

CAPTURE OF THE *MACEDONIAN*

Captain Stephen Decatur, USN

US SHIP UNITED STATES, at Sea, 30 October 1812

I have the honour to inform you, that on the 25th instant, being in the latitude 29, N, longitude 29 30, W. we fell in with, and, after an action of an hour and a half, captured his Britannic Majesty's ship *MACEDONIAN*, commanded by captain John Carden, and mounting 49 carriage guns (the odd gun shifting.) She is a frigate of the largest class, two years old, four months out of dock, and reputed one of the best sailors in the British service. The enemy being to windward, had the advantage of engaging us at his own distance, which was so great, that for the first half hour we did not use our carronades, and at no moment was he within the complete effect of our musketry or grape—to this circumstance and a heavy swell, which was on at the time, I ascribe the unusual length of the action.

The enthusiasm of every officer, seaman and marine on board this ship, on discovering the enemy—their steady conduct in battle, and precision of their fire, could not be surpassed. Where all met my fullest expectations, it would be unjust for me to discriminate. Permit me, however, to recommend to your particular notice, my first lieutenant, William H. Allen. He has served with me upwards of five years, and to his unremitting exertions in disciplining the crew, is to be imputed the obvious superiority of our gunnery exhibited in the result of this contest.

Subjoined is a list of the killed and wounded on both sides. Our loss, compared with that of the enemy, will appear small. Amongst our wounded, you will observe the name of lieutenant Funk, who died in a few hours after the action—he was an officer of great gallantry and promise, and the service has sustained a severe loss in his death.

The *MACEDONIAN* lost her mizen-mast, fore and main-top-masts and main yard, and was much cut up in her hull. The damage sustained by this ship was not such as to render her return into port necessary, and had I not deemed it important that we should see our prize in, should have continued our cruise.

Killed	5	
Wounded	<u>7</u>	—1 since dead
	<u>12</u>	

MACEDONIAN

Killed	36
Wounded	<u>68</u>
	<u>104</u>