

AFRICAN SQUADRON.

MESSAGE

FROM

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,

TRANSMITTING

*Information in reference to the African squadron.*

JULY 22, 1850.

Referred to the Committee on Naval Affairs.

*To the House of Representatives:*

In reply to the resolution of the House of Representatives of the 17th ultimo, in regard to the number of vessels, guns, and men constituting the African squadron, the annual expenses of that squadron, &c., I submit herewith a report from the Secretary of the Navy, with accompanying documents.

Z. TAYLOR.

WASHINGTON, July 1, 1850.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, June 27, 1850.

SIR: In compliance with a resolution of the House of Representatives, of the 17th instant, requesting the President "to communicate, (if not incompatible with the public interest,) the number of vessels, the number of guns, and the number of men that have each year constituted the squadron for the suppression of the African slave trade, according to the treaty of Washington, and the annual expenses and cost of that squadron; also, the number of slave-ships that have been annually captured, and of slaves released by that squadron; and the number of officers and men that have died annually in that service," I have the honor to transmit herewith a list of vessels which have constituted the United States squadron on the coast of Africa, from 1843 to 1850, exhibiting their force and armament, and the period each vessel was in commission upon that station; also a report from the Fourth Auditor of the Treasury, of the deaths on board the several vessels composing the naval force of the United States upon the coast of Africa, from 1843 to 1850.

By the "list of vessels," &c., which has been carefully compiled from the records and files of this department, it appears that the force which has been annually kept on the coast of Africa, since the ratification of

the treaty of Washington, has been equal to the stipulations therein contained.

The whole number of deaths of officers and men which have occurred, as exhibited by the report of the Auditor, is forty-five, being an average of about six annually.

The annual expenses of the squadron, as nearly as can be estimated, have been \$384,500. Assuming this sum as the basis, which is believed to be correct, the aggregate cost of the squadron for the period of seven years since it was formed has been \$2,691,500.

The number of slave-ships which have been captured since the organization of the squadron is seven, viz: the "Spitfire," "Patuxent," "Pons," "Robert Wilson," "Merchant," "Panther," and "Excellent."

All these captures, except the last named, were made during the period Commodore Skinner was in command of the squadron, to wit: from January, 1845, to July, 1846.

Of these vessels, the "Pons" had on board, when captured, upwards of nine hundred slaves, of which 756 were delivered to the agent of the United States for recaptured Africans, the remainder having died on the passage from Cabenda to Monrovia.

The brig "Excellent" was captured by the ship "John Adams," Commander Powell, in the month of April last, and has recently arrived at Norfolk. There has been no adjudication upon her.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,  
WM. BALLARD PRESTON.

To the PRESIDENT.

*List of vessels which have constituted the United States squadron on the coast of Africa from 1843 to 1850, exhibiting their force and armament, and the period each vessel was in commission upon that station.*

Names of vessels.	No. of guns.	No. of men.	Date of sailing from the United States.	Date of return or transfer.
Sloop Saratoga.....	20	188	June 5, 1843	Nov. 22, 1844
Brig Porpoise.....	10	70	1843	Nov. 19, 1844
Frigate Macedonian.....	36	319	July 18, 1843	April 29, 1845
Sloop Decatur.....	16	131	August 5, 1843	December, 1844
Store-ship Consort.....	40	40	Dec. 30, 1843	April 5, 1844
Brig Truxtun.....	10	70	June 25, 1844	Nov. 22, 1845
Sloop Preble.....	16	131	Sept. 5, 1844	Sept. 25, 1845
Sloop Yorktown.....	16	131	Oct 11, 1844	June, 1846
Store-ship Eric.....	8	40	Dec. 9, 1844	March 28, 1845
Sloop Jamestown.....	20	188	Jan. 25, 1845	August 6, 1846
Store-ship Southampton.....	6	40	June 25, 1845	Dec. 15, 1846
Sloop Marion.....	16	131	Sept. 4, 1845	July, 1847
Brig Dolphin.....	10	70	Nov. 14, 1845	Nov. 5, 1847
Brig Boxer.....	10	70	Jan. 16, 1846	May 9, 1848
Frigate United States.....	44	400	June 3, 1846	October, 1847
Sloop Jamestown.....	20	188	Sept. 22, 1847	December, 1848
Brig Porpoise.....	10	70	Jan. 18, 1848	April 2, 1850
Sloop Decatur.....	16	131	Feb. 2, 1848	Nov. 15, 1849
Sloop Portsmouth.....	20	188	Aug. 29, 1848	Sept. 3, 1849
Sloop Yorktown.....	16	131	Nov. 22, 1848	Now on station.
Sloop John Adams*.....	20	170	June 30, 1849	Now on station.
Sloop Portsmouth.....	20	188	Sept. 21, 1849	Now on station.
Brig Perry.....	10	70	Nov. 28, 1849	Now on station.
Brig Porpoise.....	10	70	June 8, 1850	On her way out.
Brig Bainbridge.....	10	70	April 10, 1848	Now on station.
Store-ship Relief.....	6	40	Oct. 26, 1849	February, 1850

\* Transferred from Brazil station December, 1849.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,  
*Fourth Auditor's Office, June 24, 1850.*

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith, in compliance with the request contained in your letter of the 21st instant, a list of deaths on board the several vessels constituting the naval force of the United States upon the coast of Africa, from 1843 to 1850, so far as they appear upon the rolls of the said vessels received at this office.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, sir, your obedient servant,  
 A. O. DAYTON.

HON. WM. B. PRESTON,  
*Secretary of the Navy.*

*List of deaths on board the several vessels composing the naval force of the United States upon the coast of Africa from 1843 to 1850.*

UNITED STATES BRIG PORPOISE.

John Adams, ordinary seaman, died August 15, 1844.  
 David Saunders, seaman, died March 16, 1843.

UNITED STATES SLOOP DECATUR.

Lewis Walfley, surgeon, died July 21, 1844.  
 George Benedict, seaman, died December 23, 1844.  
 Charles Vanhan, supernumerary, died December, 1849.

UNITED STATES SLOOP YORKTOWN.

Manuel J. Francisco, seaman, died December 6, 1845.  
 Michael Colgan, seaman, died May 7, 1845.  
 James Radcliffe, seaman, died May 9, 1846.

UNITED STATES SLOOP PREBLE.

William H. Henry, passed midshipman, died December 14, 1844.  
 Jesse M. Smith, midshipman, died December 3, 1844.  
 William Thompson, seaman, died December 22, 1844.  
 Thomas Maher, ordinary seaman, died December 10, 1844.  
 Owen Smith, seaman, died December 10, 1844.  
 Surrey Albertson, 2d class apprentice, died December 8, 1844.  
 Robert Clearn, ordinary seaman, died December 7, 1844.  
 John Flamazon, seaman, died December 12, 1844.  
 Simon Talvert, ordinary seaman, died December 13, 1844.  
 Timothy West, seaman, died December 10, 1844.  
 Emanuel Francisco, boy, died December 11, 1844.

UNITED STATES SLOOP JAMESTOWN.

John E. Fitzgerald, 2d class apprentice, died January 2, 1845.  
 William Crockett, ordinary seaman, died January 2, 1845.  
 Francis M. Cullender, landsman, died November 23, 1845.

UNITED STATES STORESHIP SOUTHAMPTON.

John Williams 2d, seaman, died January 20, 1846.

UNITED STATES SHIP MACEDONIAN.

John Green, seaman, died December 24, 1843.  
James P. Breemen, seaman, died July 2, 1843.  
James Shultz, 2d class musician, died January 4, 1844.  
William McMurray, seaman, died May 30, 1844.  
E. J. Beesrine, surgeon's steward, died August 22, 1843.  
Robert Creed, ordinary seaman, died November 29, 1843.

FRIGATE UNITED STATES.

William Johnson, ordinary seaman, died November 20, 1846.  
Ed. McLaughlin, ordinary seaman, died June 9, 1846.  
James Perkins, seaman, died June 29, 1847.  
James Miller, seaman, died August 17, 1846.  
David Boyd, private, died November 19, 1846.

UNITED STATES SLOOP SARATOGA.

James Page, seaman, died August 9, 1844.  
Ed. Martin, seaman, died May 24, 1844.  
John Smith, ordinary seaman, died October 10, 1844.  
Ezra Smith, ordinary seaman, died June 22, 1843.  
Abram Chambers, officer's cook, died November 15, 1844.

UNITED STATES SLOOP MARION.

John C. Spencer, purser, died December 29, 1845.  
James T. Bartlett, midshipman, died March 30, 1846.  
John Johnson, seaman, died March 30, 1846.  
William Collins, captain of top, died June 27, 1847.  
Francis Delan, private, died January 11, 1846.

UNITED STATES SLOOP JAMESTOWN.

Alexander Stewart, captain of top, died December 24, 1848.