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EXTRAORDINARY.

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Admiralty-Office, February 21, 1807.

CAPTAIN LYDIARD, of His Majesty's Ship the *Anson*, arrived here this Morning with Dispatches from Vice-Admiral Dacres, Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Ships and Vessels at Jamaica, to William Marlden, Esq; of which the following are Copies:

SIR, *Shark, Port Royal, Jan. 11, 1807.*

IHAVE much Satisfaction in congratulating my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty on the Capture of the Island of Curacao, on New Year's Day in the Morning, by the Four Frigates named in the Margin*, under the Orders of Captain Brisbane, of the *Arethusa*; a Copy of whose Letter I inclose for their Lordships' Information.

Whilst I contemplate the immense Strength of the Harbour of Amsterdam, and the superiour Force contained in its different Batteries opposed to the Entrance of the Frigates, I know not how sufficiently to admire the Decision of Captain Brisbane in attempting the Harbour, and the determined Bravery and Conduct displayed by himself, the other three Captains, and all the Officers and Men under his Command: and is another strong Instance of the cool and determined Bravery of British Seamen.

Captain Brisbane being from his Situation obliged to act as Governor, I have, as an Acknowledgement and high Approbation of his Conduct, continued him in that Situation till His Majesty's Pleasure shall be known; and request, in the strongest Manner, that their Lordships will be pleased to recommend him for that Appointment.

Captain Lydiard, (who will have the Honour of delivering this, and who fully partook of the Conquest, and has before distinguished himself off the Haven-

* *Arethusa, Latona, Anson, and Fisgard.*

nah,) I beg to refer their Lordships to for any Information. I shall put an Acting Captain into the *Anson* until his Return, or I receive Directions thereon.

I am, &c.

(Signed) J. R. DACRES.

His Majesty's Ship Arethusa, Curacao, January 1, 1807.

SIR,

IT is with the most lively and heartfelt Satisfaction I have the Honour to inform you, that His Majesty's Squadron under my Command has this Day opened the New Year with what I humbly flatter myself will be deemed an Enterprize of considerable Consequence to my Country.

I proceeded in the Execution of your Orders the 29th of November with every possible Avidity, but the adverse Wind and Current prevented me from reaching this Island before the 1st Instant. In my Way up I met Captain Bolton, of the *Fisgard*, going to Jamaica; I took him under my Orders, according to your Directions and proceeded with the Squadron off this Port, having previously resolved on that System of Attack which British Seamen are so capable of executing. My Arrangements having been previously made known to the respective Captains, I was satisfied nothing further remained for me than to put it in Execution. My Line of Battle consisted of the *Arethusa*, *Latona*, *Anson*, and *Fisgard*; and very soon after the Break of Day, I made all possible Sail with the Ships in close Order of Battle, passing the whole extensive Line of Sea Batteries, and anchored the Squadron in a Stile far surpassing my Expectations. Being still desirous of having the Effusions of Human Blood spared, I writ the inclosed, No. 1, on the Capstan of His Majesty's Ship *Arethusa* during the Action, which was not regarded, as they did their utmost to destroy us. Words cannot express the Ability of the Squadron. The Harbour was defended by regulas

Fortifications, of Two Tier of Guns, Fort Amsterdam alone consisting of Sixty-six Pieces of Cannon; the Entrance only Fifty Yards Wide, athwart which was the Dutch Frigate *Haflar*, of Thirty-six Guns, and Surinam, of Twenty-two, with Two large Schooners of War, one commanded by a Dutch Commander; a Chain of Forts was on Mifelburg commanding Height; and that almost impregnable Fortress, Fort Republique, within the Distance of Grape-Shot, enfilading the whole Harbour.

At a Quarter past Six o'Clock we entered the Port; a severe and destructive Cannonade ensued; the Frigate, Sloop, and Schooners were carried by boarding; the Lower Forts, the Citadel and Town of Amsterdam, by Storm; all of which, by Seven o'Clock, were in our Possession. For Humanity sake I granted the annexed Capitulation; and, at Ten o'Clock, the British Flag was hoisted in Fort Republique:—the whole Island is in our quiet Possession. The Strength, Commerce, and Value, I understand, is immense. It is now become a pleasing Part of my Duty, although impossible to do Justice to the Merits, Gallantry, and Determination of Captains Wood, Lydiard, and Bolton, who so nobly headed their respective Ship's Companies to the Storm; and the same Gallantry and Determination are due to the Officers, Seamen, and Marines for following up so glorious an Example. Inclosed is a List of the Killed and Wounded in His Majesty's Squadron. I have not yet been able to ascertain that of the Enemy, except those in the Ships. The Dutch Commodore was killed early in the Action, and the Captain of the Surinam severely wounded. I have appointed, by Proclamation, Wednesday next the 7th inst. for the Inhabitants, (which amount to Thirty Thousand,) to take the Oath of Allegiance to our most gracious Sovereign; those that do not choose will be instantly embarked as Prisoners of War. For any farther Particulars I must beg to refer you to that gallant Officer Captain Lydiard.

I have the Honour to be, &c.

(Signed) CHARLES BRISBANE.

To James Richard Daeres, Esq; Vice-Admiral of the White, Commander in Chief,
Es. Es. Es.

No. 1.

His Majesty's Ship *Arethusa*, Curacao
Harbour, Jan. 1, 1807.

SIR,

THE British Squadron are here to protect, and not to conquer you; to preserve to you your Lives, Liberty, and Property. If a Shot is fired at any one of my Squadron after this Summons, I shall immediately storm your Batteries. You have Five Minutes to accede to this Determination.

I have the Honour to be, &c.

(Signed) CHARLES BRISBANE.

To His Excellency the Governor of Curacao.

No. 2.

Curacao, January 1, 1807.

PRELIMINARY ARTICLES of the Capitulation agreed upon by Charles Brisbane, Esq; Captain of His Majesty's Ship *Arethusa*, and Senior Officer of a Squadron of His Majesty's Ships at Curacao, on the one Part; and by His Excellency Pierre Jean Changuion, Governor of the Island of Curacao and its Dependencies, on the other.

Art. I. The Fort Republique shall immediately be surrendered to the British Force; the Garrison

shall march out with the Honours of War, lay down their Arms, and become Prisoners of War.

Answer.—Granted.

Art. II. The Dutch Garrison at Curacao shall be Prisoners of War, and by His Britannic Majesty sent to Holland, not to serve this War before they shall be regularly exchanged; and for the due Performance of this Article the Officers pledge their Word of Honour.

Answer.—Granted.

Art. III. The same Terms as in the above Article are granted to the Officers and People of the Dutch Men of War.

Answer.—Granted.

Art. IV. All the Civil Officers may remain at their respective Appointments if they think proper; and those who choose shall be sent by His Britannic Majesty to Holland.

Answer.—Granted.

Art. V. The Burghers, Merchants, Planters, and other Inhabitants, without Difference of Colour or Opinion, shall be respected in their Persons and Property, provided they take the Oath of Allegiance to His Britannic Majesty.

Answer.—Granted, Neutral Property being respected.

Art. VI. All the Merchant Vessels, with their Cargoes, in the Harbour, of whatsoever Nation they belong to, shall be in the Possession of their proper Owners.

Answer.—Not granted.

Art. VII. A Definitive Capitulation shall be signed upon this Basis in Fort Amsterdam.

Answer.—Granted.

Curacao, Jan. 2, 1807.

The foregoing Articles having this Day been mutually read and agreed to, this Capitulation is become definitive.

Signed on the one Part by

CHARLES BRISBANE.

Signed on the other Part by His Excellency

P. J. CHANGUION.

A List of Killed and Wounded on board His Majesty's Squadron under my Command, at the Capture of the Island of Curacao, on the 1st of January 1807.

Arethusa—2 Seamen killed, 5 Seamen wounded.

Latona—1 Seaman killed, 2 Seamen wounded.

Anson—None killed, 7 Seamen wounded.

Fisgard—None killed, none wounded.

Total—3 Seamen killed, 14 Seamen wounded.

(Signed) CHARLES BRISBANE.

Curacao, January 3, 1807.

Lists of Killed and Wounded on board the *Haflar* Frigate, Surinam Sloop, and Flying Fish Schooner.

Haflar.

C. J. Evertz, Commandant, killed.

G. B. Z. Gerond, Second Purser, ditto.

A. Graaf, Chief Mate, badly wounded.

J. J. N. Giblesperd, Steward, killed.

William Maubers, Seaman, ditto.

Henry Driel, Seaman, ditto.

Surinam.

Jan Van Nes, Captain, dangerously wounded.

Jean Baptiste, Lieutenant, ditto.

G. B. Baltner, Midshipman, dangerously wounded.
Arend Arens, Seaman, ditto.
Ferdinand Ballatin, Seaman, ditto, (since dead.)

Flying Fijb.

G. H. V. A. Hinget, Gunner, dead.
M. S. Gibleperd, Seaman, wounded.

By Charles Brisbane, Esq; Captain of His Majesty's Ship *Arethusa*, and Senior Officer of a Squadron of His Majesty's Ships employed at Curaçoa.

HIS Excellency Lieutenant-General Changuion, Governor and Commander in Chief of the Island of Curaçoa and its Dependencies, having refused to take the Oath of Allegiance to His Britannic Majesty, and surrendered himself Prisoner of War, I have thought proper to appoint myself Governor of the said Island and its Dependencies, until the Pleasure of the Commander in Chief is made known; and I do hereby appoint myself accordingly.

Given under my Hand at Curaçoa, this 4th Day of January 1807.

(Signed) CHARLES BRISBANE.

By Charles Brisbane, Esq; Captain of His Majesty's Ship *Arethusa*, and Senior Officer of His Britannic Majesty's Squadron in Curaçoa Harbour.

WHEREAS this Island and its Dependencies have surrendered to the Arms of His Britannic Ma-

jeſty, as appears by the Capitulation which has been ſigned by His Excellency Pierre Jean Changuion and me on the 1ſt Inſtant, I therefore hereby require, that all the Burghers and Inhabitants of this Iſland ſhall meet on Wednesday next the 7th Inſtant, at Ten o'Clock in the Morning, at the Government-Houſe, in order to take the Oath of Allegiance to His Britannic Maſteſty aforeſaid.

Thoſe who belong to the Militia Companies will receive further Orders from their Major, and are to conduct themſelves accordingly.

All thoſe who fill Public Offices, of whatſoever Nature they may be, and all ſuch as do not belong to the Militia Companies, are alſo required to meet at the Government-Houſe, at the Hour and for the Purpoſe aforeſaid.

I expect that the Burghers and Inhabitants of this Iſland will conduct themſelves in ſuch a Manner as to deſerve my Protection and Favour; and, on my Part, ſhall not fail, as far as in my Power lies, to promote the Happineſs and Welfare of this Iſland and its Inhabitants; and I flatter myſelf that my Endeavours in this Caſe will be crowned with the gracious Approbation of my Sovereign, and, I hope, to the Satisfaction of the Inhabitants of this Iſland and its Dependencies.

Given under my Hand, on board His Maſteſty's Ship *Arethusa*, in the Harbour of Curaçoa, this 5th Day of January 1807.

(Signed) C. BRISBANE.

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