

Admiralty Office, November 20, 1810.

Copy of a Letter from Admiral Sir Roger Curtis, Bart. Commander in Chief at Portsmouth, to John Croker, Esq. dated the 17th Instant.

SIR,

I HEREWITH inclose, to be laid before the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, a Letter from Captain Grant, of the Diana, reporting the sailing from Havre, and subsequent Attack under the Batteries of La Hogue, of the Two Frigates of the Enemy, which have been some Time blockaded in the former Port by the Ships under his Orders; One of the Enemy's Frigates is on Shore on the Rocks of St. Vaast, where she lies on her Beam Ends; and the other a-ground on the Shoal near the Fort.

It would be great Injustice were I not here to mention the persevering Vigilance and Correctness of Judgement, with which, under the Directions of Captain Grant, of the Diana, the Blockade of these Ships has been conducted, and to which their present Situation is to be attributed.

I likewise transmit a Letter from Captain Malcolm, of the Donegal, who with that Ship and the Revenge joined the Diana and Niobe in attacking the Second Frigate, after the First was on Shore. A List of Men killed and wounded in the several Ships on this Occasion is also inclosed herewith.

I have the Honour to be, &c.

(Signed) ROGER CURTIS.

*His Majesty's Ship Diana at Anchor off La Hogue, November 16, 1810.*

SIR,

I HAVE the Honour to inform you, that though the Wind was strong from North East and North West by North on Monday Evening the 12th Instant, with a very heavy Sea, I thought it probable the Enemy's Frigates might endeavour to push out; I therefore placed the Ships in the best Position I could suppose, and at Half-past Twelve on Tuesday Morning we were fortunate enough to see and sound ourselves in shore of them; the Wind having backed to North by East threw them considerably to Windward of us, but prevented their getting round Barfleur; we were so near as to fire Two Broadfides at them before they got under the Batteries of Marcou. At this Time Captain Loring in the Niobe had pushed in shore in hopes of cutting off the sternmost Ship, which he had nearly effected, but the Wind blowing fresh from the Northward and Eastward, with a heavy Sea, and the Flood Tide about to make, we could not prevent their getting through the narrow Passage on the West End of Marcou. On Tuesday Forenoon they weighed, and remained under Sail close under the Batteries of Marcou for several Hours, and in the Evening got into La Hogue Roads, we having been driven to the North of Barfleur by the Ebb Tide, the Wind Easterly. On the Wednesday Morning I sent Captain Loring in the Niobe to give Captain Malcolm in the Donegal Information of the Situation of the Enemy's Ships, and made all Sail in this Ship to the Anchorage off La Hogue, and, on my approaching it, had the Satisfaction to see one of the Enemy's Frigates run on shore. I anchored at One P.M. and continued so until Morning, when I perceived that the other of the Enemy's Frigates seemed to be in a Position where she might be attacked; I

weighed on the first of the Flood and made Sail for her, but the Enemy, on observing our Intentions, weighed and went close into the Shoal of St. Vaast, and immediately between the Batteries of La Hogue and Tatiliou. I determined, however, to go as close to her as I could, without getting on Shore, in hopes Something might be done; but after twice standing in close alongside of her, sustaining the Fire of the Two Batteries, together with the Frigate, which by this Time had received considerable Reinforcements of Men from the Shore, I found the Fire so very heavy, that I saw no Hope of doing any Thing effectual against her.

At this Time Captain Malcolm, of the Donegal, arrived with the Revenge and Niobe, and the Attack was renewed by the Four Ships, who continued going in alternately, and made every Exertion so long as the Tide would permit them to do so; and I have no doubt the Frigate must have received very great Injury from it. I am sure I need not tell you how very mortified all on board the Diana and Niobe are, that, after our anxious Blockade, we have not been able to do more; but I trust you will believe, that every Thing has been done that was in our Power to get Possession of the Frigates; and it is some Consolation to be able to say, that one of them is on the Rocks of Saint Vaast, on her Beam Ends, and last Night fell over on her Larboard Side, having been before on her Starboard, and the other laying apparently on the Shoal near the Fort, and, I trust, not in a State to go to Sea for a considerable Length of Time.

It now remains for me to say, that nothing could exceed the steady Behaviour of my Officers and Men of the Diana; and to Mr. Rowe, the First Lieutenant, I feel particularly indebted for his Assistance and Exertion. Captain Loring speaks in the highest Terms of his Officers and Men, particularly Lieutenant Simpton.

I am happy to say, that though we were a long Time under so heavy a Fire, we have only One Marine slightly wounded, but the Ship has suffered very considerably in her Masts, Sails, Hull, and Rigging. Unless they dismantle the Enemy's Frigate, I shall continue on my present Station until I have the Honour to receive your Orders.

I have to beg your Forgiveness for the Length of this, but hope that the Variety of Occurrences necessary to be stated will plead my Excuse.

I have, &c.

(Signed) CHARLES GRANT.

*Sir Roger Curtis, Bart. Admiral of the Red, &c. &c. &c.*

*Donegal, at St. Helier's, November 17, 1810.*

SIR,

ON the 14th Instant, being near to Barfleur, Captain Loring, of the Niobe, informed me that Two large French Frigates had sailed from Havre on the Night of the 12th, and had been chased into La Hogue by the Diana and Niobe.

Next Morning, in Company with the Revenge, I joined the Diana off La Hogue, and observed one of the Enemy's Frigates a-ground near to St. Vaast (the Day before she had been driven from her Anchors in the Gale from the Southward), the other was anchored very near to the Shore, between the Forts of La Hogue and Tatiliou; it was impossible to approach her but under the Fire of her

