

Admiralty-Office, August 17, 1805.

*Copy of a Letter from Vice-Admiral Rainier, late Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Ships and Vessels in the East-Indies, to William Marsden, Esq; dated Trident, Madras-Road, March 9, 1805.*

SIR,

I FEEL the highest Gratification in having the Pleasure to enclose, for their Lordships' Information, Copy of a Letter I have very recently received from Captain Henry Lambert, of His Majesty's Ship *St. Fiorenzo*, containing the Particulars of his Success in taking the French National Frigate *La Psyché*, Captain J. Bergeret, preceded by a very active Pursuit. The Loss of Men on both Sides is great, but, as usually, much more so on board the Enemy. It adds much to the Honor and Credit of Captain Lambert, his Officers and Crew, that the Character of Captain Bergeret stands high in the French Navy, being the same Officer who commanded *La Virginie*, when captured by Sir Edward Pellew in the *Indefatigable*, to which may be added the increased Annoyance sustained by the *St. Fiorenzo*, from the great Support given the French Frigate by *L'Equivoque* Armed Ship. But I cannot help expressing myself much pleased with the animated and spirited Resolution taken by Captain Lambert, for renewing the Attack, which was only prevented by Victory, as Attempts of that Kind have been generally found to be successful, evincing the superior Valour of British Sailors, and exhibiting a most laudable Example for Imitation to the Service in general. All the Trading Part of His Majesty's Subjects throughout India rejoice on the Occasion of this Capture, as being more apprehensive of Depredations on their Trade from Captain Bergeret's Abilities and Activity, than from the whole remaining Force of the French Navy at present in these Seas united.

I have the Honor to be, &c.

PETER RAINIER.

SIR, *St. Fiorenzo, Kedgeree, Feb. 17, 1805.*

I HAVE the Honor to inform you of my Arrival this Day off the Sand Heads, after having proceeded to the Southward, in consequence of a Letter received the 8th Instant from the Chief Secretary of Government, acquainting me of a suspicious Vessel having appeared off Vizagapatam, supposed to be the National Frigate *Psyché*, and requesting, in the Name of his Excellency the Governor-General in Council, that I would either proceed towards that Place, or otherwise, as I might consider most expedient to the Advantage of the public Service; I therefore thought that I should not be exceeding the Limits of your Orders by pursuing such a Course as I conceived most probable of intercepting the said Vessel, should she be bound to the Northward and Eastward.

On the 13th Instant, at Six A. M., in Latitude 19 Deg. 35 Min. N., Longitude 85 Deg. 25 Min. E., I had the Satisfaction to discover Three Sail at Anchor under the Land, who shortly after weighed and made Sail to the Southward; I plainly observed that one was a Frigate, and the other Two apparently Merchant Ships. I continued the Chase until Half-past Seven P. M. the following Day, when coming up with the sternmost Vessel, she proved to be the *Thetis*, Country Ship, Prize

to the French Frigate *La Psyché*, of Thirty-six Guns, and Two Hundred and Forty Men, under the Command of Captain Bergeret, then a-head at a short Distance. Finding the Enemy had abandoned the *Thetis*, I left a Midshipman in Charge, and continued the Chase after the Frigate, then making off under all Sail. At Ten Minutes past Eight commenced close Action, at the Distance of about Half a Cable's Length, and continued so until Half-past Eleven, at which Time, finding all our running Rigging very much cut up, hauled off to repair the same. At Midnight, bore up to renew the Conflict; but, just as we were about to recommence our Fire, an Officer from the Enemy came on board to inform me Captain Bergeret, from Humanity's Sake for the remaining Survivors, had struck, though he might have borne the Contest longer. During the Action we were occasionally annoyed by the Fire of *L'Equivoque* Privateer, of Ten Guns and Forty Men, commanded by a Lieutenant. She proved to be the late Pidgeon Country Ship, fitted out by Captain Bergeret as a Privateer; which Vessel, from sailing very well, I am concerned to acquaint you, effected her Escape in the Course of the Night.

I beg Leave to observe, from the able Support which I received during the Action from Lieutenants Doyle, Dawson, Collier, and Davies; Mr. Findlayson the Master, and Lieutenant Ashmore, of the Marines, as well as the Rest of the Ship's Company, who displayed the most gallant and spirited Conduct on the Occasion, merit my warmest Encomiums. I also feel it a Duty incumbent on me to recommend Mr. Doyle, my First Lieutenant, to your Attention, from his meritorious and exemplary Behaviour throughout the Contest. I am grieved to relate that Lieutenant Dawson is dangerously wounded in the Breast with a Boarding Pike while in the Act of boarding.

Enclosed I transmit a List of the Killed and Wounded of His Majesty's Ship under my Command, also of the late French National Frigate *La Psyché*. I have the Honor to be, &c.

H. LAMBERT.

To Peter Rainier, Esq; Vice-Admiral of the Red, and Commander in Chief, &c. &c. &c.

*A List of Killed and Wounded in His Majesty's Ship St. Fiorenzo.*

*Killed.*

Mr. Christopher, H. B. Lefroy, Midshipman, 8 Seamen, 1 Drummer, and 2 Marines.

*Wounded.*

Lieutenant Dawson, Mr. Findlayson, Master, Lieutenant Ashmore of the Marines, Mr. Martingle, Midshipman, 30 Seamen, and 2 Marines.

Total.—12 killed and 36 wounded.

*A Return of the Killed and Wounded in the late French Frigate La Psyché.*

*Killed.*

The Second Captain, 2 Lieutenants, 54 Seamen and Soldiers.

*Wounded.*

70 Officers and Seamen.

Total.—57 killed and 70 wounded.