

ON THE LOOSE

PAUL JONES IS ON THE LOOSE AGAIN
HE'S GIVEN THEM THE SLIP AGAIN

THE NEWS IS SPREAD LIKE WILDFIRE, PAUL JONES IS ON THE LOOSE AGAIN
AND EVERY HARBOUR WATCH WILL SCAN THE SEA WITH ANXIOUS EYES
IN THE TAVERNS AND THE GIN SHOPS THEY'RE DEBATING HIS INTENTIONS
AND THE ARGUMENTS RAGE OVER WHAT WILL BE HIS NEXT SURPRISE
HE SAILED UP THE COAST OF IRELAND TO THE HEBRIDES AND SHETLAND
TAKING PRISONERS AND PRIZES ON THE WAY
THEN HE TURNED HIS SQUADRON SOUTH UNTIL THEY REACHED THE PORT OF LEITH
WHERE THE SIGHT OF THEM BROUGHT PANIC AND DISMAY
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THERE WAS UPROAR IN KIRKCALDY WHEN THE SQUADRON DRIFTED OVER THERE
A MINISTER PRAYED ON THE BEACH FOR GOD TO INTERVENE
THE CAPITAL ITSELF WAS SPARED FROM LOOTING AND FROM RANSOM
WHEN A STORM BLEW UP AND JONES' FLEET WERE FORCED TO LEAVE THE SCENE
THEY SAILED SOUTHWARDS TO NORTHUMBERLAND AND THEN TOWARDS THE HUMBER
PAUSING ONCE TO THREATEN TYNESIDE ON THE WAY
AND FROM SCARBOROUGH TO GRIMSBY THEY SENT OUT FOR THE MILITIA
AS THE JONES FLOTILLA SCoured THE COAST FOR PREY
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AT LAST A FLEET OF MERCHANTMEN WERE SPOTTED CLOSE TO FLAMBOROUGH
A GUN SLOOP AND A FRIGATE WERE THE ESCORTS BY THEIR SIDE
THE FRIGATE WAS THE 'SERAPIS' THE NEWEST AND THE FASTEST
AND WITH FIFTY GUNS THE FINEST THAT THE NAVY COULD PROVIDE
PAUL JONES HAS SAILED HIS SHIP THE 'BONHOMME RICHARD' INTO BATTLE
AND HAS GRAPPLED AT CLOSE QUARTERS WITH HIS FOE
THIS DESPERATE FIGHT HAS ENDED WITH THE 'SERAPIS' DISMASTED
AND HER CAPTAIN HAS SURRENDERED TO PAUL JONES
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IN THE MANSIONS AND GREAT HOUSES THEY REVILE HIM AS A TRAITOR
IN THE TAVERNS AND THE GINS SHOPS THEY DEBATE IF HE'S A THIEF
AND THE BROADSHEETS HAVE PORTRAYED HIM AS AN EVIL, SWARTHY PIRATE
WITH EYES AS WILD AS STALLIONS AND A ROW OF GLEAMING TEETH
BUT ACROSS THE ENGLISH CHANNEL HE'S ACKNOWLEDGED AS A HERO
HE IS FETED AS A CHAMPION IN FRANCE
AND AMERICA REVERES HIM AS THE MAN AGAINST ALL ODDS
WHO LED THE ROYAL NAVY ON A MERRY DANCE
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