

U.S. Ship John Adams

Rio de Janeiro 22d Oct. 1849

Commodore

I take the occasion of the receipt of our new model boat gun which shall be fitted to the launch as soon as I have access to her, to report, that, the condition of the battery & ordnance arrangements generally of this ship are, so far as three months observation will justify the observation, are in all respects excellent.

The cannon (1 word illegible) of the late pattern which were issued to this ship are in the highest degree satisfactory – and if they do not detonate by the (exposure of service ?) fair to command the entire confidence of the Navy as a safe and certain means of firing cannon.

I have (employed ?) other means of firing, since this ship has been under my command and they stand well the nice test of firing salutes - on all of which occasions the have been used.(???)

The issue became the use of them with

great (?) , and succeeded after a few
(?), It as to handle the lock completely

They seem to be better in all respects
than the earlier patterns.

One gun carriages are the old 24 pounder
sloop gun carriage converted to mount the
32s. The 8in carriages seem to be new.
Both are excellent.

I will call your attention to the
weight of battery now mounted in this ship.

The John Adams is computed to be 666
tons (?). Almost as much larger

than the Decatur so she is smaller than (?)
class – the (?) in a decrease in way of the
weight on deck, at sea – and when the comparison
with her former battery is made the cause (seems?) to
be apparent.

The former armament of the John Adams
was as follows –

22 – 32 pdr carronades 19 cwt—418 cwt.

2 18 pdr guns – 36 cwt – 72 cwt

Total in cwts ---490

The present armament consists of

16 32 pdr guns (32 cwt class) but

the actual weight ---- 534.3.02

4 8 inch guns (53 cwt class) but

The actual weight is ---- 224.1.11

Total in cwt ---- 759.0.13

2bg cwt is 13 ½ tons (?).

By the above it will appear that she has now
the full equivalent (in her old guns) of

2 18 pdr guns of 36 cwt

and 36 32 pdr carronades 19 cwt.

or 38 guns of her former armament.

I am sure that it is only necessary to bring this matter before you in the proper shape to command your earliest consideration.

I am not prepared to say in how much a modification of armament should be recommended but will only remark that she has more than the weight of her former battery exclusive of the 4.8 in guns.

As the best conclusion to which my observation and experience have thus far brought me. I should say that the ship is equal to about sixteen guns of the present assessment than 4 8in guns inclusive.

This would still give her a powerful armament and about the weight in battery she has (?) (?) with a very high reputation.

Submitting this to your consideration, and for the Information of the Hd. Bureau.

I am Commodore,

Yr obedt Servt

L.M. Powell

Commander

Com Geo. W. Storer

Commanding

U.S. Naval Forces

Coast of Brazil etc –

*Text is made illegible in many places by ink bleeding through from the back of the paper,