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ADMIRALTY OFFICE, AUGUST 2.

Copy of a Letter from the Earl of St Vincent, K. B. Admiral and Commander in Chief of his Majesty's Fleet employed in the Channel, Soundings, &c. to Wm. Marsden, Esq. dated on board his Majesty's Ship Hibernia, off Ushant the 27th July, 1806.

SIR—I inclose the relation of a very gallant action, in which the most intrepid valour has been manifested, and the national character highly sustained, but I greatly lament the loss of a number of brave men in the performance of it, flattering myself, however, that 16 of them are prisoners.

I am, &c.

ST VINCENT.

Centaur, off Rochefort, July 19, 1806.

MY LORD—I beg to inclose your Lordship a letter I received from Capt. Rodd, of his Majesty's ship Indefatigable, giving an account of an attack made by a boat from each line of battle ship of this squadron, and those of his Majesty's ships Indefatigable and Iris, on two corvettes and a convoy, in the entrance of the river Garonne. Le César, the largest corvette, was boarded and carried by the division of boats led on by Lieut. Sibby, First Lieutenant of the Centaur, in a style highly honourable to the national character. The western breeze that sprung up after the boats left the Indefatigable, and blowing stronger as they advanced, was truly perplexing, for it was the only circumstance that could have prevented the whole falling into our hands; they took advantage on the first attack, and made sail, and escaped before the wind and tide up the Garonne; it was impossible for the boats to prevent them. The firm resistance made by the corvette caused a greater loss than could be expected, but nothing could withstand the bravery of the officers and seamen employed.

To Lieut. Sibby's gallantry no words of mine are equal to do justice; every one speaks of him in terms of the highest commendation, and I had before, in the West Indies, experienced his brave conduct, and now has seven severe wounds, but I hope none mortal; and I beg leave to recommend him as an officer truly deserving the attention of my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty.

To Lieut. Parker, First of the Indefatigable, much praise is due, and given him by Lieut. Sibby, for his brave support and able conduct in managing the corvette after he was wounded.

The loss of the boats was unavoidable, of that of the Revenge, with her officers and crew, no certain account can be obtained; there is a faint hope she may have been driven up the Garonne.

I have the honour to be, &c.

SAM. HOOD.

Rt. Hon. Earl of St Vincent, K. B.

Indefatigable, off Rochefort, July 17, 1806.

SIR—I have the honour to acquaint you, in obedience to your orders of the 14th inst. I gave the command of the boats of the squadron you sent me by the Iris, for the purpose of endeavouring to capture or destroy the French convoy, in the entrance of the River of Bourdeaux (with the addition of three from the Indefatigable, and three from the Iris), to Lieut. Sibby, of the Centaur with all the information I was in possession of respecting their situation on the evening of the 15th, it appearing a favourable time to make the attempt; though some time after the boats had quitted the Indefatigable, the wind shifted to the westward and came on to blow fresh, notwithstanding the boats proceeded to Verdun Road, boarded and carried the French brig Le César, of eighteen guns, and by the Rolle D'Equipage, eighty-six men, commanded by Monsieur Louis Francois Hector Pourre Lieutenant de Vaisseau. The conflict was severe on both sides, the Frenchmen being in every respect well prepared, expecting the attack. The wind coming on to blow fresh, and the tide running very strong, was much against the boats; but nothing could withstand such men led on by the officers who commanded them.

Lieut. Sibby, I lament to say, is badly wounded in several places, though, from the reports of the Surgeon, I trust, will recover. To this gallant officer, (whose conduct is spoken of by all who were under his command with admiration,) I beg to refer you for particulars. The convoy all cut their cables and run up the River instantly on the attack being made on the brig.

There is much credit due to Lieutenant Thomas Parker, First of the Indefatigable, who took the

command of Le César, after she was carried, for his conduct in working her out past the batteries, which kept up a constant cross fire on her, and engaged by the Teaser brig, (late in his Majesty's service), for nearly two hours; the same attaches to the other officers and men for their coolness and conduct whilst they were engaged.

The greater part of the boats were either shot through, or so badly stove, that they were swamped and obliged to be cut adrift from the brig, except the Indefatigable's launch and Iris's cutter. The Revenge's boat, officer, and crew, are missing. Le César is a fine brig, evidently sails well, five years old, 88 feet long, 23 wide, coppered, and appears fit for his Majesty's service. Inclosed is a list of the killed and wounded.

I have the honour to be, &c.

JOHN T. RODD.

To Sir Samuel Hood, Senior Officer,
&c. &c. &c. off Rochefort.

A List of Officers and Men belonging to such of the boats of his Majesty's Squadron, under the orders of Captain Sir Samuel Hood, K. B. who were killed or wounded in the attack of the French men of war and convoy in Bourdeaux River, on the 16th July 1806.

CENTAUR, Lieut. Sibby—E. R. Sibby, Lieutenant, wounded by pike and sabre on the side, arm, and face; Samuel Wooldridge, Quarter-Master, wounded badly in the thigh by a pike; Thomas Gray, Quarter Gunner, wounded badly in the side by a pike; Mich. Hales, able, wounded in the hand and arm by a musket ball, and in the shoulder by a pike; John James, able, wounded slightly on the chin by a musket ball; Bernard Connor, able, wounded in the lip by a sabre, and thigh by a pike; William Tully, able, killed by a musket ball; William McCornick, private of marines, wounded badly on the arm by a musket ball, and thigh by a pike.

CONQUEROR—Lieut. G. Fitzmaurice; Mr Hielpman, master's mate, killed by a shot in the boat; Thomas Willoughby, quarter-master, wounded, fear mortally, on board the César brig; Samuel Noy, able, wounded severely in the arm.

PRINCE OF WALES—David Parry, able, killed; F. B. Gibbs, wounded slightly on the left leg and right arm; Thomas Mullins, master's mate, fifth

