

Scottish captain's lost ship



US Navy's fifth attempt to find the Bonhomme Richard, which Guth believes is lying in up to 200ft of water in an area of 900 square nautical miles. He added: "Both ships looked like Swiss cheese by the end of the battle. There is three-quarters of a day after-

wards when we don't know in which direction they were sailing - or how fast they were going.

"If found, Bonhomme Richard would be one of the most important archaeological discoveries in US naval history. It would shed new light on the historic battle, life aboard a ship of the Continental navy, and the construction and armament of the ship itself."

The scientists are on board the 329-foot survey ship Henson, accompanied

'It would shed new light on the battle'

by a French Navy minesweeper. The mission was planned with the help of the Royal Navy.

Jones, who was born in Dumfrireshire in 1747 and emigrated to America aged 26, is regarded as a national hero in the US after carrying out a series of daring raids on the British mainland.

He led attacks on Kirkcudbright in Dumfrireshire and Whitehaven in Cumbria in 1778, and the following year sailed up the Firth of Forth to within

cannon range of Leith, before a storm swept his ship back to sea.

After the Americans won the war, he went on to achieve a historic victory for the Russian navy under Catherine the Great, defeating the Turks during the Black Sea campaign, before moving to Paris, where he died in 1792, aged 45.

Rear Admiral Jonathan White, leader of the Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Command, said yesterday: "I consider it an honour that our cutting-edge naval ocean survey technology will now be used to forge a connection with this historic ship and its commander and US Navy hero, John Paul Jones."

Scots hero's life portrayed in musical

THE search for Bonhomme Richard comes as a new Scottish musical about the life of John Paul Jones prepares its premiere in Edinburgh.

It tells the story of the son of a humble Dumfrireshire gardener, who becomes the "father of the American navy", is knighted by the King of France and fights for Catherine the Great of Russia.

Scots composer Julian Wagstaff has announced

performances at the Capital's Queen's Hall on September 24 and 25, featuring the Scottish Chamber Orchestra, ahead of a UK and international tour

Executive producer David Williams, former director of Scottish Ballet, said: "As far as I know, no Scottish musical has ever established itself in the international repertoire."

"I believe that John Paul Jones has the potential to do just that."