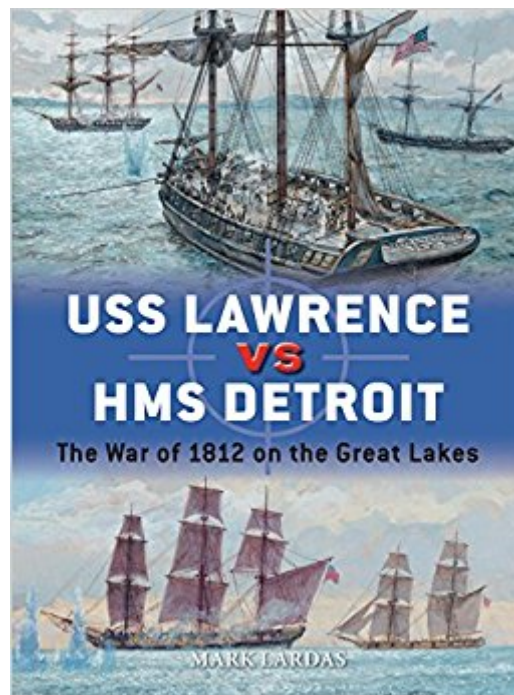




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USS Lawrence Vs HMS Detroit: The War Of 1812 On The Great Lakes (Duel)



Synopsis

Most of the critical naval fighting during the War of 1812 took place, not on the high seas, but on the inland lakes of North America: the Great Lakes and Lake Champlain. Carrying between 12 and 22 cannon, the British and American sloops-of-war were ship-rigged, brig-rigged or schooner-rigged vessels with their guns on a single deck. Actions often involved two ships facing each other broadside to broadside, the best example of which was the battle of Lake Erie in 1813 where HMS Detroit led a Royal Navy squadron against the USS Lawrence-led US Navy. Featuring full-color artwork, this lively study investigates the prolonged struggle between British and US sloops-of-war, highlighting the differences between the war on the lakes and the war on the oceans during the Age of Fighting Sail. It reveals the circumstances under which these ships were built, how they were armed, and the human story behind their construction and use in battle.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Mark Lardas holds a degree in Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering, but spent his early career at the Johnson Space Center doing Space Shuttle structural analysis, and space navigation. An amateur historian and a long-time ship modeller, Mark Lardas is currently working in League City, Texas. He has written extensively about modelling as well as naval, maritime, and military history. Paul Wright has painted ships of all kinds for most of his career, specializing in steel and steam warships from the late 19th century to the present day. A Member of the Royal Society of Marine Artists, Paul lives and works in Surrey, UK.

The War of 1812 has recently started to get some long overdue attention from historians and from the reading public. Author Mark Lardas has adroitly wrapped a history of the War of 1812 on the Great Lakes around this account of the confrontation between USS LAWRENCE and HMS DETROIT in the Battle of Lake Erie. The result is a highly readable short history of the maritime conflict. Conducting a naval war on the Great Lakes strained the resources of both the British and the Americans. While timber was readily available, almost everything else had to be brought in, including the sailors to man the completed war ships. Speed of construction became a primary metric of the conflict, as two improvised shipyards on Lake Erie gave the U.S. a slight edge by 1813. The stage was set for a dramatic confrontation between Master Commandant Matthew Perry's U.S. squadron and that of his British counterpart, Lieutenant Barclay. This book includes a fascinating discussion on the construction of the various vessel types used on the Great Lakes, and a detailed account of the Battle of Lake Erie itself. The narrative is nicely backed by a variety of period and modern illustrations. Highly recommended to the general reader and the interested student as a concise introduction to the topic.

Good reading

thank you

I was really pleasantly surprised by this book. Mark Lardas, did exactly what I wanted in book in this series. He gave just enough lead up about the situation in the Great Lakes area, for clear understanding without getting caught up in too much detail. Likewise he explained enough about the ships/boats used (I never realized how similar they were to the ocean vessels) for me to feel I was learning something new without making me feel like too much of a landlubber. Most importantly, he told the story in a way that left me satisfied but wanting still more (I ordered the Osprey book on "The Great Lakes Warships").

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