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FROM FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 28. TO TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2. 1806.

ADMIRALTY-OFFICE, NOV. 29. 1806.

Copies of Letters, and their Inclosures, from Vice-Admiral Dacres, Commander in Chief of his Majesty's Ships and Vessels at Jamaica, to William Marfden, Esq. dated Shark, Port Royal, O.S. 4. 1806.

SIR,
I am much gratified in transmitting you, for the information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, the copy of a letter I have just received from Capt. Brisbane, of the *Arethusa*, acquainting me of the capture of his Catholic Majesty's frigate *Pomona*, the destruction of twelve gun-boats, and the explosion of a castle, mounting sixteen 36-pounders, by that ship and the *Anson*.

The success attending this bold enterprize, I trust their Lordships will agree with me, Capt. Brisbane was well entitled to, for the promptness and decision with which he anchored in such shoal water, to attack a force of such magnitude. The destruction of the gun-boats was occasioned by the *Anson's* well-directed fire. The conduct of all concerned will, I trust, be honoured with their Lordships' approbation.

I am, &c.

J. R. DACRES.

Arethusa, off the Havannah,
Aug. 25. 1806.

SIR,

I have the honour to inform you of a successful attack having been made by his Majesty's ships *Arethusa* and *Anson* on the enemy near the *Moro Castle*, in the island of Cuba, on the morning of the 23d inst.

The result has been the capture of the Spanish frigate *Pomona*, of thirty-eight guns, with a complement of three hundred and forty-seven men, and the destruction of twelve gun-boats, each carrying a 24-pounder, with a complement of an hundred men each, and the explosion of a castle mounting sixteen 36-pounders.

I trust you will excuse my entering into a detail of the services performed; in justice to the officers and men under my orders, I feel it right

you should be made acquainted with the particulars.

On the morning of the 23d instant, I discovered the enemy within two miles of the *Moro Castle*, rather to leeward, carrying all possible sail to get into the Havannah. I therefore made the signal to lay the enemy on board on coming up with her, but my design was frustrated by the *Pomona* bearing up, having been joined by twelve gun-boats from the Havannah, and anchoring within pistol-shot of a castle mounting sixteen 36-pounders, in three fathoms and a half water. The gun-boats advanced from her in a line a-breast.

These boats were sent out expressly to protect the *Pomona* at her anchorage. This line of defence certainly appeared formidable, added to a lee shore, but difficulties with British seamen are easily got the better of, and well knowing the able and gallant support I should meet from Captain Lydiard, I decided instantly to attack the enemy in their strong position, and bore up for that purpose, having previously passed a bower cable through the stern port. In going down both ships suffered considerably in their sails and rigging from the raking fire of the gun-boats, the *Pomona* and castle reserving theirs until we anchored.

At ten A. M. I anchored his Majesty's ship *Arethusa* close alongside the *Pomona*, in one foot more water than the ship drew; the *Anson* on my larboard bow; when the action became general, but not of long duration. The *Pomona* having struck her colours in thirty-five minutes, three of the gun-boats blew up, six were sunk, and three driven on shore on the breakers.

Notwithstanding the severe fire from the castle, the *Pomona* was instantly taken possession of by Lieutenant Parish, First of the *Arethusa*, and followed by Lieutenant Sullivan, First of the *Anson*.

The castle had now commenced firing red-hot

shot, which occasioned the *Arethusa* to be set on fire, but was soon extinguished by the very proper arrangements of Lieuts Higman and Griffith, commanding the main-deck. Shortly after, a melancholy and dreadful explosion took place in the castle, after which all firing ceased.

It now becomes a pleasing part of my duty to recommend to your particular notice the steady and gallant conduct of Captain Lydiard, the officers and men of both ships, all appearing to be animated with the same enthusiastic zeal.

I have, &c.

CHARLES BRISBANE,

Vice-Admiral Dacres, Commander
in Chief, &c.

A List of Killed and Wounded.

Arethusa.—2 killed and 32 wounded.

Anson.—No. 2 killed or wounded.

Spanish Frigate *Pomona*.—Captain and 20 men killed;

2 Lieutenants and 30 men wounded.

Gun-Boats.—The loss of men much to be considered, as very few of them reached the shore, from those boats which were blown up and sunk.

CHARLES BRISBANE.

The *Pomona* was from Vera Cruz, bound to the Havannah, laden with specie and merchandize.

The money belonging to the King was landed at the castle by the Governor of the Havannah, and the Spanish Admiral, who had previously come out to place the *Pomona* in safety, as they considered her under the protection of the castle, and had only left her ten minutes before the action commenced.

The freight belonging to the merchants, with plate and various kinds of merchandize, I have captured.

CHARLES BRISBANE.

A List of the Killed and Wounded.

Killed.—Seamen, Jeremiah Reed and John Sloane.

Wounded.—Captain Brisbane, but did not quit the deck; Lieutenant Higman, of the navy; Lieutenant Fennel, of the marines; seamen, Lazarus Thornton, Robert Taylor, Matthew Holmes, John Reid, John Smith, William Priddle, Henry Durand, George

