

DECKS AWASH

American Naval Heroes by AUGUSTUS J. ROBINSON

CAPT. JOHN BARRY

ON SEPT. 26, 1777 THE BRITISH ARMY HAD ENTERED PHILADELPHIA — A STRONG BRITISH FLEET WAS ASSEMBLED ON THE DELAWARE AND CONTROLLED THE RIVER AS FAR AS PHILADELPHIA

BARRY'S FRIGATE, THE "EFFINGHAM," HAD BEEN SUNK IN THE RIVER TO PREVENT IT FROM FALLING INTO THE HANDS OF THE ENEMY. — SO NOW — WE FIND CAPT. BARRY WITHOUT A SHIP, BUT BURNING WITH EAGERNESS FOR A FIGHT.

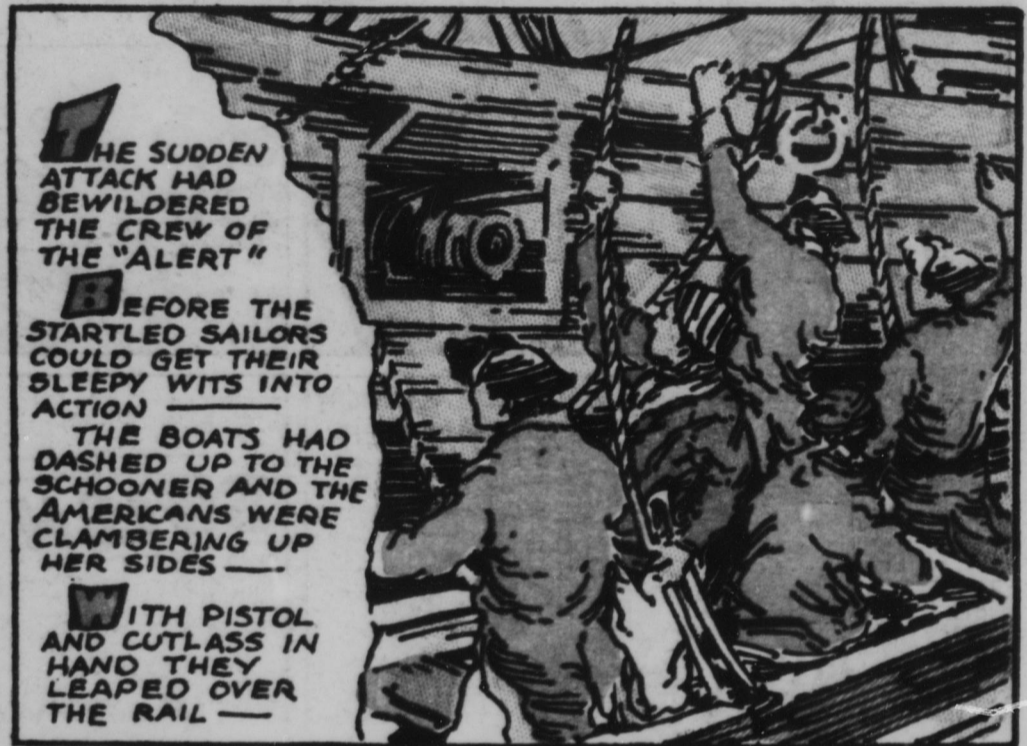


BARRY DETERMINED TO GO DOWN THE RIVER PAST THE CITY — SO ONE NIGHT HE SET OUT WITH FOUR ROWBOATS MANNED BY TWENTY-EIGHT MEN. — AS THEY PASSED BETWEEN THE SHIPS AND THE SHORE, SOME SHOTS WERE FIRED BY THE BRITISH SENTRIES, BUT THEY PASSED ON WITHOUT DAMAGE — AND BY DAYLIGHT WERE WELL DOWN THE DELAWARE.



OFF PORT PENN LAY FOUR LOADED BRITISH TRANSPORTS, AND ON GUARD OVER THEM WAS THE ARMED SCHOONER "ALERT." — HERE WAS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR BARRY.

IN BROAD DAYLIGHT, THE BOLD IRISHMAN MADE A DASH FOR IT — UNDER IMMINENT DANGER OF BEING SENT TO THE BOTTOM

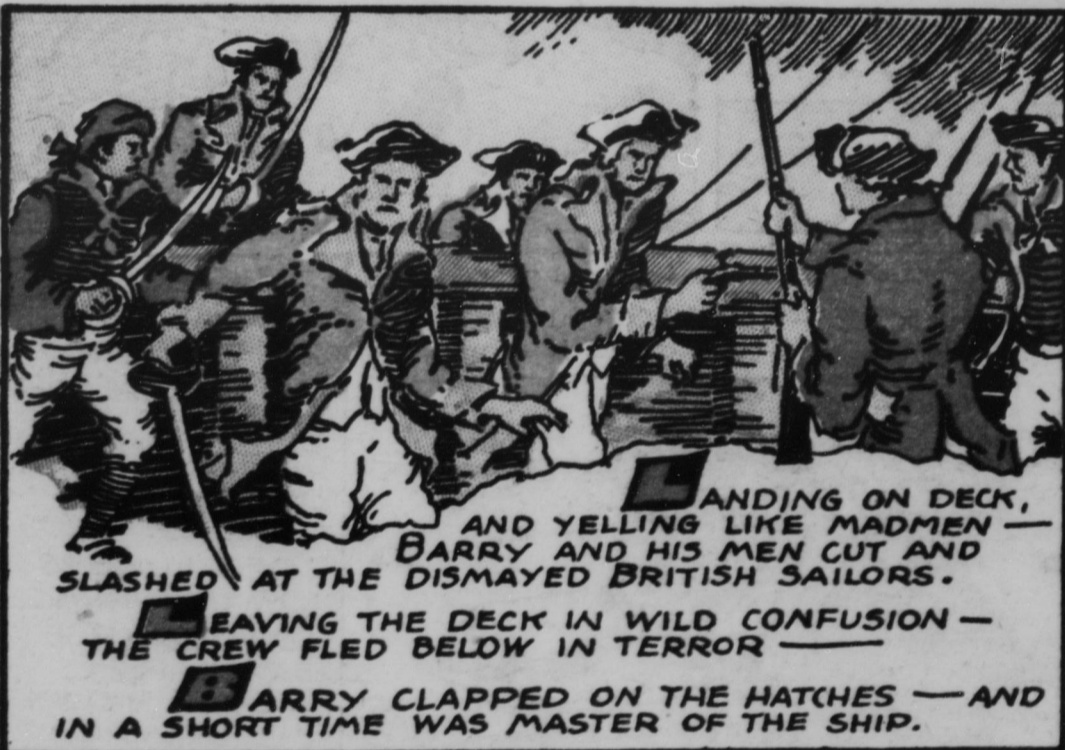


THE SUDDEN ATTACK HAD BEWILDERED THE CREW OF THE "ALERT"

BEFORE THE STARTLED SAILORS COULD GET THEIR SLEEPY WITS INTO ACTION

THE BOATS HAD DASHED UP TO THE SCHOONER AND THE AMERICANS WERE CLAMBERING UP HER SIDES

WITH PISTOL AND CUTLASS IN HAND THEY LEAPED OVER THE RAIL



LANDING ON DECK, AND YELLING LIKE MADMEN — BARRY AND HIS MEN CUT AND SLASHED AT THE DISMAYED BRITISH SAILORS.

LEAVING THE DECK IN WILD CONFUSION — THE CREW FLED BELOW IN TERROR

BARRY CLAPPED ON THE HATCHES — AND IN A SHORT TIME WAS MASTER OF THE SHIP.



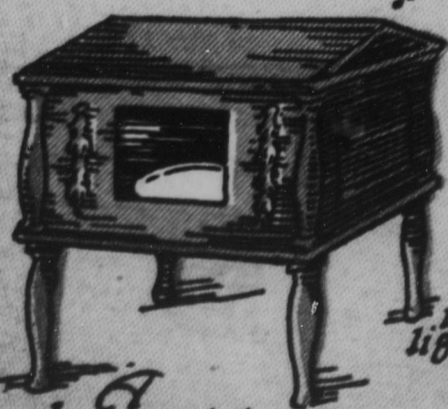
THE PRISONERS WERE HERDED TOGETHER AND DELIVERED TO THE GARRISON AT FORT PENN. — BARRY'S EXPLOIT THRILLED THE NATION

TWENTY-EIGHT MEN LED BY A GALLANT SON-OF-ERIN HAD CAPTURED A TEN-GUN SCHOONER MANNED BY A CREW OF ONE-HUNDRED AND SIXTEEN MEN

CONTINUED

SAILOR'S WAYS

SHIP'S BINNACLES



Hand-carved binnacle box of 1780

Binnacles were created to hold the compass on the ship's deck so that the helmsman could easily see it. — The binnacle also serves as a housing, to prevent the compass from being injured or thrown "off true".

To make steering possible by night, binnacles first had one lamp — then two lamps — today modern electric bulbs light-up the compass in the binnacle

A home-made binnacle box and whale oil lamp commonly used on the old New Bedford whalers



Many of the famous clipper ships of the last century were fitted with elaborate binnacles — The "Champion-of-the-Sea" carried a statue of a sailor boy, with one foot on a bilhead, holding the compass bowl securely with both hands

ovable metal balls on slotted arms neutralize any local attraction that might throw the compass off

