



"Don't give up the ship!"

Charles S Wood

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CHAPTER XXII. The Lawrence Shattered. The wind had fallen off toward noon, and the larger vessels were all in line, within half cable length, but the gunboats were far behind, and the Trippe was two miles astern. The glasses showed that Lieutenant Stevens had his sweeps in motion, and boats ahead towing, in order to bring her up into action. At a quarter to twelve the men heard the mellow notes of a bugle on the Detroit and loud cheers and a band. Then a puff of white smoke was seen, and a shot came whistling towards the Lawrence, but fell short. Perry ordered the signal to be hoisted. "Engage as you come up, every one against his opponent, in the line before designated." The second shot from the Detroit took effect on the Lawrence, passing through both her bulwarks. Then Perry signalled Mr. Champlin to begin firing from the Scorpion with his long thirty-two pounder. The gun was immediately fired, and Perry saw that the shot struck the Detroit. He ordered his bow chaser to begin firing, and the Caledonia and the Niagara opened fire with their long guns. At twelve o'clock Perry brought the Lawrence by the wind, and the first division of her carronades was fired, but the shot fell short. So Perry ordered all sail to be made, and directed Lieutenant Forrest with his trumpet to pass the order along, that every vessel should close up. The Lawrence now passed ahead, and the Niagara did not follow her. Barclay's fleet being smaller in number and in a compact line, was able to concentrate the fire of their three larger vessels on the Lawrence. The Queen Charlotte and Hunter both had time to pour in a heavy fire, the first shot from the Queen, fired by John Chapman, wounded the mainmast of Perry's flagship. Captain Finnis knew from the disposition of the vessels th...

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