

THE FINE AMERICAN WAR OF 1812 RELATED GUADELOUPE CLASPED NAVAL GENERAL SERVICE MEDAL TO AN OFFICER WHO HAD MUCH BOAT SERVICE IN THE CHESAPEAKE, THE TAKING THE TOWN OF BENEDICT, THE BLOCKADE AND DESTRUCTION OF BARNEY'S FLOTILLA ON THE PATUXENT AND COMMAND A BOAT AT THE BOARDING AND CUTTING OUT OF AN AMERICAN 10 GUN SCHOONER FROM UNDER THE PROTECTION OF THE BATTERIES IN LONG ISLAND SOUND



THE NAVAL GENERAL SERVICE 1793, CLASP, GUADELOUPE 'HUGH PRICE', MIDSHIPMAN.'

HUGH PRICE, COMMANDER, ROYAL NAVY

Navy List entry: "H. Price, Mid. of Forester at the capture of Guadeloupe in 1810; and of Narcissus at the destruction of Barney's flotilla on the Patuxent; taking the town of Benedict; and in command of a boat at the boarding and capture of American 10 gun schooner Eagle from under the protection of the batteries in Long Island Sound, in 1814."

Though he saw much boat service prior to and after the taking of Guadeloupe, of particular note is Price's service was 14 gun Brig, HMS Bold and the 32 gun frigate Narcissus in the North American station during the 1812 War. After several captures of American vessels, on 27 September 1813, during a gale, Bold was driven ashore on Prince Edward's Island and that the crew were saved with difficulty. Price reported losing his clothes and money but on reaching Halifax was almost immediately ordered to join the Narcissus which in days would leave for the Chesapeake. During his

2 year service with Narcissus, Price would see a great deal of active service, his frigate being involved in much boat service and raids on the Patuxent and Chesapeake, the blockade and destruction of Barney's flotilla and the taking the town of Benedict in Maryland in 1814.

In his Navy list entry, Price singles out being "*in command of a boat at the boarding and capture of American 10 gun schooner Eagle from under the protection of the batteries in Long Island Sound, in 1814.*" On 13 October 1814, boats from Narcissus and the Dispatch brig, cut out, under heavy fire from a battery and of a troop of militia, the U.S. Revenue-schooner Eagle. This vessel which was at anchor within half pistol-shot of Negro Head, Long Island Sound, where 8 of her 10 guns had been landed for her defence. An article on events can be found here:

<https://riverheadnewsreview.archive.timesreview.com/2014/05/war-along-our-shores-tale-of-the-cutter-eagle/>

Price's service in Narcissus especially is certainly worthy of more in depth research there is much written on the events on the Patuxent and Chesapeake 1813-14. The ships logs should also reveal details or various boat action etc.

COMMANDER HUGH PRICE'S SERVICE

The following service taken from O'Byrne and Price's Memorandum of Service which adds much. The quotes in italics are Price's own words, taken from the latter:

Hugh Price entered the Navy, 28 February 1807, as a Supernumerary, on board the Northumberland 74, Captain Nathaniel Day Cochrane, bearing the flag of Hon. Sir Alex, Cochrane, Commander-in-Chief in the West Indies, where, from the following March until 17 June, 1809, he served under the orders of Captain John Ellis Watt, part of the time as Midshipman, in the Heures, Hart, Julia, Heures again. Joining Forester on 18 June 1809, between then and 18 April 1810, Price's service in the West Indies comprised of:

"Cruising, principally off Guadeloupe, employed in boating, taking batteries and destroying vessels on the north side, both before and at the capture of the Island"

Returning to England with convoy in the Blonde frigate, Captain Thos. Huskisson; and in January 1811, after having been for six months borne at Woolwich on the books of the Thisbe 28, Captain Wm. Rogers, and Safeguard, Lieut.-Commander Geo. Augustus Hire, was received on board the Crescent frigate, Captain John Quilliam. During his time with Blonde and Thisbe, Price reported that he was:

"Much out of health and continued so for many months"

Price would serve aboard Crescent between 20 January 1811 until 3 April 1813, initially borne as AB and from 11 March 1811 as Midshipman, attached to the force in the Baltic. Price mentions that at some point during this service, he:

"Got badly ruptured, did not receive any pension"

Whether this was an injury during service or a wound is unclear.

SERVICE DURING THE 1812 WAR WITH AMERICA

On 4 April 1813, Price joined Bold, 14 Capt. John Skekel on the North American station and passed his Lieutenant's exam on 5 June that year. The Bold was wrecked in the Gulf of St. Lawrence 27 Sept. 1813.

"Shipwrecked, lost clothes and money"



Shortly after the loss of Bold, the survivors were taken to Halifax where on 19 October 1813, Price joined the frigate Narcissus 32, Captain. John Rich. Lumley (later Jas. Galloway, and Alex. Gordon), which shortly after departed for the Chesapeake. With this frigate, he served as Midshipman until 27 October 1814 and then as Master's Mate until 16 September 1815, though having been promoted Lieutenant on 28 February 1815.

"Much employed in boating in the Chesapeake, blockading Commodore Barney's Flotilla and in the Patuxent" He also Writes: *"I believe Capt Lumley wrote to the Admiralty strongly recommending me for promotion"*

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chesapeake_Bay_Flotilla

On 16 September 1815, as a Supernumerary, Price joined Centurion, Lieut.-Commander Rich at Halifax and at the close of that year, returned to England in the Canso 10, Lieut.-Commander Crooke. On landing in England in November 1815, Price was placed on half-pay, remaining on the Reserve until 1867, having attained the rank of Commander, 24 July 1862

A unique name on the medal roll, entitled to the Guadaloupe clasp (only) with the rank of Midshipman on H.M.S. Forester



Condition GVF, small EK or better. Attractive patina and original ribbon Sold with digital copies of service records, original medal roll. Navy List entry and memorandum of service.

A fine Officers Naval General Service Medal with an excellent service during the 1812 War