

Defiance

Corvette

Connecticut Privateer Brigantine

(1) Commander Thomas King

4 September 1779-

(2) Commander Nicoll Fosdick

27 November 1779-

(3) Commander Thomas King

[December] 1780-

Commissioned/First Date:

4 September 1779

Out of Service/Cause:

Owners:

Howland, Coit & Co. of Norwich, Connecticut

Tonnage:

Battery:

Date Reported: 4 September 1779

<u>Number/Caliber</u>	<u>Weight</u>	<u>Broadside</u>
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12/

Total: 12 cannon/

Broadside: 6 cannon/

Swivels:

Date Reported: 27 November 1779

<u>Number/Caliber</u>	<u>Weight</u>	<u>Broadside</u>
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10/

Total: 10 cannon/

Broadside: 5 cannon/

Swivels:

Crew:

(1) 4 September 1779: 71 [total]

(2) 27 November 1779: 61 [total]

Description:

Officers:

Cruises:

Prizes:

(1) British Transport [unknown] *Badger*, 9 October 1779

(2) Sloop *Olive*, December 1780

(3) Schooner *Betsey*, December 1780

Actions:

Comments: Connecticut Privateer Brigantine *Defiance* was commissioned on 4 September 1779 under Commander Thomas King, of Groton, Connecticut. She was listed as having a battery of twelve guns and a crew of seventy men. *Defiance*'s \$5000 bond was signed by King and by Joseph Howland and Joseph Williams, both of Norwich, Connecticut.¹

On 9 October 1779 the *Defiance* captured the British Transport Ship *Badger*, off Blue Point, Long Island, New York. There were

¹ NRAR, 264; Middlebrook, *Maritime Connecticut During The Revolution*, 68

122 British troops aboard. King took out four Hessian officers, twenty-one soldiers of the 44th Regiment, the captain, mate and nine sailors from the *Badger*. He also removed some small arms. Captor and prize then immediately steered for New London, Connecticut. Unfortunately the prize was recaptured by the British the next day.²

Defiance was re-commissioned on 27 November 1779 under Commander Nicoll Fosdick of Norwich. Her battery was reduced to ten guns and her crew to sixty men. *Defiance*'s new \$5000 bond was signed by Fosdick, Howland, and by Thomas Coit of Norwich.³

There is a record of King capturing a sloop *Olive* and a schooner *Betsy* in December 1780. Either he has resumed command, or these are Fosdick's prizes, or King's from a different vessel.⁴

² Middlebrook, *Maritime Connecticut During The Revolution*, 68

³ NRAR, 264; Middlebrook, *Maritime Connecticut During The Revolution*, 68

⁴ Middlebrook, *Maritime Connecticut During The Revolution*, 68