

# HMS Belette 1806-1812

## BRITISH WARSHIP LOSSES IN THE AGE OF SAIL 1650-1859

DAVID J. HEPPER

24 November 1812 **BELETTE** Brig Sloop 18 guns  
384 tons Dover 1806

Cdr. David Sloan†

Bound for Gothenburg, as she headed into the Kattegat the weather became increasingly thick and hazy, and by eight o'clock in the evening of 23 November the fog was so thick that she was forced to anchor, no land being in sight. The following day the fog showed signs of lifting, and just before midday she weighed and proceeded under reefed topsails, sounding constantly. At ten o'clock that night the water started shoaling from fifteen down to twelve fathoms, and thirty minutes later, without warning, she struck the Fannot rock off the island of Læsø. The rocks ripped open the bottom, and she filled with water rapidly, the crew being forced to take to the rigging. By midnight the ship had broken in two and the survivors in the rigging faced a long night in freezing temperatures. Dozens of men died from exposure or lost their grip and fell into the sea, and by daylight it was a small band of men who saw land nearby. A boat was discovered to have floated off the booms, and Commander Sloan led an attempt to gain the boat, but as the men tried to pull themselves on board in the heavy swell it capsized, drowning them all. Some men now trusted themselves to pieces of wreckage, and allowed the tide to take them to the shore, but only two survived the ordeal. Local fishermen arrived during the morning and found another four men still alive in the rigging. One hundred and sixteen men died.

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## SHIPWRECKS OF THE REVOLUTIONARY & NAPOLEONIC ERAS

TERENCE GROCCOTT

24 November, *Belette*, 18 guns The *Belette*, 18-gun sloop of war, commanded by Lt David Sloane, had been appointed to lead a Russian fleet through the south-west passage of Anholt, when she was wrecked off Lessoe Island in the Kattegat. The *Belette* had a crew of 120 men and boys, but of this number there were only five survivors. (NC vol 28, p507)

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## THE NAVAL CHRONICLE

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Consolidated Edition  
containing a

GENERAL AND BIOGRAPHICAL HISTORY

of

THE ROYAL NAVY

of the

UNITED KINGDOM

### Baltic Fleet News

It is with regret we state the loss of the *Belette* sloop of war, Captain Sloane. She was appointed to lead the Russian ships through the S.W. passage of Anholt, when she unfortunately got on shore on the rocks, off the Island of Lessoe (in the Kattegat), and all the officers and crew perished, except five men.

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Sorry but all the old English printed sources must be rewritten.

HMS Belette was not lost at John's Rock on Læsø.

HMS Belette is located in a completely different place.

More on this follows....

Gert Juhl

VragScan