

Phaeton, stating the Capture of the French Frigate La Flore, together with a Copy of One from Captain Frazer, of His Majesty's Ship Nymphé, stating the Capture of the Spanish Ship L'Édad de Oro, also the Recapture of the English Sloop Charlotte. I am, &c. BRIDPORT.

Copy of a Letter from the Honorable Captain Stopford, of His Majesty's Ship Phaeton, to Admiral Lord Bridport, dated at Sea, 8th September, 1798.

My Lord,

I Have the Honor to inform your Lordship, that I having received Intelligence of a French Frigate being about to sail from Bourdeaux, I stood to the Southward, in Company with the Anson, to try to intercept her, and after a Search of Seven Days, and a Chace of Twenty Hours from Yesterday Noon, I have the Pleasure to inform your Lordship, that La Flore French Frigate, of Thirty-six Guns and Two Hundred and Fifty-five Men, was captured by the Anson and Phaeton.

She has been Eight Days from Bourdeaux, bound on a Cruise.

I have the Honor to be, &c. &c.

ROB. STOPFORD.

La Nymphé, Caswand Bay, September, 1798.

My Lord,

I Have the Honor to acquaint your Lordship, that on the 6th Instant, and about Six Miles distant from Corunna Light-House, I fell in with and captured the Spanish Ship L'Édad de Oro, from the Havannah, and La Guaira bound to Corunna, laden with Cocoa; His Majesty's Ship Aurora, and the Lord Hawke Privateer, now in Company, and the latter, availing herself of her Sweeps, came up first and brought her to.

I have also to acquaint your Lordship, that on the 7th Instant I recaptured the Charlotte Sloop from London, bound to Newfoundland. I have thought proper to see the Spanish Prize into Port.

I am, &c. &c. &c.

PERCY FRASER.

Right Hon. Lord Bridport, K. B.

Ec. Ec. Ec.

Admiralty-Office, September 18, 1798.

Copy of a Letter from Admiral Earl St. Vincent, Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Ships and Vessels in the Mediterranean, to Evan Nepean, Esq; dated on board the Ville de Paris, off Cadix, August 20, 1798.

SIR,

I Enclose a Letter from Captain Dixon of His Majesty's Ship the Lion, acquainting me with his Success in capturing His Catholic Majesty's Frigate El Dorothea.

Captain Dixon seems to have displayed great Judgment and cool Courage on this Occasion.

I am, &c. &c. &c.

ST. VINCENT.

Copy of a Letter from Captain Dixon, of His Majesty's Ship the Lion, to Admiral the Earl of St. Vincent, dated at Sea, the 16th July, 1798.

My Lord,

IT is with the greatest Pleasure I have the Honor to inform your Lordship, that Yesterday Morning at Nine o'Clock, Carthagea bearing N. 79 W.

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distant Twenty-nine Leagues, I had the good Fortune to fall in with a Squadron of Spanish Frigates, as per Margin*, and that after having brought them to close Action, about a Quarter past Eleven o'Clock, which lasted with great Warmth till Ten Minutes past One P. M. the Enemy was totally defeated and put to Flight, leaving the Dorothea to her Fate, having hoisted an English Ensign with the Union downwards; and as I considered her in the greatest Distress, I lost not a Moment in taking Possession, which was done in the Face of the Three remaining Frigates, distant about Two Miles on my Weather-Bow.

In detailing the Particulars of the above Affair, I have to inform your Lordship, that at the Hour the Frigates were descried in the S. E. Quarter, the Lion was steering East with a Crowd of Sail, the Wind moderate at W. S. W.; and as I soon discovered by their Signals and other Manœuvres they were Enemies, I immediately cleared Ship for Action, which being effected in the shortest Time I ever recollect to have seen, I acquainted the Officers and Ship's Company with my Intention of immediately bringing the Frigates to the closest Action possible; and observing the Cheerfulness with which it was received, I determined not to lose a Moment to profit thereby, and accordingly took in Studding Sails and First Reefs of the Topsails, in order to secure the Fighting of the Lower Battery, and hauled up towards the Frigates which were steering for the Lion. Having secured the Weather-Gage, I bore down on the Enemy, who was forming in a close Order of Battle on the Larboard Line of Bearing: The third Frigate from the Van had lost her Fore-Top-Mast. It immediately occurred to me that the crippled Ship was my Object, in order to secure a general Action; supposing that a Spaniard (from the Nobleness of his Character) would never with so superior a Force forsake a Friend in Distress. In this I fortunately succeeded; and steering for and closing with the crippled Ship, which was now become the Sternmost in the Line of Battle, the other Three Frigates tacked in Succession, and passed the Lion very gallantly within Musquet Shot: But as their Line after Tacking was by no Means a close one, they each received a well-directed Broadside from the Lion; the good Effect of which was very visible by their standing a considerable Time on that Tack. I still continued to steer for the crippled Ship, who, nearly sailing as well as the Lion, galled her very considerably in the Rigging by her Stern Chaces.

The Three Frigates made a Second close Attempt, but not so close as the former, to support her, and were each fully repaid by an Exchange of Broadsides. At length we closed with the crippled Ship, and poured in a destructive Fire, the Yard-Arms being just clear of each other; he nevertheless did not strike for some Time after. At this Period I found the Lion totally ungovernable, having all her Braces, Bowlings, Clue Garnets, &c. shot away,

* Pomona, of 42 Guns and 350 Men, Felix O'Neil Commodore, Don Francis Villamil Captain:

Dorothea, of 42 Guns and 370 Men, Don Manuel Gerraro Captain.

Casilda, of 42 Guns and 350 Men, Don Deam. Errara Captain:

Proserpine, of 42 Guns and 350 Men, Quaj. Bial Captain:

They all sailed from Carthagea the 8th Instant on a Cruise.

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