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FROM FRIDAY, APRIL 22, to TUESDAY, APRIL 26, 1868.

ADMIRALTY-OFFICE, APRIL 19, 1868.

Copy of a Letter from Captain PARKER, of his Majesty's Ship *Stately*, to the Hon. W. W. POLE, dated off Zealands Odde, March 25, 1868.

SIR,

Inclosed I transmit to you, for the information of my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, a copy of my letter to Vice-Admiral Russell, acquainting him with the capture and destruction of the Danish ship of the line *Prince Christian Frederick*, of 74 guns, on the night of the 23d of March.

I have the honour to be &c.

(Signed) GEO. PARKER.

His Majesty's Ship Stately, off Zealands Odde, 25th March 1868.

SIR,

It is with much satisfaction I have the honour to acquaint you with the capture and destruction of the Danish ship of the line *Prince Christian Frederick*, of 74 guns.

Proceeding towards the Great Belt, in company with his Majesty's ship *Nassau*, at two P. M. on the 22d instant, we observed a strange sail; and the signal being made to chase, at four P. M. *Greenal* on the coast of Jutland bearing N. W. by N. distant ten miles, we discovered that it was an enemy; and at five P. M. ascertained the chase to be a Danish ship of the line. I now saw that it was evidently the intention of the enemy to run his ship on shore; and as the night was approaching he might hope that, in our pursuit of him in the dark, we would have the same fate. This, I have since been assured, was his design. At forty-five minutes past seven P. M. Captain Campbell, in the *Nassau*, got up with the enemy, and commenced the action, and in a few minutes after the *Stately* closed; a running fight was now maintained for a considerable time, the enemy fighting with great obstinacy, until we

succeeded in getting very near, and gave some close broadsides, on which he struck about half past nine P. M. At this moment the ships were within two cables length of the shore of Zealand; and before my First Lieutenant, who took possession of the Danish ship, could cut away her anchor she grounded. Fortunately this ship and the *Nassau* brought up near to her. During the remaining part of the night we were employed in taking out the prisoners; and at daylight of the 23d it was found impossible to get the captured ship afloat, the wind blowing strong on the shore, and that therefore the only course I could follow was to destroy her. The necessity for doing this, and for placing our own ships out of danger, soon became apparent, as the Danes were preparing their artillery on the coast, and as our ships were at anchor only two cables length from the beach, they would have done us great injury. After removing the prisoners and wounded, in doing which we experienced much difficulty from the wind blowing strong, and a good deal of sea running, the enemy's ship was set on fire in the evening of the 23d, and in a short time blew up.

I am happy to say our loss has been small. It is trifling indeed when compared with the enemy, where the slaughter was great, he having fifty-five killed and eighty-eight wounded. We have, however, received considerable damage in our masts and rigging.

The *Prince Christian Frederick* was a very fine ship, copper bolted, commanded by Captain Jayson, with a complement of six hundred and twenty men, and had five hundred and seventy-six on board.

I feel much indebted to Captain Campbell for his zeal and ability in the commencement and during the action, and to the officers, ship company, and Royal Marines of his ship. My

warmest gratitude and praise is due to the officers and seamen, and the officers and privates of Royal Marines, of this ship, for their brave and gallant conduct during the action, displaying throughout the cool intrepidity of British seamen. The same spirit animated both ships.

I beg leave to recommend in the strongest manner to the patronage of my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty Mr. David Sloan, my First Lieutenant, to whom I am greatly indebted, not only for his brave and spirited conduct in the action, but also for his unwearied exertion in removing the prisoners and wounded from the Danish ship, and setting her on fire. He possesses, in an eminent degree, every quality requisite to form the officer and seaman.

Herewith you will receive a return of the killed and wounded.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) GEO. PARKER.

To Vice-Admiral Russell, &c.

List of the Killed and Wounded.

Stately—2 seamen, 2 marines, killed: 26 seamen, 2 marines, wounded.—Total, 32.

Nassau—1 seaman, killed; 11 seamen, 5 marines, wounded; 1 seaman, missing.—Total, 17.

Officers Wounded.

Stately—Lieut. Cole, slightly; Mr Lemon, boatswain, severely; Mr Davis, master's-mate, slightly.

Nassau—Mr Edward J. Johnson, volunteer, 1st class, slightly. (Signed) G. P.

WAR-OFFICE, APRIL 19, 1868.

9th Regiment of Light Dragoons—Joseph Gain, gent. to be Veterinary Surgeon, vice Sanders, deceased.

17th—Lieut. G. T. W. Wallace, from the 15th Light Dragoons, to be Lieutenant, without purchase, vice Roycraft, promoted.

24th—Captain Philip Philpot to be Major, vice White, deceased. Lieut. Vincent Beatty to be Captain of a troop, vice Philpot. Captain Thomas William Taylor, from the 56th foot, to be Captain of a troop, vice Sandys, who exchanges. Cornet Joseph Mico Gibbon

Price Sixpence.

