



# The Penobscot Expedition: Commodore Saltonstall and the Massachusetts Conspiracy of 1779

*George E. Buker*

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In 1779 the fledgling U.S. naval fleet suffered a catastrophic defeat against the British in the waters of the Penobscot Bay, losing forty ships in a battle that was expected to be a sure victory for the Americans. Commodore Dudley Saltonstall was blamed for the debacle and ultimately court-martialed for his ineptitude. In this groundbreaking book George E. Buker defends Saltonstall providing compelling evidence that he was not to blame for the loss and that in fact the court-martial was rigged against him. Buker's conclusions foster a reassessment of Saltonstall's naval strategies and shed new light on the political maneuvers of the time.

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