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FROM FRIDAY, JANUARY 27. TO TUESDAY, JANUARY 31. 1804.

ADMIRALTY-OFFICE, Jan. 28.

Copy of a letter from Commodore HOOD, Commander in Chief of his Majesty's ships and vessels at the Leeward Islands, to Sir EVAN NEPEAN, Bart. dated on board his Majesty's ship the Centaur, off Martinique, the 26th November 1803.

SIR,

Early this morning as the Centaur was passing the Cape de Salines, on the island of Martinique, she was fired at, and several shot exchanged in passing: I immediately directed Captain Maxwell to stand on far enough, that by tacking, we could fetch into Petit Ance D'Arlette, where we anchored, and landed the greater part of the marines under Captain Crozier, and forty seamen, commanded by Lieutenants Maurice and Aycough, to destroy it; on the first alarm the national guards had assembled to aid fourteen cannoniers of the marine artillery, stationed in the battery, but by the rapid and active movements of the officers and men on this service, the enemy had not time to arrange themselves in defence of the narrow and steep path to the eminence, where was planted a brass two pounder, and on the approach of our men, flew to the Morne, and so dispersed themselves in its thick woods, that only one cannonier fell into our hands; the battery, mounting six twenty-four pounders, was completely destroyed, and the guns, &c. thrown over the precipice; but, unfortunately, in the explosion of the magazine a little too soon, one seaman was killed; Lieutenant Maurice, 1st of the Centaur, Captain Crozier, and Lieutenant Walker, of the marines, with six men, wounded, but only one private man badly.

On drawing near the Bay of Point D'Arlette, between the Grande and Petite Ance of that name, we discovered a battery of three guns (two proved to be forty-two pounders, the other a thirty-two pounder), and people lying down;

[Price 6d.]

however the ship was anchored in a position to flank it, had they thought proper to annoy us, and Lieutenant Domett, with Lieutenant M'Laughlan, of the marines, threw the guns over the cliff, and burnt and destroyed the carriages, barracks, and ammunition most perfectly, the people having abandoned it on their approach; from this I promise myself much aid to the blockading ships should the enemy send out a reinforcement, and also very convenient for anchoring. I have the honour to be, &c.

S. M. HOOD.

Copy of another letter from Commodore HOOD, Commander in Chief of his Majesty's ships and vessels at the Leeward Islands, to Sir EVAN NEPEAN, Baronet, dated on board his Majesty's ship Centaur, at sea, the 20th November 1803.

SIR,

I herewith transmit you a copy of a letter from Captain Graves, of his Majesty's ship Blenheim, stating the capture of the Harmonie privateer, in Marin Bay, by the boats of that ship and the Drake, under the orders of Captain Ferris: and the surprise and destruction of Fort Dunkirk, by the marines under the command of Lieutenant Beattie. The judicious manner in which this service was planned, the gallantry and zeal of those officers who executed it, deserve my warmest encomiums, and I beg leave to give them my strongest recommendation to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty.

I have the honour to be, &c.

S. M. HOOD.

[Here follows a list of vessels captured and detained by the Squadron under the command of Commodore HOOD since last return, amounting to thirty nine, among which are some valuable Dutch and French merchantmen, and some small prizes.]

SIR, Blenheim, off Martinique, Nov. 17. 1803.

I have the honour to acquaint you, that on the 14th instant, the French privateer schooner L'Harmonie, with a prize, having put into the

harbour of Marin in the bay of St Ann, Martinique, induced me to suggest a plan for the capture of this vessel, more destructive to commerce than any other which has appeared in these seas; and for this purpose I attempted, against a strong sea breeze and lee current, to beat up from off the Diamond Rock to the place where she lay at anchor. It was not until the 16th in the morning that I was able to accomplish it, when having reconnoitred the harbour of Marin, together with the batteries on each side of it, and also one above the town, I determined on the attempt. I therefore ordered sixty seamen belonging to his Majesty's ship under my command, with Lieutenants Cole and Furber, and a detachment of sixty marines of the same ship, under the command of Lieutenants Beattie and Boyd, to carry the enterprise into execution: The former in their boats to attack the privateer, and the latter at the same time to endeavour to surprise, or in any event to storm, Fort Dunkirk, a battery of nine guns on the starboard side of the harbour. It was necessary to do so, to cut off the militia from rendezvousing on Marin Point, which, being immediately in the track of coming out, and where doubtless they would have been joined by the troops from the fort, would have much annoyed the boats on their return. The Drake having joined me, and Captain Ferris volunteering his services, I directed him to take the command of the seamen, and to add to them fourteen from the Drake. All things being prepared, the boats with the seamen towed by the Drake, and the marines in four boats towed by the Swift hired cutter, at eleven P. M. proceeded off the mouth of Marin harbour, and by estimating the time it would take for the boats to row up to the privateer, which vessel lay three miles from the entrance of the harbour; both parties set off so timely as to commence the attack at the same instant; and I am happy to add,

