

considered as warrant officers, and such cutters, schooners, brigs, or armed vessels, shall not in respect to such captures convey any interest or share to the flag-officer or officers under whose orders such cutters, schooners, brigs, and armed vessels may happen to be.

And whereas it is judged expedient, during the present hostilities, to hire into His Majesty's service armed vessels, to be employed as cruizers against the enemy, which vessels are the property of, and their masters and crews are paid by, the owners of whom they are hired, although several of them are commanded by commissioned officers in His Majesty's pay; it is Our further will and pleasure, that the net produce of all prizes taken by such hired armed vessels (except as hereinafter mentioned) shall be for the benefit of such commissioned officers in His Majesty's pay, and of the masters and crews on board the said hired armed vessels at the time of the capture; and that such prizes may be lawfully sold and disposed of by them and their agents, after the same shall have been to His Majesty finally adjudged lawful prize, and not otherwise; the distribution whereof shall be as follows:

The whole of the net produce being divided into eight equal parts, the officer commanding any hired armed vessel aforesaid, who shall be actually on board at the taking of any prize, shall have two eighths; but in case such hired armed vessel shall be under the command of a flag or flags, the flag-officer or officers being actually on board, or directing or assisting in the capture, shall have one third of the said two eighth parts; the said one third of the two eighth parts to be paid to such flag or flag officers in such proportions, and subject to such regulations, as are hereinafter mentioned. In case there be acting on board such hired armed vessel, besides the officer commanding the same, one or more commissioned sea lieutenants in His Majesty's pay, such lieutenant or lieutenants shall take one eighth. One eighth shall belong to the master and mate, of which the master shall take two thirds, and the mate one third; but in case there shall be acting on board such hired armed vessel one or more midshipmen, in that case the master shall take one half of the eighth, and the other shall be divided equally between the mate and midshipmen. The remaining four eighth parts shall belong to and, being divided into shares, be distributed among the other petty officers, men, and boys, in the same proportion as herein-before directed with respect to the division of prize-money in His Majesty's ships of war. And in case of prizes taken by any hired armed vessel not commanded by any of His Majesty's commissioned officers, one eighth shall belong to the flag-officers, to be divided as aforesaid, in case such hired armed vessel shall be under the command of a flag; one eighth shall belong to the master and mate, of which the master shall take two thirds and the mate one third; four eighths shall belong to and be divided among the petty officers and crew, in manner aforesaid. The surplus, the distribution of which is not herein directed, shall remain at Our

disposal; and, if not disposed of within a year after final adjudication, the same shall belong and be paid to Greenwich Hospital.

And in the case of prizes taken jointly by any of His Majesty's ships of war, or any hired armed vessel, His Majesty's commissioned officer or officers on board such hired armed vessel shall share with the commissioned officer or officers of the same rank on board His Majesty's ship or ships of war, being joint captors; the master of such hired armed vessel shall share with the warrant officers; the mate of such hired armed vessel with the first class of petty officers; and the seamen, landmen, and boys of such hired armed vessel, with persons of the same description on board His Majesty's said ship or ships of war; save and except that, in case such hired armed vessel shall be commanded by one of His Majesty's commissioned officers having the rank of master and commander, and there shall be none of His Majesty's lieutenants on board, or in case such hired armed vessel shall be commanded by the master, in both those cases the master of such hired armed vessel shall share with the lieutenants of His Majesty's ships of war, and the mate with the warrant officers; and in case any difficulty shall arise in respect to the said distribution, not herein sufficiently provided for, the same shall be referred to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, whose direction thereupon shall be final, and have the same force and effect as if herein inserted.

Provided, that if any officer, being on board any of His Majesty's ships of war at the time of taking any prize, shall have more commissions or offices than one, such officer shall be entitled only to the share or shares of the prizes which, according to the above-mentioned distribution, shall belong to his superior commission or office.

Provided also, that in all prizes taken by any of His Majesty's squadrons, ships, or vessels, while acting in conjunction with any squadron, ship, or vessel of any other power that may be in alliance with His Majesty, a share of such prizes shall be set apart and be at Our further disposal, equal to that share which the flag and other officers and crews of such squadron, ships, or vessels would have been entitled to if they had belonged to His Majesty.

And We do hereby strictly enjoin all commanders of His Majesty's ships and vessels of war, taking any prize, to transmit as soon as may be, or cause to be transmitted to the Commissioners of the Navy, a true list of the names of all the officers, seamen, marines, soldiers, and others who were actually on board His Majesty's ships and vessels of war under their command at the time of the capture; which list shall contain the quality of the service of each person on board, together with the description of the men, taken from the description books of the capturing ship or ships, and their several ratings, and be subscribed by the captains or commanding officer, and three or more of the chief officers on board.

And We do hereby require and direct the Commissioners of the Navy, or any three or more of them, to examine, or cause to be examined, such lists by the muster books of such ships and vessels of war, and lists annexed thereto, to see that such