



# Edinburgh Gazette.

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LONDON GAZETTE EXTRAORDINARY.  
SUNDAY—FEB. 22.

ADMIRALTY-OFFICE, Feb. 21. 1807.

Captain Lydiard, of his Majesty's ship the Anson, arrived here this morning with dispatches from Vice Admiral Dacres, Commander in Chief of his Majesty's ships and vessels at Jamaica, to William Marsden, Esq. of which the following are copies:—

*Shark, Port Royal, Jan. 11.*

Sir,—I have much satisfaction in congratulating my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty on the capture of the island of Curaçoa, on New Year's Day in the morning, by the four frigates named in the margin\*, under the orders of Captain Brisbane, of the Arethusa; a copy of whose letter I enclose for their Lordships' information. Whilst I contemplate the immense strength of the harbour of Amsterdam, and the superior force contained in its different batteries opposed to the entrance of the frigates, I know not how sufficiently to admire the decision of Captain Brisbane in attempting the harbour, and the determined bravery and conduct displayed by himself, the other three Captains, and all the officers and men under his command; and is another strong instance of the cool and determined bravery of British seamen. Captain Brisbane being, from his situation, obliged to act as Governor, I have, as an acknowledgment and high approbation of his conduct, continued him in that situation till his Majesty's pleasure be known; and request, in the strongest manner, that their Lordships will be pleased to recommend him for that appointment. Captain Lydiard (who will have the honour of

\* *Arethusa, Latona, Anson, and Fisgard.*

Price Sixpence.

delivering this, and who fully partook of the conquest, and has before distinguished himself off the Havannah) I beg to refer their Lordships to for any information. I shall put an acting Captain into the Anson until his return, or I receive directions thereon. I am, &c.

(Signed) J. R. DACRES.

*His Majesty's Ship Arethusa, Curaçoa, Jan. 1.*

SIR—It is with the most lively and heartfelt satisfaction I have the honour to inform you, that his Majesty's squadron under my command has this day opened the new year with what I humbly flatter myself will be deemed an enterprise of considerable consequence to my country.

I proceeded in the execution of your orders the 29th of November with every possible avidity, but the adverse wind and current prevented me from reaching this island before the 1st instant. In my way up I met Captain Bolton, of the Fisgard, going to Jamaica; I took him under my orders, according to your directions, and proceeded with the squadron off this port, having previously resolved on that system of attack which British seamen are so capable of executing. My arrangements having been previously made known to the respective Captains, I was satisfied nothing further remained for me than to put it in execution. My line of battle consisted of the Arethusa, Latona, Anson, and Fisgard; and very soon after the break of day, I made all possible sail with the ships in close order of battle, passing the whole extensive line of sea batteries, and anchored the squadron in a style far surpassing my expectations. Being still desirous of having the effusion of human blood spared, I writ the inclosed, No. 1. on the capstan of his Majesty's ship Arethusa during

the action, which was not regarded, as they did their utmost to destroy us. Words cannot express the ability of the squadron. The harbour was defended by regular fortifications, of two tier of guns, Fort Amsterdam alone consisting of 66 pieces of cannon; the entrance only fifty yards wide, athwart which was the Dutch frigate Hatslar, of 36 guns, and Surinam, of 22, with two large schooners of war, one commanded by a Dutch commander; a chain of forts was on Miselburg commanding Height; and that almost impregnable fortress, Fort Republique, within the distance of grape shot, enfilading the whole harbour.

At a quarter past six o'clock we entered the port; a severe and destructive cannonade ensued, the frigate, sloop, and schooners were carried by boarding; the lower forts, the citadel, and town of Amsterdam by storm; all of which, by seven o'clock, were in our possession. For humanity's sake I granted the annexed capitulation; and, at ten o'clock, the British flag was hoisted in Fort Republique. The whole island is in our quite possession. The strength, commerce, and value, I understand, is immense. It is now become a pleasing part of my duty, although impossible to do justice to the merits, gallantry, and determination of Captains Wood, Lydiard, and Bolton, who so nobly headed their respective ship's companies to the storm; and the same gallantry and determination are due to the officers, seamen, and marines, for following up so glorious an example. Inclosed is a list of the killed and wounded in his Majesty's squadron. I have not yet been able to ascertain that of the enemy, except those in the ships. The Dutch Commodore was killed early in the action, and the Captain of the Surinam severely

