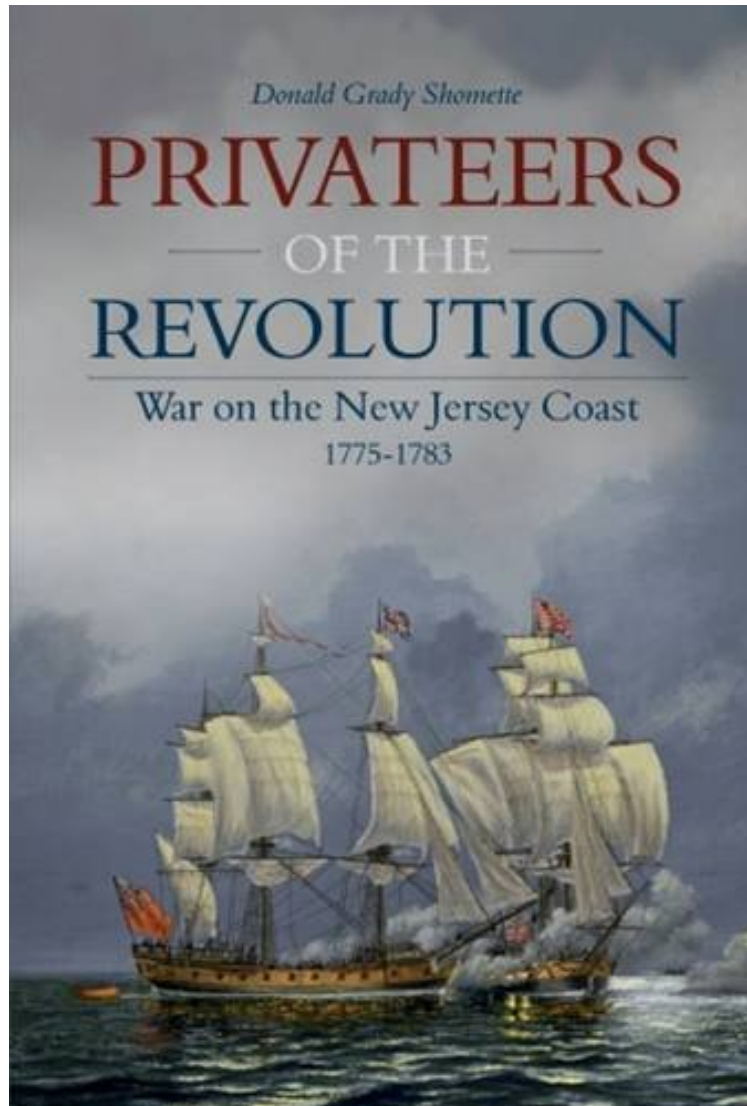


(Library ebook) Privateers of the Revolution: War on the New Jersey Coast, 1775-1783

# Privateers of the Revolution: War on the New Jersey Coast, 1775-1783

*Donald Grady Shomette*

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**Donald Grady Shomette : Privateers of the Revolution: War on the New Jersey Coast, 1775-1783** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Privateers of the Revolution: War on the New Jersey Coast, 1775-1783:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good history on this topicBy Douglas DarlingGood history on this topic. I really didn't know much about this subject even though I read a lot of military history. Subject not addressed in

any history class that I have ever taken. Love that it continued the discussion after the Battle of Yorktown and showed how bad a civil war could be with the constant raids and counter-raids. Really shows that our Patriot fathers were men, just like the men that exist today with many of the same concerns. Would love to see a similar treatment of privateering for the rest of the 13 colonies.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. PRIVATEERS OF THE REVOLUTION: WAR ON THE NEW JERSEY COAST, 1775-1783 DONALD GRADY SHAMETTESCHIFFER PUBLISHING, 2016 HARDCOVER, \$34.99, 447 PAGES, ILLUSTRATIONS, MAPS, APPENDICES, NOTES, BIBLIOGRAPHY

When on 19 March 1776, the Continental Congress authorized colonial ships to conduct privateering operations against British merchant ships, they only instituted a traditional form of naval warfare. Privateering had been practiced by the colonists since King William's War (1689-1697). A privateer is an armed vessel belonging to a private owner and commissioned by a government under a letter of marque to carry on operations of war. During King George's War (1744-1748), privateering began to assume the proportions of a major maritime business and it is estimated that during the French and Indian War (1754-1763), an estimated 11,000 American colonists were engaged in private-armed operations. Many of the privateers used during the American Revolution obtained Letters of Marque and Reprisal from both the Continental Congress and the individual colonies; which makes an exact determination of the number of ships engaged in privateering very difficult to estimate. A determination is even further complicated by when one considers that many ship owners failed to obtain authorization from either the Continental Congress or the individual colonies. It is known that the Continental Congress did issue 1,697 letters while Massachusetts, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Virginia, South Carolina, Maryland, Rhode Island, Connecticut, and New Hampshire also issued letters as well. Taking this information into account, one ship may have had two or three letters issued which meant that an estimated 2,500 to 3,000 American ships were authorized to attack British shipping! It has also been estimated by scholars that between 11,000 to 20,000 men were involved in this profession. American privateers did well during the American Revolution according to Lloyd's of London (who insured many British merchant ships) recording the capture of an estimated 3,100 ships of which 900 were retaken and ransomed. This also included 16 British warships. Prize money was estimated at \$18,000,000. This is in stark contrast to our fledgling Continental Navy who had 3 ships in commission in 1781 and 2 in 1783 which captured 196 British ships worth \$6,000,000!

PRIVATEERS OF THE REVOLUTION: WAR ON THE NEW JERSEY COAST, 1775-1783 addresses a subject that has long been neglected in studies done on the American Revolution-the American privateers. They proved the only American force that consistently threatened Britain throughout the Atlantic, especially along the coasts of the British Isles. Author Donald Grady Shomette has done a superb job in correcting this long overdue oversight with detailed research and utilizing archives both in Britain and the U.S. Also included in this wonderful book are two Privateer Tables titled Known Continental Commissioned Letters Of Marque And Reprisal By State And Year and Known Continental Commissioned Letters Of Marque And Reprisal Carriage Guns as well as a List of Privateers Of Pennsylvania, 1776-1782 and New York Loyalist Privateers At Sea As Of 27 February 1779. For anyone wanting information on privateers and their contributions to the American Revolution, you should purchase this book.

Lt. Colonel Robert A. Lynn, Florida Guard Orlando, Florida

A revelatory narrative of the 535 Pennsylvania and New Jersey privateers, privately owned ships of war some called pirates. Manned by nearly 18,000 men, these privateers influenced the fight for American independence. From the halls of Congress to the rough waterfronts of Delaware River and Bay to the remote privateering ports of the New Jersey coast and into the Atlantic, a stirring portrait emerges of seaborne raiders, battles, and derring-do, as well as incredible escapes from the great British prison ships vulgarly called Hell, where more than 11,000 men perished. A work 40 years in the making extracted from archives in both Europe and America, it is a tale unrivaled by any Hollywood fiction.

About the Author Donald Grady Shomette has for more than two decades worked as an author, cultural resources consultant, and marine archaeologist. He is twice winner of the prestigious John Lyman Book Award and holds an honorary PhD from the University of Baltimore.