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FIRST AMERICAN WARSHIP AT WAIKIKI

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The first American warship to anchor in Waikiki Bay was the U.S.S. *Sir Andrew Hammond*, under command of First Lieutenant John Marshall Gamble, U.S. Marine Corps. The date was May 31, 1814 during the War of 1812—our Second War with Great Britain. Gamble was promoted to Captain on June 18, 1814 while he was in Hawaii but did not learn of his elevation in rank until many months later.

"HAMMOND" ARRIVED FROM MARQUESAS

The *Hammond* had sailed from Nukahiva (Marquesas Islands) on May 9, 1814. On board were Lieutenant Gamble, Midshipman Clapp, Privates Benjamin Bispham, John Pettinger and Peter Coddington of the Marines, Seaman William Worth, and Ordinary-Seamen Richard Sansbury and Joseph Burnham. Of these eight individuals only two were completely fit for duty. The American warship "reached the Sandwich Islands, after a passage of seventeen days," reported Lieutenant Gamble. This was about May 23, 1814, and the *Hammond* anchored off the Big Island of Hawaii where Gamble took aboard fifteen Hawaiians as passengers for Honolulu.

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"In the afternoon of the 31st" of May, 1814, the U.S.S. *Sir Andrew Hammond* "came to off Whyateete [Waikiki] Bay on the southwest side of the Island of Waohoo [Oahu]," wrote Captain David Porter, U.S. Navy.

"An American, by the name of Harbottle, came off in a canoe, and gave a very flattering account of the state of things ashore. He kindly undertook to pilot the ship into the Bay [Waikiki] and, at Lieutenant Gamble's request, despatched the canoe ashore, with a note for Captain Nathaniel Winship, a native of America, describing the state of the vessel, and earnestly requesting his assistance to bring her into the Bay."

WINSHIP LIVED AT WAIKIKI

"Captain Winship was quite comfortably situated at Whyateete [Waikiki]

Bay. He had already resided on the Island upwards of two years, and had far succeeded in introducing the arts of civilized life into this remote quarter of the globe, so as to make a sufficient quantity of butter and cheese for his own use. A melon appeared every day of the year upon his table and his garden produced all kinds of vegetables in abundance."

AMERICAN FLAG OFF WAIKIKI

"By the advice of Captain Winship, Lieutenant Gamble displayed the American Flag," in order to show the people on shore to what nation she belonged. A number of American seamen were shipped on the *Hammond*. The Hawaiians proved cordial and helpful. They voluntarily gave their assistance in working the *Sir Andrew Hammond* "into the Bay." On the evening of May 31, 1814, Lieutenant Gamble dined ashore Captain Winship at Waikiki.

WAIKIKI CANOES TOW "HAMMOND"

"At daylight on the 3d of June [1814] a signal gun was fired from the" U.S.S. *Sir Andrew Hammond*, "and a number of canoes immediately put off to tow her into the Inner-Harbor [Honolulu] for the purpose of being anchored in a safer place. At eight o'clock she was, with some difficulty, brought through the narrow channel of the Bay, and moored in perfect security, within a short distance of the shore. For this service the natives received each a piece of new iron-hoop, and left the ship, well-satisfied with their reward."

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FIRST AMERICAN WARSHIP

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SAILS FOR ISLAND OF HAWAII

"Having received a box of tea from a Spanish gentleman [Don Francisco de Paula Marin] who had resided on the Islands upwards of twenty years, together with several goats, swine and vegetables, from different persons near the Bay [of Waikiki], Lieutenant Gamble weighed anchor on the 11th of June [1814] and left Waohoo [Oahu]," for the Big Island of Hawaii to call on Kamehameha-the-Great.

BRITISH CAPTURE "HAMMOND"

However, the *Hammond* was captured a few days later by the British warship *Cherub* (Captain Tucker). On June 15, 1814 the *Cherub* and *Hammond* anchored at Lahaina, Maui. Arriving at Kauai later in June, 1814, the British captured the American merchantman *Charon* (Captain Whittemore). On June 22, 1814, Captain Tucker des-

patched the *Sir Andrew Hammond* and *Charon* to Rio de Janeiro via Valparaiso.

GAMBLE'S SECOND VISIT TO WAIKIKI

Lieutenant Gamble was retained on board the *Cherub* which arrived off Waikiki Bay, Oahu, on June 28, 1814. Nobody was allowed to go ashore as the Oahuans disliked the British and Captain Tucker anticipated trouble if he allowed any of his officers or crew to visit Waikiki or Honolulu.

GAMBLE DINES WITH KAMEHAMEHA

Arriving at the Island of Hawaii on July 6, 1814, Captain Tucker invited Kamehameha I and his "Prime Minister" to dinner on board the *Cherub*. Lieutenant Gamble, though a prisoner-of-war, "was honored with a seat at a table near these great personages." Next day, Gamble accompanied Captain Tucker ashore "and visited the King's House." Lieutenant Gamble met John Young at this time. Thus, Gamble was the first American Marine to meet and dine with Kamehameha-the-Great.

GAMBLE'S THIRD VISIT TO WAIKIKI

Lahaina, Maui, was again visited on July 10, 1814. The *Cherub* got underway for Oahu on July 12, 1814 where she came to anchor "off Whayateetee [Waikiki] Bay." William Davis acted as her pilot but Captain Tucker would not allow the *Cherub* to enter Honolulu Harbor because he did not trust the Hawaiians who were good friends of America during this war. Captain Tucker permitted his medical officer to treat Captain Winship, but that American friend of Lieutenant Gamble was compelled to go aboard the British warship for the favor. After a visit to Kauai the *Cherub* sailed for Valparaiso about July 15, 1814.

PLAQUE FOR GAMBLE AT WAIKIKI

The Outrigger Canoe Club might honor itself by placing a plaque on its Waikiki Club Grounds to the memory of John Marshall Gamble, his American Leathernecks, the first American warship to visit Hawaii, and the cordial Hawaiians who aided him. The plaque would carry an inscription explaining that Gamble had probably been on "this very spot." This, and other memorials to famous visitors to Waikiki, would add prestige, tradition, and material benefit to the Outrigger Canoe Club.



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HAVE LUNCH AT
OUTRIGGER CANOE CLUB
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