*The following was originally published in the New York Times on July 12, 1864. Given that the Battle of Cherbourg between the USS Kearsage and the CSS Alabama occurred on June 19, 1864, the news traveled very fast.*

*Present at the time of the battle was the British sailing yacht Deerhound. Captain Winslow asked her captain to assist in the recovery of the Alabama’s crew. She took aboard Captain Semmes and 14 of the Alabama’s crew, and immediately departed for Southampton, rather than delivering those she rescued to the Kearsage.*

The Kearsarge and Alabama; Captain Winslow’s detailed official report, and his opinion of the deerhound.

Published: July 12, 1864 -

We compile from our foreign and domestic files the following interesting extracts regarding the fight between the Alabama and Kearsarge:

From - Galignani, June 28.

We have been favored with Capt. WINSLOW's official account of the action between those vessels. It runs thus:

United States sloop Kearsarge, in pursuit of the Alabama, arrived off Cherbourg on the 14th inst. On the day following the Captain of the Kearsarge received a note from the Captain of the Alabama, informing him he would fight the Kearsarge, and would be ready in a day or two. Five days elapsed, when the Alabama was discovered from the Kearsarge coming out of the port. The Kearsarge was immediately headed seaward, and steamed off the coast, the object being to get a sufficient distance off the land that no question about the jurisdiction of France could be agitated; and, secondly, that in case of the battle going against the Alabama, she could not retreat into port.

When this was accomplished the Kearsarge was turned shortly round, and steered immediately for the Alabama to get within close range, the Kearsarge's guns having been loaded with shell for five hundred yards' distance.

On approaching the Alabama, when about one mile off, the Alabama sheered and fired a broadside, nearly a raking fire, on the Kearsarge. More speed was given to the Kearsarge to shorten the distance, and a slight sheer to prevent a raking fire. Again the Alabama fired a second broadside, the Kearsarge closing, and a part of the third broadside was fired, when the Kearsarge sheered and opened on the Alabama. The action continued, the respective vessels making a circuit at a distance of some seven hundred yards, and describing six or seven circles. At the expiration of an hour and two minutes the Alabama struck. The damage done to the Kearsarge was so trifling that her Captain could not believe that the Alabama had struck, as he judged that the Alabama, like the Kearsarge, could not have been seriously injured. It was only when the boat of the Alabama came alongside of the Kearsarge that her true condition was known. The Kearsarge had three men wounded. The Alabama's loss, it was believed, was between thirty and forty killed and drowned, twenty-one or two wounded were saved. The Kearsarge, above and below, received some twenty-eight shot, thirteen of which were about her hull and bulwarks. The length of the Kearsarge is 210 feet. On the midship section, for twenty feet in length, the chains belonging to her sheet anchor were hung outside and covered with light boards to prevent dirt. They were stopped to eyebolts by the crew, and when wanted were taken off and bent to the anchors. The object of stowing the sheet chains thus, was to protect the boilers from rifle shot, when the coal was consumed in the bunkers. This was the case at the time the action ensued. The Alabama had all her bunkers full, and did not need this protection, but she could have adopted the same plan with her own chains had it been chosen. Two 32-pound shell, or shot, struck the chains, which were of no value as they would not have perforated the ship's sides. The same shot forward of the chain had not gone through. The hundred-pound rifle would no doubt have done better.

The Alabama was sunk after a great carnage from the fire of the Kearsarge. How and where shot struck her, it would be questionable to state. The Kearsarge is a third-class sloop, of 1,031 tons, carries seven guns, as follows: two 11-inch, four 32 and one 30-pounder. The Alabama was a vessel of similar class of 1,040 tons, carrying eight guns, as follows: one 100 pound rifle, one heavy 68-pounder, and six 32-pounders. The Kearsarge's crew, officers and men, was from 157 to 160. The Alabama was, according to accounts, 150.

In the first part of the action the Alabama fired quickly, but very foolishly, throwing away her shot, none striking the Kearsarge. The Kearsarge fired with the most deliberate aim, and much slower. The number of snot and shell fired from the Kearsarge was fifty-five 11-inch, sixty 32-pounders, forty-eight 30-pound shot.

P.S. -- Capt. SEMMES complains that he was fired into after striking, and that the boats of the Kearsarge were not sent soon enough. Capt. SEMMES knows well that had it been known that the Alabama had surrendered, another gun would never have been discharged, and the two undisabled boats were sent immediately when his condition was known. It would seem strange that such complaints come from one who did not hesitate, and availed himself of the means sent in the cause of humanity to save life to make off. And could the Captain of the Kearsarge have believed it was possible for the commander of the Deerhound to have acted so dishonorably, he would have instantly sunk the Deerhound.