

A SUBMARINE IN THE HUDSON, DIRECTED GEORGE WASHINGTON

The Exploits of Captain Ezra Lee in the "Marine Turtle" When He Was Trying To Blow Up the Enemy's Ships.

In a file of the Goshen Independent Republican for 1871, of the issue of November 26, is an obituary notice of Capt. Ezra Lee, a soldier of the Revolution, who had died in Lyme, Conn., aged 72, "on the 19th ult." in which is recounted his daring exploit in a submarine boat in the North River, in an attack on enemy ships.

Stating that "it is a little remarkable that Capt. Lee is the only man of which it can be said that he fought the enemy upon land, upon water and under water," the account of this pioneer submarine fighter's daring deed is as follows:

"When the British lay, in the North River opposite New York, and while Gen. Washington had possession of the city, he was very desirous to be rid of such neighbors. A Mr. Bushnell at Saybrook, Conn., who had the genius of a Fulton, constructed a submarine machine, of a conical form, bound together with iron bands, within which one person might sit, and with cranks and screws could navigate it to any depth under water. In the upper part was affixed a vertical screw for the purpose of penetrating ship bottoms, and to this was attached a magazine of powder, within which was a clock, which, on being set to run any given time, would when run down, spring a gun lock, and an explosion would follow.

"This marine turtle, so called, was

daily from Governors Island (then in possession of the British) and proceeded toward some object near the Asia, ship of the line. As suddenly they were seen to put about, and were for the island with surprising care. In two or three minutes an explosion took place from the surface of the water, resembling a water spout, which aroused the whole city and region. The enemy ships took the alarm, signals were rapidly given, the ships cut their cables and proceeded to the Hook with all possible despatch sweeping their bottoms with chains, and with difficulty prevented their frightened crews from leaping overboard.

"During this time of consternation the deceased came to the surface, opened the brass head of his aquatic machine, rose up and gave a signal for a boat to come, and they could not reach him until he again descended under water to avoid the enemy's shot from the island, who had discovered him and commenced firing in his wake. Having forced himself against a strong current under water until without the reach of shot, he was taken in tow and landed at the Battery amid a great crowd, and reported to Gen. Washington, who expressed his entire satisfaction that the object was effected without the loss of lives.

"Capt. Lee was the Asia's bottom more than two hours, endeavoring

to penetrate her copper, but in vain. He frequently came up under her stern galleries searching for exposed plank and could hear the sentinels cry. Once he was discovered by the watch on deck and heard them speculate upon him, concluding that a drifting log had paid them a visit. He returned to her keel and examined it fore and aft and then proceeded to some other ship.

The longest space of time he could remain under water was two hours.

This is all that the chronicler of this venturesome soldier thought it worth while to say about his daring and unprecedented submarine attacks on enemy ships, although a detail of the manner in which Capt. Lee managed to supply himself with air for breathing purposes while prowling about among the copper bottoms of the ships, endeavoring for two hours to find a vulnerable spot in which to insert the explosive grow of his machine, would have been at least enlightening. The chronicler mentions, however, that "the deceased during the war had the confidence and esteem of the Commander-in-Chief, and was frequently employed by him on secret missions of importance. He fought with him at Trenton and Monmouth. At Brandy wine the hills of his sword was shot away."—E. H. Mott in New York Sun.

WINNING THE COVETED VICTORIA CROSS

London, July 12.—It falls to the lot of few men to command a battalion at the early age of twenty-eight. Bernard Cyril Freyberg was no older than that when he found himself in command of the Hood Battalion of the Royal Naval Division of the Somme in the month of November, 1916. He was well worthy of his responsible post, for he had to his credit a brilliant record of service throughout the war, and had proved himself in many a hazardous enterprise to be a born leader of men.

Born in Wellington, New Zealand, he had, while still in his teens, won fame through all Australasia as an exceptionally fine athlete. He stood six feet in his socks and was broad-chested and powerful in proportion.

But his restless spirit craved for more excitement than the playing field could give him. He wandered from New Zealand to America in search of adventure, and finally drifted to Mexico, where he fought in the civil war.

He loved fighting for fighting's sake, and when the war cloud burst over Europe in the summer of 1914 he lost no time in sailing for England. Joining the Royal Naval Division, he accompanied it to Antwerp, where he was wounded in the hand. That was only the beginning of a career of rapid promotion. When his battalion was sent to the Dardanelles Freyberg was already a lieutenant commander.

In Gallipoli he won high honor for a feat in which his wonderful qualities of grit and endurance were taxed to the utmost. To extract the at the beginning of the career of rapid promotion. When his battalion was sent to the Dardanelles Freyberg was already a lieutenant commander.

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