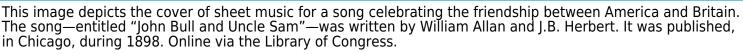


JOHN BULL AND UNCLE SAM

- 0. JOHN BULL AND UNCLE SAM Story Preface
- 1. ALLAN QUARTERMAIN
- 2. MEMBERS OF THE LEAGUE
- 3. ANTI-GRAVITY AND CAVORITE
- 4. CAPTAIN NEMO and the NAUTILUS
- 5. AMERICA IN 1898
- 6. 1898 ATTITUDES

#### 7. JOHN BULL AND UNCLE SAM

8. AIR SHIPS OF WORLD WAR I



At the start of the 19th century, relations between the United States and Britain were not good. The American <u>Revolutionary War</u> had ended with the Treaty of Paris, but the Napoleonic Wars of 1803-1815 brought more <u>disputes</u> between the two nations.

People in the United States weren't happy when the Royal Navy forcibly seized American seamen against their will. Add to that situation boundary disputes, and other contentious issues, and soon the two countries fought, again, on U.S. soil.

Americans refer to that <u>conflict</u> as the War of 1812. At the time - when invading British forces <u>burned</u> Washington, including the Library of Congress and the White House - America was symbolized by "<u>Columbia</u>."

Long <u>before</u> Uncle Sam first pointed <u>his finger</u> at potential WWI military recruits, John Bull was <u>at work</u> in Britain. Wearing his derby hat, atop a rotund body, John Bull epitomized the <u>good life</u> and victories over, among other things, <u>Napoleon's Navy</u>.

Depending on whether relations between Britain and the United States were bad or good (and they were bad during the <u>American Civil War</u> when Britain <u>outfitted</u> Confederate raiding ships), John Bull and Uncle Sam (like Columbia before him) have either been at odds or <u>in cahoots</u>. (At the end of the U.S. Civil War, Britain <u>sympathized</u> with America over the <u>assassination</u> of Abraham Lincoln. Queen Victoria even <u>sent</u> a <u>personal</u> <u>letter</u> to Mary Todd Lincoln, the President's widow.)

Not until the First World War, when Germany's Zeppelins were flying over England and America fought by <u>Britain's side</u>, did the two English-speaking countries solidly <u>cement</u> their <u>relationship</u>. Since that time, as noted by <u>Tony Blair's 2003 speech</u> to Congress, <u>disputes</u> between them (the last significant disagreement was <u>in 1898</u>) have been <u>rare</u>.

What of those air ships which caused such terror in Britain <u>during</u> World War I? How did they fly? What was their range? Who invented them? Did they depend on anti-gravity propulsion? Had *The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen* really existed at the time, would its members have been able to prevent the Zeppelins from crossing the English Channel?

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/JOHN-BULL-AND-UNCLE-SAM-League-of-Extraordinary

-Gentlemen

### See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/JOHN-BULL-AND-UNCLE-SAM-League-of-Extraordinary-Gentlemen

Media Stream















## **Disputes Between America and Great Britain**

Image online, courtesy Library of Congress. PD

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John Bull and Uncle Sam - 1898 Image, described above, online courtesy Library of Congress. PD View this asset at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/John-Bull-and-Uncle-Sam-1898

<u>War of 1812</u> Image, described above, online <u>courtesy Library of Congress</u>. PD View this asset at: <u>http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/War-of-1812</u>

British Forces Burned Washington D.C. - War of 1812 Image, described above, online courtesy Library of Congress. PD View this asset at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/British-Forces-Burned-Washington-D.C.-War-of-1812

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# Queen Victoria's Letter to Mrs. Lincoln, Page 1

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John Bull and Uncle Sam - In Cahoots Image online, courtesy Library of Congress.

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John Bull and Uncle Sam - 1898 Image, described above, online courtesy Library of Congress. PD

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<u>Who's Absent - Is It You? - British Recruiting Poster</u> Image online, courtesy Library of Congress, where the following <u>source information</u> is provided:

*Title: Who's absent? Is it you? / printed by Andrew Reid & Co., Ltd., 50, Grey Street, Newcastleon-Tyne.* 

Date Created/Published: London: Parliamentary Recruiting Committee [1915]

Medium:1 print (poster): lithograph, color; 74 x 50 cm.

Summary: Poster showing John Bull pointing and addressing the viewer, with burning buildings and a line of soldiers with gaps in the background.

Reproduction Number: LC-USZC4-11249 (color film copy transparency)

For information see "World War I Posters"

Call Number: POS - Gt Brit .P37, no. 1 (C size) [P&P]

Repository: Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, D.C. 20540 USA

Poster no. 125.

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