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I.

P A P E R S

RELATING TO THE

WAR WITH AMERICA.

Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed,
9 & 10. February 1815.

40 & 41.

I.

WAR OF 1812

P A P E R S

RELATING TO THE

WAR WITH AMERICA.

*Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be printed,
9 & 10 February 1815.*

Admiralty Office, 1 February 1815.

RETURN to a Precept of the Honourable House of Commons,
dated 1 December 1814;—for

- N^o 1.—An Account of the Number of the Ships or Vessels of any description that were upon the Lakes of *Canada*, and upon Lake *Champlain*, and fit for Service, on the 18th June 1812, the 15th May and the 1st November 1813, with the Force of each Vessel in Guns, Men and Boys - - - - - page 3
- N^o 2.—A Return of the Date of Sir *James Yeo's* arrival to take the Command of His Majesty's Ships and Vessels on the Lakes of *Canada* - - - - - page 4
- N^o 3.—Extract of so much of the Proceedings and Evidence of a Court Martial held on Captain *Barclay*, and the other surviving Officers of His Majesty's Flotilla on Lake *Erie*, as relates to the state of Preparation of that Flotilla in point of equipment and armament - - - - - page 4
- N^o 4.—An Account of all Ships of War and armed Vessels belonging to His Majesty, which have been taken or destroyed by the *Americans*, since the commencement of the War, with the Force of each Ship or Vessel in Guns, Men, and Boys - page 8
- N^o 5.—An Account of all Ships of War or Armed Vessels belonging to the United States of *America* taken or destroyed by His Majesty's Ships since the commencement of the War; together with a Statement of the Force of each Vessel in Guns, Men and Boys - - - - - page 9
- N^o 6.—A Return of the Number of *American* Seamen who have been made Prisoners of War since the commencement of Hostilities; distinguishing collectively the Number of those who have been captured, and those who were detained in the Ports of the United Kingdom - - - - - page 10
- N^o 7.—An Account of all Merchant Vessels taken from the United States of *America*, or destroyed and reported to the Admiralty, since the commencement of the War; specifying the Class or Tonnage of each Vessel, as far as can be ascertained; and distinguishing those detained in the Ports of the United Kingdom - - - - - page 10
- N^o 8.—An Account of any Frigates of a large class, or any Ships of a class larger than Frigates and less than Line-of-battle Ships, built or fitted out since the 18th June 1812 (as far as can be produced without detriment to the Public Service) stating the Periods at which such Vessels were respectively fitted out - - - - - page 11
- N^o 9.—Copies of all Correspondence and Orders, relative to the *Prompté* and *Psyche* Frigates, between the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, the Navy Board, the Transport Board, Sir *James Yeo*, and the Transport Board's Agent at *Quebec* - page 11
-

Admiralty Office, 10 February 1815.

RETURN to a Precept of the Honourable House of Commons,
dated the 9th instant;—calling for

- Copy of a Letter from the Navy Office, addressed to Commissioner *Hall*, at *Quebec*; touching the Sale of the Frames of the *Prompté* and *Psyché* Frigates - - - - - page 18

—No. 1.—

Admiralty Office, 1st February 1815.

AN ACCOUNT of the Number of Ships or Vessels, of any description, that were upon the Lakes of *Canada* and upon *Lake Champlain*, and fit for Service, on the 18th of June 1812, the 15th of May and 1st of November 1813; with the Force of each Vessel in Guns, Men and Boys.

THERE are no Returns in this Department which can show the Force exactly at the periods above-mentioned; but the following Statements are the nearest in point of time to each date respectively.

The latest Return prior to the declaration of War in America, is on the 1st of May 1812; at which date there were,

On *Lake Ontario* :—

1	Ship or Vessel of 22 Guns, and 35 Men.
1	- - - - - 14 - - - 24 —
1	- - - - - 8 - - - Not stated.
1	- - - - - 12 - (building.)

On *Lake Erie* :—

1	Ship or Vessel of 18 Guns, and 35 Men.
1	- - - - - 10 - - - 14 —
1	- - - - - 12 - (building.)

The nearest date of any Return to the 15th of May 1813, is dated 24th July 1813; at which period there were,

On *Lake Ontario* :—

1	Ship or Vessel of 23 Guns, and 175 Men.	} Exclusive of 200 Soldiers embarked as Marines.
1	- - - - - 20 - - - 155 —	
1	- - - - - 16 - - - 92 —	
1	- - - - - 14 - - - 60 —	
1	- - - - - 12 - - - 80 —	
1	- - - - - 12 - - - 70 —	

On *Lake Erie* :—

1	Ship or Vessel of 20 Guns, just launched.
1	- - - - - 18 - and 110 Men.
1	- - - - - 12 - - - 76 —
1	- - - - - 6 - - - 39 —
3	- - - - - 2 each, and 15 Men each.

In the *Richlieu* and *Lake Champlain* :—

2	Ships or Vessels of 11 Guns, and 40 Men each.
3	Gun-boats, of - - - - - 20 Men each.

The nearest date of any Return to the 1st November 1813, is dated 26 January 1814; at which period there were on *Lake Ontario* and *Lake Champlain* and the adjoining Rivers, as follows,

<i>Lake Ontario</i> :		<i>Lake Champlain</i> and Rivers:	
1	Ship or Vessel of 23 Guns.	1	Ship or Vessel of 16 Guns.
1	- - - - - 21 —	1	- - - - - 11 —
1	- - - - - 21 —	1	- - - - - 4 —
2	- - - - - 14 - each.	1	- - - - - Unknown.
1	- - - - - 12 —	1	- - - - - 16 Guns.
1	- - - - - 9 —		
1	- - - - - 58 } nearly ready		Nearly ready to launch:
1	- - - - - 43 } to launch.		20 Gun-boats.
			9 D° - building and nearly ready.

There is no Account of the distribution of the Men in each Ship, at this date; but in addition to the numbers stated in the foregoing Return, 576 Seamen and two Marine Battalions of 1,286 Men, had arrived in *Canada* prior to the 1st of November 1813.

—No. 2.—

Admiralty Office, 1st February 1815.

A RETURN of the Date of Sir *James Yeo's* arrival to take the Command of His Majesty's Ships and Vessels on the Lakes of *Canada*.

THE said Date is the 15th of May 1813.

—No. 3.—

EXTRACT of so much of the Proceedings and Evidence of a Court Martial, held on Captain *Barclay*, and the other surviving Officers of His Majesty's Flotilla on Lake *Erie*, as relates to the state of Preparation of that Flotilla, in point of Equipment and Armament.

Lieutenant *Thomas Stokoe* sworn.

Question by the Court.—Are the contents of the narrative of Captain *Barclay*, more particularly as to the scarcity of provision at Lake *Erie*, and the want of seamen on board the squadron, correct and true, as far as came within your knowledge, and to the best of your belief?

Answer.—They are; we were particularly short of seamen.

Question.—How many men had you on board the *Queen Charlotte*, that you could call experienced seamen?

Answer.—Not more than ten, with the petty officers; we had on board between one hundred and twenty and one hundred and thirty men, officers and all together.

Question.—How many men had you on board, that had been accustomed to work the great guns with a ship in motion?

Answer.—Only the men that came up from the *Dover* three days before we sailed; we had sixteen of them, boys included, from the *Dover*, the rest we had learnt ourselves, since our arrival on the Lake.

Question.—Do you know whether the other vessels that composed the squadron of Captain *Barclay*, were equally deficient in seamen?

Answer.—All the other vessels were equally deficient in point of seamen, except the *Detroit* might have a few more on account of being a larger vessel.

Question.—Were you a prisoner on board the American vessels?

Answer.—No; I remained on board our own vessel six weeks after we were captured; I never was on board any of the enemy's vessels.

Question.—How many of those seamen of the British squadron were killed and wounded.

Answer.—One killed and four wounded of the able seamen on board the *Queen Charlotte*.

Question.—At half an allowance, how many days provision had you on board the *Queen Charlotte* when you went out?

Answer.—We might have had a week's, at half allowance, of provisions, but not of spirits; they were preserved for the action, and all consumed on that day; we had none served out for several days before.

Question.—Can you recollect the state of the *Queen Charlotte*, just before you were wounded?

Answer.—Several shots had struck the vessel, many of the ropes were cut, away, but the vessel was then manageable: this was about an hour and a quarter after the commencement of the action. Captain *Finis* and Lieutenant *Garden* of the Royal Newfoundland regiment were killed immediately on the commencement of the action, before a man was hurt; there were then one provincial lieutenant, one master's mate that had been in the Navy, and two provincial midshipmen quite youngsters, and two warrant officers, a boatswain and gunner left; this was after I was wounded.

Question.—

Question.—At what distance did the Niagara engage the Queen Charlotte, in the beginning of the action?

Answer.—She engaged us on the quarter out of carronade distance, with what long guns she had.

Question.—Was your principal injury received from her?

Answer.—No; from the Caledonia, who laid on our beam with two long twenty-four pounders on pivots, also out of carronade-shot distance.

Captain *Barclay* asked—Had provincial Lieutenant *Irvine* experience sufficient to such service, as to conduct the Queen Charlotte in action after the death of Captain *Finnis*, and your own wound?

Answer.—He was a very brave young man, a perfect seaman, but not experienced as an officer.

Provincial Lieutenant *Francis Purvis*, late of His Majesty's ship *Detroit*; called in, and sworn.

Question.—Are the contents of the narrative of Captain *Barclay*, more particularly as to the scarcity of provisions at Lake *Eric*, and the want of seamen on board the squadron, correct and true, as far as came within your knowledge and to the best of your belief?

Answer.—Yes; they are.

Question.—How many experienced seamen had you on board the *Detroit* when the action commenced?

Answer.—To the best of my knowledge not more than ten, petty officers included.

Question.—How long had the *Detroit* been in action, when Captain *Barclay* unfortunately received his wound?

Answer.—About two hours and a half, to the best of my recollection.

Question.—Was every exertion made to defend the ship after Captain *Barclay* was wounded;

Answer.—Yes.

Question.—Was she at that time in a very disabled and unmanageable state?

Answer.—Very much so indeed.

Question.—Can you recollect how many of those ten seamen were killed and wounded?

Answer.—To the best of my recollection, seven or eight were killed or wounded.

Question.—How near were the Enemy to you, during the early part of the engagement?

Answer.—I should suppose in the early part of the engagement, the *Detroit* in engaging the *Lawrence* was within a musquet shot, and within pistol shot of the *Niagara*; the latter came down after the *Lawrence* had struck.

Question.—Did you observe any of the shots of the Enemy's ship to reach the British squadron, when the latter's guns did not reach them?

Answer.—I cannot say exactly that I did, being employed at my gun.

Question.—Why did you not take possession of the *Lawrence* when she struck?

Answer.—We had only one boat, and that was cut to pieces, and the *Niagara* another large brig being to windward, came down too quickly upon us.

Question.—What do you attribute the loss of the action principally to?

Answer.—To the loss of Captain *Finnis*, and the Queen's running up under our lee, and the *Detroit* falling on board of them, which permitted the Enemy's squadron to lay and rake us, and the men consequently got into confusion.

Question.—Did the Enemy's gun-boats do much damage?

Answer.—More than any of their vessels; they had long two-and-thirties.

Question.—Did you understand, that the Enemy's vessels were well manned?

Answer.—Yes, they were remarkably well manned; I believe, from the information I received from the American officers, that the *Lawrence* had more

able seamen on board, than we had in our whole squadron. I was on board the *Lawrence* about a quarter of an hour; and on board the *Niagara* two or three days, she appeared to be very well manned; they chiefly manned the prizes from her.

Question.—Was the *Queen Charlotte* in a manageable state immediately before she got on board the *Detroit*?

Answer.—She did not appear so; they did not back any of their sails to avoid her.

Question.—What was the force of the American brig?

Answer.—The *Lawrence* and *Niagara* had each eighteen thirty-two pound carronades, and two long twelves. The *Caledonia* two long twenty-four and one thirty-two or twenty-four pound carronades; the *Tigress* one long thirty-two. I was not on board the *Ariel*, *Summers*, *Porcupine*, *Scorpion*, or *Trip*; but I understood they had all long thirty-two pounders, and one or two had carronades I believe.

Question.—Did they appear to be manned equal to the larger brigs?

Answer.—Yes, they did, in equal proportions.

			lb.	
The <i>Detroit</i> had	-	-	2	} Long Guns.
	-	-	1	
	-	-	6	
	-	-	8	
	-	-	1	
			24	} Carronade.
			18	
The <i>Queen Charlotte</i>	-	-	3	} Long Guns.
	-	-	14	
The <i>Lady Prevost</i>	-	-	3	} Long Guns.
	-	-	10	
The <i>Hunter</i>	-	-	2	} Long Guns.
	-	-	4	
	-	-	2	
	-	-	2	
The <i>Little Belt</i>	-	-	1	} Long Guns.
	-	-	1	
The <i>Chippeway</i>	-	-	1	9 Long Gun.

Captain *Barclay* asked:—

Were the matches and tubes so bad that were supplied to me from *Amherstbay*, that I was obliged to prime without the latter, and fire pistols at the guns to set them off?

Answer.—Yes; we fired pistols at the guns to set them off during the whole of the action.

Lieutenant *Stokoe* called in again.

Captain *Barclay* asked:—

Was I obliged to take from the *Queen Charlotte* stores of various descriptions even to sails, cables and anchors, as well as a proportion of pistols to fire the guns off with, before I could make the *Detroit* at all fit for the Lake?

Answer.—Yes, you were.

Extract of a LETTER from Commodore Sir *James Yeo*, dated Kingston, on Lake Ontario, Upper Canada, 30th May 1813, to Captain *Barclay*.

“THE Ships and Vessels now on Lake Erie have been hitherto entirely manned, provisioned, and stored, under the direction of the Governor, or the officer commanding the forces. The number of seamen under your orders will not enable you to distribute a due proportion of able seamen among the different vessels; and that you will not be able to dispense with the services of the persons now employed in those vessels, most, if not all, of whom must still continue in them; and

and you will arrange with the General commanding the forces, a Scheme for manning the ships, as nearly as may be, according to the system established in the Navy, of able seamen, ordinary, landmen, and marines, the latter to be supplied from such military corps as may be at the General's disposal. On this subject, however, of proportioning the classes of Men, you are at liberty to make such deviation from the ordinary practice, as local circumstances may seem to require."

"In what relates to the supply of provisions and stores for His Majesty's ships and vessels, I have to acquaint you, that they are to be furnished, as heretofore, by the Army Department, under the orders of the Governor, or the General commanding His Majesty's forces, who will attend to your demands and communications on these points."

Extracts of a LETTER from Captain *Barclay* to his Excellency Lieutenant General Sir *George Prevost*, Baronet; dated Long Point, 6th July 1813.

"I ENCLOSE a Statement of the force of the rival squadrons; and if prompt assistance is not sent up, although my officers and crews will do every thing that zeal and intrepidity can do, the great superiority of the Enemy may prove fatal.

"The Detroit will be ready to launch on the 20th instant; but there is neither a sufficient quantity of ordnance, ammunition, or any other stores, and not a man to put in her; if that vessel was on the Lake, I would feel confident as to the result of any action, they might choose to risk; but at present, although for the good of His Majesty's service, I must attack, I cannot help saying, that it is possible they may have an advantage, though I trust not a decided one."

A STATEMENT of the Forces of the *American Squadron*, as last reconnoitred in the Harbour of Presqu'isle, June 28th.

Two Brigs or Corvettes, in a forward state.

Seven Schooners - - } Numbers of Guns unknown, but armed and manned.
Two Brigs - - - }

The Corvettes appear to be both as large as the Queen Charlotte, but they are still in the Inner Harbour, not rigged or armed; but from their resources being so near at hand, I cannot reasonably expect they will be long in that situation.

A STATEMENT of the Force of His Majesty's Squadron employed on LAKE ERIE..

NAMES.	Guns.	CALIBRE.	Canadians	New's Regiment.	41st Regt.	TOTAL.
Queen Charlotte - -	18	Twenty-four pound Carronades -	40	25	45	110
Lady Prevost - - -	12	Ten 12-p ^r Carronades, and two long p ^r s	30	10	36	76
General Hunter - -	6	Four long 6-p ^r , two 18-p ^r Carronades	20	4	15	39
Erie - - - - -	2	One traversing long 12-p ^r , and one 12-p ^r Carronade - - -	6	4	5	15
Little Belt - - - -	2	One traversing long 12-p ^r , and one 24-p ^r Carronade - - -	6	4	5	15
Chippawa* - - - -	2	Eight-inch Howitzers - - -	6	7	-	13
Detroit - - pierced for (not yet launched.)	20	- - - - -	-	-	-	-
	62	- - - - -	108	54	106	268 men.

* Left with Gen^l Procter.

(Signed) R. H. Barclay;
S. O. on-L. E.

Extract of a LETTER from Captain *Barclay*, Senior Officer on Lake *Erie*, to Commodore Sir *James Lucas Yeo*; dated H. M. S. *Detroit, Amherstburgh*, September 6th, 1813.

“ I am happy to announce to you, the arrival of the Party of Seamen, under Lieutenant Bignell's orders.

“ The Number is totally inadequate to render the Squadron under my command effectual.”

Extracts from the Prisoner's Defence.

“ On my arrival at Bermuda in February 1813, Sir J. B. Warren received an application from Sir George Prevost to send some Captains, Lieutenants, and Seamen, to man three Corvettes on Lake Ontario; I was sent with Captains Finnes and Pring, Six Lieutenants and Gunners, to Halifax, for the purpose of proceeding with as much expedition as possible to Quebec, and from thence to the Lake Ontario. On my arrival at Kingston on the Lake, I took the Command of the Corvette No. 1, then called the *Wolfe*, by appointment from Sir J. B. Warren; about three weeks after my taking the Command I was superseded by the arrival of Sir James Lucas Yeo, with a large Detachment of Officers and Seamen from England, and appointed by that Officer to the Superintendence of the Gun-boats for the time being; soon after my appointment to the Gun-boats, it was judged necessary to send a Naval Establishment to Lake Erie, to render the Squadron on that Lake effective, which it was not considered to be, under the Provincial Marine.

“ I was ordered to proceed to that Lake with three Lieutenants, one Surgeon and Purser, a Master's Mate, and 19 Men, 12 of these were Canadians.

“ From York I proceeded with about 200 Soldiers in Batteaux, to join General Vincent at Fort George, which was the nearest Road to Amherstberg, where I was to take the Command of the Naval Force on the Lake Erie. While proceeding to join General Vincent, I heard he was driven from Fort George, and I met him on his retreat. From the General I learnt he had sent the *Queen Charlotte* to Amherstberg, to prevent her falling into the Enemy's hands at Fort Erie.

“ I found on my arrival at Amherstberg, that the information I had received relative to the State of the Naval Establishment placed under my orders, was but too true.”

— No. 4. —

Admiralty Office, 1st February 1815.

AN ACCOUNT of all Ships of War and Armed Vessels, belonging to His Majesty, which have been taken or destroyed by the Americans since the commencement of the War, with the Force of each Ship or Vessel, in Guns, Men and Boys.

AT SEA.		Aggregate borne in each description of Ship or Vessel.	
		GUNS.	MEN AND BOYS.
3	Ships of 38 Guns	114	980
6	----- 16	96	698
2	----- 12	24	177
2	----- 10	20	100
3	----- 4	12	60
16 Ships and Vessels. - - - Total		266	2,015

ON LAKES ERIE AND CHAMPLAIN:

The whole of the Flotillas stated in the Return No. 1, to have been on those two Lakes, on the 24th July 1813.

—No. 5.—

Admiralty Office, 1st February 1815.

AN ACCOUNT of all Ships of War and Armed Vessels, belonging to the United States of America, taken or destroyed by His Majesty's Ships since the commencement of the War; together with a Statement of the Force of each Ship or Vessel, in Guns, Men and Boys.

National Ships and Vessels.		Aggregate borne in each description of Ship or Vessel;		
		Of GUNS.	Of MEN and BOYS.	
1 Ship of	- - 56	Guns - - -	56	—
1	- - 49	— - - -	49	140
1	- - 46	— - - -	46	300
1	- - 26	— - - -	26	—
1	- - 22	— - - -	22	179
4	- - 20	— - - -	80	420
2	- - 18	— - - -	36	163
1	- - 16	— - - -	16	106
2	- - 14	— - - -	28	205
2	- - 12	— - - -	24	118
1	- - 3	— - - -	3	25
17	- - 2	— - - -	34	—
34 Ships and Vessels.		Total - -	400	1,956

Additional on the Lakes:

2	- - of - - 22	Guns - - -	44	198
2	- - - - 18	— - - -	36	—
2	- - - - 5	— - - -	10	80
2	- - - - 2	— - - -	4	62
42 Ships and Vessels.		Aggregate -	454	2,294

PRIVATEERS, and other Ships and Vessels, Armed and Commissioned for War.

3	- - of - - 22	Guns - - -	66	237
7	- - - - 20	— - - -	140	782
3	- - - - 20	— - - -	60	140
11	- - - - 18	— - - -	198	830
5	- - - - 18	— - - -	90	—
1	- - - - 17	— - - -	17	100
11	- - - - 16	— - - -	176	716
8	- - - - 16	— - - -	128	—
1	- - - - 15	— - - -	15	110
10	- - - - 14	— - - -	140	768
4	- - - - 14	— - - -	56	—
2	- - - - 13	— - - -	26	185
11	- - - - 12	— - - -	132	753
2	- - - - 12	— - - -	24	—
1	- - - - 11	— - - -	11	98
8	- - - - 10	— - - -	80	419
2	- - - - 10	— - - -	20	—
2	- - - - 9	— - - -	18	157
6	- - - - 8	— - - -	48	244
1	- - - - 8	— - - -	8	—

C

(continued.)

No. 5.— <i>continued.</i>				Aggregate borne in each description of Ship or Vessel.	
				Of GUNS.	Of MEN and BOYS.
PRIVATEERS, and other Ships and Vessels, Armed and Commissioned for War— <i>continued.</i>					
3	of	7	Guns	21	154
26	-	6	—	156	932
15	-	5	—	75	793
24	-	4	—	96	643
6	-	3	—	18	171
24	-	2	—	48	527
6	-	2	—	12	—
16	-	1	—	16	435
9	Force not stated.			—	—
228	Private Ships and Vessels of War - - Total			1,906	8,974
42	National Ships.			454	2,294
270	Ships of War of all } - - General Total descriptions.			2,360	11,268

— No. 6. —

Admiralty Office, 1st February 1815.

A Return of the Number of *American* Seamen, that have been made Prisoners of War since the commencement of Hostilities; distinguishing collectively the number of those who have been captured, and those who were detained in the Ports of the United Kingdom.

Total number captured	- - -	18,413
Total detained as above	- - -	2,548
Aggregate	- - -	20,961

— No. 7. —

Admiralty Office, 1st February 1815.

AN ACCOUNT of all Merchant Vessels taken from the United States of *America*, or destroyed and reported to the Admiralty, since the commencement of the War; specifying the Class or Tonnage of each Vessel, as far as the same can be ascertained; and distinguishing those detained in the Ports of the United Kingdom.

	No.	TONS.
Ships and Vessels, the Tonnage of which hath been reported	546	77,625.
Ships and Vessels, the Tonnage of which hath not been reported, but which are rigged as follows, viz.		
Ships	100	
Brigs	81	
Schooners	177	
Sloops	47	
Other small Craft	42	
	447	
Ships and Vessels of all descriptions, but of which neither the Tonnage nor Class of Rigging hath been reported	334	
Aggregate of Merchant Vessels captured or destroyed, as far as hath been reported to the Admiralty	1,328	
Detained in the Ports of the United Kingdom	79	
(Returns from Ireland not received.)		
Grand Total	1,407	

The above number does not include Captures by Privateers, which are not regularly reported to the Admiralty; and no Returns of Captures have been received from the East Indies and Cape of Good Hope Stations, and the Returns from other Foreign Stations have only been received in part.

—No. 8.—

Admiralty Office, 1st February 1815.

AN ACCOUNT of any Frigates of a large Class, or any Ships of a Class larger than Frigates, and less than Line-of-Battle Ships, built or fitted out since the 18th June 1812 (as far as can be produced without detriment to the Public Service;) stating the Periods at which such Vessels were respectively fitted out.

SHIPS NAMES.	Guns.	When ordered.	When fitted out.
Liverpool - -	40	December 1812 -	4th May 1814.
Glasgow - -	40	D° - - -	20th July 1814.
Severn - -	40	January 1813 -	26th June 1813.
Lifey - -	40	D° - - -	27th April 1814.
Forth - -	40	D° - - -	26th June 1813.
Endymion - -	40	July 1812 - -	18th May 1813.
Majestic - -	56	January 1813 -	23d January 1813.
Goliath - -	56	February 1813 -	3d June 1813.
Saturn - -	56	March 1813 - -	12th November 1813.
Akbar - -	50	D° - - -	14th May 1813.
Leander - -	50	May 1813 - -	17th December 1813.
Newcastle - -	50	D° - - -	18th January 1814.

—No. 9.—

Admiralty Office, 1 February 1815.

Copies of all CORRESPONDENCE and ORDERS relative to the *Prompt* and *Psyché* Frigates; between the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, the Navy Board, the Transport Board, Sir James Yeo, and the Transport Board's Agent at Quebec.

Extract of a LETTER from Admiral Sir John Warren, Bart. and K. B. dated on board H. M. Ship *St. Domingo*, off Major's Beach, Halifax, 1st December 1813, to John Wilson Croker, Esq. &c. &c. &c.

"I Trust their Lordships will order 400 seamen and a sufficient number of marines for the service; and I also hope directions may be given to construct three ships and three brigs in the frame during the winter, to be set up at Long Point on Lake Erie, or *Machedash Bay on Lake Huron*, which are the best places for the construction of vessels, especially the latter, which is in our possession; and if the vessels I have alluded to were set up early in the spring, they might be used to recover the superiority on the former Lake, and the possession of the Upper Provinces. Guns, men, sails and rigging, will be wanted for all these vessels, in order to make an effort for the object already described, and as the only means of putting an end to the desultory expeditions of the Enemy."

Sir,

Admiralty Office, 29th January 1814.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, to transmit to you a Copy of a Letter which I have written to Mr. Goulburn, the Under Secretary of State, enclosing the drawings and papers relating to two Ships and two Sloops, the frames of which are in course of being set up in His Majesty's yard at Chatham; to be conveyed early in the spring to Canada; and requesting that the directions therein mentioned might be sent out to Sir George Prevost, for co-operating with you in providing such part of the materials required for these vessels as it has been thought most advisable should be furnished in Canada, and for selecting the place they are to be set up, on their arrival out.

And I am to signify their Lordships direction to you, to co-operate with Sir George Prevost, by every means which may be in your power, in the important object of running up and equipping the said Ships and Sloops with the utmost possible expedition, after the arrival of the frames.

Commodore Sir J. L. Yeo,
Lake Ontario.

(Signed)

I am, &c.

J. W. Croker.

Copy.
No. 6.

(Copy.)

Sir,

Admiralty-Office, 29th January 1814.

* Note :
These Papers and Drawings being very voluminous, it has not been considered to be the intention of The House that they should be copied.

I AM commanded, by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, to transmit to you the enclosed Drawings and Papers* relating to two Frigates and two Sloops, the frames of which are in course of being set up in His Majesty's yard at Chatham, to be conveyed early in the spring to Canada.

The Drawings contain the lines and plans upon which the ships are building, and according to which they are to be completed in the said province.

The Papers contain, First,—A general statement of the scantlings and proportions of the ships:—And secondly,—A detail of those parts of the materials which are to be provided in Canada; it having been thought advisable that all such parts as could be so prepared, should be got ready on the spot, to save the expense and delay of so much additional carriage.

I AM to request you will lay these before Earl Bathurst, and move his lordship to send directions to Sir George Prevost not to lose a moment in giving all the necessary orders which may depend upon him, for the execution of these works, communicating without delay to Sir James Yeo copies of these Drawings and Papers, and informing him of all the measures he may have taken.

Sir George Prevost will of course pay particular attention to the choice of the place where these Ships are to be set up, and he will there make the depôt of the Canadian materials.

Lord Bathurst will see that it is in every point of view of the greatest consequence that no time should be lost in this business, and that on the arrival out of the Frames, every thing should be in readiness for running up the Ships with the greatest celerity; and my Lords request his Lordship will urge Sir George Prevost to co-operate with Sir James Yeo to this effect, who has similar orders.

Excuse me for suggesting to you the expediency of giving particular directions to the Post Office, that these dispatches shall be thrown overboard in the event of meeting an enemy of superior force, as it would be of the greatest detriment to the public service that the information they contain should become known to the Enemy.

I am, &c.

(Signed)

J. W. Croker.

Henry Goulburn, Esq.

Downing-street.

(Copy.)

Gentlemen,

Admiralty-Office, 10th February 1814.

WE do hereby desire and direct you to cause the two Frigates, building at Chatham for service on the Lakes of Canada, to be registered on the list of the Navy by the names of the *Prompte* and *Psyché*, and the two Sloops preparing for the same service by the names of the *Goshawk* and *Colibri*; and you are forthwith to propose such establishments of Men and Guns as you may think proper for the said ships and sloops.

We are, Sir,

(Signed)

*Melville.**G. J. Hope.**H. Paulet.*

P.S. The rates of the Frigates will be fixed when the establishments are settled.

Navy Board.

(Copy.)

(Copy.)

Sir,

Navy Office, 11th February 1814.

IN pursuance of the directions of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, of yesterday, we desire you will please to propose to their Lordships, that the Prompte and Psyché Frigates may be established with the under-mentioned number and nature of Guns, and complement of Men :

Upper Deck - -	26 Guns - -	24 P ^{rs}	} The Guns to be equal in weight to 18 P ^{rs} only.
Quarter Deck - -	6 Carronades	32 —	
	2 Long Guns	24 —	
Forecastle - - -	2 Carronades	32 —	
	2 Long Guns	24 —	

 38

Complement of Men - - - 300 N^o.

Our letter of the 16th January last, contained a proposal for the establishment of the sloops now called the Goshawk and Colibri.

We are, &c.

*T. B. Thompson.**F. J. Hartwell.**H. Legge.*

J. W. Croker, Esquire.

(Copy.)

Gentlemen,

Admiralty Office, 14th February 1814.

WHEREAS you have proposed, by your letter of the 11th instant, that His Majesty's ships Prompte and Psyché may be established each with

26 Guns - -	24 P ^{rs}	} on the upper deck,
6 Carronades	32 —	
2 Guns - -	24 —	} on the quarter deck,
2 Carronades	32 —	
2 Guns - -	24 —	} on the forecastle ;
2 Carronades	32 —	

the Guns to be equal in weight to 18 pounders only, and with a complement of 300 Men.

We do hereby desire and direct you to cause the above-named ships to be respectively established as 32-gun frigates of the 5th rate, with the number and nature of Guns and complement of Men afore-mentioned accordingly.

And whereas you have also proposed, by your letter of the 16th of last month, that His Majesty's sloops Goshawk and Colibri, may be established each with

8 Guns - -	24 P ^{rs}	} on the range of the deck forward and aft ;
8 Carronades	24 —	
2 Guns - -	12 —	

the 24-p^r Guns, on Colonel Congreve's principle, and with a complement of 140 Men.

We do also hereby desire and direct you to cause the said Sloops to be accordingly established with the number and nature of Guns and complement of Men here mentioned.

We are, &c.

*W. Dundas.**G. J. Hope.**H. Paulet.*

Navy Board.

(Copy.)

Sir,

Navy Office, 21 February 1814.

WE have to request that you will inform the Right Honourable the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, that the two Frigates ordered to be sent out in frame to Canada, were directed by us to be prepared in Chatham Yard ; the

PAPERS RELATING TO

orders for one being sent on the 22d December, and for the other on the 1st of January last. The two Fir Brigs of 382 Tons were also ordered to be prepared in that yard, by directions given to the Officers on the 6th of January; and that you will acquaint their Lordships, that, by a Report which has been made to us, it appears that the two Frigates were completed on the 17th Instant, and that the two Brigs are to be completed To-morrow; in consequence of which we have desired the Commissioners to signify to the Officers and Men who have been employed on these Vessels, our Approbation of their exertions and conduct.

J. W. Croker, Esq.

We are, &c.

F. J. Hartwell.
R. Seppings.
H. Legge.

(Copy.)

Gentlemen,

Admiralty Office, 22d February 1814.

I HAVE received, and laid before my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, your Letter of yesterday's date, stating, for their Lordship's information, with reference to the Orders recently given for preparing two Fir Frigates and Two Fir Brigs, to be sent out in frame to Canada, that it appears, by a Report made to you from Chatham Yard, that the two Frigates were completed on the 17th instant, and that the two Brigs would be complete on this day; and I have it in command to signify their Lordships directions to you, to express to Commissioner Sir Robert Barlow, and through him to the Officers and Men who have been employed on these Vessels, their Lordships Approbation of the zealous exertions which have been made on this occasion.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your most humble Servant,

Navy Board.

J. W. Croker.

(Copy.)

Navy Office, 4 March 1814.

Sir,

WE are informed by Commissioner Sir R. Barlow at Chatham, that a communication has been made to him by the Officers of the Ordnance at Woolwich, that the whole of the Ordnance and Stores ordered for the Frigates and Sloops in frame going to Canada, have been forwarded to him; except the 24-p' guns of 7½ feet, which cannot be got ready in time, and are to be sent out by another opportunity.

And Sir Robert having in consequence reported, that the 13-inch mortar, with its stores and ammunition, ordered to be sent to Chatham for Canada (as mentioned in Mr. Barrow's Letter to us of the 12th ultimo) has not arrived; we request you to make the same known to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty.

We are, &c.

F. J. Hartwell.
R. Seppings.
H. Legge.

J. W. Croker, Esq.

(Copy.)

Gentlemen,

Admiralty Office, 5th March 1814.

I AM commanded, by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, to signify their direction to you to appoint Surgeons and Surgeons Assistants, to the Lake Ships named in the margin, with directions to them to repair to Portsmouth, and upon their arrival there, to report themselves to Admiral Sir Richard Bickerton.

Prompte } 5th
Psyché } Rates.
Goshawk } Sloops.
Colibri }

I am, Gentlemen,

Your most humble servant,

Transport Board.

John Barrow.

(Copy.)

(Copy.)

Gentlemen,

Admiralty Office, 5th March 1814.

I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, to signify their direction to you, to appoint Masters to the Lake Ships named in the Margin, with directions to them to repair to Portsmouth; and upon their arrival there, to report themselves to Admiral Sir Richard Bickerton.

Prompte } 5th
Psyché } Rates.
Goshawk } Sloops
Colibri }

Navy Board.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your most humble Servant,

John Barrow.

(Copy.) No. 13.

Sir,

Admiralty Office, 17th March 1814.

My Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, having ordered the Troop Ships named in the Margin, to proceed to Quebec, with a Detachment of Officers and Men, intended for service on the Lakes of Canada, and a party of Dock Yard Officers and Artificers sent out for employment in the Works relative to the Lake Service; I am commanded by their Lordships to transmit to you herewith, Returns of the Officers, Seamen and Artificers above-mentioned, with Copies of the Orders given to the Senior Officers of the Troop Ships and Detachment, in regard to their proceedings on arriving at Quebec.

Dover.
Caylon.
Penelope.

I also inclose for your information, a List of Transports sent out with the above Troop Ships, for the conveyance to Canada of the Frames of the Ships and Sloops mentioned in my Letter to you of the 29th of January, with other Naval Stores; and also an Account of the Names by which the Vessels are ordered to be registered on the list of the Navy, and the Establishments proposed for them. Such part of the Ordnance intended for arming them as was ready, has been embarked in the above Transports, and the remainder will be sent out by the first opportunity after it is prepared.

I am accordingly directed by their Lordships, to signify their direction to you, to take the earliest measures for availing yourself of the services of the Officers and Men so sent out to reinforce the Squadron under your Orders, and to call your attention to the necessity of giving immediate directions for landing the Stores at Quebec or Montreal, as may be judged most proper, and taking every necessary step, in concert with Sir George Prevost, for sending up to Kingston whatever may be most wanted, either the Stores for fitting out the Ships which may have been built in Canada during the Winter, or those required for setting up the Frames of the Ships and Sloops now sent out.

I am, &c.

Commodore Sir James Lucas Yeo,
Lake Ontario.

(Signed) *J. W. Croker.*

(Copy.)

Gentlemen,

Admiralty-Office, 18 July 1814.

Mr. Goulburn having, by direction of Earl Bathurst, one of His Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, transmitted to us the Copy of a Dispatch from Lieutenant General Sir George Prevost, at Montreal, the 9 May, containing Reports from Commodore Sir James Lucas Yeo, Commander in Chief of His Majesty's ships and vessels on the Lakes in Canada, and Captain Pring, as also from a Committee of Military Officers, on the practicability and expediency of conveying to and setting up on Lake Ontario, the two Frigates and two Brigs sent out in frame from this Country (which you were directed by our Secret Order of the 9th February last, to register on the list of the Royal Navy, the Frigates as 5th rates, by the names of the Prompte and Psyché, and the Brigs as sloops, by the names of the Goshawk and Colibri;—

We hereby signify to you, that, under the circumstances detailed in the Lieutenant General's Letter, and the Reports above referred to, it appears expedient, that the original intention of setting up these vessels on Lake Ontario should be abandoned; and we therefore desire and direct you to take measures for setting them up at Quebec, and to send proper instructions to Captain Hall for that purpose; in the performance of which Service, Sir James Lucas Yeo has been directed to afford him all the aid and assistance in his power.

We nevertheless acquaint you, that as it appears by the Report of Captain Pring, that one or both of the Brigs might, by lengthening, be reduced to a draft of water proper for the navigation of Lake Champlain, where their services would be of great value; we have left it to Sir James Lucas Yeo, to take measures for having one or both of the said vessels transported to that Lake accordingly, in the manner he shall judge most advisable, if on a review of all the circumstances he shall judge such a measure expedient: And you are therefore to direct Captain Hall to attend to such instructions as he shall receive from the Commodore on this head.

We are
Your affectionate Friends,

Navy Board.

W. Dundas,
Geo. J. Hope,
H. Paulet.

(Copy.)

Sir,

Navy Office, 20th July 1814.

IN acknowledging the receipt of their Lordship's order of the 18th instant, wherein they advert to circumstances which render it expedient to abandon the original intention of setting up on Lake Ontario the two Frigates (the Prompte and the Psyché) and two Brigs (Goshawk and Colibri) sent out in frame from this country, and direct that measures be taken for setting them up at Quebec, signifying at the same time, that, as it appears that one or both of the Brigs might, by lengthening, be reduced to a draft of water proper for the navigation of Lake Champlain, where their services would be of great value, it has been left to Sir James Yeo to take measures to have one or both of them transported to that Lake, if, on a review of all the circumstances, he shall judge such a measure expedient;—we have to request, that you will state to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, that the two Frigates in question were planned for the express purpose of serving on the Lakes, and are about eighteen inches shallower than ships of their class usually are, as the stowage of water was not required, and a smaller proportion of provisions would be proper; and as the materials sent out for their frames are chiefly of the most inferior Fir, we cannot recommend that they should be built as vessels for general service at sea; but if they are not wanted for service on the Lakes, we would propose that their Frames be sold.

With respect to the two Brigs, as they are similar to the other Brigs of 382 tons, we are of opinion, that if it should not be adviseable to construct them on the Lakes, it will be preferable to build them at Halifax.

We are, &c.

J. W. Croker, Esq.

H. Peake.
R. Seppings.
H. Legge.

(Copy.)

Gentlemen,

Admiralty Office, 21 July 1814.

HAVING had under our consideration your Letter of the 20th instant, referring to the directions contained in our Letter of the 18th instant, respecting the Ships and Sloops named in the Margin, whose Frames were sent from this Country to Quebec; in which you have stated, that the two Frigates in question were planned for the express purpose of serving on the Lakes, and are about 18 inches shallower than Ships of their Class usually are, as the stowage of water was not required, and a smaller proportion of provisions; and that, as the materials sent out for their Frames are chiefly of the most inferior Fir, you cannot recommend that they should be built as vessels for general service at sea; but if they are not

Prompte.
Psyché.
Goshawk, Sp.
Colibri, Sp.

wanted

wanted for service on the Lakes, that their Frames be sold; and further, that as the two Brigs are similar to the other Brigs of 382 tons, you are of opinion, if it should not be advisable to construct them on the Lakes, that it will be preferable to build them at Halifax;—

We hereby signify to you, that, in consequence of what you have stated, we have cancelled our former directions on this subject to Commodore Sir James Lucas Yeo, and directed him to be guided by your recommendations. And we do hereby desire and direct you to give the necessary instructions to Captain Hall, for the sale of the Frames of the *Prompte* and *Psyché* accordingly; taking care that the produce thereof be paid into the hands of the Treasurer of the Navy, and their Names (which are to be removed from the list of the Royal Navy) be inserted in the next Privy Seal for the sale of old stores.

We further desire and direct you to give the necessary instructions for the *Goshawk* and *Colibri* to be built at Halifax, agreeably to your proposal, if it should not be found advisable and practicable to construct them on the Lakes.

We are,

Your affectionate Friends,

J. S. Yorke.

Geo. J. Hope.

H. Pattle.

Navy Board.

(Copy.)

Sir,

Admiralty Office, 26th July 1814.

His Majesty's Secretary of State having transmitted to my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, copy of a Dispatch from Lieutenant General Sir George Prevost, dated at Montreal the 9th of May, containing Reports from you and Captain Pring, as also from a Committee of Military Officers, on the practicability and expediency of conveying to and setting up on Lake Ontario the two Frigates and two Brigs sent out in frame from this Country to Quebec; and as it appears by those Reports to be expedient that the original intention of setting up these vessels on that Lake should be abandoned; and by a Report from the Navy Board, that from the peculiar construction of the two Frigates, and the inferior quality of their materials, they are unfit for general service at sea, and they have therefore recommended, if they are not wanted for service on the Lakes, that their Frames may be sold; but with regard to the two Brigs, as they are similar to other brigs of 382 tons, the Navy Board have recommended that their Frames should be sent to Halifax to be set up;—I have received their Lordships commands to acquaint you that they have given orders to the Navy Board to dispose of the Frames of these vessels, according to their suggestion, unless it should be judged expedient to employ the Brigs, or either of them, on Lake Champlain; and that Captain Hall will be directed to attend to such instructions as he may receive from you on this subject.

I am, &c.

Commodore Sir James Lucas Yeo.

J. W. Croker.

Copy of a LETTER from the Navy Office, addressed to Commissioner *Hull*, at Quebec; touching the Sale of the Frames of the *Prompte* and *Psyché* Frigates.

SIR,

Navy Office, 27th July 1814.

THE Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty having, by their Orders of the 18th and 21st instant, informed us, that, in consequence of communications which had been received from Sir George Prevost, it has been thought expedient to abandon the intention of setting up, on Lake Ontario, the two frigates *Prompte* and *Psyché*, together with the *Goshawk* and *Colibri* sloops of war, which were sent in frame from this country to Quebec, and directed us to cause the frames of the said Frigates to be sold; and their Lordships having further directed us, in the event of its not being judged practicable or adviseable to construct the two sloops *Goshawk* and *Colibri*, on the Lakes, to cause their frames to be sent to Halifax, for the purpose of being built at that place;—We signify the same for your information, and desire you will act accordingly.

(Signed)

Henry Peake.
Robert Seppings.
Henry Legge.

To Commissioner *Hull*, Quebec.

Attested,
G. Smith.

(Copy.)

Naval Yard, Kingston,
U. C. 31st October 1814.

Gentlemen,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Letter of the 27th July, directing me to cause the Frames of the frigates *Prompte* and *Psyché*, and sloops of war *Goshawk* and *Colibri*, to be forwarded to Halifax, for the purpose of being built there; and beg leave to acquaint you, that previous to my arrival, the frames of the frigate *Psyché* and the two sloops had been forwarded from Quebec to Montreal, and the frame of the *Prompte* to Kingston; however, I have ordered Captain *Kempt* (Agent of Transports at Quebec) to employ Transports in carrying the frames of the frigate *Psyché* and the two sloops, from Montreal to Halifax, which I have no doubt will arrive there before the end of the season.

In consequence of the great scarcity of Iron-work in this country, I have ordered such iron-work, sails, rigging, &c. &c. as belonged to them, to be forwarded from Montreal to this place, for the use of the Lake service.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) *Rob. Hall,*
Commissioner.

The Honourable
the principal Officers and Commissioners
of His Majesty's Navy, London.

