



# Edinburgh Gazette.

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ADMIRALTY-OFFICE, Aug. 7.

Copy of a letter from Vice-Admiral Sir CHA. COTTON, Bart. to WILLIAM MARSDEN, Esq. dated on board his Majesty's ship the San Josef, off Ushant, August 1804.

SIR,

Herewith I transmit a letter, for the information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, from Vice-Admiral Sir Robert Calder, with its inclosures, giving an account of the destruction of two of the enemy's corvettes by his Majesty's ship the Aigle, off Bourdeaux.

I have the honour to be, &c.

CHARLES COTTON.

Prince of Wales, off Rochefort, July 19. 1804.

SIR,

I have the pleasure to inform you his Majesty's ship the Aigle (who I had placed in shore to watch the enemy's motions) fell in with two French national corvettes, which Capt. Wolfe drove on shore near Bourdeaux and burnt, having first used every means without effect to get them afloat. The Aigle found only twenty-six French officers and men left on board these corvettes when they took possession of them;—the rest had made their escape on shore.

The names of these corvettes are la Charante and la Joie; the first a ship of twenty guns and 104 men, and the other a brig, pierced for 14 guns, but had only eight mounted, and 75 men. They had on board the ordnance and stores complete for a corvette just launched at Bayonne; to which place they were carrying them.

I here inclose Captain Wolfe's letter to me of his proceedings in the destroying of these vessels, and also a list of the prisoners he has on board; these I have directed to be sent into port by the first opportunity.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) ROB. CALDER.

To the Hon. William Cornwallis, &c.

[ Price 6d. ]

His Majesty's ship the Eagle, July 16. 1804.

SIR,

After passing the squadron on the 9th instant, when, at the anchorage No. 5. was drove to the S. W. by the gale; on the 10th we lost sight of the Hawk. On the 12th, when standing in for Cordouan, in beating up for the rendezvous, saw a large brig and ship with all sail set, steering to the southward. I supposed them to be part of the squadron from Rochefort. At five P. M. closed with them (they never altering their course from our first seeing them), prepared and expecting, from their manœuvres and signals, a close action, they having shortened sail (with men at their quarters), when within proper distance; but to our great surprise, after firing their starboard broadside at us, they ran the ships on the strand, within a stone's cast of each other, and directly took to the boats, which instantly swamped on touching the beach, about ten leagues to the south of Cordouan, and some of them were drowned. The wind being at N. E. and about two points off the land, I had great hopes of getting one or both of them afloat again; and anchored the Aigle about a mile from the beach; but after a night and part of the next day in fruitless efforts, from the very great surf set in by the late western gale, I was obliged to destroy them by fire, which was effectually done by Mr Furlonger, master, and Mr Steel, the gunner, as scarcely any part was perceptible when the Aigle made sail.

The prisoners on board the Aigle are John Sanfon; Lieutenant de Vaisseau, the Officers, and eight soldiers and sailors of the French national ship the Charante; of 420 tons, 20 guns, 6-pounders, 4 swivels, and 104 men.

Benjamin Godobert, Lieutenant de Vaisseau, his officers, and nine soldiers and sailors of the French national brig Le Joie, 250 tons, pierced for 14, but only 8 12-pounders mounted, 2 swivels;

and 75 men. La Joie had 16 6-pounders, a quantity of arms, powder, shot, and other ordnance stores in the hold. They were from Rochefort, but had failed in the morning from the Gironde, stealing along shore for Bayonne, and intended to return from thence with stores for the French marine at Rochefort, which I am proud in having presented, and trust in meeting your approbation. None of their shot struck us, nor did ours materially injure them, as only their masts and sails were a little torn.

Had they come alongside, as expected, the brig having shifted her guns for the purpose, I am certain the crew of the Aigle would have acquitted themselves as Englishmen do on those occasions. I have the honour to be, &c.

GEO. WOLFE.

Sir Robert Calder, Bart. Vice-Admiral of the Blue, &c. off Rochefort.

Copy of a letter from Captain ROBERT DUDLEY OLIVER, Commander of his Majesty's ship the Melpomene, to WILLIAM MARSDEN, Esq. dated off Havre, the 2d instant.

SIR,

I beg leave to inclose to you, for the information of my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, a copy of my letter to Lord Keith, of this date. I have the honour to be, &c.

R. D. OLIVER.

MR LORD, Melpomene, off Havre, Aug. 2.

The wind having changed yesterday to the N. E. I determined to make another attack on the numerous vessels in Havre pier, as well as those which were moored outside, amounting to twenty-eight brigs, and as many luggers, and stood in with the squadron, as per margin\*. At half past seven, P. M. the bombs were well placed off the pier-heads, when they began a well directed fire, which was kept up with great spirit for about an hour and a half. The town was very soon observed to be on fire in two places; and seven brigs, which were on the outside of

