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HISTORY REVIEWED

AN ACCOUNT OF A FAMOUS NAVAL ENGAGEMENT



THE achievements of Commodore Perry on Lake Erie have always been of great interest to students of history. Next fall the centennial of this important naval battle is to be celebrated and the flag ship, after a submersion of almost 100 years in Misery Bay of Lake Erie, has been raised and found to be in an unusually good condition, all things considered. Commodore Perry is one of the historic naval heroes of our country and some idea of what he undertook and accomplished will be gained by reading the following which appeared recently as an editorial in The Oregonian:

Next Fall the centenary of Perry's famous victory on Lake Erie will be celebrated by the dedication of a monument now in course of erection. The naval battle which won him rank among his country's heroes was fought September 10, 1813. Perry was sent to take command on the lake in the preceding March, but he had no fleet and it devolved upon him to build one from the native timber on the banks of the lake. This work he pursued so diligently that by July he had two respectable vessels, the Lawrence and the Niagara, ready for action, together with six others assembled in various ways. Some he had built. Others were trading vessels commandeered for the occasion. The United States plunged into the War of 1812 without adequate preparation on either land or water. A series of lucky accidents enabled the fleet to come off with credit wherever it met the British, but the land armies, hastily raised and miserably commanded as a rule, were defeated everywhere. It was not until Harrison took command in the West and Jackson in the South that the disgrace of continual loss was retrieved. Competent action in the West both by land and water was particularly important.

The British had enticed the Indians to their alliance and were using