



Hornet, 1806

Any of various large stinging wasps, chiefly of the genera *Vespa* and *Vespula*, that build a large papery nest.

History:

(Sip: t. 71; cpl. 34; a. 10 guns)

The second *Hornet*, formerly merchant ship *Traveller* of Massachusetts, was purchased at Malta and joined the American blockade of Tripoli in April 1805, Lt. Samuel Evans in command. Her bombardment in company with *Argus* and *Nautilus* 27 April 1805 helped force the surrender of Derne to a land expedition bringing pressure to bear on the besieged port of Tripoli, where the Bashaw soon accepted terms of peace.

After helping to evacuate the expedition from Derne, *Hornet* joined the fleet in a show of strength off Tunis and other Barbary ports. This was effective in quelling threats of piratical acts against merchant shipping in the Mediterranean. *Hornet* continued patrol to insure safety of American commerce in the Mediterranean until 3 June 1806. After riding out a severe gale that carried away her top mast, she arrived in Philadelphia 9 August. *Hornet* decommissioned was transferred to the Revenue Service. She was sold sometime in late 1806.

Sources:

Cutter History File. USCG Historian's Office, USCG HQ, Washington, D.C.

Donald Canney. *U.S. Coast Guard & Revenue Cutters, 1790-1935*. Annapolis: Naval Institute Press, 1995.

Dictionary of American Naval Fighting Ships. Washington, DC: USGPO.
