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Admiralty-Office, September 28, 1756.

Extract of a Letter from Commodore Holmes. Grafton off Louisbourg, dated Aug. 25, 1756.

ON the 26th of July, I was cruising in His Majesty's Ship Grafton, with the Nottingham, Hornet and Jamaica Sloop, off Louisbourg, about 3 Leagues S. by E. At Eight A. M. the Mast at the Top-mast-head discovered 4 Sail to the N. E. which was directly to Windward. We gave Chace, and made our first Board to the Southward, they steering directly for us till within 2 Leagues. We tack'd in Hopes to have cut them from their Port, and they haul'd in for it. Half past One P. M. they came to an Anchor in their Harbour, and a little after we brought to, about a League from it, and hoisted our Colours, the Lighthouse bearing North where we lay. At 4 made Sail to the Eastward. Soon as it was dark dispatched the Hornet for Halifax, for Captain Spry to send out some of the Ships under his Command to come and join me, and then stood on as before till 3 o'Clock, when we tack'd and stood in for the Land. At 7 in the Morning of the 27th, the Mast from the Mast-head call'd he saw 6 Sail under the Land: About 8 o'Clock I could see 4 Ships in Chace of us, and I could with my Glafs make them to be Men of War, and see the French Commodore's White Pendant very plain; on which I stood from them to the S. E. about a Point from the Wind which drew them from their Harbour, and thought it the best of our Sailing; for I judged them above our Match, or they would not have come out of Port again in so few Hours. I believe they had only put their Sick and Lumber on Shore, and took Troops off, for they were very full of Men. Half past 1 P. M. the Headmost of the French Squadron, a Frigate of about 36 Guns, fired on the Jamaica Sloop, which she return'd, and rowed at the same Time up to the Nottingham, and at our firing at the Frigate, she haul'd her Wind, and the Jamaica bore away to the S. W. which the French Commandant observing, made a Signal for the two Frigates to chace the Sloop, which they immediately obeyed. About 2 the Nottingham fired her Stern Chace at the French Commandant, which he returned with his Bow, and soon after I fired mine. Finding our Shot reached each other, haul'd up my Courses, bunted my Main-sail, and bore down on the French Commodore, being about a quarter of a Mile from him. It fell calm, and we began to engage, he being on our Starboard Side, the other large French Ship a Stern of him, and the Nottingham on our Larboard Bow, the 2 Frigates a Mile from us, and the Jamaica

something more. Tho' the French Commandant held us so cheap at first, by sending his Frigates away, he was so sensible of his Mistake, that soon as there was Wind he made the Frigates Signals to rejoin him, and fearing they did not come fast enough to his Assistance, bore down to them and was followed. At 7 they were all close together; at Dusk the Action ceased, they standing to the Southward, and we to the S. S. E. Our Men lay at their Quarters all Night, expecting to renew the Action in the Morning. At Day light the French Ships bore N. W. by W. distance 4 or 5 Miles, going away with little Wind at E. S. E. right before it for Louisbourg. We wore and stood to the Westward, but they never offer'd to look at us. The Wind freshning, they sailing much better than our Ships, and the Weather growing hazey, lost Sight of them about Noon: Their chief Fire was at our Masts, which they wounded, and cut our Stays and Rigging pretty much. I had one lower Deck Gun dismounted, and one upper; six Men killed, and twenty odd wounded; which is all the Damage the Grafton received.

Extract of a Letter from Capt. Hood to Commodore Holmes. Jamaica at Sea, August 25.

Agreeable to your Orders, I have look'd into Louisbourg, where were only 2 Top-sail Vessels, and, as I thought it of some Consequence to know where the Men of War were gone to, that engaged you on the 27th past, I sent the Lieutenant in the Pinnace to go and lay under the Land to the Eastward of the Light House, with Directions to seize the first Vessel he could. In the mean Time I stood off and on, and at Day-light was close in; took up the Pinnace and a Shallop she had taken with four Men, whom I have examined separately, and found to tell the same Story. One of the Top-sail Vessels in the Harbour is the large Store-ship, that unloaded at Millidue, quite unrigged, and the other a Snow from Rochford. The Men of War sailed for France 15 Days since, and were join'd at Sea by a Frigate called the Concord from St. Ann. Their Names and Force are as follows; the Heroe, a new Ship of 74 Guns, the Illustrious of 64, the Perfect of 36, and Serene of 30. Upon my asking how the French came not to engage the English on the 26th, they say, they went in to put some Money on Shore, and get M^en, and that they pressed a great Number that Night. I then asked them, whether it was not expected, by the People on Shore, that the English would be taken; they replied, every one made sure of it. They likewise tell me, that their Commandant had 26 Men killed on the Spot; that 50 died of their Wounds in 3 or 4 Days, and that