



THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE NAVY is a Philadelphia based 501(c)3 living history organization dedicated to educating the public by preserving and interpreting the history of the role of the PA Navy in the defense of Philadelphia during the years 1775-1778.

The land based history of the PA Navy was as important as its river based service in the fight for Philadelphia. We interpret the alarm posts that dotted the Delaware River between Cape Henlopen (Lewes, DE) and Point No Point (Frankford Creek). Each of these alarm posts were armed with a 3 pounder cannon.

As a proud member of the Continental Line, we participate in military reenactments during the course of the campaign season, as well as various living history demonstrations. Many of our members are skilled in 18th century trades and crafts and enjoy interpreting those skills as well.

Although primarily an artillery unit, we also field as militia when appropriate, just as the original Pennsylvania Navy did in 1777.

Our main field piece is a replica Verbruggen sub caliber 3 pounder cannon on a garrison carriage that goes by the name, *Defiance*. She is supported by a 2.5 inch bronze coehorn named *Hellmouth*.

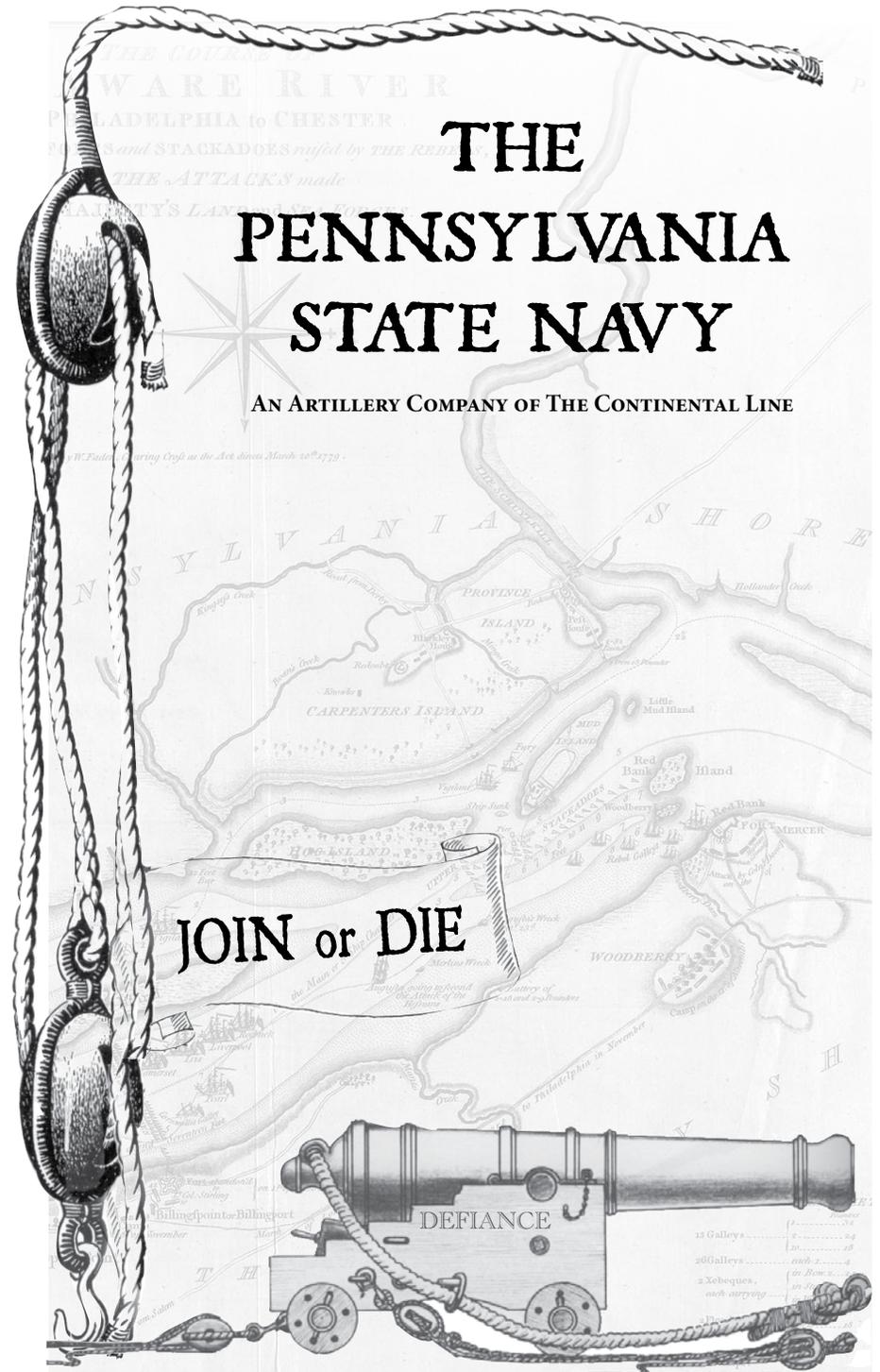


MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE NAVY,
OUR MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS, AND A MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION
CAN BE FOUND ON OUR WEBSITE:

[HTTP://WWW.PANAVY.ORG](http://www.panavy.org)

OR BY WRITING

THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE NAVY
P.O. BOX 274
GLEN MILLS, PA 19342



The Pennsylvania State Navy Alarm Posts

On July 6, 1775, the PENNSYLVANIA STATE NAVY was formed by Benjamin Franklin and the Committee of Safety for the defense of Philadelphia's waterborne approach - the Delaware River.

TO ENSURE A PROMPT AND EFFICIENT WARNING SYSTEM, Henry Fisher of Lewes, Delaware, was selected to effect a method of alerting the Committee of Safety to the approach of British men-of-war as well as supervising the pilots in the lower Delaware Bay. Fisher was instructed to provide a system of riders and alarms posts to quickly inform the city of any news of the British.

To that end, 13 alarm posts were established between Lewes and Point no Point, at the mouth of the Frankford Creek. These were:

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|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Cape Henlopen (Lewes) | 8. Chester |
| 2. Mushmellon (Mispillion River) | 9. Thompson Point |
| 3. Motherkill (Murderkill River) | 10. Billingsport |
| 4. Bombay Hook | 11. Gloucester |
| 5. Steep Water Point (Port Penn) | 12. Market Street Wharf |
| 6. Long Point | 13. Point No Point (Frankford Creek) |
| 7. Dalby Point | |

The lower alarm posts all seem to have had small boats, probably pilot boats, in addition to a 3 or 4 pounder cannon. From Alarm Post 5 north all were equipped with cannon. Usually these were one-man posts, consisting of a crude cabin on a promontory or point of land. Exceptions to this type of station were the redoubts at Billingsport and the Market Street Wharf.

In April of 1777, Henry Fisher was relieved of command and Captain Leeson Simmons was named as supervisor of all intelligence and coordinator of the alarm stations. At this time a 4 gun battery was erected at Darby Creek to protect the Pennsylvania Navy's fire rafts in the Delaware River, and to serve as a flanking wing of artillery for Fort Mifflin. An additional 2 gun battery was erected on Bush Island (Woodbury) in the Delaware River off Fort Mercer.

Log cabins were built at the alarm posts for shelter. Powder and supplies were furnished, and all alarm posts were put on instant alert. The Defense of the Delaware River and Philadelphia had begun.

The Pennsylvania State Navy Today

- ▶ **The Pennsylvania State Navy is a member of the Continental Line**, one of three parent umbrella organizations that oversee the general safety of Revolutionary War reenacting. [The Continental Line, The British Brigade, and the Brigade of the American Revolution.]
- ▶ **You must be eighteen years of age** to join the Pennsylvania State Navy.
- ▶ **Membership dues are required** of all members in order to participate in our activities. Adult Membership: \$25/year. Family Membership: \$45/year. A family membership includes parents and children under the age of twenty-one living in the same household.
- ▶ **Participation on the artillery crew is contingent** upon demonstrating proficiency with the Navy's artillery drill, and an understanding of Continental Line artillery safety standards and field signals.
- ▶ Prospective new members need to join us for an event before they fill out a Membership Application. This is not only so we may determine if you would be a suitable candidate for our unit, but also for you to make sure the PA Navy is the type of unit where you would feel comfortable.
- ▶ **Members must attend at least 2 events** per campaign season to remain active.
- ▶ The Navy's event schedule is set each year in February at our annual business meeting. An emphasis is placed on those events that involve the Pennsylvania State Navy's history and involvement in the Revolutionary War. We also aim to represent the Navy at one full Continental Line event per campaign season.
- ▶ **DEFIANCE** is the Pennsylvania State Navy's sub-caliber Verbruggen 3 pounder.
- ▶ **HELLMOUTH** is a 2.5 inch bronze coehorn that supports DEFIANCE.
- ▶ **Our website is www.panavy.org** and it contains most of the information you will need on the Navy's history, as well as our event schedule. We also utilize a Yahoo Group for ease of communication within the group.



To Ensure a Prompt and Efficient Warning System

