

DOCUMENTS

COMMUNICATED BY

THE COMMITTEE ON NAVAL AFFAIRS,

IN RELATION TO BUILDING

AN ADDITIONAL NUMBER OF SLOOP OF WAR.

JANUARY 13, 1824.

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1824.

No. 1.

NAVY DEPARTMENT,

January 7th, 1824.

SIR: In answer to your letter of the 17th of December last, I have the honor to enclose a short memorandum respecting the "sloops of war in the navy, during the late war with Great Britain," by which it appears, that, in 1812, there were two sloops, one of which was lost in October of that year. In 1813, six were built, and in the latter part of that year, and the commencement of 1814, seven were in the service, which was "the largest number, at any one time, during that war." Of these seven, three have been lost: the remaining four are now in commission, and there are none in ordinary. In addition to these, there are, however, in our Navy, two ships, the *Cyane* and *John Adams*, now in commission, which do not differ much from sloops of war of the largest size, either in armament or expense.

I am of opinion, that "the good of the service, and a suitable apportionment of the naval force, require "that ten additional sloops of war should be built; and, on this subject, I beg leave to ask your attention to the enclosed papers. One of which, is a copy of a letter to the Chairman of the Naval Committee of the House of Representatives, in answer to a resolution of that body: the other two are estimates, made at your request, shewing "the cost of building, equipping, manning, and keeping in service, each of said vessels."

With great respect, I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

SAMUEL L. SOUTHARD.

HON. JAMES LLOYD,
Chairman of the Naval Committee,
U. S. Senate.

No. 2.

NAVY DEPARTMENT,

7th January, 1824.

SIR: In answer to your letter of the 16th December last, communicating the resolution of the House of Representatives of the 15th of that month, that the Committee on Naval Affairs be instructed to inquire into the expediency of authorizing the construction of ten additional sloops of war, I have the honor to state:

1. That there are, at this time, in the Navy, but *four* sloops of war, and no more are authorized to be built; while the laws provide for twelve ships of the line, twelve frigates of the largest class, and three of the second class. The disproportion, therefore, between the number of sloops, and the number of the larger vessels, is very great; and must be productive of inconvenience, when the situation of the nation shall require that all be in commission and in active service.

2. That sloops of war are competent to most of the objects for which our Navy is employed in a time of peace, and often save the necessity of keeping in commission vessels of a larger class; and in war, they are very useful both for annoyance and defence. It is believed, therefore, that economy requires an addition to their number.

3. They are, also, the proper command for masters commandant, and are indispensable to give to them that skill and experience, which alone can qualify them to command vessels of a larger size. With the number now in service, it is impossible that opportunities of acquiring this skill and experience can be furnished to this grade of officers; and their want of them may be felt and regretted, when we are least able to remedy the evil.

From these considerations, I feel it my duty, respectfully to recommend that the number mentioned in the resolution be built, and of the largest class; and I communicate, herewith, a copy of a letter from the Commissioners of the Navy, furnishing estimates of the cost of building, equipping, and maintaining in commission for one year, one sloop of this size.

I am, very respectfully, Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

SAMUEL L. SOUTHARD.

HON. B. W. CROWNINSHIELD,
Chairman of the Committee on Naval Affairs.
House of Representatives.

No. 3.

ESTIMATE of the cost of building a Sloop of War of the first class.

Materials of wood, - - - -	§19,494 00
Do. copper, - - - -	9,691 76
Do. iron, including work - -	1,680 50
Carpenter's work, joiner's work, and coppering,	15,650 00
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	§46,516 26
Equipment, - - - -	37,087 95
Contingencies, - - - -	1,395 79
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	§85,000 00
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No. 4.

ESTIMATE of the annual expense of a Sloop of War of the first class.

Number and description of officers and men.	Pay p. mo.	Rat's p. day	Number of rations	Price of rat.	Amount of pay & rations.
1 Master commandant, -	60	4	1,460	25	\$1,085 00
4 Lieutenants, - -	40	2	2,920	-	2,670 00
1 Master, - - -	40	1	365	-	571 25
2 Master's mates, -	20	1	730	-	662 50
9 Midshipmen, - -	19	-	-	-	2,052 00
1 Boatswain, - - -	20	1	365	-	331 25
1 Gunner, - - -	20	1	365	-	331 25
1 Sailmaker, - - -	20	1	365	-	331 25
1 Carpenter, - - -	20	1	365	-	331 25
1 Purser, - - -	40	1	365	-	571 25
1 Surgeon, - - -	50	1	365	-	691 25
1 Surgeon's mate, -	30	1	365	-	451 25
1 Captain's clerk, -	25	-	-	-	300 00
1 Sailmaker's mate, -	19	-	-	-	228 00
2 Boatswain's mates, -	19	-	-	-	456 00
1 Gunner's do. - - -	19	-	-	-	228 00
1 Carpenter's do. - -	19	-	-	-	228 00
1 Steward, - - -	18	-	-	-	216 00
1 Cooper, - - -	18	-	-	-	216 00
1 Armorer, - - -	18	-	-	-	216 00
1 Master-at-arms, - -	18	-	-	-	216 00
6 Quartergunners, - -	18	-	-	-	1,296 00
4 Quartermasters, - -	18	-	-	-	864 00
3 Yeomen, - - -	18	-	-	-	648 00
1 Coxswain, - - -	18	-	-	-	216 00
1 Ship's corporal, - -	18	-	-	-	216 00
1 Cook, - - -	18	-	-	-	216 00
62 Able seamen, - - -	12	-	-	-	8,928 00
48 Ordinary do. - - -	10	-	-	-	5,760 00
12 Boys, - - -	6	-	-	-	864 00
172					\$31,391 50
Provisions, 62,780 rations,	-	-	-	25	15,695 00

GENERAL ESTIMATE.

For Pay and Subsistence, - - -	\$31,391 50
“ Provisions, - - - - -	15,695 00
“ Repairs, including wear and tear, - - -	12,000 00
“ Hospital Stores, - - - - -	2,000 00
	<u>\$61,086 50</u>

No. 5.

NAVY DEPARTMENT,

7th January, 1824.

- sloop of war **Wasp**, 18 guns—After taking the **Frolic** British sloop of war, was, with her prize, captured by the **Poictiers** 74, in October 1812.
- Do. **Hornet**, 18 guns—In service; built at Baltimore, in 1805.
- Do. **Wasp**, 18 guns—Built at Newburyport, Mass. in 1813; commanded by Johnston Blakely, esq. not heard from, since October 1814.
- Do. **Frolic**, 18 guns—Built at Boston, Mass. 1813; captured by the British frigate **Orpheus**, in 1814.
- Do. **Eric**, 18 guns—Built at Baltimore, 1813; in service.
- Do. **Ontario**, 18 guns—Built at Baltimore, 1813; in service.
- Do. **Argus**, 18 guns—Built at Washington, 1813; burnt August 24, 1814.
- Do. **Peacock**, 18 guns—Built at New York, 1813; in service.
- Corvette **John Adams**. In service.
- Do. **Cyane**. In service.