

Marblehead Soldiers, Sailors and POW's in the American Revolution

GLOSSARY:

Artificers

The definition of an artificer per Wikipedia is as follows:

"An **artificer** is a skilled mechanic in the armed forces, chiefly British."

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Artificer>

An example of an artificer in MSSRW is shown in the citation of James Aborn in Volume 1 page 25 as follows:

"Aborn, James, Marblehead Sergeant, Capt. Mills's co., Col. Baldwin's regt. of artificers; Continental Army pay accounts for service from Jan. 1, 1777, to Jan. 20, 1779."

Bombardier

The lexic.us web page defines a bombardier as follows:

"One who used or managed a bombard; an artilleryman; a gunner. A noncommissioned officer in the British artillery"

The web page is: <http://www.lexic.us/definition-of/bombardier>

An example of 'bombardier' in MSSRW is found in the citation for Thomas Barker Volume 1 page 616 as follows:

"Barker, Thomas, Marblehead Bombardier, Capt. Samuel Trevett's co., Col. Richard Gridley's regt.; muster roll dated June 21, 1775; enlisted May 17, 1775; service, 1 mo. 7 days; also, Quarter Gunner, Capt. Edward Fettyplace's (Marblehead) co.; enlisted Feb. 20, 1776; rolls made up to Sept. 1, 1776; service, 6 mos. 10 days."

Bounty Coat History

This excerpt is taken from Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors of the Revolutionary War Volume 1 page xvi outlines the history of the bounty coat.

Volume 1

page xvi

On the 5th of July, 1775, a resolve was passed to provide each of the non-commissioned officers and soldiers of the army authorized to be raised under resolve of April 23, 1775, with a coat, and 13,000 were ordered to be provided by the towns and districts, in accordance with a regular apportionment. This gift of a coat was considered in the nature of a bounty, and later, at the time of their distribution, the men in service were permitted to choose between acceptance of the coat or a sum of money in lieu thereof. Although this distribution of coats was based on the needs of the estimated army of 13,600 men authorized to be raised, it is evident that nowhere near such a number was actually in service at the time of Washington's assuming command of the army, as, in a communication addressed by him to the Provincial Congress, under date of July 9, 1775, he states that the number of men, fit for duty, of the forces raised in the province did not amount to 9,000, all told, which, with the troops from the other colonies present in camp, composed an army of 14,500 effective men. He enclosed a copy of the conclusions of a council of war of the generals of the army, wherein it was agreed that the army should consist of at least 22,000 men, and advised the immediate filling up of the regiments to their intended establishment. Congress responded to this representation of the state of the army by providing for a temporary reinforcement, in a resolve passed July 12, 1775, wherein the commanding officers of the militia companies in the various towns were recommended to send forward men without delay, to serve for one month, until the new levies should be completed.

Cartel Ship

Cartel ship definition per the 'Lectric Law Library:

"A Cartel ship is commissioned in time of war to exchange prisoners, or to carry any proposals between hostile powers; she must carry no cargo, ammunitions, or implements of war, except a single gun for signals. The conduct of ships of this description cannot be too narrowly watched. The service on which they are sent is so highly important to the interests of humanity that it is peculiarly incumbent on all parties to take care that it should be conducted in such a manner as not to become a subject of jealousy and distrust between the two nations."

The web site is: <http://www.lectlaw.com/def/c196.htm>

The Merriman-Webster web site offers this definition:

"a ship commissioned in time of war to sail under a safe-conduct for the exchange of prisoners or conveyance of proposals between belligerents."

The web site is: <http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/cartel%20ship>

An example of a 'cartel' ship mentioned in MSSRW is shown in the citation for Benjamin Allen in Volume 1 page 141 citation as follows:

"Allen, Benjamin. Seaman; list of prisoners brought to Marblehead in the cartel "Pacific" to be exchanged for British prisoners as returned by Thomas Stone, Commissary; taken out of privateer schooner "General Gates" by the British brig "Hope."

Coast Guards

The excerpts below are taken from Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors of the Revolutionary War Volume 1 pages xvi & xxxix.

The researcher is advised to refer to the introduction to MSSRW Volume 1 for complete information on this subject.

Volume 1

page xvi

The defence of the seacoasts had occupied the attention of congress for some time, owing to the constant appeals of the inhabitants thereon, and their representations as to their unprotected condition. Accordingly, on the 28th of June, 1775, resolves were reported to provide forces for their protection. Ten companies were ordered to be raised in Essex Co.; nine companies in the counties of Plymouth and Barnstable, four to be stationed in Plymouth Co. and the remainder in Barnstable Co.; two companies in Bristol Co.; four companies in York Co.; five companies in Cumberland Co.; three companies in Lincoln Co.; and one company to be raised in Falmouth and stationed on the Elizabeth Islands. These companies were to consist of 50 men each, including officers, and were to be under the direction of the committees of correspondence of the respective towns wherein they might be stationed, or of a joint committee from the towns on the seacoast in the county wherein they were raised, save those in Plymouth, Barnstable and York counties, which were to be [p.xvi] under the direction of the field officers of the county regiments. This was purely local service, and no term of enlistment was specified in the resolves; but enlisting orders were issued to raise men to serve from the date of their engagement to the last day of December, 1775. This special force for seacoast defence was renewed from time to time, throughout the war, as the terms of service expired.

Volume 1

page xxxix

A resolve providing for seacoast defence was passed July 6, 1782, when various small detachments of artillery, to be stationed at Falmouth, Cape Elizabeth, Plum Island, Gloucester, Beverly, Salem, Marblehead, Dartmouth and Plymouth, were [p.xxxix] authorized to be raised and to be maintained as long as the governor, with advice of council, should deem necessary for the advantage and safety of the Commonwealth.

An example of Coast Guards defense in MSSRW is the citation for Samuel Cox in Volume 4 page 54 as follows
"Cox, Samuel, Marblehead. List of men belonging to Capt. Edward Fettyplace's co. of coast guards, appearing on a memorandum of beef delivered Feb. 18, 1777."

Firelock

The definition per Wikipedia.com is:

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lock_\(firearm\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lock_(firearm))

The term 'firelock' is mentioned in John Dipper's citation in MSSRW Volume 4 page 788.

The citation is outlined below:

"Dipper, John, Marblehead. Private, Capt. Francis Symonds's co., Col. John Glover's regt.; muster roll dated Aug. 1, 1775; enlisted June 4, 1775; service, 2 mos. 2 days; also, list of men who delivered firelocks; date of delivery Feb. 17, 1776; said Dipper's firelock delivered for Selectman of Marblehead."

Ma'tross'

n. 1. (Mil.) Formerly, in the British service, a gunner or a gunner's mate; one of the soldiers in a train of artillery, who assisted the gunners in loading, firing, and sponging the guns.

An example in MSSRW of 'matross' is the citation for Richard Courtis in Volume 4 page 20 as follows:

"Courtis, Richard, Marblehead. Matross, Capt. Edward Fettyplace's (Seacoast) co. of Marblehead; enlisted Feb. 20, 1776; service to Jan. 1, 1777, 10 mos. 10 days."

Portage Bill

The Mystic Seaport web site provides the following data on a Portage Bill.

"A printed document, varying in size and format. Contains the names and descriptions of every member of a ship's company. Across the top was printed "A List of the Company," "List of Persons," or perhaps "Role d'Equipage," the French term. The master's name, ship's name, destination, and tonnage was often found on the upper portion of the document, where some examples displayed engraved eagles, etc. The body of the Crew List consisted of columns containing names, ages, places of birth and residence, and other descriptive information, such as complexion and crew status. The kinds of information requested varied from one document to another. Some examples also include a column for witnesses signatures. Depending upon the immediate use of the document, it could contain the signatures of the shipmaster, the customs collector, and consular official, or a combination thereof. Some examples were certified not only with authorized signatures, but by various stamps and seals as well.

The Act of 28 February 1803 contained the first legal mention and requirements for keeping a Crew List as part of the ship's papers. Before a vessel could depart on a foreign voyage, the master had to deliver a list of the crew, verified by his oath, to the customs collector at that port. The collector then supplied the master with a certified copy of the list, copied in a uniform hand, along with a Clearance Certificate, at which time the master entered into a four-hundred-dollar bond to exhibit the Crew List to the first boarding officer he encountered upon his return to a U.S. port. There he was required to produce the persons named and described in the Crew List to give account for any crew members who were not present. Notes certifying sickness, discharge or desertion, usually signed by a consular official, were often included with the original list in order to prove that individuals not present were legally accounted for. Crew Lists of various kinds are commonly found in maritime collections. In addition to the formal document described here, a list of crew members usually appears on the Articles of Agreement, and such lists are often written in ship's logbooks or journals."

The web site is:

<http://library.mysticseaport.org/initiative/lmText.cfm?BibID=6405&ChapterID=17>

Prize Master

The definition of a Prize Master per the online Free Dictionary is

"an officer put in charge or command of a captured vessel."

Reference: <http://www.thefreedictionary.com/Prize+master>

An example of 'prize master' in MSSRW is in the citation for Jos. Dolliver in Volume 4 page 861 as follows:

"Dolliver, Jos., Marblehead. Prizemaster, ship "Rhodes," commanded by Capt. Nehemiah Buffinton; descriptive list of officers and crew sworn to Aug. 14, 1780; age, 33 yrs.; stature, 5 ft. 6 in.; complexion, dark; residence, Marblehead."

Quarter Gunner

Answers.com provides the following Quarter Gunner definition.

“a petty officer in the days of sailing navies whose duty it was to assist the gunner of the ship in keeping the guns and their carriages in proper order, scaling the barrels when necessary, filling the cartridges with powder, etc. Quarter-gunners were appointed in each ship at the rate of one for every four guns.”

Read more: <http://www.answers.com/topic/quarter-gunner#ixzz1n2nwFJtg>

An example of 'quarter gunner in MSSRW is found under the citation for Edward Fettiplace in Volume 5 page 641 as follows:

“Fettiplace, William. Quarter Gunner, Capt. Edward Fettyplace's (Marblehead) co.; enlisted Feb. 20, 1776; service to Sept. 1, 1776, 6 mos. 10 days.”