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Admiralty-Office, March 18, 1797.

Extract of a Letter from Admiral Lord Bridport, K. B. to Mr. Nepean, dated Royal George at Sea; March 10, 1797.

I Am now to acquaint you, for their Lordships Information, that on the 7th Instant Sir Harry Neale, in the St. Fiorenzo, recaptured the Cynthia Brig, from Lisbon to Poole, laden with Fruit, which had been taken Eight Days before by a Privateer Brig. On the 8th Instant the Impetueux captured La Vatout, a small Cutter Privateer, armed with Musquets, having Twenty-eight Men on Board, and only One Day from Brest. In the Afternoon of that Day, the Wind coming to the Northward, I bore up for Ushant, and detached the St. Fiorenzo and Nymphé to look into Brest; and I have the Satisfaction to inform their Lordships, that, on the St. Fiorenzo and Nymphé's returning to join the Squadron, they fell in with and captured La Resistance and La Constance, French Frigates. The taking these Ships does Sir Harry Neale, with Captain Cooke, and their Officers and Men, the highest Honor, and I hope their skilful and spirited Conduct will meet their Lordships Approbation, as I warmly feel they have merited my particular Thanks. Herewith you will also receive a Copy of Sir Harry Neale's Letter to me on this Occasion.

St. Fiorenzo, at Sea, March 9, 1797.

My Lord,

I Have the Satisfaction to acquaint you, that after having, (agreeable to your Direction) with the Assistance of Captain Cooke, of His Majesty's Ship La Nymphé, under my Orders, reconnoitered the Enemy's Force in the outer Road of Brest Harbour, Captain Cooke informed me he saw Two Ships to the Westward, standing in for Brest; in consequence of which we tacked, and made Sail, close on a Wind, for the Purpose of gaining the Weather Gage, which being with Ease accomplished, we bore down upon

the Ships together, having ascertained them to be Two French Frigates; and as we were not more than Two or Three Leagues from Point St. Matthew's, with a leading Wind out of Brest, and the French Fleet in Sight from our Tops, it was an Object of great Importance to be as decisive as possible in our Mode of Attack. As the largest Ship was the headmoit, we both engaged her very warmly, at the Distance of about Forty Yards, and compelled her to surrender, after a short Resistance. By this Time the smaller Frigate had arrived up, and being immediately attacked by both Ships in the same Manner as the former, her Resistance, though better made, was not long: She struck her Colours about Nine o'Clock A. M. The whole of the Action was a running Fight, and did not last more than Half an Hour.

I have great Pleasure in expressing to your Lordship that I feel particularly obliged to my Friend Captain Cooke, for his judicious and active Conduct during the Time we jointly engaged the Enemy. I have long known his Abilities and Zeal for the Service, and am happy to have this Opportunity of testifying it both as an Act grateful to myself, and as a Duty I owe to His Majesty's Service.

I should be wanting in Gratitude to all my Officers and Ship's Company, if I did not acknowledge myself much indebted to them for their steady Zeal, and the Assistance I received from them during the Action. Lieutenants Durell, Farnall and Renwick, Mr. Kitcat the Master, and Lieutenant Caruthers, the Officer of Marines, are particularly entitled to my Thanks for their Activity at their different Stations. Mr. Durell, my First Lieutenant, who has been an Officer Eighteen Years, merits my warmest Recommendation. And it is with equal Pleasure I express myself obliged to the Officers and Ship's Company of La Nymphé; Captain Cooke speaks of the Assistance he received from them in Terms highly to their Honor, and in particular of Lieutenants Irvine, Lawrence, and Masters, and Mr. Dyer, the Master,