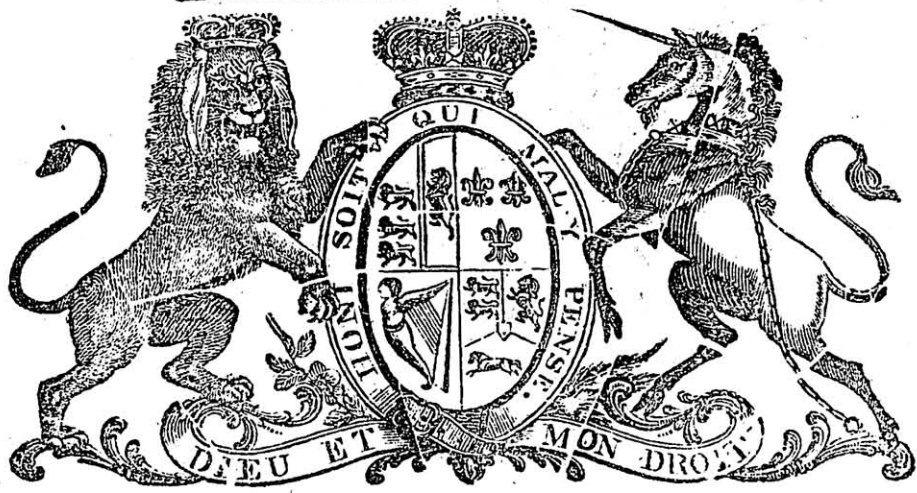


Comptroller

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FROM FRIDAY, JUNE 27. TO TUESDAY, JULY 1. 1800.

ADMIRALTY-OFFICE—June 28.

Copy of a Letter from Vice-Admiral Lord Keith, K. B. Commander in Chief of his Majesty's ships and vessels in the Mediterranean, to Evan Nepean, Esq. dated on board the Minotaur, off Genoa, May 21.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour of reporting to you, for the information of their Lordships, that, by private intelligence from Genoa, I understood the French had resolved on boarding our flotilla in any future attempt to bombard the town, and yesterday, about twelve o'clock, a very large galley, a cutter, three armed settees, and several gun-boats appeared in array off the Molehead, and in the course of the afternoon exchanged distant shot with some of the ships as they passed them. At sunset they took a position under the guns of the moles and the city bastions, which were covered with men, manifesting a determined resistance; I nevertheless arranged every thing for a fourth bombardment, as formerly, under the direction of Captain Philip Beaver, of the Aurora, who left the Minotaur at nine P. M. attended by the gun and mortar vessels and the armed boats of the ships. About one o'clock, being arrived at a proper distance for commencing his fire, a brisk cannonade was opened upon the town, which was returned from various points; and Captain Beaver having discovered from the flashes of some guns that they were directed from something nearly level with the water, judiciously concluded that they proceeded from some of the enemy's armed vessels; calling a detachment of the ship's boats to his assistance, he made directly to the spot, and in a most gallant and spirited manner, under a smart fire of cannon and musketry from the moles and enemy's armed vessels, attacked, boarded, carried, and brought off their largest galley La Prima of 50 oars and 257 men, armed, besides muskets, pistols, cutlasses, &c. with two brass guns of thirty-six pounds, having about thirty brass swivels in her hold, and commanded by Captain Parizio Galleano. The bombardment suffered no material interruption, but was continued till day-light this morning, when the Prima was safely brought off; her extreme length is 159 feet, and her breadth 23 feet 6 inches.

On our part four seamen only have been wounded; one belonging to this ship, in the boat with Captain Beaver; one be-

[Price Sixpence.]

longing to the Pallas; and the other two to the Haerlam.—The enemy's loss is not exactly known, but one man was found dead on board, and fifteen wounded.

The satisfaction which I derive from considering the zeal activity, and gallantry with which this service has been performed, is greatly augmented by the flattering testimony borne by Captain Beaver to the good conduct of the officers and seamen who acted with him on this occasion.

I have the honour to be, &c.

KEITH.

Copy of another Letter from Vice-Admiral Lord Keith, K. B. Commander in Chief of his Majesty's ships and vessels in the Mediterranean, to Evan Nepean, Esq. dated off Genoa, April 22.

SIR,

A LETTER, of which the inclosed is a copy, received by me from Captain Oliver, of his Majesty's ship the Mermaid, will inform their Lordships how actively that officer has been employed in the important service of cutting off the supplies destined for the enemy's troops in the city of Genoa.

I have the honour to be, &c.

KEITH.

Mr Lord, *Mermaid,Mahon, April 10, 1800.*

I HAVE the honour to acquaint your Lordship, that his Majesty's ship under my command has taken and destroyed nine vessels laden, mostly for Genoa, with wine and corn, between the 2d and 6th inst. Six of them were cut out by two of our boats under the direction of Lieutenant Corbett; they were moored to a fort within the small Islands near Cape Croisiers. I had seen them collecting all day; and soon after sunset I went in with the ship, under the battery, within the range of grape shot, and anchored with a spring on the cable; and after cannonading the fort more than an hour, I saw the six vessels, which Mr Corbett had most ably got under weigh, coming out, when I followed them with the ship: I am happy to say that we have had no person hurt on this service; and a shot through our cut-water, which is of little consequence, is the only damage we have received.

I have the honour to be, &c.

R. D. OLIVER.

Right Honourable Lord Keith, K. B. &c. &c.

(A.)

