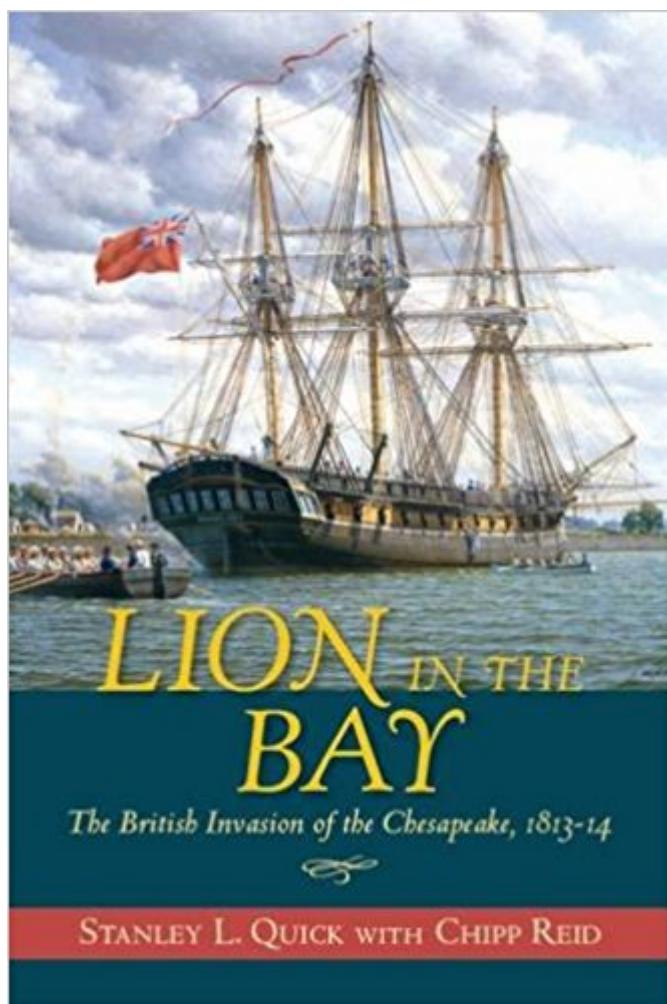


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# Lion In The Bay: The British Invasion Of The Chesapeake, 1813–14



## Synopsis

The story of Fort McHenry's defense during the War of 1812 is well known, but *Lion in the Bay* is an intimate look at the events leading up to the battle that inspired our national anthem. As the War of 1812 raged on the high seas and along the Canadian border, the British decided to strike at the heart of the United States, the relatively undefended area of the Chesapeake Bay. The Chesapeake was a fertile farm region, a place of renowned shipbuilding, and an area politically divided over the war. Plus, if the British succeeded in taking the bay, the nation's capital was not far away. Admiral George Cockburn led the British into the bay following a failed attempt to take Norfolk, Virginia. Originally intended to relieve pressure on other fronts, the Chesapeake theater became a British campaign of retribution for the burning of York (present day Toronto) by the Americans in 1812. As a result, the Chesapeake region, once an economic engine for America, was transformed into a region of terrorized citizens, destroyed farms, and fears of slave insurrection. In August 1814, President James Madison refused to bolster the defenses on the waterway that led to Washington, and the British took advantage. Cockburn again led a naval force into the bay, this time running into opposition from Commo. Joshua Barney and his Chesapeake Bay Flotilla. Barney put up a heroic, though doomed fight before the British sailed up the Patuxent River and landed at Benedict, Maryland, where over 4,000 troops disembarked to begin their advance toward Washington, D.C. After defeating the Americans at the Battle of Bladensburg, the British moved into Washington, burning the city, before returning to their boats and setting out for Baltimore. There, the British armada encountered a stalwart group of American defenders at Fort McHenry. Despite a massive bombardment, Baltimore's defenses held, forcing the British to abandon their campaign to close the Chesapeake. More than just an in-depth look at one front of the War of 1812, *Lion in the Bay* is a story of resilience and triumph in the wake of catastrophe.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This bright and lively narrative of the Royal Navy's 1813-1814 campaign in the Chesapeake Bay reads well and is a useful source for analysis. A strategic reading of Quick and Reid's text provides a fine case study in the use of small and irregular forces, combined and amphibious operations, to confuse, confound and comprehensively defeat a far larger, land bound foe, on home soil. The Naval Review (UK)'s well-written and detailed book. Military Heritage Magazine's Lion in the Bay is a grand addition to the library of any military historian. Its illustrations are vivid, its maps are accurate and its contents are exciting. This publication from the Naval Institute Press will surely stand the test of time in the annals of the War of 1812 and American maritime history. The Daybook, a publication of the Hampton Roads Naval Museum. In his thoroughly researched Lion in the Bay, Stanley L. Quick presents an intriguing integration of personal rivalries, inter-service maneuvering, conflicting strategic objectives and tactical operations that illustrate the confusing choices and challenges facing generals, admirals, privates, and sailors as they seek to carry out national defense policies. In the end, one is compelled to question whether the British raiding strategy achieved its objectives of turning Chesapeake residents against the Madison administration and diverting regular soldiers from the Canadian campaign. On the other hand, Quick's account leaves one asking whether the often inept American actions he depicts could have brought a response that would have better achieved a defense of this critical region. David Curtis Skaggs, author of A Signal Victory: The Lake Erie Campaign, 1812's 13 and biographies of Thomas Macdonough, Oliver Hazard Perry, and William Henry Harrison's Lion in the Bay is an engaging narrative history. The authors tell their detailed story clearly; the numerous activities and colorful characters are easy to follow. Lion in the Bay is a worthy, entertaining, and recommended read. JAMP: The Journal of America's Military Past's Stanley L. Quick's Lion in the Bay: The British Invasion of the Chesapeake, 1813's 14 is a valuable and welcome addition to any reader's War of 1812 bookshelf. Expertly edited and completed by Chipp Reid, Lion in the Bay details how battle-hardened British forces waged war against their usually outmatched American adversaries, both on the waters of the Chesapeake Bay and its tributary rivers and on the shores of its surrounding tidewater lands. Glenn E. Campbell, senior historian, Historic Annapolis's Lion in the Bay provides a

fresh perspective and descriptive accounts of the smaller actions and raids that typified the war on the Chesapeake, complementing existing scholarship.<sup>1</sup> <sup>2</sup> The Journal of Military History

The late Stanley Quick served on active duty in the U.S. Navy from 1944<sup>3</sup> to 1947 before working for many years as a naval architect and civilian engineer. He received his PhD from Brooklyn Polytechnic in 1963 and began a long career with Westinghouse Electric Corporation. Upon his retirement in 1985, Dr. Quick formed his own company, Man-Tech Associates Inc., a consulting firm in management and technical programs. He died in 2008, survived by Marian, his wife of forty years. Chipp Reid is an award-winning reporter and editor, a licensed ship captain, historian, and Cold War veteran. He has covered the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan as well as baseball, international soccer, and international piracy. Reid now works in Washington, D.C. and lives in Annapolis, Maryland, with his two dogs. His book *Intrepid Sailors: The Legacy of Preble's Boys and the Tripoli Campaign* was named a <sup>4</sup> Notable Naval Book of 2012<sup>5</sup> by *Proceedings* magazine.

Great Book

Good book on the British invasion of the United States.

Excellent!

This volume covers the British invasion of the Chesapeake bay region during the War of 1812. It is comprehensive in its scope covering equally the American and British side of the conflict. The late author and the other writer who picked up where he left off wove an intricate but readable account of movements and actions that made this an extremely interesting volume on the conflict. The authors didn't dwell on the burning of Washington and the siege of Baltimore, but wove them into the overall tapestry of this complex and long lasting campaign.

I was drawn to this book because I lived near the Chesapeake Bay for several years. This is a well-researched look at a part of the War of 1812 that is somewhat overlooked. The author and editor Chipp Reid have included a substantial bibliography and notes section. This is a very interesting look at the war in the Chesapeake area.

Great in depth research. Information not available any place else. Praised by people in the know.

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