

Rocket Phonics supplement

“I Have Not Yet Begun to Fight!”

Vocabulary:

in♦de♦pen♦dence: freedom from control of another
i s

am♦bas♦sa♦dor: a person representing a country
u oa i z

com♦mo♦dore: the officer in command of a convoy
k u oa s k u k

Bonhomme: French word meaning good natured
u ou ay ch

convoy: a group of ships with protecting ships
k oo u k

fleet: a group of warships
ea oo oa

grenade: small shell holding explosives
i ay o ks oa z

“I Have Not Yet Begun to Fight!”
i ie

It was a night in the middle of August 1779. The
ul o

colonies’ war for independence from England
k u ea z oa i s i

dragged on. Battles were fought on land from inland
ul z

territories in Illinois to coastal towns like Savannah.
oa ea z oy k u z u u

Now the French had joined with the colonials against
k u oa ea z

the British.

The British long had a tradition of a strong navy.
u shu ay ea

Their navy was their pride. But a fierce colonial
ay ea ie ea s ku oa ea u

named John Paul Jones stunned the British. Jones
o oa z oa z

took seven British ships with only one ship, the

Ranger, in April 1778.
ay j ay

An American you may have heard of rewarded
i oa

Jones. He was the colonies’ ambassador to
oa z k u ea z u oa

France, Benjamin Franklin. Franklin promoted Jones
s u u oa oa z

to **commodore**. He **arranged** for **Jones** to get a bigger
ship than the **Ranger**, which had only 18 **cannon**. The
new ship had 40 **cannon**. (To **honor Franklin, Jones**
named the new ship the **Bonhomme Richard** after
Franklin's famous book, **Poor Richard's Almanac**.)
Franklin also gave **Jones** four other ships to
command.

Now on this **moonlit** night, **Jones** and his ships
began an attack on a huge **convoy** of ships carrying
needed **supplies** to the **British fleet**. Two **escort** ships
guarded the **convoy**. One was the HMS **Se-ra-pis**.

Captain of the **Se-ra-pis** was **Richard Pearson**.

He ordered the **convoy** to sail away and **attacked**
Jones' ship. The other **escort** ship **attacked** a second
Jones' ship, the **Pallas**.

The **Serapis'** hull was covered in **copper**. This made it a **faster** ship. **Jones** knew the **Serapis** also had more and **bigger** **cannon**. So a **fight** of **cannon** against **cannon** was **im♦pos♦si♦ble** to win. In fact, after the first **shots** were **fired**, two of **Jones'** big **cannons** **blew** up, and many of his men were **killed**.

Jones decided to get beside **Pearson's** ship. He'd **hook** the two ships together and send men over to the **Serapis**.

Pearson's ship turned in front of the **Richard**. **Jones** rammed the ship and locked the two ships together. **Expecting** to **win** the **fight**, **Pearson** called out, "Has your ship **struck** yet?"

Striking, or **hauling** down her flag, (her colors), **meant sur♦rend♦er♦ing**.

Jones roared in reply his now famous words. “I
oa z i ie ay z
have not yet begun to fight!”
i ie

Jones backed his ship off, circled the other ship
oa z t
and again put his ship close along side Pearson's.
u z

The two ships' cannons now were almost touching.
k u z

But his men couldn't board Pearson's ship – the crew
u z k oo

beat them back. And Pearson's crew was
u z k oo

unsuccessful in boarding Jones' ship.
k s oa ziz

For two hours the ships shot at each other.
z

Jones' marksmen's firing kept Pearson's men off their
oa ziz o z ie u z

top deck. From below, though, they kept firing their
ie

cannon. The wooden hull of Jones' ship was full of
k u ou oa ziz

holes. Jones ordered British prisoners on his ship to
oa z oa z z u z

pump water and keep his ship afloat.
u

Jones' cannon focused on the main mast of the Serapis. Half of Jones' men were killed. Then Jones' chief gunner panicked. Shouting for surrender, he ran to pull down the ship's flag.

Pearson called out, asking if Jones was surrendering.

Jones thundered, "I haven't as yet thought of it. But I'm determined to make you strike!"

One of Jones' crew was able to climb onto an arm of the Serapis' mast. He dropped a hand grenade down into the powder supply. The explosion knocked out nearly all of Pearson's cannon. Captain Pearson had had enough. He still had four cannons firing, and Jones had only three, but he surrendered.

Earlier that night, Jones' other ship, the Pallas,
u ie oa ziz u
had beaten the ship it fought.

After Jones' men boarded the Serapis, the main
oa ziz i ay
mast finally snapped off and sank into the sea. The
ea t
Richard sank, and Jones sailed the Serapis in victory.
u oa z ay i ay k ea

“I Have Not Yet Begun to Fight!”

It was a night in the middle of August 1779. The colonies' war for independence from England dragged on. Battles were fought on land from inland territories in Illinois to coastal towns like Savannah. Now the French had joined with the colonials against the British. And many Indians fought with the English.

The British long had a tradition of a strong navy. Their navy was their pride. But a fierce colonial named John Paul Jones stunned the British. Jones took seven British ships with only one ship, the Ranger, in April 1778.

An American you may have heard of rewarded Jones. This was the colonies' ambassador to France, Benjamin Franklin. Franklin promoted Jones to commodore. He arranged for Jones to get a bigger ship than the Ranger, which had only 18 cannon. The

new ship had 40 cannon. (To honor Franklin, Jones named the new ship The Bonhomme Richard after Franklin's famous book, Poor Richard's Almanac.) Franklin also gave Jones four other ships to command.

Now on this moonlit night, Jones and his ships began an attack on a huge convoy of ships carrying needed supplies to the British fleet. Two escort ships guarded the convoy. One was the HMS Serapis.

The Captain of the Serapis was Richard Pearson. He ordered the convoy to sail away and attacked Jones' ship. The other escort ship attacked a second Jones' ship, the Pallas.

The Serapis' hull was covered in copper. This made it a faster ship. Jones knew the Serapis also had more and bigger cannon. So a fight of cannon against cannon was impossible to win. In fact, after the first shots were fired, two of Jones' big cannons blew up, and many of his men were killed.

Jones decided to get beside Pearson's ship. He'd hook the two ships together and send men over to the Serapis.

Pearson's ship turned in front of the Richard. Jones rammed the ship and locked the two ships together. Expecting to win the fight, Pearson called out, "Has your ship struck yet?"

Striking, or hauling down her flag, (her colors), meant surrendering.

Jones roared in reply his now famous words. "I have not yet begun to fight!"

Jones backed his ship off, circled the other ship and again put his ship close alongside Pearson's. The two ships' cannons now were almost touching. But his men couldn't board Pearson's ship – the crew beat them back. And Pearson's crew was unsuccessful in boarding Jones' ship.

For two hours the ships shot at each other. Jones' marksmen's firing kept Pearson's men off their top deck. From below, though, they kept firing their cannon. The wooden hull of Jones' ship was full of holes. Jones ordered British prisoners on his ship to pump water and keep his ship afloat.

Jones' cannon focused on the main mast of the Serapis. Half of Jones' men were killed. Then Jones' chief gunner panicked. Shouting for surrender, he ran to pull down the ship's flag.

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