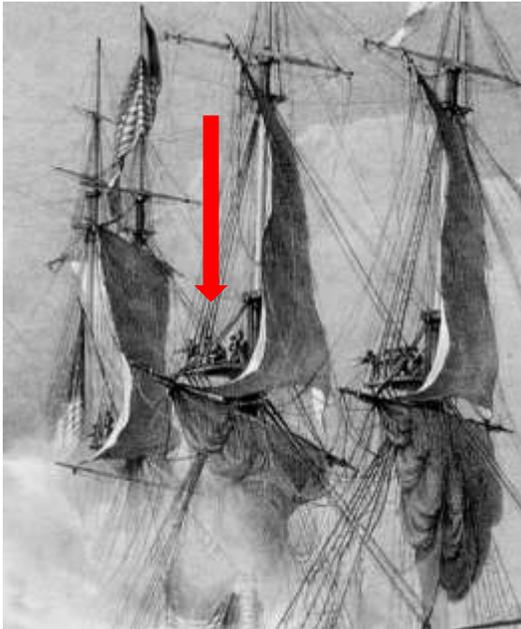


## Tops

### Fore, Main, & Mizzen Tops

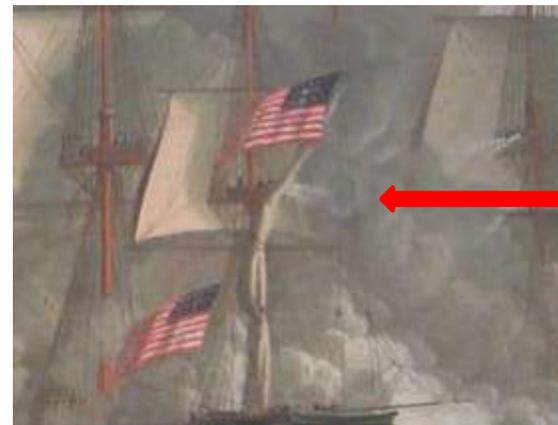
The tops are platforms that surround the lower mast heads and help to extend the topmast shrouds (vertical rigging). On a warship such as *Constitution*, the tops were also fighting platforms for the



Marine sharpshooters during battle. In the *Guerriere* engagement, Lt. Bush, of *Constitution's* Marines, was shot through the head as he was boarding *Guerriere*. Capt. Lambert of HMS



*Java* was mortally wounded by a *Constitution* Marine who was firing down from fighting top.



USF *Chesapeake* vs HMS *Shannon* (#2), J.C. Schetky, Navy Art Coll. (left); *Constitution* main top, NHHC Detachment Boston, 2010 (above); USS *Constitution* vs. HMS *Guerriere*, Michele Felice Corne, 1812, US Naval Academy Museum (right)