DESERET EVENING NEWS SATURDAY DECEMBER 4 1909 OF THE DECATUR, THE CHEVALIER BAYARD he of the most dashing figures in America's most brilliant period of RAVAL WARFARE ~ HIS WONDERFUL EX-PLOIT AGAINST THE BARBARY PURATES THAT FROM NELSON THE HIGHEST PRAISE THE BRITISH ADMIRAL COULD BESTOW.

CATUR has been called the Chevalier Bayard of the sea. That he was without fear his brilliant career would seem to

prove. That he was without reproach lepends altogether on the viewpoint, To some students of history he ap-

depends altogether on the viewpoint. To some students of history he appears to be the most magnificent figure of the most glorious days of the American navy. To others, and among these may be included Theo-dore Roosevelt, he is ranked below men who played less spectacular parts. Whichever may be right, the fact re-mains there hardly is anything in all naval history to surgas his achieve-ments in the war with Tripoli, while his handling of the United Slates in the fight with the Macedonian and of the President in the fight with the Endymion were among the finest ex-amples of seamanship displayed in the may fight with the Macedonian and of the President in the fight with the Endymion were among the finest ex-amples of seamanship displayed in the war of 1812. A captain at 25, a commodore at 29, dead on the dueling field at 41, he crowded into his short life more of action and more glory than any man of his time. There was Irish and Dutch and French and American blood in the veins of Stephen Decatur. From the Irish he got imagination and dash, from the Dutch stubborn resolution, from the French vivacity, courtiness and brilliance, all well balanced by his strong, sturdy strain of Ameri-canism. His grandfaher, who had been a lleutenant in the French navy, came to America about the middle of the eighteenth century, and his fath-er, who also followed the sea, won renown in the war of the Revolu-tion as captain of a privateer. Stephen Decatur was born near Eristol, Md, January 5, 1779. He was reared in luxury and highly educated. His first work for his country was in the con-struction of the famous figate United States, which his father's firm had the contract to build, and it was in this mered. struction of the famous frigate United States, which his father's firm had the contract to build, and it was in this vessel that he saw his first sea duty, shipping as a midshipman in 1789, at the outbreak of the war with France. Perhaps no warship ever sailed from an American port with more young men destined to win fame in the nation's cause, for Decatur, had for shipmates not only

 with France. Perhaps no warship ever sailed from an American point of the point of the point of the american of the mathing cause of the frigate and sparks were failing on the attract of the philadelphin fready gave assistance to Decatur. Fast and the state of the frigate and sparks were failing on the tarpaulin that covered frames marron, who rose to rank equal to Decatur for an evil hour, put an added freshend and Decatur, fearing to Decatur only to fail into discover and the state of the frigate and sparks were and the state build be added the ketch for the hailor the star lines ball of the second there, but the back of the frigate scales of the frigate and sparks were and the states but the ketch and the state of the the state of the state of the frigate scales of the frigate and sparks were and the states but the ketch and beat. It was not an the state and had a with head the ketch for the frigate scales of the frigate scales of the frigate scales of the frigate scales of the frigate scale scale of the the ketch for the state scale has the were of states. But was all had added the ketch for the frigate scales for the state scale and had a with the ketch for the frigate scales and had scale the state scale the shower of sparks were the state and had a with the ketch for the state scale the shower of sparks the men the state and had scale the state scale the shower of sparks the men scale of the frigate scales and had scale the state scale the shower of sparks the men scale scale of the frigate scales for the state scale sca and in one of them the great frighter Philadelphia, which Docatur's father had been the first to command, ran ashore while blockading Tripoli, and Commodore Bainbridge and his whole crew of 315 men had been made pris-oners. When Decatur joined Preble's squad-ron he was transferred to the command of the schooner Enterprise and a few days later he captured a Tripolitan ketch, the Massico, Early in Decem-ber, 1803. Preble sailed past Tripoli with his squadron. In the harbor the

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THE ATTACK.

frigate, only to be cut to pieces by the swords of the Americans. The Tripolitans had the reputation of being the greatest hand to band fight-ers in the world, but they were no match for the Americans. Those who reached the deck sought to escape by jumping overboard. Those who were driven below sought to hide in the hold of the frigate. There a horrible death awaited them. Within 10 minutes Decatur had cap-tured the frigate and not an American had been wounded.

had been wounded. THE PHILADELPHIA AFLAME.

THE PHILADELPHIA AFLAME. Decatur might possibly have taken the frigate out of the harbor. Such an achievement would have been won-derful indeed, but his orders were to burn the great ship. The ketch was loaded with combustibles. These were transferred hurriedly to the frigate and the torch applied. The ship burned so rapidly that many of those below had no chance to escape. With the Philadelphia a raging fur-mace Decatur and his men sprang for the ketch. He was the last to leave the frigate. He tried to move off, but the Intrepid clung to the Philadelphia. Fiames were pouring out of the port holes of the frigate and sparks were fulling on the tarpaulin that covered the ketch's supply of powder. At any moment there was likely to be an ex-phosion. The men on the ketch could not understand what held them to the frigate until some one discovered that the start lines had not been cast off. With the energy of desperation Decatur and others hacked at the lines with their swords and the men bent to the water. Then as the lines parks the men comaches. Their seelings relieved, they resumed rowing. THE ESCAPE:

reached the Siren. Two days later the ketch and the Siren were at Syracuse, and Preble, the proudest man in all the Mediterranean, had dispatched a re-port to Washington telling of Decatur's achievement and recommending the young officer for promotion to a cap-taincy. Lord Nelson, when he heard of Decatur's exploit, is said to have pronounced it "the boldest and most daring act of the age."

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DEATH STRUGGLE WITH A PI-RATE.

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The burning of the Philadelphia was not enough. In August Decatur was back in the harbor of Tripoli to destroy the fleet of gunboats. The American force of six gunboats was divided in two divisions of three boats each. The Tripolitan fleet was in two divisions of nine each. Decatur had loaded the long gun in the bow of his boat with 1,000 musket balls and with this did great execution. He had captured one of the eneury and had the prize in tow, when he learned that his brother had been mortally wounded by a Tripolitan commander who had struck his flag and then shot young Decatur as the youth stepped aboard.
Maddened by the news, Decatur went in pursuit of the murderer. He reached he vessel, climbed aboard and sprang at the leader, who was a man of gigantic size. The two had a duel such as had not been seen in many days. Decatur, in thrusting at the corsair, broke his cutlass at the hilt. Twice Decatur was wounded before he managed to close with the giant. Then they foll to the deck in a death grapple. Over and over they rolled, while all around them other men fought. Soon the strength of the Tripolitan and the yound sof the American Began to tell. The Tripolitan. They he pulked the trigger and a dead corsair lay upon him.
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Dreatur wingled from under the dead montan and was risin

saw action again. He had been put in command of the squadron blockaded in New York, and, chafing from his en-forced idleness, he took advantage of a gale to slip the blockade on Jan. 15 in the frigate President. The pilot mis-took the channel and the big warship went aground near Sandy Hook. The sea was so heavy that the frigate was saved from wreck only by fine seaman-ship, and when she was floated she was so badly strained as to impair her speed and seaworthy qualities greatly. Decatur would have returned for re-

of the courtmartial that had tried Com-notore Barron. The commodore, in 1807, while in command of the Chess-peake, had been haited by the British warship Leopard and the Leopard after firing on the Chessapeake, declaring the were desertors. Two of the men were American citizns. For surrender-ing his ship and for going to sea un-prepared to defend the vessel the cour-ting his ship and for going to sea un-prepared to defend the vessel the cour-modore was put on trial and the court had sentenced him to five years' sus-pension. The sentence had expired in 1812, but Barron did not return to the United States until after the close of the war. Then he applied for reinstate-ment. While disclaiming any prejudice against Barron, Decatur, as navy com-sortespondence with his old shipmate, which led to Barron on Feb. 6, 1820, challening Decatur's second and the field of Bladensburg. Commodore Bandridge was Decatur's second and the field of Bladensburg. Commodore Bandridge was Decatur's second so badly strained as to impair her speed and seaworthy qualities greatly. Decatur would have returned for re-pairs, but the gale carried him to sea. The next morning he sighted five ves-sels of the blockading fleet. His only safety was in flight, but the President, damaged as she was, had lost her speed. Crowding on every lnch of canvas and lightening the boat in every way possible. Decatur tried to run away. In the afternoon the leading ship of the pursuing force, the Endy-mion, was within easy distance and opened fire. The Endymion was ad-mirably handled, while the President was difficult to maneuver. Decatur might have turned and fought, but if he did the other four vessels would have crushed him with beir fire. While the Endymion with bow guns poured a destructive fire on the President, De-catur determined on a course of ac-tion more audacious even than that he carried to success in the harbor of Tripoli. It was to swing about sud-denty, run down and capture the Endy-mion by boarding, scuttle the President and then escape in the swift Endy-mion. The men were by no means equally matched. Decatur was a master hand with the pistol. Barron was so near-sighted that he could not distinguish an object 100 yards away. Decatur had determined to permit Barron to fire at him, but not to reply. Then some one proposed to make the distance eight paces, so Barron's disadvantage would be minimized. This was agreed to The men were by no means equally matched. Decatur was a master hand mion.

SURRENDER.

At 6 p. m. he gave the order. The President was swing about and headed for the Englishman, but Capt. Hope of the Englishman, but Capt. Hope of the Endymion was not to be caught, and the two sailed side by side for two hours pouring broadsides into euch other. At 3:30 the Endymion, helpless from the loss of her sails, and with most of her port guns gone, dropped out of action. If the President had only the Endymion to contend with the vic-tory was won, but the American vessei had lost much ground in the fight, and the other four ships had come up and practically had her surrounded. As es-cape was hopeless Decatur surrendered. practically had her surrounded. As es-cape was hopeless Decatur surrendered. The President had 24 killed and 55 wounded. The Endymion had 11 killed and 14 wounded. The disparity in cas-ualties is explained by the fact that Decatur, in order to cripple the Endy-mion, and thereby possibly escape, paid more attention to the enemy's sails than to the hull, while the Endymion's firo was concentrated on the President's hull. As Decatur had done in the case of Carden, so Commodore Hayes, com-.

As Decatur had done in the case of Carden, so Commodore Hayes, com-manding the squadron, did in the case of Decatur, refusing to accept the sword of a man who had fought so well. Decatur was taken to Bernuda and paroled. Before he reached home peace had been declared. He feared the loss of the President would affect his stand-ing, but he was received with every show of affection and a court of in-quiry declared that he and his men de-served the warmest gratitude of the nation.

it. The commissioners hardly had left Decatur's vessel than an Algerian war-ship was sighted. Decatur gave the signal to chase her. The squadron closed in on the Algerian and were about to sink her under the guns of the shore batteries when the negotiators were seen returning with a white flag. The dey had consented to all of Deca-tur's demands. Then the squadron visited Tunis.

tur's demands. Then the squadron visited Tunis, where Decatur demanded \$46,000 for prizes the bey had captured. The money

THE DUEL.

STEPHEN DECATUR.

Decatur then decided to fire, but simply to wound Barron. Eight paces were measured off. The men faced each other. As the word was about to be given Barron made a remark that would have paved the way to a peaceful settlement. Decatur re-plied in the same spirit, but neither of the seconds sought to bring about an adjustment of the trouble. Decatur had told Bainbridge he would hit Barron in the left hip. Bainbridge called "One," "Two," and both men fired. Barron fell, shot in the spot Decatur had indicated. Decatar stood erect. The seconda stepped for-ward. Then Decatur put his hand to his side, staggered and fell. He died that night.

that night.

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"ALL KINDS OF KIDS"

fight in history. Throughout the summer Decatur and Somers, acting under Preble's orders, gave no rest to the Tripolitans and then Preble rewarded Decatur with the command of the Constitution. No higher honor could be shown him than command of the greatest ship in the navy, and he only 25. When he re-turned to the United States many han-quets were given in his honor and Con-gress voted a sword to him.

CAPTURE OF THE MACEDONIAN.

<text><text><text><text><text> BACK TO THE MEDITERRANEAN. Fromptly after the signing of peace with England the United States de-clared war on Algiers. The pirates had taken advantage of the war with Eng-land to renew their attentions to Ameri-can vessels and had been as active al-most as in the early days of the pre-vious decade. Two squadrons, one un-der Decatur and the other under Bain-bridge, were sent to punish them. Thi Algerian mavy was larger than Deca-tur's squadron and on his approach took refuge in the harbor of Malta, Decatur captured the Algerian flagship Neshonda and the brig Estedio and then set off for Algiers. The harbor had been heavily fortified, but Decatur, without walting for Bainbridge, was going to attack, when one of the for-else consuls, together with the captain of the port, came out to treat for a settlement. Decatur demanded the re-turn of all prisoners and payment of sito,000 for the seizure of an American vessel. The visitors asked for time. Decatur would not grant one minute. Not only that, but if any of the Al-gerian fleet appeared he would destroy it. BACK TO THE MEDITERRANEAN.

prizes the bey had captured. The money was paid. Next the squadron went to Tripoli. The bashaw had no stomach for fight-ing the man who had been there be-fore. He paid \$25,000, released all cap-tive Christians, saluted the American flag and then had the pleasure of hear-ing "Hail Columbia" played by the American band.

PRESIDENT AND ENDYMION.

Decatur was at the height of his fame. War was over, and he was made one of the board of navy commission-ers. He built a fine house for himself in Washington and, having an ample fortune, began to enjoy life to the ut-most. It was not until 1815 that Decatur Years before he had been a membe

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