

# Dolphin

Corvette  
Connecticut Privateer Sloop

(1) Commander Joseph Smith  
30 July 1779-  
(2) Commander Ashbell Burnham  
25 December 1779-

Commissioned/First Date: 30 July 1779  
Out of Service/Cause:

Owners: Ebenezer Sage & Co. of Middletown, Connecticut

Tonnage:

Battery: Date Reported: 30 July 1779  
Number/Caliber Weight Broadside  
10/  
Total: 10 cannon/  
Broadside: 5 cannon/  
Swivels:

Date Reported: 25 December 1779  
Number/Caliber Weight Broadside  
10/  
Total: 10 cannon/  
Broadside: 5 cannon/  
Swivels:

Crew: (1) 30 July 1779: 26 [total]  
(2) 25 December 1779: 15 [total]

Description:

Officers:

Cruises:

Prizes:

Actions:

Comments: Connecticut Privateer Sloop *Dolphin* was commissioned on 30 July 1779 under Commander Joseph Smith of Middletown, Connecticut. She was listed as having a battery of ten guns and a crew of twenty-five men. Her \$5000 bond was signed by Smith, Ashbell Burnham of Middletown, and by Thompson Phillips.<sup>1</sup>

The *Dolphin* was under the command of Commander Ashbell Burnham about 15 November 1779. A crew list survives from this voyage which indicates that Burnham was aboard the sloop on 15 November. His First Mate, John Christopher, entered on 18 November. The last sailor entered aboard on 17 December 1779, the total crew numbering fifteen.<sup>2</sup> Burnham was commissioned on 25 December 1779. Her battery remained at ten guns but her crew was reduced to fifteen men. Her \$10000 bond was

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<sup>1</sup> NRAR, 271; Middlebrook, *Maritime Connecticut During The Revolution*, II, 71

<sup>2</sup> Middlebrook, *Maritime Connecticut During The Revolution*, II, 71-72

executed by Burnham, Chauncey Bulkley of Chatham, Connecticut, and by Edward Hallam of New London, Connecticut.<sup>3</sup>

*Dolphin* evidently made a cruise from Middletown to Hispaniola and returned.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> NRAR, 272

<sup>4</sup> Middlebrook, *Maritime Connecticut During The Revolution*, II, 71