

Commodore JOHN BARRY

ONE OF THE GREATEST CATHOLIC HEROES OF OUR REVOLUTION WAS FIGHTING JOHN BARRY. HIS FORESIGHT FOUNDED OUR NAVY-- THE WORLD'S MIGHTIEST FLEET.

THE BRITISH SHIP HAS STRUCK HER COLORS, CAPTAIN BARRY!

WELL DONE, LADS! IT'S OUR FIRST VICTORY AT SEA!



HE WAS BORN IN IRELAND IN 1745---A TIME WHEN CATHOLIC IRELAND WAS SUFFERING TYRANNY AND PERSECUTION. WHEN HE WAS FIFTEEN HE WENT TO PHILADELPHIA.

JOHN BARRY WAS AN INTELLIGENT, HARD WORKER AND FIFTEEN YEARS LATER WAS A SHIP'S CAPTAIN AND A PROSPEROUS MAN.

BECAUSE I AM A CATHOLIC, ALL I HAVE KNOWN ARE POVERTY AND OPPRESSION. I HOPE THINGS ARE BETTER HERE.

THERE IS NONE OF THAT HERE JOHN BARRY.



AH, JOHN - GLAD TO SEE YOU, LAD! WHAT NEWS FROM ENGLAND?

BECAUSE OF WHAT HAPPENED AT BUNKER HILL, THE BRITISH HAVE DECIDED TO CRUSH US. THEIR NAVY WILL BLOCKADE US COMPLETELY!



THE REVOLUTION HAD BEGUN. BARRY WAS EAGER TO GET INTO THE FIGHT!

IF WE ARE BLOCKADED WE WILL GET NO SUPPLIES AND BE FORCED TO SURRENDER. IF ONLY WE HAD A NAVY!

WE WILL HAVE A NAVY, LAD! WE ARE CONVERTING MERCHANT SHIPS INTO ARMED BRIGS— AND YOU ARE TO COMMAND THE BRIG LEXINGTON!



BARRY WORKED FRANTICALLY TO GET HIS SHIP READY TO SAIL—

WE ARE DESPERATELY IN NEED OF SOME KIND OF VICTORY TO OFFSET OUR LOSSES, BUT THE BRITISH HAVE A 40-GUN FRIGATE GUARDING THE MOUTH OF THE DELAWARE. YOU'LL NEVER GET THROUGH.

I'LL BRING YOU A CAPTURED FLAG IN A MONTH!



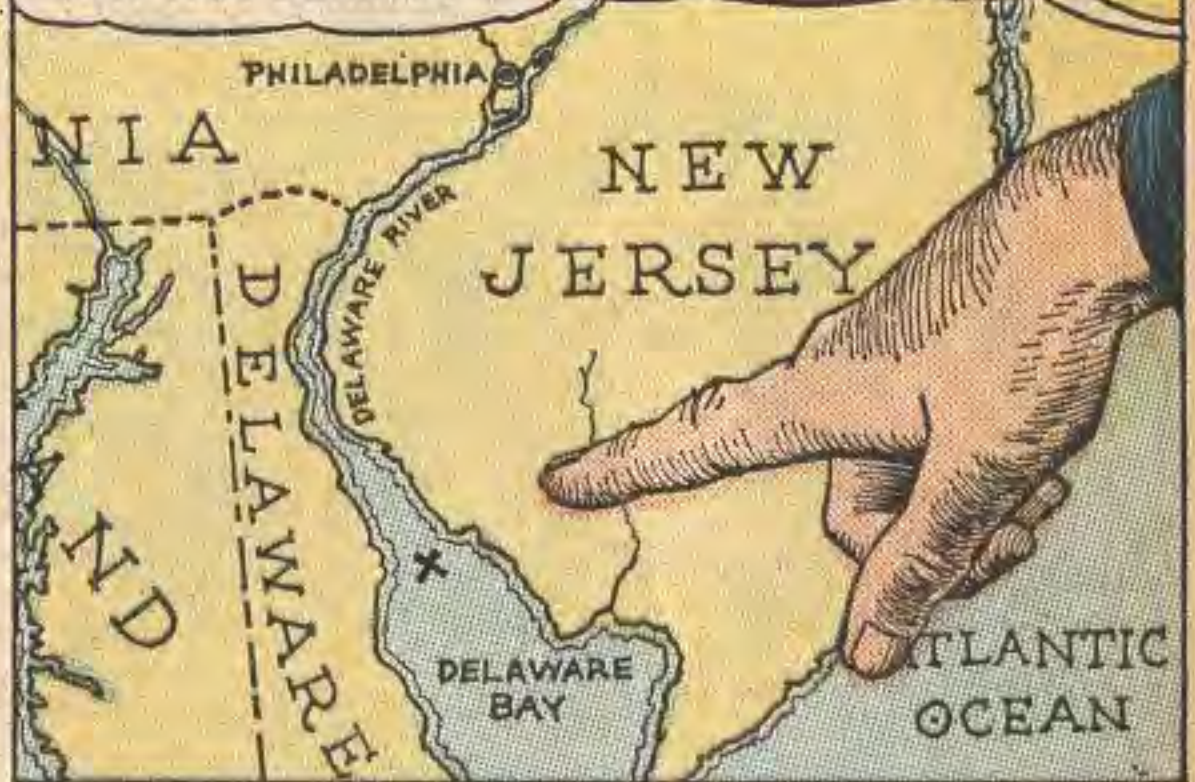
BRAVELY, BARRY SET SAIL IN HIS LITTLE BRIG, MAKING PLANS FOR THE COMING ACTION—

THERE SHE IS, THE BIG FRIGATE ROEBUCK, WAITING FOR US!

WE CAN'T FIGHT HER IN THIS LITTLE BRIG— WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?



THIS IS MY PLAN. THE X IS THE ROEBUCK. WE SHALL SAIL OUR SMALLER SHIP IN THE SHALLOWS NEAR THE SHORELINE WHERE IT IS TOO SHALLOW FOR THE BIG ROEBUCK TO FOLLOW. WHEN SHE IS IN AS FAR AS SHE CAN GO WE'LL SLIP AROUND HER AND, THANKS TO OUR GREATER SPEED, LEAVE HER FAR BEHIND.



YOUR PLAN WORKED, CAPTAIN BARRY!

YES—BUT YOU CAN BE SURE IT'S THE LAST BRITISH SHIP WE'LL EVER RUN FROM!



JOHN BARRY WAS A DEVOUT CATHOLIC AND READ THE BIBLE TO HIS CREW EVERY SUNDAY. ON APRIL 7, 1776 —

CAPTAIN BARRY! SLOOP BEARING SOUTHWEST, SIR!



SHE'S THE BRITISH NAVY SLOOP H.M.S. EDWARD! GUNNERS, MAN YOUR CANNON!



THE TWO SHIPS WARILY CLOSED TO DO BATTLE. THEN, BROADSIDE AFTER BROADSIDE THUNDERED OUT-



HER MAST IS GONE! WE'VE GOT HER!

THIS IS A VERY DISTASTEFUL DUTY FOR ME, CAPTAIN BARRY! I'M THE FIRST BRITISH CAPTAIN TO SURRENDER TO YOU AMERICAN REBELS!

I'M SORRY FOR YOUR DISCOMFORT, CAPTAIN BOGER, BUT YOU ARE ONLY THE FIRST OF MANY!



BARRY TOOK THE H.M.S. EDWARD UP THE RIVER TO PHILADELPHIA.

HURRAH!



FOLLOWING SEVERAL OTHER SUCCESSFUL CRUISES, BARRY WAS GIVEN COMMAND OF THE FRIGATE EFFINGHAM WHICH WAS UNDER CONSTRUCTION. THEN-

CAPTAIN BARRY, A LARGE BRITISH FLEET IS BLOCKADING THE DELAWARE.

HMMM. WE'LL TAKE ALL THE GUNS ON OUR SHIPS TO GENERAL WASHINGTON AT BRISTOL.



IN NOVEMBER, 1776, THE GUNS WERE BROUGHT OVERLAND WHERE THEY WERE SORELY NEEDED.

CAPTAIN JOHN BARRY REPORTING WITH THE NAVY'S GUNS, SIR!

GOOD TO HAVE YOU HERE. WE WILL HAVE NEED OF THE GUNS - AND YOU - SOON!



WASHINGTON PLANNED A CHRISTMAS SURPRISE FOR THE BRITISH AND HESSIANS IN TRENTON.

BARRY GOT THE BOATS AND WASHINGTON GOT HIS VICTORY! BARRY SERVED AT WASHINGTON'S SIDE AT THE BATTLE OF PRINCETON.

THE BRITISH BELIEVE THAT WE WILL BE CELEBRATING - SO WE SHALL ATTACK! CAPTAIN BARRY, EVERYTHING DEPENDS ON GETTING ENOUGH BOATS TO CROSS THE RIVER.

I'LL GET THEM, GENERAL!

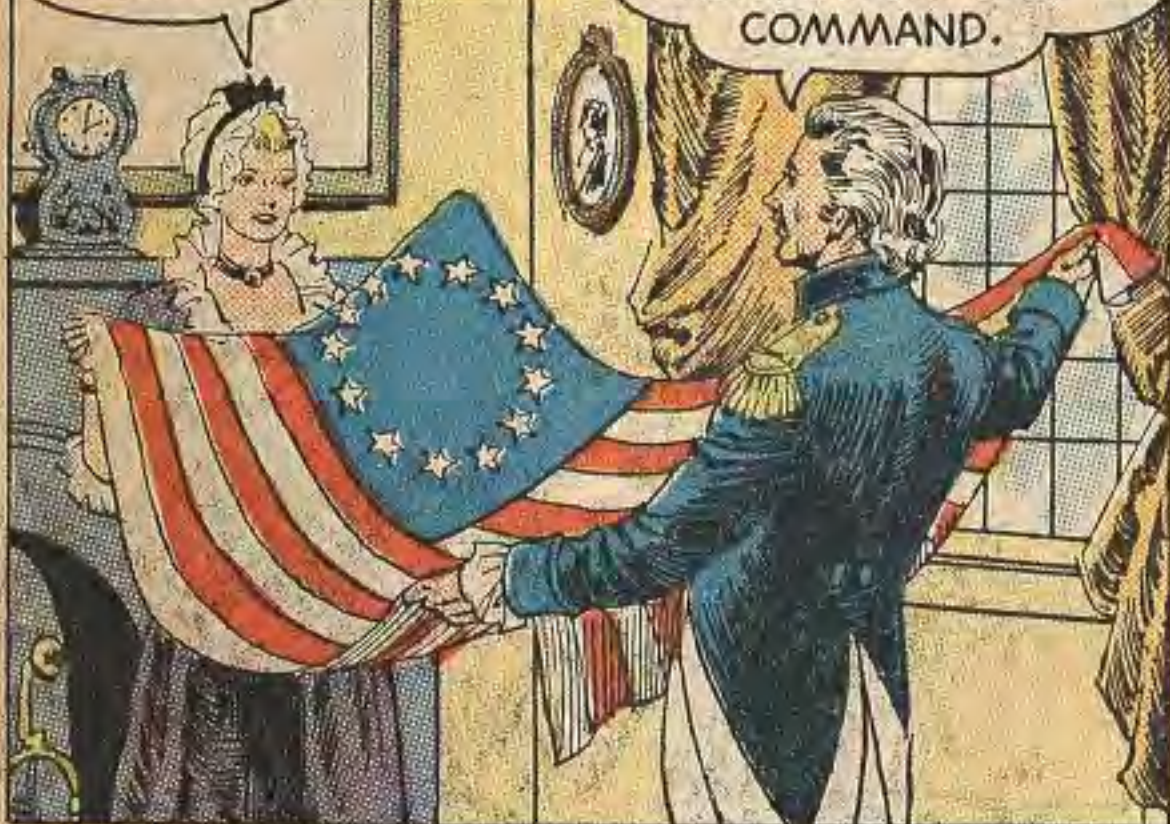


BARRY RETURNED TO PHILADELPHIA AND MET SARAH AUSTIN.

SARAH HAD BEEN TAKING INSTRUCTIONS. AFTER SHE BECAME A CATHOLIC, SHE AND JOHN WERE MARRIED.

HERE IS SOMETHING I MADE FOR YOUR SHIP, JOHN.

THANK YOU, SARAH. I'LL FLY THIS FLAG FROM EVERY SHIP I COMMAND.



BARRY RETURNED TO THE SEA, FIGHTING HARD THROUGH THE TEMPESTUOUS YEARS OF OUR REVOLUTION.

MORE ENEMY SHIPS. WHAT SHALL WE DO?

ATTACK, OF COURSE!



THE WAR ENDED IN VICTORY FOR US, BUT THE INFANT NATION WAS ALMOST BANKRUPT.

BUT WE MUST HAVE A NAVY! HOW CAN WE KEEP OUR FREEDOM WITHOUT A FLEET?

WE CANNOT AFFORD A NAVY, JOHN. WE SHALL HAVE TO TRY AND BUILD OUR FORTUNES, THEN A NAVY.



BARRY RETURNED TO THE SEA AND ONCE AGAIN HARD WORK AND SHREWD TRADING MADE HIM PROSPEROUS — BUT AMERICA'S DISUNITY FRIGHTENED HIM.

WE ARE INDEPENDENT BUT NOT TRULY A NATION! WE MUST RATIFY THE PROPOSED CONSTITUTION!



BARRY USED ALL HIS PERSONAL INFLUENCE IN GETTING PENNSYLVANIA'S DELEGATION TO RATIFY THE CONSTITUTION IN NOVEMBER, 1787.

NOW AS A NATION WE SHALL NEED A NAVY. I SHALL NEED YOUR HELP IN DESIGNING A FLEET OF SHIPS, JOSHUA.

WE'LL START TOMORROW.



NAVAL DESIGNER JOSHUA HUMPHREYS AND BARRY BUILT A MODEL OF A FINE NEW TYPE OF SHIP TO SHOW CONGRESS.

THESE WILL BE GREAT SHIPS---BIG, FAST FRIGATES ARMED WITH 44 GUNS, ABLE TO CLEAR THE SEA OF ANY OPPONENTS!

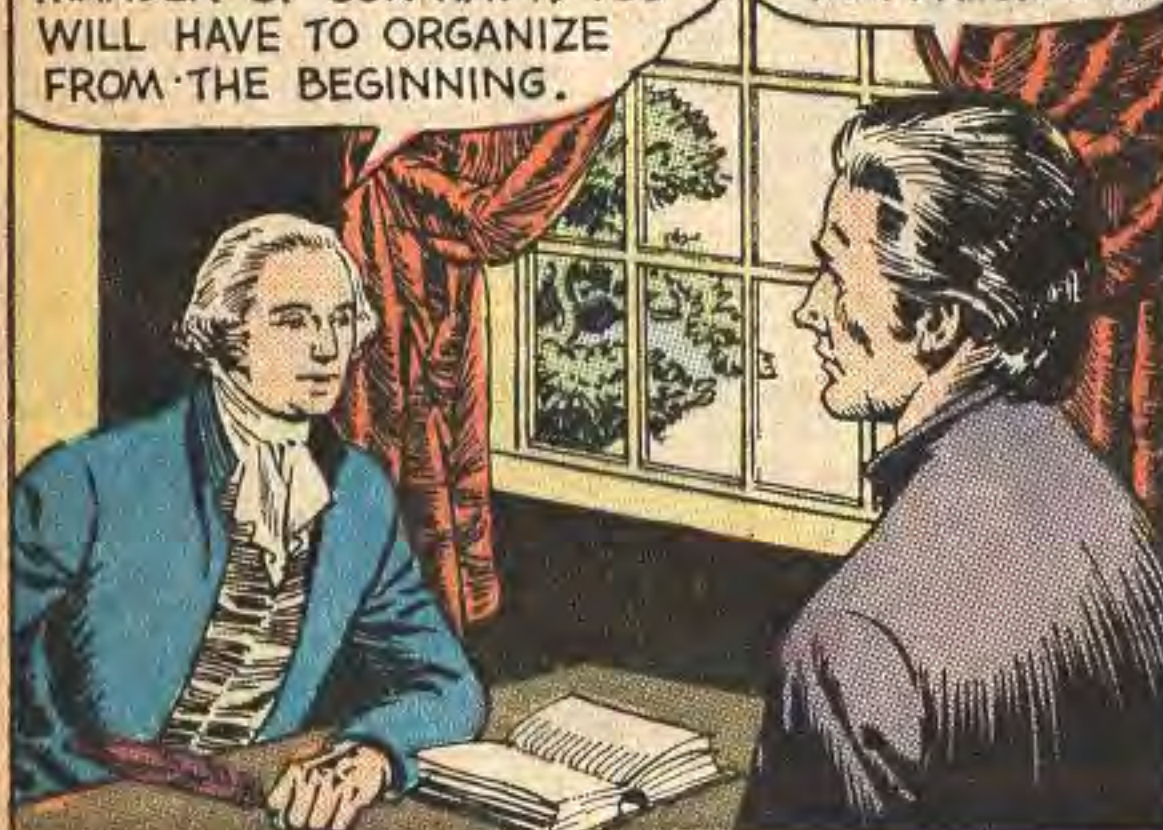
IF ONLY CONGRESS WILL BUILD THEM!



BUT IT WASN'T UNTIL BARBARY PIRATES ATTACKED OUR MERCHANT SHIPS THAT CONGRESS AUTHORIZED THE BUILDING OF THE FRIGATES.

CAPTAIN BARRY, YOU WILL BE SENIOR CAPTAIN AND COMMANDER OF OUR NAVY, YOU WILL HAVE TO ORGANIZE FROM THE BEGINNING.

I SHALL START AT ONCE, MR. PRESIDENT.

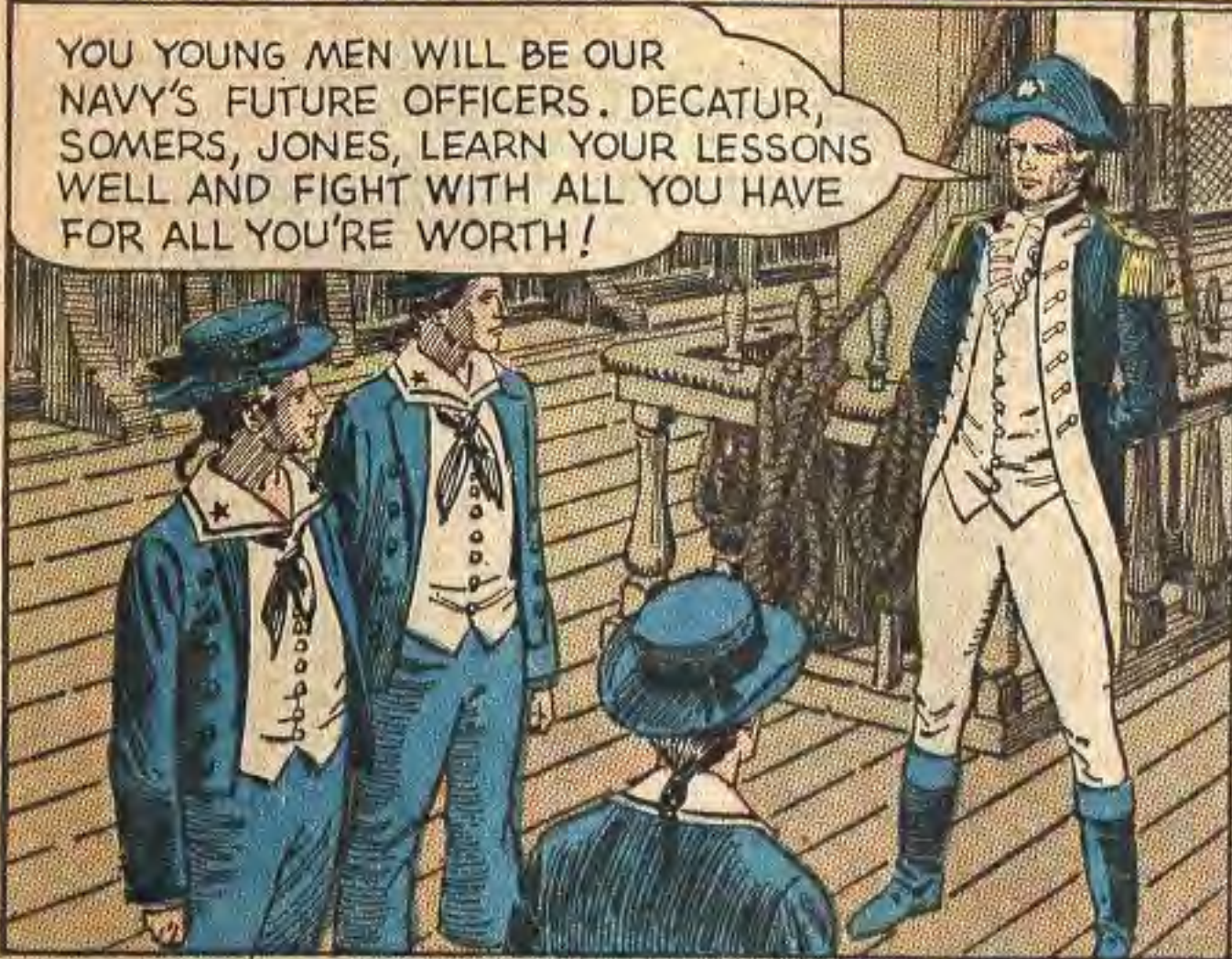


BARRY'S LONG-STANDING PLANS FOR AN ADEQUATE NAVY WERE PRESENTED TO CONGRESS.

AND I FURTHER REQUEST THAT A NAVY DEPARTMENT OF CABINET RANK BE CREATED AND NAVY YARDS OPENED TO SUPPORT THE NAVY THIS NATION NEEDS!



IN 1798, THE NEW COMMODORE BARRY SAILED TO THE WEST INDIES IN OUR UNDECLARED WAR WITH FRANCE.



YOU YOUNG MEN WILL BE OUR NAVY'S FUTURE OFFICERS. DECATUR, SOMERS, JONES, LEARN YOUR LESSONS WELL AND FIGHT WITH ALL YOU HAVE FOR ALL YOU'RE WORTH!

THE UNDECLARED WAR DIED OUT WHEN FRANCE LEFT OUR WELL-PROTECTED SHIPS ALONE. BARRY, THOUGH ILL, WAS STILL COMMODORE IN 1801 WHEN —



THE BARBARY PIRATES HAVE DECLARED WAR ON US! PRESIDENT JEFFERSON ASKS THAT YOU COMMAND THE NAVY.

SARAH, YOU MUST WRITE AND TELL HIM THAT I AM TOO ILL —

MY BOYS, "BARRY'S BOYS," THE LADS I'VE TRAINED WILL HAVE TO CARRY ON AND DO THE JOB!



AND "BARRY'S BOYS" HEEDED BARRY'S MOTTO — "FIGHT WITH ALL YOU HAVE FOR ALL YOU'RE WORTH" TO DEFEAT THE PIRATES THAT HAD HELD ALL EUROPE IN FEAR!



GIVE THEM ONE FOR COMMODORE JOHN BARRY, MEN!

AYE, AYE, SIR!

ON SEPTEMBER 13, 1803, JOHN BARRY, AT 58, DIED, WORN OUT IN THE SERVICE OF HIS COUNTRY. THE WHOLE NATION WENT INTO MOURNING FOR THIS FEARLESS, CATHOLIC HERO.



BARRY WAS A GOOD CATHOLIC.

AYE, AND A GOOD AMERICAN---BUT THEN IF YOU'RE THE FIRST, YOU'RE SURE TO BE THE SECOND---THE TWO THINGS GO TOGETHER.

THE MOST FITTING MONUMENT TO JOHN BARRY IS THE UNITED STATES NAVY OF TODAY, STILL CARRYING ON IN THE TRADITION OF THE FATHER OF OUR NAVY.

