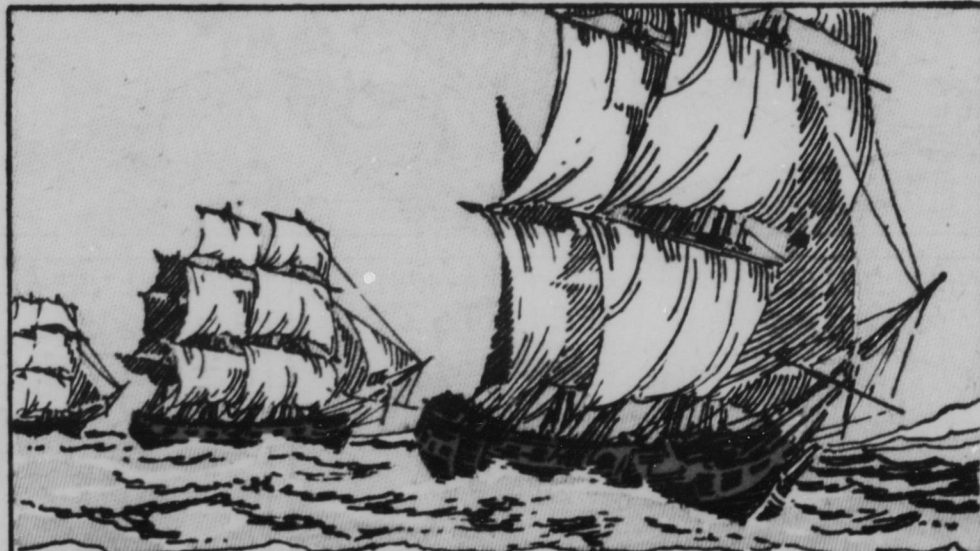
THE BATTLE LASTED FOR OVER AN HOUR AND MANY WERE KILLED ON BOTH SIDES —

THE PRIDE OF THE ENEMY AND THEIR HATRED OF STRIKING THEIR FLAG TO THE DESPISED YANKEES, PROLONGED THE FIGHT UNTIL THE "EDWARD" WAS ALMOST SHOT TO PIECES BEFORE SHE SURRENDERED...



REPAIRS WERE MADE AND AN AMERICAN CREW PUT ABOARD THE "EDWARD" — WHEN THE CAPTIVE SHIP AND HER PRISONERS ARRIVED IN PHILADELPHIA, THERE WAS GREAT REJOICING —

IT WAS THE FIRST TIME IN ACTUAL BATTLE THAT A VESSEL OF THE BRITISH FLEET HAULED DOWN ITS FLAG TO A SHIP OF THE NEW AMERICAN NAVY.



MEANTIME BARRY WAS ALERT AND SUCCESSFUL IN DELAWARE BAY AND OFF THE VIRGINIA CAPES — GIVING PROTECTION TO AMERICAN SHIPS COMING TO PHILADELPHIA WITH SUPPLIES FOR WASHINGTON'S ARMY —

CONTINUED

## SAILOR'S WAYS



### Heaving the lead

A lead weight attached to the end of a line is used to determine the depth of water beneath a vessel.

It is marked by "deeps" and "marks" to indicate fathoms.

The hand lead weighs about ten pounds and has a hollow bottom — which is filled with soft soap — this is called arming the lead.

When the lead hits the bottom a small quantity of the ground is picked up which reveals the nature of the bottom.

### Markings on the lead line (fathoms)

