

Defence

Corvette

Massachusetts Privateer Brigantine

(1) Commander Robert Rentoul [Rantoul, Rentall]

18 November 1781-

(2) Commander John Barr

26 October 1782-

Commissioned/First Date:

18 November 1781-

Out of Service/Cause:

Owners:

William Gray et al of Salem, Massachusetts

Tonnage:

Battery:

Date Reported: 18 November 1781

Number/Caliber Weight Broadside

10/

Total: 10 cannon/

Broadside: 5 cannon/

Swivels:

Date Reported: 26 October 1782

Number/Caliber Weight Broadside

10/

Total: 10 cannon/

Broadside: 5 cannon/

Swivels:

Crew:

(1) 18 November 1781: 17 [total]

(2) 26 October 1782: 17 [total]

Description:

Officers:

Cruises:

Prizes:

Actions:

Comments: Massachusetts Privateer Brigantine *Defence* was commissioned on 18 November 1781 under Commander Robert Rentoul¹ [Rantoul, Rentall]² of Salem, Massachusetts. She was listed as having a battery of ten guns and a crew of sixteen men. *Defence*'s \$20000 bond was signed by Rentoul, William Gray, Jr. and Thomas Nicolson, all of Salem. *Defence* was recommissioned on 26 October 1782 under Commander John Barr of Salem. Her battery and crew were unchanged. *Defence*'s new \$20000 bond was signed by Barr, the junior Gray, and by Francis Boardman of Salem.³

¹ NRAR, 264; Allen, *Massachusetts Privateers of the Revolution*, 111

² Allen, *Massachusetts Privateers of the Revolution*, 111

³ NRAR, 264; Allen, *Massachusetts Privateers of the Revolution*, 111