

*His Majesty's Ship Malabar, off Demerara,  
April 24, 1796.*

S I R,

I N pursuance of your Orders I arrived off Demerara, with His Majesty's Ships La Babet, Undaunted and La Pique, with the Grenada und other Transports; and having, in Conjunction with Major-General Whyte commanding the Land Forces, prepared for the Attack of that Place, I proceeded over the Bar with La Babet, Captain Lobb, and La Pique, Captain Milne, followed by the Land Forces in some small Craft, and all the Boats of the Squadron, on the Evening of the 21st, and came to an Anchor One Mile and a half from the Fort. The Tide falling out so late prevented our further proceeding until the Morning of the 22d, when the enclosed Summons\* was sent in by Lieutenant-Colonel Hillop: It produced the accompanying Answer, &c. which will inform you of the Capitulation of Fort William Frederick, with the Colony of Demerara and its Dependencies, including Essequiba, together with a Frigate of 28 Guns, and a Cutter of 12. There being a French Privateer up the River, I have sent the Cutter, with the Boats of the Fleet, up the River for her, and to take Possession of such Ships as appear to be lawful Captures.

On the Night of the 21st I was joined by His Majesty's Ship Scipio, Captain Laforey, whose Boats and Men we should have found indispensably necessary had the Summons been refused.

In consequence of a Requisition from Major-General Whyte, I ventured to detain the Undaunted, whose Men, Marines and Boats were also necessary: My Compliance in this I hope will meet your Approbation, as I agreed in Opinion with the General in the Necessity of her Assistance.

General Whyte having Orders to reduce the Settlement of Berbice, we mean to attack that Place as soon as Pilots and proper Information can be obtained, which, when reduced, I shall return to you with all possible Dispatch; and as the Scipio is necessary for this Service I venture to detain her, and assure you, Sir, this shall not be a Moment after she can be dispensed with.

Having Occasion for La Pique to go against Berbice, I have ordered Captain Lobb to arm the captured Frigate with what Men he can spare, as she will be very necessary as a Guard-Ship.

I am, &c.

THO. PARR.

*Sir John Laforey, Bart. Admiral  
of the Blue, and Commander in  
Chief of His Majesty's Ships and  
Vessels at Barbadoes, &c. &c.*

*Copy of a Letter from Captain Winthrop, of His  
Majesty's Sloop Albacore, to Evan Nepean, Esq;  
dated Carlisle Bay, Barbadoes, May 19, 1796.*

S I R,

I Beg you will be pleased to acquaint my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty that I arrived here on the 9th of May; and on my Passage from Madeira, in Latitude 14 deg. 43 min. Longitude 47

\* Inserted in the Gazette of Saturday.

deg. 39 min. Barbadoes bearing S. 83 deg. W. Distance 233 Leagues, I fell in with, and, after a Chace of Six Hours, captured L'Athenian French National Corvette, mounting 14 Four-Pounders and 83 Men, commanded by M. Jervais, Lieutenant de Vaisseaux.

She is a new Vessel, fitted out at Guadaloupe, and has done much Mischief in those Seas.

I am, Sir,

Your most obedient humble Servant,

R. WINTHROP.

*Extract of a Letter from Captain Cochrane, of His  
Majesty's Ship Thetis, to Mr. Nepean, dated  
St. George's, Bermuda, May 16, 1796.*

I Beg Leave to enclose, for the Information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, a Copy of a Letter from Captain Evans, of His Majesty's Sloop Spencer, giving an Account of his having captured, on the 4th Instant, the French Corvette La Volcan, from Charlestown, bound to Guadaloupe, after an Action of One Hour and a Quarter.

Much Praise seems to be due to Captain Evans, his Officers and Ship's Company, for their very steady Conduct. The very great Superiority of the Enemy in Number of Men, and the Spencer having Three Guns dismounted on the Side she engaged, prevented the Action from being brought to a Close so soon as it otherwise would have been.

*Spencer, St. George's, Bermuda,  
May 10, 1796.*

S I R,

I Have the Pleasure to acquaint you, that on the Morning of the 4th Instant, being in Company with His Majesty's Ships Bonetta and L'Esperance, in Latitude 28 deg. N. and Longitude 69 deg. W. our Signal being made to chace, we pursued, and at Twelve o'Clock came up with and captured the French Corvette La Volcan, after a close Action of One Hour and a Quarter, with the Loss of One Seaman killed and One wounded. The above-mentioned Ships having chased Two Vessels standing a contrary Way, we lost Sight of them about Ten o'Clock.

My Officers and Ship's Company deserve the highest Credit for their Conduct on this Occasion, evincing a Coolness and Obedience very meritorious. I am more particularly indebted to Lieutenant Lennox and Mr. Harriden the Master, for their Assistance.

I cannot exactly ascertain the Enemy's Loss, as they studiously endeavour to suppress it, but have Reason to think it considerable. They have suffered very much from some Powder Flasks and Combustibles taking Fire, which they had prepared with an Intent to board us. Several of their Men jumping overboard were drowned, and many others miserably burnt, some of whom have since died. The Damage they sustained was very great, her Top-Masts being shot away, and her Rigging, both Standing and Running, cut to Pieces. The Spencer's (except her Mizzen-Mast badly wounded, and some of the Running Rigging rendered useless) is not material.

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