

Defence

Corvette

Pennsylvania Privateer Ship

(1) Commander Charles Harrison

30 July 1779-

(2) Commander Benjamin Wickes

28 July 1780-

Commissioned/First Date:

30 July 1779

Out of Service/Cause:

Owners:

(1) Robert Morris and Blair McClenachan, both of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania;

(2) Robert Morris & Co. of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Tonnage:

Battery:

Date Reported: 30 July 1779

Number/Caliber Weight Broadside

16/

Total: 16 cannon/

Broadside: 8 cannon/

Swivels:

Date Reported: 28 July 1780

Number/Caliber Weight Broadside

18/

Total: 18 cannon/

Broadside: 9 cannon/

Swivels:

Crew:

(1) 30 July 1779: 41 [total]

(2) 28 July 1780: 81 [total]

Description:

Officers:

Cruises:

Prizes:

Actions:

Comments: Pennsylvania Privateer Ship *Defence* was commissioned on 30 July 1779 under Commander Charles Harrison of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. She was listed as having a battery of fourteen guns and a crew of forty men. *Defence's* \$10000 bond was signed by Robert Morris and Blair McClenachan, both of Philadelphia.¹ *Defence* was recommissioned on 28 July 1780 under Commander Benjamin Wickes, listing his residence as Philadelphia,² but a native of Baltimore, Maryland.³ Her battery was increased to eighteen guns and her crew doubled to eighty men. *Defence's* new \$20000 bond was signed by Morris and by Peter Whiteside of Philadelphia.⁴

¹ NRAR, 263

² NRAR, 264

³ Claghorn, *Naval Officers of the American Revolution*, 330

⁴ NRAR, 264