

H.M.S Pictou

While the job of privateering was a very dangerous occupation it was also one that provided enough benefits that they outweigh the dangers. Many ships during the war of 1812 and even in the times before that were given letters of marque allowing them to use ships for privateering purposes. During the war of 1812 a ship called the H.M.S Pictou was in service. She was a fourteen gun privateer whose origins as a ship are not quite clear, although in 1813 she served with the Royal Navy in North America. After leaving port in Bermuda with another ship, the HMS Pictou was spotted by the USS Constitution. Unfortunately the Pictou was unable to outrun the Constitution and was subsequently captured and the prisoners were taken to Barbados.

There are reports of a second ship entitled H.M.S Pictou existing around the same time as the one mentioned in this article. This ship also carried 14 guns and was reportedly an American Ship renamed the Pictou after capture by the royal navy. This Pictou made it through the war and was later sold in 1818