

DECKS AWASH

American Naval Heroes

by AUGUSTUS J. ROBINSON



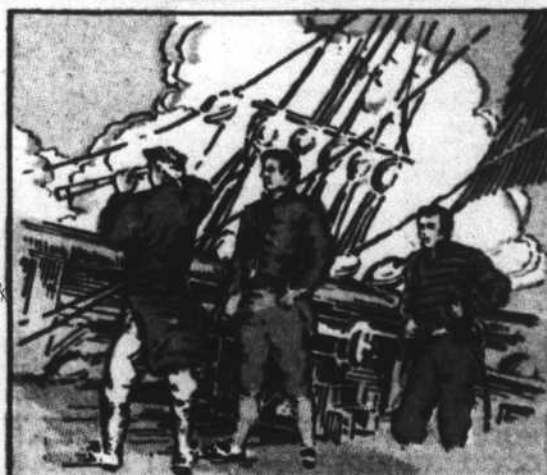
John Paul Jones

JONES WAS A SCOTCHMAN WHO HAD BECOME WARPLY ATTACHED TO AMERICAN IDEAS FOR INDEPENDENCE, AND AT THE OUTBREAK OF THE REVOLUTION PUT HIS SERVICES AT THE COMMAND OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS.

FROM THE DAY WHEN HE WAS A LAD OF THIRTEEN YEARS HE SPENT HIS LIFE ON THE SEA, AND HIS ADVENTURES FORM ONE OF THE MOST GLORIOUS CHAPTERS IN AMERICAN NAVAL HISTORY.



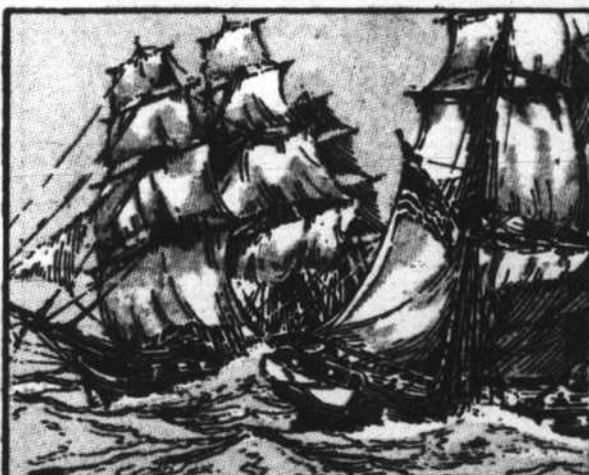
JONES WAS GIVEN A LIEUTENANT'S COMMISSION IN THE COLONIAL NAVY AND AT THE AGE OF 29 HE FOUND HIM IN COMMAND OF THE 12 GUN BRIG 'PROVIDENCE' CRUISING OFF THE NEW ENGLAND COAST.



THE OCEAN WAS SWARMING WITH POWERFUL BRITISH FRIGATES WHICH THE LITTLE BRIG MUST AVOID.—JONES WAS KEEPING A SHARP LOOKOUT FOR FOES WITH WHOM HE WAS MORE EQUALLY MATCHED.



THE 'PROVIDENCE' WAS A FAST SAILER AND ANSWERED QUICKLY TO HER HELM. TO HER GOOD SAILING QUALITIES JONES OWED MORE THAN ONE LUCKY ESCAPE.



ONCE WHEN ALMOST OVERTAKEN BY A POWERFUL MAN-O-WAR, JONES BROUGHT HIS PURSUER ON HIS WEATHER QUARTER, THEN, PUTTING HIS HELM UP, SUDDENLY DOUBLED ON HIS COURSE, AND RAN PAST THE BRITISH FRIGATE WITHIN PISTOL-SHOT OF HER GUNS!



SOME DAYS LATER THE 'PROVIDENCE' WAS LYING TO OF THE GREAT BANKS NEAR SABLE ISLAND. NO SAILS WERE IN SIGHT, AND CAPT. JONES ALLOWED THE CREW TO GET OUT THEIR COD-LINES AND ENJOY AN AFTERNOON'S FISHING.



IN THE MIDDLE OF THEIR SPORT, AS THEY WERE HAULING IN THE FISH RIGHT MERRILY, THE HAIL OF THE LOOKOUT WARNED THEM THAT A STRANGE SAIL WAS IN SIGHT.



THE STRANGER DREW RAPIDLY NEARER AND PROVED TO BE A BRITISH SHIP OF WAR. JONES, IN HIS LIGHTER CRAFT EASILY OUTSTRIPPED THE ENGLISHMAN, AND MANAGED TO KEEP JUST OUT OF RANGE.



NOW AND THEN THE PURSUER WOULD LET GO A HARMLESS BROADSIDE.—JONES, WHO HAD A SENSE OF HUMOR, REPLIED TO THIS CANNONADE WITH ONE MUSKET SHOT TO EACH BROADSIDE.—AFTER THIS BURLESQUE BATTLE HAD LASTED FOR SOME TIME, JONES SPREAD HIS SAILS AND HEADED FOR CAPE BARTON.

TO BE CONTINUED

KNOTS AND HITCHES

