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Admiralty-Office, September 24, 1811.

Copy of a Letter from Rear-Admiral Foley, Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Ships and Vessels in the Downes, to John Wilson Croker Esq; dated on board the Monmouth, in the Downes, the 22d Instant.

SIR,

I HEREWITH transmit a Letter just received from Captain Carteret of the Naiad, detailing the Account of an Attack made on that Frigate off Boulogne on the 20th Instant, by Seven Praams of Twelve Twenty-four Pounders each, and Ten Brigs said to have Four long Twenty-four Pounders each, with One Sloop said to have Two such Guns.

Captain Carteret applauds the Steadiness and Zeal of the Officers and Crew on this Occasion, and from what I know of their high State of Discipline I am convinced their Conduct will ever merit the Approbation of their commanding Officer.

I have the Honour to be, &c.

THOMAS FOLEY, Rear-Admiral.

His Majesty's Ship Naiad, off Boulogne, 7th M. Sept. 21, 1811.

SIR,

YESTERDAY Morning, while this Ship was lying at an Anchor off this Place, much Bustle was observed among the Enemy's Flotilla, moored along shore close under the Batteries of their Bay, which appeared to indicate that some Affair of unusual Moment was in Agitation. At about Noon, Buonaparte, in a Barge, accompanied by several other Officers, was distinctly seen to proceed along their Line to the Centre Ship, which immediately hoisted the Imperial Standard at the Main, and lowered it at his Departure, substituting for it a Rear-Admiral's Flag; he afterwards visited others, and then continued in his Boat for the rest of the Evening.

Since it is so much within the well known Custom of that Personage to adopt Measures that confer supposed Eclat on his Presence, I concluded that something of that Kind was about to take place. Accordingly, Seven Praams, each having Twelve Twenty-four Pounders long Guns, with One Hundred and Twenty Men, and commanded by Rear-Admiral Baste, weighed and stood towards this Ship, being expressly ordered by the French Ruler, as I have since learned, to attack us. As the Wind was S. W., with a very strong Flood-Tide setting to

the N. E., while the Enemy bore nearly South from us, it was clear that by weighing we could only increase our Distance from him; so that our only Chance of closing with him at all was by remaining at an Anchor.

The Naiad, therefore, quietly awaited his Attack in that Position, with Springs on her Cable.

It was exclusively in the Enemy's own Power to choose the Distance: each Ship of his Squadron stood within Gun-Shot, gave us successively her Broadside, tacked from us, and in that Mode continuously repeated the Attack. After this had so continued for Three Quarters of an Hour, Ten Brigs (said to have Four long Twenty-four Pounders) and One Sloop (said to have Two such Guns) also weighed and joined the Ships in occasionally cannonading us, which was thus kept up for upwards of Two Hours without Intermission, and returned, I humbly hope, with sufficient Effect by this Ship.

At slack Water the Naiad weighed her Anchor and stood off, partly to repair some trivial Damages, but chiefly by getting to Windward, to be better enabled to close with the Enemy, and get within Shore of some, at least, of his Flotilla. After standing off a short Time, the Naiad tacked and made all Sail towards them; but at about Sunset it became calm, when the Enemy took up his Anchorage under the Batteries Eastward of Boulogne, while the Naiad resumed her's in her former Position.

In this Affair not a British Subject was hurt, and the Damages sustained by this Ship are too trifling for me to mention or report. I have indeed to apologize for dwelling so long on this Affair, but my Motive is the Manner in which I understand it has been magnified by the Enemy, and the extraordinary Commendations which have been lavished on the Frenchmen engaged in it by their Ruler. It is fitting, therefore, that His Majesty's Government should know the real State of the Case, and aid the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty may rest assured, that every Officer and Man on board the Naiad did zealously and steadily fulfil his Duty.

I have the Honour to be, &c.

PHILIP CARTERET, Captain.

Thomas Foley Esq; Rear-Admiral of the Red, &c. &c. &c.