

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

HAROLD L. ICKES, Secretary

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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PERRY'S VICTORY AND INTERNATIONAL PEACE MEMORIAL

NATIONAL MONUMENT

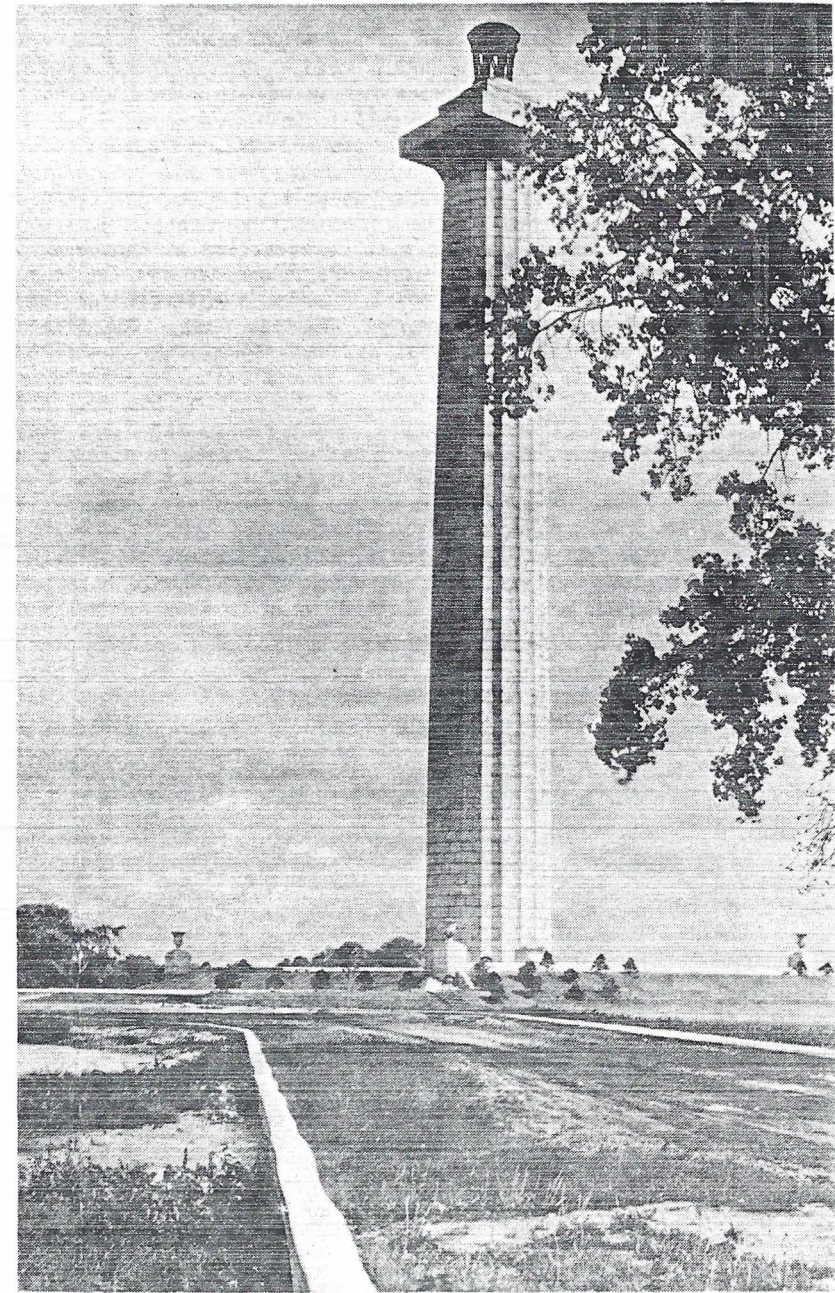
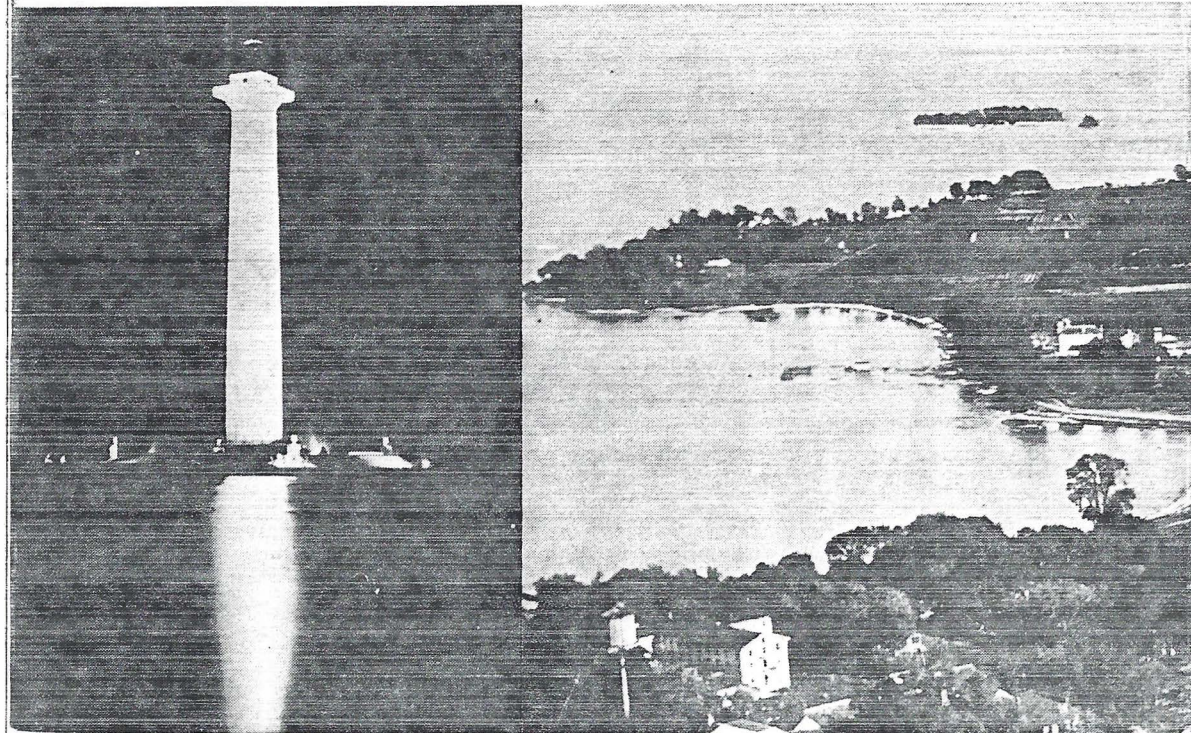
(Ohio)

Perry's Victory and International Peace Memorial National Monument, at Put-in-Bay, Ohio, commemorates the victory of Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry and his men over the British fleet in the Battle of Lake Erie September 10, 1813; the Northwestern Campaign of General William Henry Harrison in the War of 1812; and the more than 100 years of peace that followed between the United States and Great Britain.

The memorial reservation consists of 14.25 acres on the northerly side of South Bass Island, one of a group of islands extending southward across Lake Erie from Point Pelee, Canada. The Doric column of the monument, rising more than 350 feet above the level of Lake Erie, was constructed between October 1912, and June 1915, and the plaques, grounds, and retaining walls were

The Floodlighted Shaft

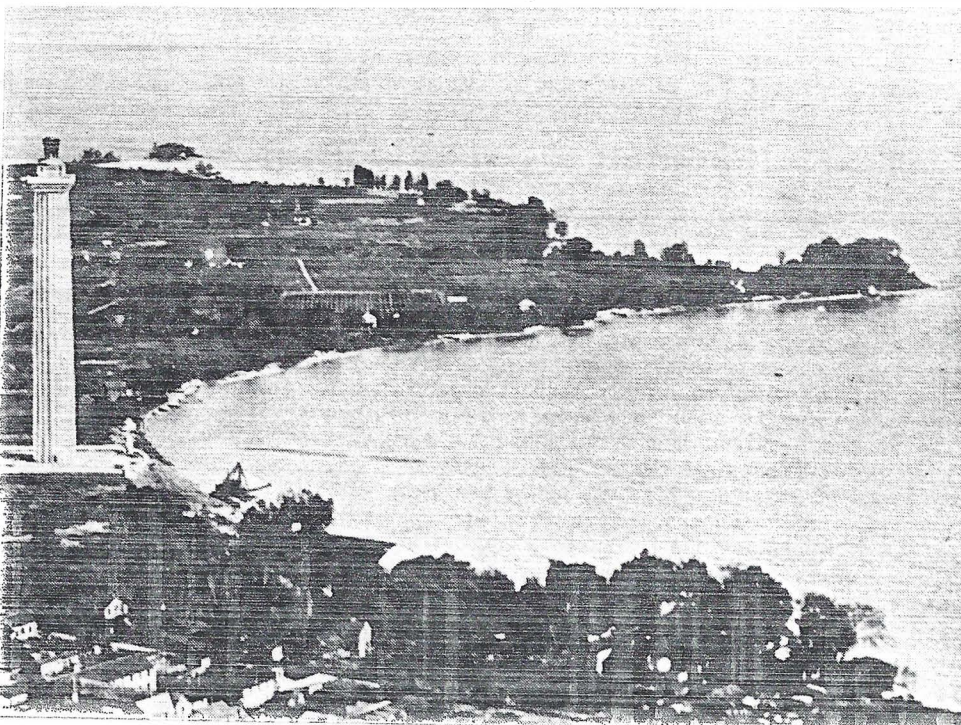
The Memorial and Island



The Memorial from the Lake Front Boulevard

In 1925, at a cost of approximately \$1,000,000. The Federal Government and \$396,164 and the remainder was appropriated by the States of Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, Illinois, Wisconsin, New York, Rhode Island, Kentucky, Massachusetts. The monument was built under the direction of the Perry's and International Peace Centennial Commission, composed of representatives of the Federal Government and the States which contributed funds. By Act of Congress dated June 2, 1936, the memorial was placed under the administration of the National Park Service, United States Department of the Interior. The monument is constructed of pink Milford granite. The Doric column of the monument itself is 352 feet high and 45 feet in diameter at the base. It serves as an observation platform and resting place for a small penthouse, the top of which is a bronze urn 20 feet wide, 23 feet high, and weighing 11 tons, from which a beam of light is thrown straight upward. The observation platform can accommodate 300 people at one time, and the scene from this point is of great beauty; on a clear day it affords a view of the spot, 6 miles away, on which Perry won his great victory. The monument rises from the top of a plaza, 154 feet by 159 feet, at the four corners of which are huge Doric columns, and a lower plaza, 75 feet wide and 183 feet long. The column is surrounded by a spiral staircase, and is fitted with both stairs and elevator. Entrance to the column and rotunda of the memorial is gained by four doors marking the diameters of the rotunda and facing the four cardinal points of the compass. On the walls of the rotunda are bronze plaques commemorating historical events associated with the battle. In a crypt beneath the rotunda lie the remains of the three British and three American officers killed in the Battle of Lake Erie.

Photo (c) by Hamilton & Maxwell, New York

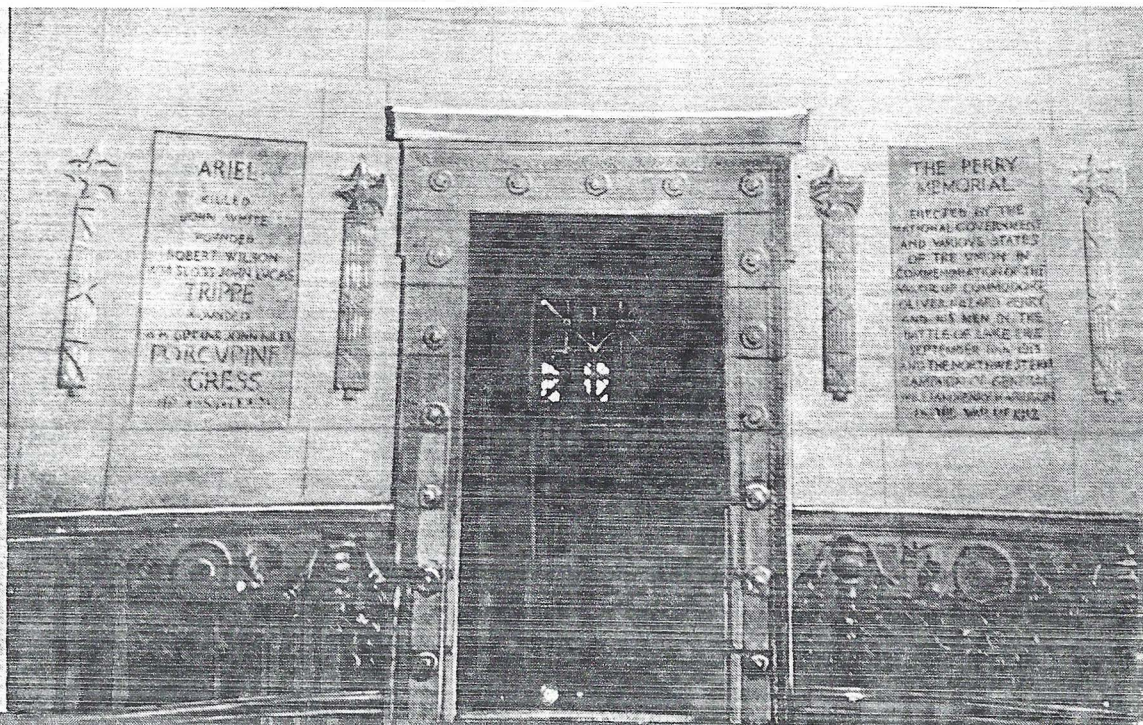


BATTLE OF LAKE ERIE

The story of the battle of Lake Erie and of Perry's victory is a stirring one. The British fleet blockaded Perry at Erie, led by Commander Robert H. Barclay. The latter relaxed his blockade, and during August 2-4, 1813, Perry crossed Erie bar and took to the lake. He returned to Erie on August 10 and was reinforced by Master Commandant Jesse D. Elliott with 102 men. On August 12 the fleet sailed up the lake without being opposed by Barclay, who had retired to a station on the Detroit River. Perry then made Put-in-Bay his headquarters in order that he might watch Barclay and yet be convenient to General Harrison, Commander-in-Chief of the western U. S. Army with headquarters at Seneca-town.

On September 9, Barclay sailed out to confront Perry and the two fleets met the next day about sunrise. Perry had nine small vessels, the largest of which were the sister brigs, Lawrence and Niagara, of 480 tons each. The British fleet consisted of the Detroit, the Queen Charlotte and four other small vessels. In point of armament Perry had a decided superiority; but the number of effective men was about the same. As Perry planned the battle, his flagship, the Lawrence, was to fight the Detroit, flagship of the enemy; the Niagara was to engage the Queen Charlotte, and the smaller U. S. vessels were to contest the smaller British ships. At 10 a. m. he raised the battle flag of the Lawrence upon which Captain Lawrence's memorable words had been inscribed: "Don't give up the ship." In the battle, which began at 11:45 and lasted until 3 p. m., the Lawrence bore the brunt of the fight, Perry having thrown caution to the winds and engaged the enemy at close quarters. The Niagara, which should have supported him, hung back either on account of a lack of wind to fill her sails or

Historical Tablets in Rotunda



because Elliott preferred to take advantage of his two long-range guns which enabled him to pound the enemy at a safe distance. Toward the end of the furious struggle, Perry found the Lawrence unfit for further action and transferred, under a steady fire from the British ships, to the Niagara which at length had come up. In another 15 minutes the battle was over. Barclay surrendered his entire fleet, having lost 41 killed and 94 wounded. Perry, the only American naval officer ever to capture a British fleet, lost 27 killed and 96 wounded. More than two-thirds of the American casualties were on the Lawrence. The United States forces gained control of Lake Erie and retained it to the close of the war. This enabled Harrison to cross the lake and invade Canada. Perry's laconic dispatch, "We have met the enemy and they are ours," was addressed to General Harrison.

LOCATION OF ISLAND

South Bass, commonly called Put-in-Bay Island, is the largest of the Lake Erie archipelago, except Pelee Island in Canada. There are in all 14 islands, American and Canadian. Put-in-Bay is about 50 miles from Detroit, Toledo and Cleveland, 24 miles from Sandusky, 14 from Port Clinton and 8 from Catawba. Modern steamships of 1,500 to 3,200 passenger capacity arrive daily at the island during the summer season, and on each day of the season an automobile steamship ferry makes ten trips from Catawba.

Bass Island contains 1,800 acres, the memorial standing on a narrow isthmus between the major section and East Point. Put-in-Bay village has a permanent population of 450, but summer and cottage residents and tourists often number 8,000 a day. The island has telegraph, telephone, a pure water supply, all electric facilities and modern schools and churches. Interesting caves abound and are visited by thousands every summer.

WHAT TO DO ON THE ISLAND

Yachting. The island is headquarters for the famous Interlake Yachting Association, composed of American and Canadian yachtsmen. A regatta is held annually; 2,000 yachtsmen register each year for the competition. Boating six months in the year is the sport of innumerable visitors.

Fishing. The Lake Erie islands are famous for their bass fishing. The sport is at its height in the spring and from late August through autumn.

Bathing. The bathing beach, bath house and pavilion operated by local interests is the public resort for this recreation, but tourists also may freely avail themselves of other sandy beaches. The water is invariably cool.

Camping. Camping grounds are located on the shore, in the woods and near vineyards, at lake level, on the high cliffs and in the interior. All needed supplies are delivered from the village.

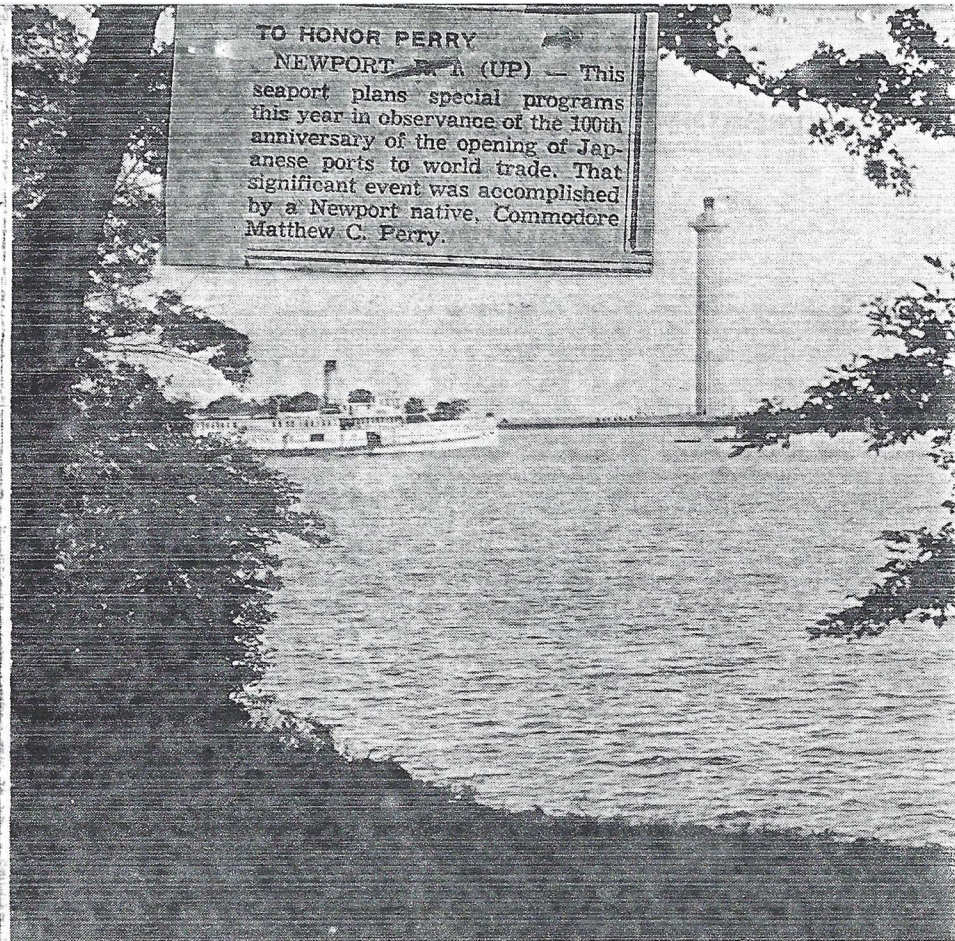
Motoring. Improved roads circle and intersect the island. By using the ferry, visitors also may motor on the mainland. Motorists may shop in Toledo, Port Clinton, Sandusky or Cleveland and return to the island the same day.

Aviation. Daily air service is maintained at frequent intervals to points on the mainland and for short pleasure cruises over Lake Erie. The airport is located on the island.

ADMINISTRATION

The National Park Service representative in charge of the memorial is Custodian William Schnoor, who is assisted by a staff of guides. A souvenir stand dispenses mementos and literature of the memorial. Special arrangements for large groups of visitors may be made by addressing the Custodian.

July 1939



TO HONOR PERRY
NEWPORT, O. A. (UP) — This seaport plans special programs this year in observance of the 100th anniversary of the opening of Japanese ports to world trade. That significant event was accomplished by a Newport native, Commodore Matthew C. Perry.

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