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Admiralty-Office, October 13, 1810.

Copy of a Letter from the Right Honourable Lord Gambier, Admiral of the White, &c. to John Wilson Croker, Esq. dated in London, the 10th Instant.

SIR,

I REQUEST you will communicate to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty the accompanying Letter, dated the 28th September, which I have this Day received from Rear-Admiral Sir Harry Neale, Bart. giving an Account of a very well-conducted, gallant, and successful Attack made by a Party of Seamen under the Orders of Lieutenant Hamilton, first of the Caledonia, and of Marines under the Orders of Captain Sherman of that Ship, in the Boats of the Squadron in Basque Roads, named in the Margin *, upon Three laden Brigs of the Enemy, under the Batteries of Point du Ché, near Rochelle, two of which they captured, and burnt the third; and I beg Leave to call their Lordships' Notice to the Observations which Sir Harry Neale has made respecting the Loss sustained by Lieutenant Little of the Royal Marines.

I have the Honour to be, &c.

(Signed) GAMBIER.

Caledonia, in Basque Roads,

MY LORD,

September 28, 1810.

SINCE my Letter of the 12th Instant, detailing the Capture and Destruction of Three of the Enemy's Brigs on the East Coast of this Road, the small Vessels with the Boats of the Caledonia and Valiant have been successfully employed in stopping the Coasting Trade between Rochelle and the Isle of Aix, but more particularly in blockading Three of the Enemy's Brigs that had sought Protection under the Battery upon Point du Ché, and forming Part of a Convoy to which the former Vessels belonged, the whole of them laden with Timber and Provisions on account of Government. I have now the Honour to inform your Lordship, that the Tide being sufficiently high, and the Nights dark, I judged it practicable to effect either the Capture or Destruction of these Vessels, but as the Enemy had strengthened his Position with Four Field-Pieces, and their Artillerymen posted upon the Beach, and on a low Point situated under the

* Caledonia, Valiant, and Armide.

Battery, with a strong Detachment of Foot and Horse in the adjoining Village of Angolin, it was obvious we could only succeed with the Means we possessed in effecting this Object, but by a Coup de Main, and with a Force adequate to the Resistance that was likely to be immediately opposed to us. In consequence of this Persuasion I directed One Hundred and Thirty Marines from the Caledonia and Valiant to be embarked in the Boats of their respective Ships, under the Direction of Captain Sherman, of the Royal Marines of this Ship, for the Purpose of landing under Point du Ché, to carry the Battery and Field-Pieces by Assault, and to spike the Guns, allotting to the other Boats of the Squadron the Capture or Destruction of the Brigs. I have the Satisfaction to acquaint your Lordships, that this Force proceeded last Night, agreeably to the Arrangement I had previously made, under the Command of Lieutenant Hamilton of this Ship, with the other Lieutenants of the Squadron, who also volunteered their Services in the Command of the different Boats upon this Occasion, the whole acting with that Degree of Zeal, Regularity, and Attention I had every Reason to expect, and which so much contributes to the Success of an Undertaking.

The Marines were landed at the Place appointed about Half-past Two o'Clock in the Morning, but notwithstanding the near Approach of the Boats before they were discovered, the Alarm was given from the Brigs, and an ineffectual Fire was immediately opened upon them from the Enemy's Guns. Lieutenant Little, of the Royal Marine Artillery, immediately on landing pushed forward with the Bayonet to the Assault, supported by Captain M'Lauchlin's Division, with Lieutenant Colter, both of the Royal Marines of the Valiant, and Lieutenant Gouche of this Ship, with a separate Detachment, and succeeded in carrying the Battery and spiking all the Guns. Lieutenant Little, in a personal Contention with one of the Enemy, when in the Act of wresting his Musket from him, received the Contents in his Hand, which was so much shattered in consequence as to render Amputation necessary. Captain Sherman at the same Time took post with his Division upon the main Road by the Sea Side, with his Front to the Village, and an Eighteen-Pound Carronade on his