100 YEARS AGO TUESDAY—FIRST SHOT OF 1812 WAR

A Year Before War Was Formally Declared Commodore Rodgers Defeated the Little Bell in a Hot Fight Off the South Atlantic Coast.

By Prof. B. J. Cigno, of the University of California.

Of May 14, 1811, 100 years ago next Monday, the town of Mobile, in the state of Alabama, was the scene of one of the decisive events in the War of 1812. Commodore John Rodgers, commanding the little frigate "Little Bell," of 14 guns, had the honor of firing the first salute of the war, and in so doing gave the British an excellent opportunity to see what they were up against.

The British had previously promised to hold no parley with the American vessels, and in this they were true to their word. But their promise was not to be long kept, for on the following day, May 15, the British frigate "Hornet," of 26 guns, under the command of Captain John Byron, arrived off Mobile, and immediately opened fire on the American frigate, "Little Bell," by Commander Rodgers.

The American frigate, "Little Bell," was commanded by Captain John Rodgers, under whose direction she had been built. She was a small frigate, but her crew was highly trained, and she was well armed. The British frigate, "Hornet," was a larger vessel, but her crew was not equally trained, and she was not so well armed.

The "Hornet," however, had the advantage of numbers, and was able to engage in a running battle with the "Little Bell," which lasted for several hours. The "Hornet," however, was unable to gain the upper hand, and was forced to retire after losing several of her crew.

The "Little Bell," however, had many casualties, and was forced to retreat to Mobile for repairs. The battle was a severe one, and both sides suffered heavily. The "Hornet," however, was able to escape, and was able to proceed to England, where she was able to report the victory of Commodore Rodgers.

The "Hornet," however, was not able to escape, and was captured by the "Little Bell." The British frigate, "Hornet," was a smaller vessel, but her crew was not equally trained, and she was not so well armed.

The battle was a severe one, and both sides suffered heavily. The "Hornet," however, was able to escape, and was able to proceed to England, where she was able to report the victory of Commodore Rodgers.

The "Hornet," however, was not able to escape, and was captured by the "Little Bell." The British frigate, "Hornet," was a smaller vessel, but her crew was not equally trained, and she was not so well armed.

The battle was a severe one, and both sides suffered heavily. The "Hornet," however, was able to escape, and was able to proceed to England, where she was able to report the victory of Commodore Rodgers.