



T H E
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FROM THE LONDON GAZETTE.

ADMIRALTY-OFFICE—SEPT. 27.

Copy of a letter from the Right Hon Lord Keith, K. B. Admiral of the Blue, &c to Sir Evan Nepean, Bart. dated on board his Majesty's ship Monarch, off Broadstairs the 25th instant.

SIR,

I transmit for their Lordships' information, a letter which I have received from REAR-ADMIRAL MONTAGU, and one which was addressed to him by Mr JOSEPH THOMAS, the master of the Princess Augusta hired armed cutter, of eight three-pounder guns, and 25 men, reporting the particulars of an engagement between that vessel and two Dutch armed schooners, in which LIEUTENANT SCOTT, her commanding officer, was killed. The resistance made by the Princess Augusta to so superior a force does great credit to the gallant, but unfortunate officer, who commanded her, as well as the master and her crew.

I have the honour to be, &c.

KEITH.

Utrecht, in the Downs, Sept. 23.

MY LORD,

The Princess Augusta hired armed cutter arrived at Dover this evening; her Lieutenant, J. W. SCOTT, gunner, WILLIAM LAVENDER, and boatswain WM. CORNELIUS, being slain in battle, on the 20th inst. in combat with two Dutch schooners, the one mounting twelve guns, and 70 men, the other eight guns and 50 men. The Lieutenant, in his dying moments, recommended the master to fight the cutter bravely; and to tell the Admiral he did his duty.—These expressions, my Lord, in the moments of dissolution, will endear his memory to his countrymen; and, whilst those more immediately connected with him sigh at the recollection of their loss, they will have the consolation to reflect, that he fell gloriously in his country's cause, expiring

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with the heroism of a British officer. Two seamen, CRUMP and ROSE, are also wounded; the former with a ball in the thigh, the latter with a ball above the ankle. The Princess Augusta, your Lordship will recollect, is one of the smallest cutters under your Lordship's command, being about 70 tons. The conduct of JOSEPH THOMAS, the master, and the crew of this little vessel, fighting bravely after the loss of their officer, and beating off two vessels of such superior force, merits more encomium than my pen is enabled to express. I have the honour to be, &c.

ROBERT MONTAGU.

His Majesty's Hired Cutter Princess Augusta,
Joseph Thomas Master.

SIR,

Saturday September 24th, three hours, four minutes P. M. I landed at Dover, not being able to get into the Downs this tide. After delivering orders from LORD KEITH to his MAJESTY'S ships cruising off Helvoetsluys, Texel, and the entrance of the Elbe, on Tuesday 20th instant, at five P. M. Texel bearing S. W. distance 15 leagues, saw two schooners in the S. W. bearing down towards us, under English colours; got all clear for action, suspecting them to be enemies. At half past six P. M. they hauled down their English colours, and hoisted Dutch; then being within hail, asked what sloop we was?—LIEUTENANT SCOTT answered, Princess Augusta; the largest, which hailed, being to windward, gave us a broadside, which killed our gunner and boatswain, and wounded LIEUTENANT SCOTT in the shoulder, who died the next morning, at forty-five minutes past nine A. M. with his wound. We then returned our broadside at the largest, which mounted twelve guns, and had on board 70 men, who endeavoured to board us several times to windward, which was the larboard side. The smallest, which mounted eight guns, and had on board 50 men, agree-

able to the number we saw on deck, which came up under our lee and gave us his broadside, then endeavoured to board us; but after an hour's engagement, close quarters, with the largest one's bowsprit over our stern, several times, by the assistance of the mate and exertion of the crew, we beat them off; but our rigging and hull being much damaged, and having two men killed and three wounded, out of our small number, we were not able to renew the action.

I have the honour, to be, &c.

JOHN THOMAS.

ADMIRALTY-OFFICE, Oct. 1, 1803.

Copy of a letter from Rear Admiral Montagu, to Sir Evan Nepean, Bart. dated on board his Majesty's ship Utrecht, Downs, 28th September 1803.

SIR,

ENCLOSED I have the honour to transmit a duplicate of intelligence received from CAPTAIN JACKSON, of the Autumn, the original being transmitted to the Commander in Chief.

I am, &c. R. MONTAGU.

His Majesty's sloop Autumn, off Calais,
Sept. 28, 1803.

The wind springing up yesterday morning from the eastward, I thought it a proper opportunity to attack the enemy's vessels in Calais, in order that they should not get them up the harbour out of the reach of our fire; I waited till it was half ebb in the harbour, at which time they take the ground; we then bore up, and, after trying and finding out the distance, we anchored; the bombs to the N. E. of the town, the other part of the squadron a-breast of the town and pier heads, to draw the enemy's fire as much as we could from the bombs, so as not to prevent their acting. After we anchored a-breast of the town and pier head battery, the enemy opened their fire on us from all directions, amongst which I found they had mortars; the first shell fell with-

