

ADMIRALTY OFFICE, Feb. 28.

Copy of a letter from Commodore Nelson to Admiral Sir John Jervis, Commander in Chief of his Majesty's ships and vessels in the Mediterranean, dated Dec. 20, 1796.

Last night at ten o'clock I saw two Spanish frigates, and directed Captain Cockburne, in the *Minerve* to attack the ship, which carried a Poop-light; the *Blanche* bore down to attack the other. I have not yet received from Captain Preston an account of his action, but as I saw the *Blanche* this morning to windward with every sail set, I presume she had not suffered much damage.

Captain Cockburne brought his ship to close action at twenty minutes before eleven, which continued without intermission till half past one, when *La Sabina*, of forty guns, twenty-eight eighteen-pounders on her main-deck, two hundred and eighty-six men, Captain Don Jacoba Stuart, having lost her mizen-mast, (as she did after the action) main and fore mast, one hundred and sixty-four men killed and wounded, struck her colours.

You are, Sir, so thoroughly acquainted with the merits of Captain Cockburne, that it is needless for me to express them; but the discipline of the *Minerve* does the highest credit to her Captain and Lieutenants, and I wish fully to express the sense I entertain of their judgment and gallantry. Lieutenant Culverhouse, the First Lieutenant, is an old officer of very distinguished merit; Lieutenants Hardy, Gage and Noble, deserve every praise which gallantry and zeal justly entitle them to, as do every other officer and man in the ship. You will observe, Sir, I am sure, with regret, amongst the wounded, Lieutenant James Noble, who quitted the Captain to serve with me, and whose merits, and repeated wounds, received in fighting the enemies of our country, entitle him to every reward which a grateful nation can bestow; the *Minerve's* opponent being commanded by a gallant officer, was well defended, which has caused her list of killed and wounded to be great, as also her masts, sails and rigging to be much damaged.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) HORATIO NELSON.

Killed—Seven.

Wounded—Thirty-four.

Missing—Four, supposed to be in the prize.

Officers wounded—Lieutenant J. Noble, Mr Merryweather, boatswain.

Petty Officers killed and wounded.

Killed—One Midshipman.

Wounded—Captain's Clerk, and Serjeant of the 11th regiment, serving as marines.

Damages—All her masts shot through, and furniture much cut.

(Signed) HORATIO NELSON.

Copy of a letter from Commodore Nelson to Admiral Sir John Jervis, Commander in Chief of his Majesty's ships in the Mediterranean, dated Dec. 20, 1796, Seven P. M.

In addition to my letter of this morning, I have to acquaint you, that Lieutenants Culverhouse and Hardy, with a proper number of men, being put in charge of the *Sabina*, and she taken in tow, at four A. M. a frigate was seen coming up, which, by her signals, was known to be Spanish: At half past four she came to action with the *Minerve*, who cast off the prize, and Lieut. Culver-

house was directed to stand to the southward; after a trial of strength of more than half an hour she wore and hauled off, or I am confident she would have shared the fate of her companion. At this time three other ships were seen standing for the *Minerve*; hope was alive, that they were only frigates, and also that the *Blanche* was one of them; but when the day dawned it was mortifying to see they were two Spanish ships of the line and two frigates, and the *Blanche* far to windward. In this situation, the enemy frequently within shot, by bringing up the breeze, it required all the skill of Captain Cockburne, which he eminently displayed, to get off with a crippled ship: And here I must also do justice to Lieutenants Culverhouse and Hardy, and express my tribute of praise in their management of the prize; a frigate repeatedly fired into her without effect, and at last the Spanish Admiral quitted the pursuit of the *Minerve* for that of *La Sabina*, who was steering a different course, evidently with the intention of attracting the notice of the Admiral, as English colours were hoisted over the Spanish. The *Sabina's* main and fore mast fell overboard before she surrendered. This is, Sir, an unpleasant tale; but the merits of every officer and man in the *Minerve* and her prize were eminently conspicuous through the whole of this arduous day. The enemy quitted the pursuit of the *Minerve* at dark.

Killed. None. Wounded. Ten.

Officer wounded, Mr Hinton, gunner.

Mainmast much damaged, sails and rigging much cut.

(Signed) HORATIO NELSON.

Copy of a letter from Commodore Nelson to Admiral Sir John Jervis, K. B. dated Dec. 24, 1796.

SIR,

Yesterday the *Minerve* took, off the south end of Sardinia, a French privateer called the *Maria*, of six nine pounders, and fifty-eight men; three days from Marseilles, on a cruize, taken nothing.

I am, Sir, your most obedient servant,

HORATIO NELSON.

Copy of a Letter from Captain Macnamara, of his Majesty's Ship Southampton, to Sir John Jervis, K. B. dated Porto Ferrajo, December, 8, 1796.

SIR,

Cruising off Cape Del Melle, pursuant to an order from Captain Freemantle, at six o'clock P. M. of the 2d instant, I discovered a sail to the westward. I made sail, and after a chase of six hours and a half came up with her close under Monaco, making in for the land, with an intention to run her on shore. To obviate their purpose there were no other means left but to lay her on board, as it blew a hard gale of wind to the S. E. Our first attempt failed in consequence of a heavy sea and the darkness of the night; however, the second was more successful; as I threw men on board of her, and brought her off without any damage done to either vessel: the badness of the weather prevented our changing prisoners or having any communication for forty-eight hours after we took possession of her. She proved to be the *Corso*, a Spanish man of war brig, of 18 guns (six-pounders) and 136 men, bound from Genoa to Barcelona, and commanded by Don Antonio