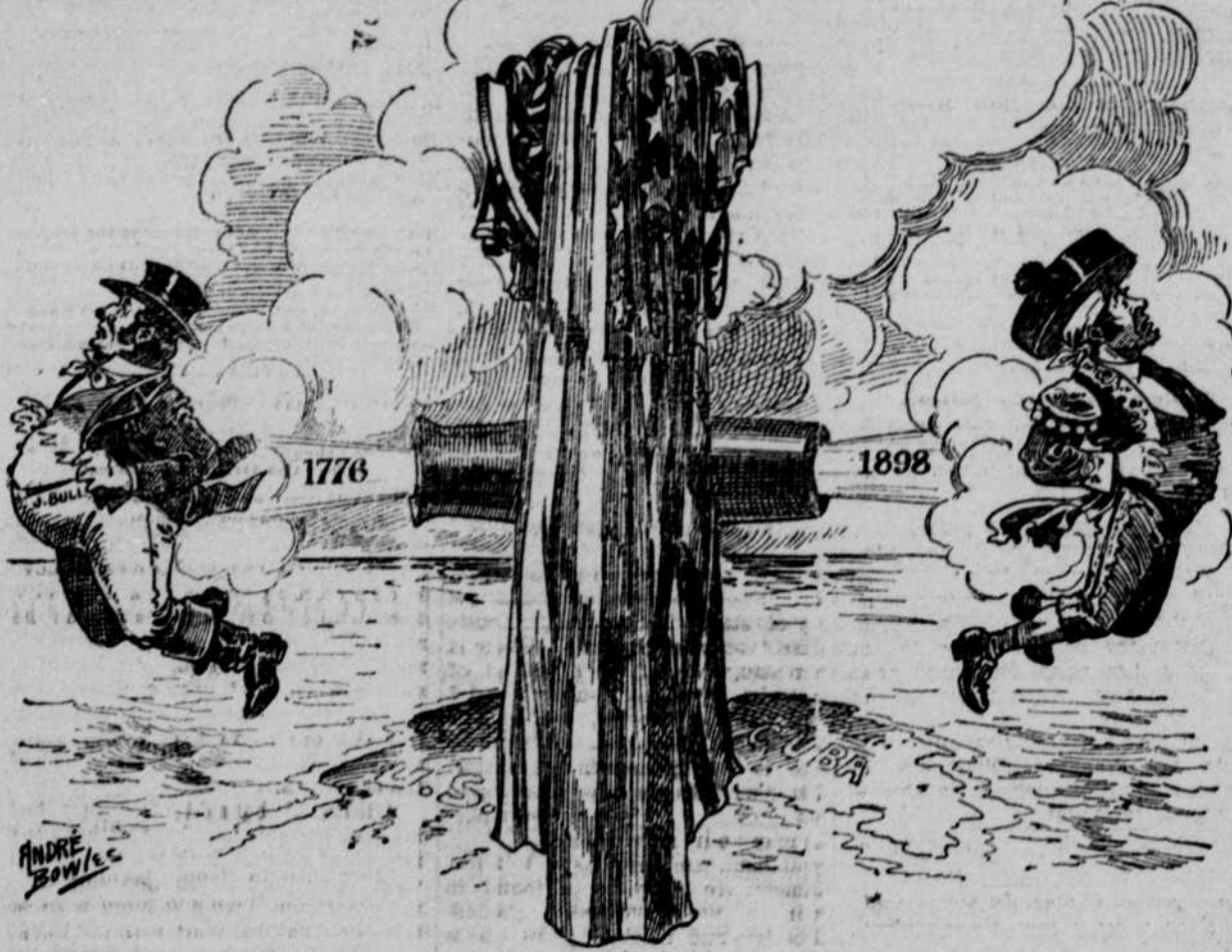


# JULY 4<sup>TH</sup>



## THE EVOLUTION OF THE FIGHTING TOP.

For Centuries Before the Christian Era They Were Used—Egyptians and the Military Mast.

As a place of peril the fighting top of a modern man-of-war is the most exposed position in a heated action, cut off as its occupants are from all sheltering armor and poised high and clear as a tempting target for an enemy's quick-firing guns. Let that mast be torn away and swept overboard by the tempest of small shell that ships of to-day can bring to bear upon unarmored parts of a foe, and the brave defenders must go to certain death without the chance of a bit of floating spar, as in the olden days, to hold them up till succor come after the fierce rush of conflict.

The story of the fighting top reaches way back centuries before the Christian era; in fact, back to the earliest time when war craft might pardonably be called ships by virtue of their successful struggle with wave and tempest; and, amid the rapid changes of to-day, it is hard to trace the connection between those ancient craft with their rude equipments and the modern battleship, fierce and strong, by right of the power she has plucked from the bowels of the earth and turned to her own purposes of might and majestic dominance.

The carvings and drawings of the war craft of the ancient Egyptians and Asiatics, two thousand years before Christ, bear the embryo of the military top perched at the masthead of the single spars that bore their sails then. It was merely a rough basket-like arrangement in which one or two men might stand and assail the warriors of the foe where they crouched behind the sheltering bulwarks of bucklers hung against the sides. Perched high above, the men in the "gale," as later it was called, picked off, like sharpshooters, the enemy before he could come aboard or tempted him into open exposure and the consequences such rashness brought.

Down upon the foe's deck the hurtling spear was sent, while the topmen rested far above retaliation save from the enemy's topmen, if he had any. During the time of the naval struggles between the Greeks and the Romans, the fighting tops disappeared, for it was customary then to lower the masts and trust only to the great sweeps of oars when going into action. Strange as it may seem the merchant vessels alone carried fighting tops then, and for the purpose only of meeting the attack of pirates, with whom nearly every sea was then infested. Those tops were not unlike casks, and with two or three men in them, could be hoisted well up and into position in time to be of service. Many of our large merchant liners and all whalers carry a somewhat similar arrangement well up on their masts to-day, and, from the crow's nest, as it is now called, most of the lookout duty is now done. The Japanese have adopted something of the kind for their modern naval vessels and the cut of the Chitose's mast is typical.

As the ships grew in power their masts had to be heightened by splicing on additional spars, and to give spread for the stays and shrouds that held them in place, a platform was built at the top of the lower mast. There the archer and spearman found ample room for his work, and the Saxon chronicles of that lusty writer, Sir John Froissart, in the latter part of the fourteenth century give as some very interesting accounts of the damage inflicted upon the French, the Spanish, and the Genoese by the top-

men of the British ships. Down upon the fragile structures of wood they hurled great stones that bore down the foe in great bleeding masses, tore through their decks, opened their seams, and sent them to the bottom in a style that Sir John makes highly commendable.

In the seventeenth century we find the tops broad and open save for the after part, where a wooden breastwork was reared to shield the topmen. Why only the after part should have been singled out for protection is open for speculation; but it is not improbable that the sails before the mast covered to a great extent the marksmen in the top and behind the mast only did they need supplemental protection. These wooden bulwarks in the tops were variously painted according to the nationality of the ship; and for a couple of hundred years that style of top prevailed, and in form, square behind and rounded in front, still is in vogue in modern sail powered naval vessels.

During all the frigate actions of the war of 1812 the sharpshooters in the tops of the various ships did excellent work, and there it was the marine showed what could be expected of him, even though he stood out with no shelter other than a stray hammock or so hastily triced up for his protection.

The first of our ships of the new navy had tops that were practically steel duplicates of those of the late war; and but for the presence of modern rapid-fire guns, were really of less defensive value than those of thirty odd years ago. It wasn't till we began to build our battleships that we really launched out into regular modern military masts, and then we followed in principle the practices of the French.

The modern mast on a fighting ship is purely for military purposes, namely, on such ships that are without a spread of canvas of any sort, and its duty now is principally for a service that was once merely incidental to those of the sailing ship. To bear signals is its first mission, and then to carry an armament of rapid-fire guns with which to meet the attack of torpedo boats, to sweep the open ports, and to enfilade the unprotected gun stations of an enemy. With Gatling guns pouring out a veritable rain of bullets at the rate of 2,000 a minute, and with other heavier automatic guns capable of hurling a hundred or more of one-pound shell in the same time the modern military top is something to be considered where the hand grenade, the stink balls, and the rocks of the past might be dismissed with a shrug.

There is but little doubt that the French have set the pace for the modern fighting top, and so luxuriantly have their vessels developed these growths in riotous profusion and varieties of forms that it was no wonder we soon heard of wanting stability in their ships. Their most recent designs are decidedly moderated, but still bear the hall mark of great freedom. With the French the idea has been to cover entirely the positions of the guns and the men in the tops to give the navigator a chance to guide his ship in action from a point well above the smoke of the guns, and, too, to bear aloft the searchlights. Wherever a closed in top is found on ships of other nations it is of French inspiration.

The British have almost exclusively held to an open or uncovered top, the only real protection to either guns or men being the shields carried on the weapons themselves.

With us the gunboats Wilmington and the Helena represent the greatest development of the military mast. In all it means for fighting and signal purposes, for conning the ship, and for the carriage of that great shining eye that is to look far into the night, the conning tower, so to speak, is just below the lower top, and is reached through the body of the mast proper. Just because of this curious type of mast, one of the enemy's large auxiliary cruisers took one of these boats for a battleship the other day, and lost no time in hustling for the distant horizon.

The national tendencies of the various navies are marked by the military masts their recent vessels bear, and whether they seek their inspiration from Great Britain or France it is easy enough to tell. The Russians are unsettled; Austria is equally divided;

### THE FOURTH OF JULY

BIRTHDAY OF THE GREATEST OF NATIONS.

Why Every Patriotic American Should Rejoice and Give Thanks—History of the Declaration of Independence—Its Signers.

One hundred and twenty-one years ago the bell rang in Independence hall in Philadelphia. To the uninitiated it



**THOMAS JEFFERSON.**  
pealed its sonorous notes for some unknown purpose. To those who, breathless, were waiting for the sound, it told the news that liberty had shaken off her shackles in the new world, that she had taken her rightful place and that hereafter the people would acknowledge the power of no ruler except such as might be chosen by themselves. It was a curious scene in that staid old Quaker town, the last place in the colonies where one would have suspected a spark would be given birth to light freedom's torch throughout the western hemisphere.

It was on the seventh day of June, 1776, that the delegates from the colonies sitting in congress in Philadelphia considered the following resolution introduced by Virginia's statesman, Richard Henry Lee:



**BENJAMIN FRANKLIN.**  
Independent states and their political connection with Great Britain is and ought to be dissolved."

There had been murmurings and threats and calm expressions of determination. But here was united action. The people, by their representatives duly chosen, formally absolved themselves from allegiance from the mother country and said to the world that they had cast off their swaddling clothes, and were now able to walk alone. To speak with absolute truth, all the delegates did not favor this progressive step. Some opposed it on the ground that it was premature. Nevertheless the resolution overcame opposition and was indorsed as stated, by the majority of one. Thirteen colonies were represented. Because seven of them voted and stood for independence, the United States is today what she is. Subsequent developments prove that had the action been delayed, the question of independence might have slept in peace until the herald of the people, no one knows how many years after, sounded

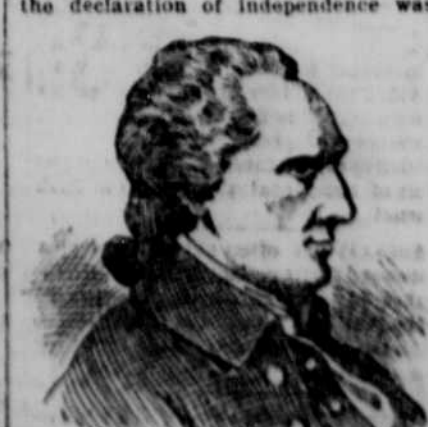
the tocsin of revolution. The delegates thought it wise to defer the question of final consideration to July 1, 1776, by which time they believed there might be a more united feeling among the people.

Thus it was that on June 11, that famous committee was appointed to frame the declaration of independence. Note the names, and if you are a student of the history of the United States, conceive, if you can, of a better quintet to have represented the American people: Benjamin Franklin, John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, Roger Sherman, Robert R. Livingston. The first was the man whose fame is ticked into our ears every time we hear a telegraph instrument, whose genius is placed in broad light whenever we enjoy the illumination of electricity. The second rose to be president of the nation he helped to form. The third is the father of what the world knows as Jeffersonian democracy. The fourth, puritan, patriot, leader, gave more in moral force and determination, in knowledge of the law and its common sense principles than almost any man who assisted at the birth of the nation. The fifth was the man of whom the majority of people know comparatively little, and yet there was none who better deserved a place of honor in the public mind. Eminent as a financier, a shrewd judge of human nature, his touch on the helm of state was ex-



**JOHN ADAMS.**  
actly what was needed to keep the young craft on her course. Jefferson had spoken but little in congress and he had no part in the acrimonies which then prevailed. In a plain brick house, corner of Market and Seventh streets, Philadelphia, he drafted the declaration of independence. The work was almost wholly Jefferson's, only a few verbal alterations being suggested by Adams and Franklin. It then was approved by the committee. A few passages were struck out by congress.

Caesar Rodney, one of Delaware's delegates, in order to have his vote recorded, rode in the saddle from a point eighty miles from Philadelphia, all night, and reached the floor just in time on July 4 to cast Delaware's vote in favor of independence. On that day, ever memorable in American annals, the declaration of independence was



**RICHARD HENRY LEE.**  
adopted by the unanimous vote of the thirteen colonies. The enthusiasm of the patriots at hearing the intelligence was unbounded. While congress had been discussing the subject, crowds assembled outside the hall and in the streets, anx-

iously awaiting the result. When it was announced at noon the state house bell, on which was inscribed "Proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto the inhabitants thereof," clanged deep and melodiously and the throng gave vent to long and loud shouts of exultation.

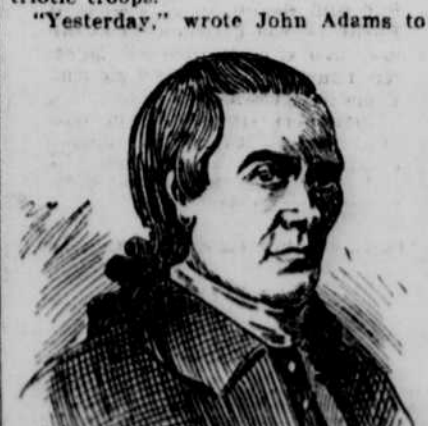
The old bell ringer had been at his post since early morning. He had placed his boy below to announce when the declaration was adopted, so that



**ROBERT R. LIVINGSTON.**  
not an instant might be lost in transferring the glad tidings by means of the bell to the waiting multitude. As the wearisome hours passed and no sign came to him the aged bell ringer finally exclaimed "They will never do it! They will never do it!" Just then he heard his boy clapping his hands and vociferating at the top of his juvenile lungs "Ring! Ring!" The old hands swayed the sonorous bell with delicious vigor. Its reverberations were echoed by every steeple in the city.

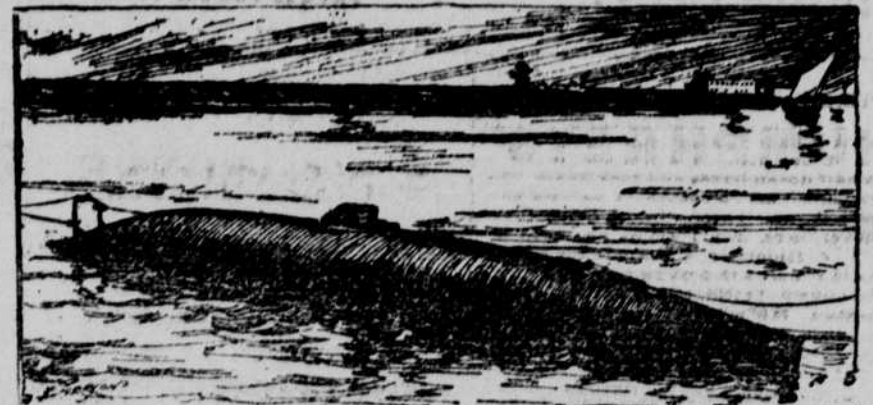
That was a gala day in Philadelphia, what with rejoicings and bonfires and illuminations. The cannon boomed and messengers rode away hotly in all quarters to announce the news. Washington then was in New York with the army. By his orders it was read to the soldiers, who acclaimed it enthusiastically. The townsfolk on that night tore the statue of George III. from its pedestal in Bowling Green and it was melted into 42,000 bullets for the patriotic troops.

"Yesterday," wrote John Adams to



**ROGER SHERMAN.**  
his wife, "the greatest question was decided that was ever debated in America; and greater, perhaps, never was or will be decided among men. A resolution was passed without one dissenting colony that these united colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent." The day is passed, the Fourth of July, 1776, will be a memorable epoch in the history of America. I am apt to believe it will be celebrated by succeeding generations as the great anniversary festival. It ought to be commemorated as the day of deliverance by solemn acts of devotion to Almighty God. It ought to be solemnized with pomp, shows, games, sports, guns, bells, bonfires and illuminations from one end of the continent to the other, from this time forward forever."

By a strange coincidence John Adams died on July 4, 1826, the fiftieth anniversary of the declaration of independence. His last words were "Jefferson still survives." But at 1 o'clock on the same day Jefferson also passed away.



EL PARAL, SPAIN'S SUBMARINE TORPEDO BOAT.

shelter other than a stray hammock or so hastily triced up for his protection.

The first of our ships of the new navy had tops that were practically steel duplicates of those of the late war; and but for the presence of modern rapid-fire guns, were really of less defensive value than those of thirty odd years ago. It wasn't till we began to build our battleships that we really launched out into regular modern military masts, and then we followed in principle the practices of the French.

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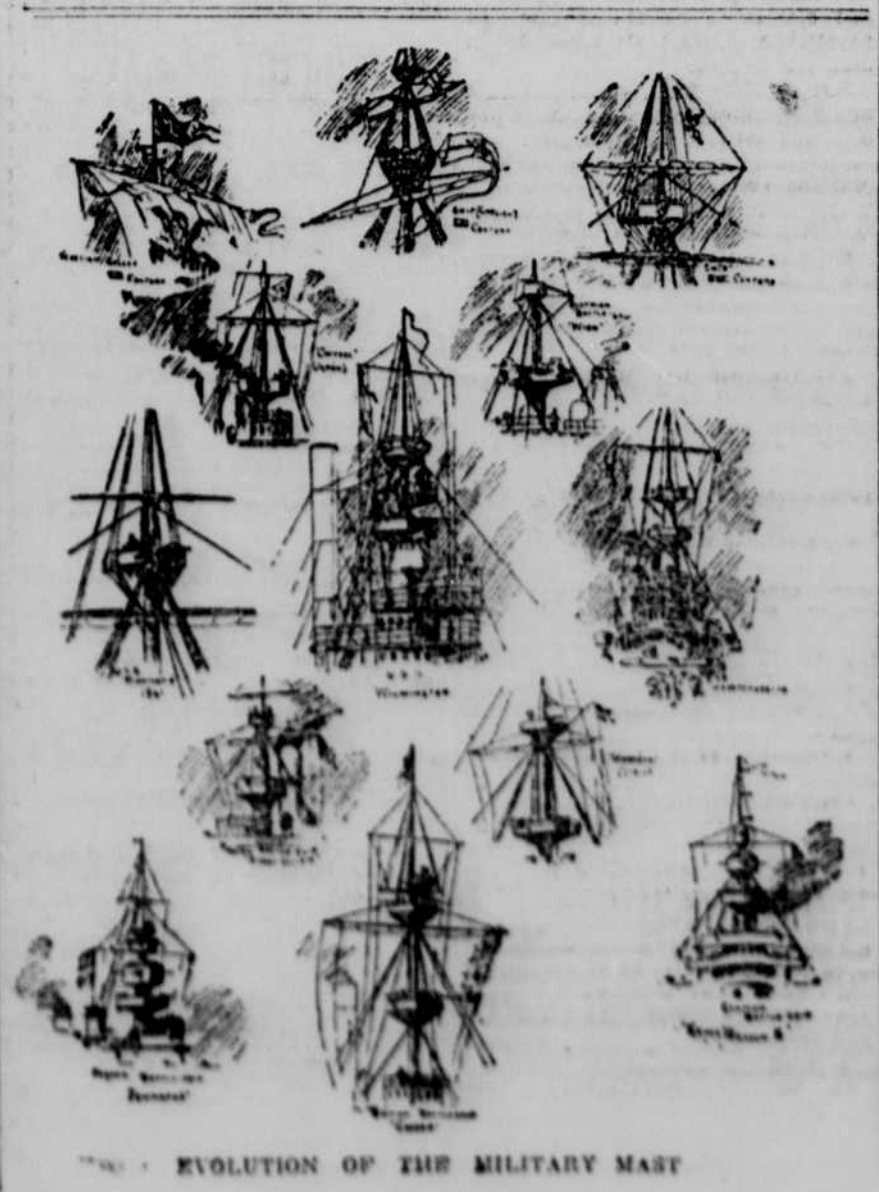
Germany leans toward the French, while the Japanese and the Italians follow the English.

**ROBERT G. SKERRETT.**  
**Africa's Ancient Sea.**  
Recent studies of the animal life of Lake Tanganyika have shown that that lake differs from all other African lakes in possessing inhabitants that belong to the oceanic species. Still, these singular denizens of Lake Tanganyika are not exactly like the marine organisms of the present day, and the conclusion is drawn that a sea, connected with the open ocean, once occupied the parts of Africa where Tanganyika now lies and that the lake is the last remnant of the ancient sea.

**Substitute.**  
"You want a trip to the seaside? Nonsense, Jones! Put a little salt in your morning tub, eat fish at every meal, walk up to town and back so as to tire yourself out, sleep on the floor, and let the house be dirty, and you'll fancy you're at Margate."—Pick-Me-Up.

**Bargain.**  
Claude—I thought you were not going to pay more than \$50 for a wheel? Maud—I didn't mean to when I went into the store, but he said if I'd take the \$60 wheel he would let me have a dollar pump for 98 cents.—Indianapolis Journal.

**HOW TO KEEP HEALTHY.**  
Don't worry. Don't lay awake at night to think about your shortcomings and other people's sins.  
Don't care violently for any one. Hearts and consciences are opposed to rounded contours and shapely necks.  
Eat meats with fat on them. Eat fish with white sauce. Eat potatoes, corn-starch, simple pudding and ice creams.  
Wear warm, luxurious clothing, but be careful not to have it so warm as to induce perspiration, for that will prove thinning. Do not let it be too heavy, either.  
Drink milk and cream whenever you happen to want them. If you don't care for these nourishing drinks, cultivate a taste for them. Avoid lemonade, lime juice and the like.  
Eat fruit for your breakfast, but not the tart grape and the tart grape fruit. Eat baked apples with plenty of sugar and cream, and all sorts of stewed fruits, which require sweetening.  
Eat for breakfast oatmeal swimming in cream. Drink hot tea and coffee, but cocoa, chocolate and milk. Spurn toast, especially if it be made of graham or gluten bread. Eat freshly made wheat bread, with butter and honey.  
Do not take more exercise than is absolutely essential to health. Take the air—yes. But let it be in a carriage, whenever you can, or on a sunny bench in the park. Violent exercise is the worst possible thing for the woman who would fain grow plump.  
A small wallet may contain a vast deal of coined selfishness. Many men carry themselves in their pocket-books.



EVOLUTION OF THE MILITARY MAST