

**THE OUTSTANDING AND RARE NAVAL GENERAL SERVICE MEDAL TO THE CARPENTER OF H.M.S. ENDYMION WHO WAS NOT ONLY PRESENT DURING THE CAPTURE OF THE AMERICAN FRIGATE PRESIDENT BUT ALSO THE DISASTROUS BOAT ACTIONS AGAINST THE FAMED AMERICAN PRIVATEER, PRINCE DE NEUFCHATEL**



NAVAL GENERAL SERVICE 1793, 2 CLASPS ENDYMION wh PRESIDENT/SYRIA.  
'WILIAM BEAN, CARPENTER', ENDYMION CROOK, SILVER D'ACRE MEDAL

William Bean's service:

EGYPTIENNE – 40 – 24/9/03 – 18/3/07 – Ord

On 22 July 1805 the frigates EGYPTIENNE and SYRIUS were with Vice Ad. Sir Robert CALDER's fleet of 15 sail-of-the-line off Cape Finisterre when he encountered the combined fleets of France and Spain with 10 sail of-the-line, three 50-gun ships armed en flute and five frigates. The Admiral immediately stood towards the enemy and attacked the centre. Two French ships, St. RAFAEL and FIRME, were captured but at times the fog was so thick that the ship ahead or astern was barely visible and he found it impossible to make the necessary signals for a more complete victory.

On 24 December LOIRE, Capt. MAITLAND, and EGYPTIENNE, then commanded by Lieut. P. C. HANDFIELD, captured the French frigate LIBRE off Rochefort after an action lasting half an hour.

LIBRE, Capt. Descorches, had sailed from Flushing on 14 November and mounted twenty-four 18-pounders on the main deck, six 36-pounder carronades and ten 9-pounder guns on the quarter-deck and forecastle with a complement of 280 men. She lost 20 men killed and wounded and all her masts went overboard soon after she surrendered. The LOIRE took the prize in tow and EGYPTIENNE parted from them the following day. EGYPTIENNE lost 1 seaman killed and 7 wounded

On the night of 8 March the boats of EGYPTIENNE, commanded by Lieut. HANDFIELD assisted by Lieuts. Alleyn and Garthwaite of the marines, cut out the ALCIDE of Bordeaux, a frigate built French privateer, from under two batteries in the harbour of Muros where she was fitting out for sea.

GOLIATH – 74 – 19/3/07 – 30/4/07 – Carpenter Crew

BLAKE – 74 – 9/12/08 – 20/5/13 – Caulkers Mate

In 1809 she served under Sir Richard STRACHAN in the expedition to the Scheldt. In forcing the passage of the Scheldt on 13 August, the BLAKE, with the flag of Rear Ad. Lord GARDNER, having no pilot, took the ground as she followed SAN DOMINGO in, and was engaged with the batteries at Flushing for two and three-quarter hours. She had two men killed, James Gatt, sergeant of marines, and John LOWRY, seaman, and nine wounded. BLAKE's gunboat No. 67, lost one killed and four wounded in the attack on Flushing between 8 and 15 August.

Rear Ad. STRACHAN hoisted his flag in BLAKE on 13 December for a few days.

In 1810 – 13 BLAKE was employed in the defence of Cadiz and various operations connected with the attack on Tarragona, including an attack by boats of BLAKE in which they captured a bombard, a lugger and three feluccas.



ENDYMION -50 - 21/5/13 – 11/3/26 – Caulker/Acting Carpenter/Carpenter

Vs Prince De Neufchatel:

One of the most remarkable actions of the 1812 war in which an American privateer was engaged was that between the British 40-gun frigate Endymion, Captain Henry Hope, and the armed ship Prince de Neufchatel, of New York. The extraordinary feature of this affair lies in the fact that a vessel fitted out at private expense actually frustrated the utmost endeavors of



an English frigate, of vastly superior of force in guns and men, to capture the privateer. As the commander of the Endymion said, he lost as many men in his efforts to seize the Prince de Neufchatel as he would have done had his ship engaged a regular man-of-war of equal force, and he generously acknowledged that the people in the privateer conducted their defence in the most heroic and skilful manner.

The American privateer PRINCE DE NEUFCHATEL was discovered off Nantucket at midday on 11 October and ENDYMION gave chase. The wind dropped as darkness fell so Capt. HOPE sent off his boats under the first lieutenant, Abel HAWKINS, to carry her. Although the privateer had only 37 men left on board, they rigged the boarding netting and loaded all her guns with grape. A US accounts is as follows (somewhat edited)

Endymion's boats could be distinguished in the night, the privateer began a rapid discharge of her great guns and small arms. Paying no attention whatever to this the British gallantly dashed ahead, and in a few moments were alongside the Prince de Neufchatel and endeavouring to clamber up her sides. Hope had planned the attack with considerable skill, for almost at the same moment it was reported to Captain Ordronaux that an English boat was on each side, one on each bow and one under the stern-five craft in all, completely surrounding the privateer, and compelling her crew to face five different points of attack at once.



This was the beginning of a desperate and bloody, struggle, in which men fought like wild beasts and grappled with each other in deadly embrace. Knives, pistols, cutlasses, marline spikes, belaying pins-anything that could deal an effective blow were in requisition, while even bare fists, finger nails, and teeth came into play. Springing up the sides of the vessel the British would endeavour-or to gain her deck, but every attempt was met with deadly blows by the defenders of the craft. A few of the British succeeded in gaining the decks and took the Americans in the rear, but the latter promptly turned on the enemy and dispatched them. It was well understood by the crew of the privateer that Captain Ordronaux had avowed his determination of never being taken alive by the British, and that he would blow up his ship, with all hands, before striking his colours. At one period of the fight, when the British had

gained the deck, and were gradually driven- the Americans back, Ordronaux seized a lighted match, ran to the companion way, directly over the magazine, and called out to his men that he would blow the-ship up if they retreated further. The threat had the desired effect, the Americans rallied for a final struggle, overpowered the enemy, and drove the few survivors into their boats.

Such a sanguinary fight could not be of long duration, and at the end of twenty minutes the Americans ceased firing. It was found that of the five barges one had been sunk, three had drifted off from alongside apparently without a living person in them, and the fifth boat was taken possession of by the Americans. The entire number of men in the five barges was approximately 115, including the officers, marines, and boys, of whom 17 were killed, 45 wounded and died of wounds and 28 captured, or 80% who took part in the action, a massive loss to a single frigate.

The entire number of men in the privateer fit for duty at the beginning of the action was 37, of those 7 were killed and 24 wounded. Among the British killed were First Lieutenant Hawkins and a master's mate, while the second lieutenant, two master's mates, and two midshipmen were wounded.

In Captain Hope's dispatch to the Admiralty, he acknowledged the great gallantry of the crew of the privateer but also of his men, who continued to attack with such tenacity under the most trying of circumstances. Apparently they were not only fighting the crew of the privateer but on reaching the American ship, an unnoticed swell kept pushing the British boats from the side of the privateer and caused the boats great difficulty in boarding.



Vs USS President:

Capt. HAYES of MAJESTIC placed his squadron on what he judged to be the enemy's track. At 5 o'clock the following morning the American ships passed them about 2 miles to the northward and the squadron gave chase. When the wind fell light ENDYMION out-sailed the rest and gained on the PRESIDENT, soon bring her to action. Musket fire from the enemy tops began to do execution on the ENDYMION's decks before the later passed under the PRESIDENT's stern and fired two raking broadsides. The ENDYMION's lower and main-topgallant studding sails were shot away and later the main-topmast studding sail was brought

down by the American chain and bar shot. The enemy then hauled to the wind and ENDYMION, pouring a raking fire into her stern, followed in pursuit. POMONE then fired a broadside into her and the PRESIDENT hailed to say that she had surrendered but a second broadside was fired before this was understood. Boats from TENEDOS then took possession of her. The PRESIDENT was completely riddled from stem to stern with 6 feet of water in the hold. Several of her guns were disabled and, out of a crew of about 477 she lost three lieutenants and 32 men killed, and her commander, Commodore Decatur, master, two midshipmen and 66 men wounded. By comparison ENDYMION was principally damaged in her sails and rigging. Eleven men were killed and 14 wounded out of 346 persons on board. The inferior force of the ENDYMION is highlighted not only by the difference in manpower but by the fact that her broadside was only 664 pounds against the American 828 pounds.

DRUID -46 – 12/3/26 – 11/6/33 - Carpenter  
KENT -74 -16/7/34 – 23/4/35 - Carpenter  
CLARENCE -84 -27/4/35 – 31/7/36 - Carpenter  
SAN JOSEF 112 – 1/8/36 – 21/5/45 - Carpenter

Attached to IMPLACABLE during this period and served in the Syria operations

CALEDONIA – 120 – 22/5/45 – 14/7/48



Condition GVF. Sold with a large amount of research both printed and digital.

A quite outstanding and rare group