



Edinburgh Gazette.

Published by Authority.

FROM TUESDAY, APRIL 15. TO FRIDAY, APRIL 18. 1806.

ADMIRALTY-OFFICE—April 15. 1806.

Copy of a Letter from Vice-Admiral Sir J. T. Duckworth, K. B. to William Marfden, Esq. dated Superb, Port Royal, Jamaica, Feb. 16. 1806.

SIR,
Captain Henry, of the French ship Diomede, which ran on shore, and I afterwards ordered to be burnt, being, with his officers, among the prisoners; refused the afternoon of the 9th, before that event took place, he approached to offer Captain Keats, which he, from the report which had been made to me by Sir Edward Berry, and except in the act of hailing, confirmed by Captain Dunn, that the ship had struck before she run on shore, it was disdainfully refused. This of course made explanation necessary on my side; and I acquainted Captain Henry that I had marked his dishonourable conduct in my public letter; when feeling, as he appeared to do, like a man of honour; and referring to his officers and ship's company, they gave the strongest testimony that the pendant was always flying, though the ensign was shot away; and this, from strict investigation since my arrival here, appears to be the case; and as Sir Edward Berry is not present to refer to, and the Commodore in the Brave allows he hailed the Agamemnon, and what has been recited passed between them, I have no doubt that the Diomede has been mistaken for the Brave, by her ensign being down. I therefore, Sir, feeling that character is much more valuable than life, am to beg the heavy charge on Captain Henry may be done away, in such a manner as in their Lordships judgment may appear most proper.

I am, &c. J. T. DUCKWORTH.

Copy of a Letter from Vice-Admiral Dacres, Commander in Chief of his Majesty's ships and vessels at Jamaica, to William Marfden, Esq. dated on board his Majesty's ship Shark, Port Royal, Feb. 9. 1806.

SIR,
I have the pleasure to inclose, for the information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, the copy of a letter received from Captain Dashwood, of his Majesty's ship Franchise, giving an account of the behaviour of Lieutenants Fleming and Douglas, and Lieutenant

Price 6d.

Mends, of the marines, of that ship, with the boats crews, who in so determined a manner cut out of the Bay of Campeachy his Catholic Majesty's brig Raposa, against such superior force and opposition. I trust their Lordships will think their conduct worthy of their approbation.

I am, &c. JAS. R. DACRES.

His Majesty's ship Franchise, at anchor, off Campeachy, January 7. 1806.

SIR,
Having received information from a neutral, that several Spanish vessels had very lately arrived in the Bay of Campeachy, and conceiving it practicable, from the local knowledge I had of that place, that they might be cut out without running much risk; I have presumed in consequence to extend the limits of the orders with which you honoured me, and proceeded to this anchorage; and although I am well aware of the great responsibility, yet, as it was undertaken solely with a view of forwarding the King's service, by distressing his enemies, so I have the vanity to hope it will be sanctioned with your high approbation.

I have therefore the honour to report that I last evening anchored the Franchise in quarterless four fathoms, a-breast the town of Campeachy, and as it was impossible, from the shallowness of the water, to approach nearer to the shore than five leagues, I dispatched the senior Officer, Lieutenant John Fleming, accompanied by Lieutenant P. J. Douglas, the third, Lieut. Mends of the marines, and Messrs Daly, Lamb, Chalmers, and Hamilton, Midshipmen, in three boats, with orders to scour the Bay, and bring off such of the enemy's vessels as they might fall in with. But from the distance they had to row, joined to the darkness of the night, and the uncertainty of their position, it was four o'clock in the morning before they could possibly arrive, long after the rising of the moon, which unfortunately gave the enemy warning of their approach, and ample time for preparation, even to the tricing up of their boarding nettings, and projecting sweeps to prevent the boats from coming alongside; and although the alarm was thus given from one end of the bay to the other, and instantly communicated to the Castle on shore, yet nothing could damp the ardour and

gallantry of the officers and crew who had volunteered on this (as it ultimately proved) hazardous service, for that instant two of his Catholic Majesty's brigs, one of 20 guns and 180 men, the other of 12 guns and 90 men, accompanied by an armed schooner of eight, and supported by seven gun boats of two guns each, slipped their cables, and commenced a most severe and heavy cannonading on the three boats, which must soon have annihilated them, had not Lieutenant Fleming, with great presence of mind and unchecked ardour, most boldly dashed on, and instantly laid the nearest brig on board. He was so quickly supported by his friend, Lieutenant Douglas, in the barge, and Mr Lamb, in the pinnace, that they carried her in ten minutes, notwithstanding the very powerful resistance they met with. The whole of this little flotilla pursued them for some distance, keeping up a constant fire of guns and musketry, which was so smartly returned both by the brig and boats, that they soon retired to their former position, leaving Lieutenant Fleming in quiet possession of his prize, which proved to be the Spanish Monarch's brig Raposa, pierced for 16, but only 12 guns mounted, exclusive of cohornes, swivels, and numerous small arms, with a complement of 90 men, but only 75 actually on board; the Captain John Joaquin de la Cheva, with the senior Lieutenant, the civil officers, and a boat's crew being absent on shore. She appears to be an almost new vessel, coppered, sails well, and, in my humble judgment, admirably calculated for his Majesty's service. It is with the most heartfelt satisfaction I have to announce, that this service was performed without the loss of a single man, and only seven slightly wounded. But I lament to say that that pleasure is in a great measure damped by the great effusion of blood on the part of the enemy, they having had an officer and four men killed, many jumped overboard and drowned, and the Commanding Officer and twenty-five wounded, many of whom, I am sorry to add, are, in the Surgeon's opinion, mortally. I have therefore, from motives of humanity, sent the whole of them on shore with a flag of truce, where the brave but unfortunate wounded can be better taken care of, which, I trust, you will approve. Lieutenant

