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FROM *FRIDAY*, JANUARY 20. TO *TUESDAY*, JANUARY 24. 1797.

ADMIRALTY-OFFICE, *January 20. 1797.*

Copy of a letter from Rear-Admiral HARVEY to Mr NEPEAN, dated on board the Prince of Wales, Fort Royal Bay, Martinique, December 4. 1796.

SIR,

YOU will please to acquaint their Lordships, that a few hours after I anchored with the Squadron in this bay, the 2d instant, I received a letter from Captain Barton, of his Majesty's ship Lapwing, acquainting me that he had destroyed the French ship Le Decius, and La Vaillante brig; off St Martin's, and that two French frigates La Thetis and La Penfee were at anchor off St Martin's, referring me to Lieutenant St Clair for further information.

In consequence of the two frigates lying at St Martin's, I immediately ordered the Bellona and Invincible to St Kitt's, and directed Captain Wilson to obtain such information as was necessary at that island, and then proceed towards St Martin's and Anguilla, using his best endeavours to take or destroy the French frigates, and protect the Island of Anguilla, and he failed the same evening on that service.

Captain Barton having referred me to Lieutenant St Clair, whom he detached in a Danish schooner with his letter, it appears that the French had landed about three hundred men on the Island of Anguilla, the 26th ultimo, and that after having plundered the island, and burnt several houses, and committed every devastation possible, attended with acts of great cruelty; that on the appearance of the Lapwing, they re-embarked their troops the night of the 26th, and the following morning early the Lapwing came to action with the Decius of 26 guns, and Valiant brig, mounting four thirty-two and twenty-four pounders, as a gun vessel; that after a close action of about an hour the brig bore away, and in half an hour after the Decius struck her colours. The brig ran on shore on St Martin's, and by the fire of the Lapwing was destroyed; that on the Lapwing taking possession of the Decius, it was found she had about eighty men killed and forty wounded, being full of troops; that the following day the Lapwing was chased by two large French frigates, and Captain Barton found it necessary to take the prisoners and his men out of the Decius, and set fire to her, when he returned to St Kitt's, and landed one hundred and seventy prisoners.

[Price 4d.]

I shall take the earliest opportunity of transmitting any further accounts which may be sent by Captain Barton; but it evidently appears that Captain Barton's conduct was highly meritorious by the capture and destruction of this force of the enemy; and saving the Island of Anguilla from further depredation.

The French troops employed on this service were picked men from Guadaloupe; and there is great reason to suppose the greatest part of them have been taken or destroyed. Many of the soldiers were drowned in attempting to swim on shore.

The Lapwing had but one man killed (the pilot) and six men wounded. I am, &c. HENRY HARVEY.

Extract of a letter from Vice-Admiral KINGSMILL, Commander in Chief of his Majesty's forces and vessels at Cork, to Mr NEPEAN, dated on board the Polyphemus, January 13. 1797.

PLEASE inform my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, that his Majesty's ship Druid [is arrived at Kinfales, detached from the Unicorn and Doris, with a large French ship, armed en flute, captured by them, named La Ville de L'Orient, having on board four hundred of the enemy's hussars, completely equipped, besides some mortars, cannon, muskets, powder, cloathing, &c. being one of the ships on the expedition against this country; and that the Unicorn and Doris were left following up the intelligence they had received, for the further annoyance of the enemy.

Copy of a Letter from Admiral Sir RICHARD KING, Bart. Commander in Chief of his Majesty's ships and vessels at Plymouth, to EVAN NEPEAN, Esq. dated January 17, 1797.

LIEUT. Gardiner, of his Majesty's ship Hind, arrived here this morning in the La Favorite national privateer of 8 guns, 4-pounders, and sixty men, captured by the Hind, in company with the fleet commanded by Lord Bridport, from whom he parted the 13th inst. in the latitude of 48 deg. north, longitude 8 deg. 30 min. west.

Lord Bridport looked into Bantry Bay on the 8th inst.—no French ships were there then.

Extract of a Letter from Admiral Sir RICHARD KING, Bart. Commander in Chief of his Majesty's ships and

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