



The Cutting Out of the "Royal Yacht."

By Rear-Admiral James E. Jouett.

The author (who was retired ten years ago after a full half-century of service in the United States Navy) here gives a personal account of the stirring incident that won for him the nickname of "Fighting Jim," and which gave him his first independent command.

IN November, 1861, I was one of the officers of the frigate "Santee," engaged in keeping a watchful eye upon the city and harbor of Galveston. Several months of enforced idleness had made all on board the "Santee" ready for any task that might come to hand, and when word reached us that the Confederates stationed at Galveston were fitting out the schooner "Royal Yacht" and the steamer "General Rusk" for service as privateers, I volunteered to lead an expedition into the harbor and attempt the destruction of both vessels. Captain Eagle, of the "Santee," granted my request, and the frigate's two launches, with a detail of some forty men, were placed under my command for the purpose. Lieutenant Mitchell, assisted by Mate Adams, was put in charge of one of the launches, while Gunner Carter and I went in the other.

All being in readiness, we started up the harbor shortly after midnight of November 7th, to attack the Confederate vessels, which were then lying about seven miles from the "Santee." We hoped, under cover of the darkness, to surprise the "General Rusk," which was the larger craft, and then to effect the capture of the "Royal Yacht."

It was a plan that called for a good deal of hard fighting, and a bit of bad luck made it hotter than we had anticipated, for, pulling quietly up the harbor, we had passed the "Royal Yacht," which guarded the channel, and got abeam of the "General Rusk," when my boat grounded on a shoal or spit, and the second launch, which was close behind, ran into it, breaking my oars and making a noise which disclosed our presence to the crew of the Confederate steamer. This destroyed all