



Edinburgh Gazette

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FROM FRIDAY, JUNE 13. TO TUESDAY, JUNE 17. 1806.

ADMIRALTY-OFFICE—June 14.

Copy of a letter from Captain Hillyar of the Niger frigate, to Vice-Admiral Lord Collingwood.

My Lord, Niger at sea, May 2. 1806.

I have the honour to inform you, that his Majesty's ship under my command this day captured the Spanish (Government) schooner El Virgin del Carmen, commanded by Lieutenant Luis Navaretta, from Algeiras bound to La Guira, with dispatches, which were thrown overboard in the chase. She is coppered, and pierced for twelve guns, but at present has only four swivels on board; and a proportion of small arms for her crew, consisting of 21 men.

I have the honour to be, &c.

J. HILLYAR.

Right Hon. Lord Collingwood, Commander in Chief, &c. &c. &c.

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 at Port Royal April 1, 1806.

Sir,

I have great pleasure in transmitting, for the information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, copies of two letters received from Captain Ross, of his Majesty's ship Pique; the brig appears very well adapted for his Majesty's service, and not more than nine months old; if found adequate thereto by the Officers of the Yard, I shall direct them to be purchased, and intend giving Lieutenant Ward the command of one, as a Commander, till the pleasure of their Lordships is known, who I am sure will highly approve of his conduct in boarding and carrying the armed schooner Santa Clara; it will in some degree alleviate the very severe wound he has received in boarding the French brig of war.

I am, &c.

J. R. DACRES.

Price Sixpence.

His Majesty's ship Pique, off Ocoa Bay, 17th March 1806.

Sir,

I have the honour to inform you, that Lieutenant Ward, of his Majesty's ship under my command, in the gig, assisted by Mr Eveleigh, Midshipman, in the yawl, most gallantly boarded, and succeeded in capturing, after a very smart resistance, and without loss on our side, the Spanish armed schooner Santa Clara, of one 9-pounder and 28 men, completely equipped for war.

I have the honour to be, &c.

C. B. H. ROSS.

To James Richard Dacres, Esq. Vice-Adm. of the White, Commander in Chief, &c.

His Majesty's ship Pique, off St Catharine's, 27th March 1806.

Sir,

I have the honour to inform you, that yesterday, crossing over from Santo Domingo to Curacao, I fell in with two men of war brigs, standing in for the land; at one P. M. being within long range, I commenced firing to prevent their getting in with the shore, and, from superior sailing, closed with them at two, when a most destructive fire continued for about 20 minutes, but a flaw of wind favouring us, the helm was put down, which placed us immediately across the hawse of the Commodore; she was directly boarded by Lieutenants Ward and Baker, and Mr Thompson, and every inch of her decks most obstinately defended; the slaughter on both sides was dreadful; and it is with real concern I state the loss of Mr John Thompson, the Master, who was killed, with eight seamen; and Lieutenants Ward and Baker, with twelve seamen and marines wounded: the contest was very severe, but in about five minutes the colours were hauled down; the other struck after a few broadsides more, and we took possession of the Phaeton and Voltigeur, of 16 guns, and 120 men each, French brigs of war, beautiful vessels, and only nine

months old. It was impossible for two vessels to be more obstinately defended, every thing being cut to pieces, and nearly one half of their crews killed or wounded. I understand they had been roughly handled by an English man of war brig (Rein Deer) the day before.

I beg leave to recommend to your notice my First Lieutenant Ward, whose good conduct at all times has merited the highest approbation; he is, I am afraid, dangerously wounded.

The death of Mr Thompson I most sincerely lament; in him his country has lost a brave and most excellent Officer; he is the same so handsomely spoken of by Captain Bisset in the Raccoon; he has left a wife to lament his loss, and almost a stranger in this country. The wound of Lieutenant Baker, I rejoice to say, will only lay him by for a short time.

The assistance I received from Lieutenant Craig of the Royal Marines (who is also wounded) and his party deserve the highest praise, for the steady and well directed fire kept up by them, and their soldier-like behaviour at all times. We had only one man wounded on board, all the others were killed and wounded on the brig's decks. The ship's company behaved uncommonly well, and I trust the conduct of all will merit your approbation.

I have the honour to be, &c.

CHARLES B. H. ROSS.

James Richard Dacres, Esq. Vice-Admiral of the White, Commander in Chief, &c.

Le Phaeton, 16 guns, 120 men, Freyanc, Lieutenant de Vaisseau.

Le Voltigeur, 16 guns, 115 men, M. St Craig, Lieutenant de Vaisseau.

I beg leave to enclose you a list of the killed and wounded on board his Majesty's ship under my command. I have had no account from the prizes, but their loss has been very great. The Commodore has lost his right arm.

CHARLES B. H. ROSS.

