



The London Gazette.

Published by Authority.

From Saturday October 20, to Tuesday October 23, 1804.

Admiralty-Office, October 23, 1804.

Copy of a Letter from the Honorable William Cornwallis, Admiral of the White, &c. &c. to William Marsden, Esq; dated on board the Ville de Paris, in Torbay, the 20th of October 1804.

SIR,

I HAVE the Honor to enclose, for the Information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, Copies of the several Communications transmitted to me from Captain Moore, of the *Indefatigable*, giving an Account of his Proceedings in the Execution of the Service he was sent upon, in which he has, in Company with the *Medusa*, *Lively*, and *Amphion*, succeeded in detaining the Spanish Frigates therein named.

Admiral Montagu communicated to me the Arrival of the *Lively* at Spithead, on the 17th, with the *Fama*.

I have the Honor to be, &c.

W. CORNWALLIS.

SIR, *Indefatigable, at Sea, Oct. 6, 1804.*

I HAVE the Honor to acquaint you, that I have executed the Service you did me the Honor to charge me with.

On the Morning of the 29th of September, the *Indefatigable* got off Cadiz; on the 30th, we fell in with the *Medusa*; Captain Gore having informed me the *Amphion* was in the Streight's Mouth, and that the *Triumph* was off Gibraltar, and that Sir Robert Barlow meant to go into Cadiz for the Trade there, on his Way to England; I thought fit to send the *Medusa* to apprise Sir Robert Barlow of the Nature of my Order, that he might then judge whether or not he should go into Cadiz, and I directed Captain Gore to rejoin me with the *Amphion* as soon as possible off Cape St. Mary. On the 2d Instant, I was joined by the *Lively*, and on the 3d, by the *Medusa* and *Amphion*; the latter having communicated, what I thought necessary, to Sir Robert Barlow.

Yesterday Morning, Cape St. Mary bearing N. E. Nine Leagues, the *Medusa* made the Signal for Four Sail W. by S. I made the Signal for a general Chace; at Eight A. M. discovered them to be Four large Spanish Frigates which formed the Line of Battle a-head on our Approach, and continued to steer in for Cadiz, the Van Ship carrying a Broad Pendant, and the Ship next to her a Rear-

Admiral's Flag; Captain Gore being the headmost Ship, placed the *Medusa* on the Weather Beam of the Commodore; the *Indefatigable* took a similar Position alongside of the Rear-Admiral; the *Amphion* and *Lively* each taking an Opponent in the same Manner, as they came up: After hailing to make them shorten Sail, without Effect, I fired a Shot across the Rear-Admiral's Fore-Foot, on which he shortened Sail; and I sent Lieutenant Afcott, of the *Indefatigable*, to inform him, that my Orders were to detain his Squadron; that it was my earnest Wish to execute them without Bloodshed; but that his Determination must be made instantly: After waiting some Time, I made the Signal for the Boat, and fired a Shot a-head of the Admiral. As soon as the Officer returned with an unsatisfactory Answer, I fired another Shot a-head of the Admiral, and bore down close on his Weather-Bow; at this Moment the Admiral's Second a-stern fired into the *Amphion*; the Admiral fired into the *Indefatigable*; and I made the Signal for close Battle, which was instantly commenced with all the Alacrity and Vigour of English Sailors. In less than Ten Minutes *La Mercedes*, the Admiral's Second a-stern, blew up alongside the *Amphion*, with a tremendous Explosion. Captain Sutton having, with great Judgment, and much to my Satisfaction, placed himself to Leeward of that Ship, the Escape of the Spanish Admiral's Ship was rendered almost impossible; in less than Half an Hour she struck, as did the Opponent of the *Lively*. Perceiving at this Moment the Spanish Commodore was making off, and seeming to have the Heels of the *Medusa*, I made the Signal for the *Lively* to join in the Chace, having before noticed the superior Sailing of that Ship. Captain Hammond did not lose an Instant; and we had the Satisfaction, long before Sunset, to see from our Mast-Head that the only remaining Ship had surrendered to the *Medusa* and *Lively*.

As soon as our Boats had taken Possession of the Rear-Admiral, we made Sail for the floating Fragments of the unfortunate Spanish Frigate which blew up; but, except Forty taken up by the *Amphion*'s Boats, all on board perished. This Squadron was commanded by Don Joseph Bustamente, Knight of the Order of St. James, and a Rear-Admiral. They are from Monte Video, Rio de la Plata, and, from the Information of the Captain of