



The Age of Fighting Sail: The Story of the Naval War of 1812

C.S. Forester

[Download now](#)

[Read Online ➔](#)

The Age of Fighting Sail: The Story of the Naval War of 1812

C.S. Forester

The Age of Fighting Sail: The Story of the Naval War of 1812 C.S. Forester

No one has been so well equipped as C. S. Forester to dramatize the sea battles of the War of 1812, to characterize the heroes more skillfully, or to comprehend more shrewdly the world unrest that made it possible for an infant republic to embarrass a great nation rich in one hundred years of sea triumphs.

The Age of Fighting Sail: The Story of the Naval War of 1812 Details

Date : Published April 1st 2004 by Chapman Billies (first published 1956)

ISBN : 9780939218066

Author : C.S. Forester

Format : Paperback 284 pages

Genre : History, Nonfiction, Military, Military History, War, Military Fiction, Naval History



[Download The Age of Fighting Sail: The Story of the Naval War of ...pdf](#)



[Read Online The Age of Fighting Sail: The Story of the Naval War ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online The Age of Fighting Sail: The Story of the Naval War of 1812 C.S. Forester

From Reader Review The Age of Fighting Sail: The Story of the Naval War of 1812 for online ebook

Mark says

Great history by a great writer! 'Nuff said.

Josiah Courier says

An amazing history of the U.S.N. in the war of 1812. He makes it come alive!
Great book.

John Nevola says

A Fresh Look at the War of 1812

When one picks up a Forester book, one usually thinks immediately of the Horatio Hornblower series for which he is well known. He is an accepted expert on sailing ships, especially warships, and brings all of his insight knowledge and experience to the party in *The Age of Fighting Sail*.

If this book were to be only about the one-on-one frigate actions in which American ship design and seamanship bested their vaunted British counterparts, the book would be worth it. However, Forester expands his aperture to include battles between many other ships of various sizes besides frigates. He also includes battles fought in the Pacific, American privateer sorties and captures near the British Isles and the battles on the Great Lakes. In fact, I was left wanting to know more about the victories of the frigates *Constitution* and *United States*.

The most interesting aspect of the book is how he relates the events of the Napoleonic Wars to what was happening in America at that same moment in history. The events in Europe clearly shaped the destinies of the British and Americans in their own little war held mainly on American soil and in American waters. But the connection becomes relevant once Forester explains how each theatre affected the other and ultimately the outcome of the war.

Forester's style can be awkward at times and many passages had to be read more than once to garner a clear understanding of what the man was trying to say. His fairness and logic, on the other hand, were impeccable throughout this book and reading it is like eating candy to those interested in American military and political history. The same applies to those fascinated by the manner in which warring ships battled it out on the high seas solely under sail power.

This is an interesting book and a wonderful contribution to understanding American history.

John E. Nevola - Author of the Last Jump - A Novel of World War II

Tom King says

Forester really understands the Napoleonic era navy. This is a terrific book if you love history and wooden sailing ships.

And I do.

Jeffery says

If you like history and the sea, this is a must read.

Mark Roth says

An interesting book about the naval activity during the War of 1812. Written by the author of the classic Horatio Hornblower series (fiction), this book has a similar writing style, which is a somewhat odd fit for a history book; the approach is neither typical storytelling nor typical historical analysis. However, despite (or perhaps because of) the lack of the typical rigor of a historical work (e.g., there is no bibliography, so it's not clear what primary source material the author consulted) the book is quite approachable and interesting.

One particularly interesting thing that I learned from this book is the early battle history of the USS Constitution. I had already known that she was one of the U.S. Navy's earliest successful warships, but I hadn't realized just how much she outshone her sister ships during the War of 1812. Constitution fought and won many battles during the war, under several different captains. Many of these victories were in evenly-matched single-ship actions; this was particularly shocking to the British Royal Navy, who at that time was the foremost sea power of the world. Constitution's last victory of the war came after the peace treaty had been signed, but before she learned of the treaty. (This was hardly unusual in those days; Andrew Jackson's victory at the Battle of New Orleans also occurred after the treaty was signed. In fact, one U.S. warship, the USS Peacock, was still capturing British merchantmen in the Indian Ocean six months later!)

One minor complaint is that the book jumped around a bit to follow individual threads, rather than presenting the material in strictly chronological order. I have seen this approach work quite well for other authors, but for some reason I found it a bit hard to follow in this case. However, it may be that this is more a reflection of the complexity of the material (i.e., the sheer number of fronts on which the war was being fought simultaneously) than on any fault of the author.

In any case, despite that minor complaint, I enjoyed this book and would recommend it to anyone interested in this era of naval history.

TTocs says

Fascinating view of the war of 1812 from a British and almost strictly naval point of view. I've read several

canadian and american histories of the war and they dealt mostly with the brutal onshore slog. The war of 1812 was fought mostly because the British were not willing to give up the practice of impressing US sailors into their navy. Illegal according to international law at the time the British in a desperate life and death struggle with Napoleon needed sailors to fill up their navy. The US was seen as a likely safe haven for escaping english sailors who became american citizens. The British in their desperation for manpower wanted to close this avenue as a way of escape for disaffected british sailors and so trod heavily on American sovereignty with this practice. The other main cause of the war was again maritime as the british were harassing US merchantmen in an attempt to keep an embargo in place on continental trade. The british were more willing to move on the trade issues but the british navy was intransigent when it came to pursuing perceived deserters.

The war was fought with no British concession on their boarding of american ships or the impressment of american sailors and the need for an embargo largely ended with the defeat of Napoleon at the battle of nations near Leipzig in October of 1813. The English though after this war were more sensitive towards american sovereignty as the cost and trouble caused by the war outweighed anything they could gain. The looked to deal with their problem of desertion by improving conditions and pay for sailors on British ships. One of the lessons learned from the war was that the american ships were often better lead, better crewed and gun for gun better built ships than their british counterparts. Some of the British successes from the war such as the investing of Chesapeake bay with a large naval presence had to be discontinued because the rate of desertion from unhappy sailors this close to the american shores proved ruinous to the navy and it's discipline.

All in all this was a very interesting view of this war that I'd never heard before.

Liz says

Really interesting detailed description & analysis of one of the last Western wars fought using sail power, the War of 1812 between America & England.

That said, the reader should be an aficionado of sailing & sailing books. I defy the general reader to understand such terminology as "wearing ship", "weather advantage", and "lee shore" without such knowledge.

To that extent, this is a fairly technical book, although Forester is a master at rendering this intelligibly & in gripping style. It made many things clear regarding this portion of American (and English) history that had been pretty badly garbled by my school history classes.

Curtiss says

C.S. Forester describes the War of 1812 in his usual engaging and informative style.

This is another of my old Book-of-the-Month Club editions which I first read in grade school.
