

Maria Reygersbergen, Commodore Jager, taken.
 Phoenix, 36 guns, Captain Vanderzader, run on shore.
 Maria Wilhelmina, 6 guns, ditto.
 William, 20 guns, Captain Fitters, ditto.
 Patriot, 18 guns, ditto.
 Zeeplong, 14 guns, ditto.
 Seven Merchant Ships.

P. R.

Copy of a Letter from Vice-Admiral the Right Hon. Lord COLLINGWOOD, Commander in Chief of his Majesty's Ships and Vessels in the Mediterranean, to the Hon. W. W. FULTON, dated on board his Majesty's Ship Ocean, at Syracuse, February 23, 1808.

SIR,
 The Renommée and Grasshopper were stationed in December last off Carthage, to watch the Spanish quadron, and when Captain Searle was detached on the look-out he fell in with three Spanish vessels of war, described in his letter, (a copy of which I inclose); and notwithstanding the great superiority of their combined force, he attacked and took the largest of them, the two others making their escape.

I have great pleasure in making this communication to their Lordships, who will see in it an instance of that zeal and enterprise which marks the general conduct of Captain Searle.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) COLLINGWOOD.

His Majesty's Ship Grasshopper, off Carthage, 12th Dec. 1808.

SIR,
 I have to acquaint you, that yesterday, when looking out off Cape Palos, agreeably to your directions, I discovered a number of the enemy's vessels at anchor under the Cape; his Catholic Majesty's brig of war St Joseph, of twelve twenty-four pounders, manned with ninety-four men, and commanded by Don Antonio de Torres Teniento de Naviro, got under weigh, and came out to attack his Majesty's sloop the Grasshopper under my command, accompanied by the two vessels of war, belonging to his Catholic Majesty, named in the margin;* the St Joseph I brought to close action, when, after fifteen minutes resistance, she struck her colours, and ran on shore, upon which I anchored, and with the greatest exertions of the officers and ship's company succeeded in getting her off; the other two vessels bore up and made all sail from us the moment the brig struck, or I have no doubt we should have captured the whole of them.

I beg to observe, that I received every assistance possible from Lieutenant Cornelius Wellis, whose good conduct on this and every other occasion merits my warmest thanks; the conduct of all the officers and men gave me great satisfaction.

In this affair we had two men severely wounded; the loss of the enemy I could not ascertain, as a number of them jumped overboard, and I fear a great number of them were drowned.

The St Joseph is only six years old, is copper fastened, well found in every respect, sails remarkably fast, is pierced for sixteen guns, is one hundred and forty-five tons burden, and in my opinion well calculated for his Majesty's service.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) T. SEARLE, Capt.

To Sir Thomas Livingstone, Bart. Captain of his Majesty's Ship Renommée, and Senior Officer at Carthage.

* St Medusa Mestrio, ten twenty-four-pounders, and seventy-seven men; St Aigle Mestrio, eight twenty-four-pounders, and fifty men.

Extract of a Letter from Rear-Admiral Purvis to Vice-Admiral the Right Honourable Lord COLLINGWOOD, dated on board his Majesty's Ship Atlas, off Cadiz, April 6, 1808.

Having directed the captains of the Mercury and Grasshopper to put themselves under the orders of Captain Maxwell of the Alceste, off the light-house, until Sir John Gore in the Revenge, with the Excellent, should return to that station, it appears by Captain Maxwell's letter to me of the 4th instant, that a large convoy of the enemy was discovered pushing for Cadiz from the northward, under the protection of about twenty gun-boats and a numerous train of flying artillery on the beach. At three P. M. the convoy being off Rota, Captain Maxwell with his little squadron attacked them, and after having destroyed two of their gun-boats, driven the others away, and silenced the batteries at Rota, they captured seven of the convoy, and drove many of them ashore in the surf. Captain Maxwell gives Captain Searle the credit of silencing the batteries at Rota, and speaks of him in terms of high praise and admiration for his gallant behaviour and skilful management in the midst of shoals, driving the enemy from their guns with his grape-shot, and keeping a division of the gun-boats in check at the same time, which had come out from Cadiz to assist the others engaged by the Alceste and Mercury. Captain Maxwell speaks of his officers and men, as well as of those belonging to the Mercury and Grasshopper, in exalted terms, for their bravery and cool behaviour, and particularizes the names of many officers, which your Lordship will see in the copy of his letter which I have the honour herewith to inclose.

His Majesty's Ship Alceste, in Shore, off Cadiz, April 4, 1808.

SIR,

I have the honour to inform you, that when at anchor to-day with his Majesty's ship Mercury, and Grasshopper brig, Saint Sebastian's lighthouse S. E. distance three miles, wind W. S. W. a large convoy of the enemy was discovered coming along shore from the northward, under the protection of about twenty gun-boats and a numerous train of flying artillery on the beach. At three P. M. I made the signal to weigh and attack the convoy, and stood directly in for the body of them, then off the town of Rota; at four, the enemy's shot and shells from the gun-boats and batteries going far over us, his Majesty's ships opened their fire, which was kept up with great vivacity until half-past six, when we had taken seven of the convoy, and drove a great many others on shore on the surf; compelled the gun-boats to retreat, which they did very reluctantly, and not until two of them were destroyed; and actually silenced the batteries at Rota, which latter service was performed by the extraordinary gallantry and good conduct of Captain Searle, in the Grasshopper, who kept in upon the shoal to the southward of the town so near as to drive the enemy from the guns with grape from his thirty-two pound caronades, and at the same time kept in check a division of gun-boats that had come out from Cadiz to assist the others engaged by the Alceste and Mercury. It was a general cry in both ships, "only look how nobly the brig behaves!" The situation of our little squadron was rather a critical one, tacking every fifteen minutes close on the edge of the shoal, with the wind in, and frequently engaged both sides: in the heat of the action, the First Lieutenant, Allen Stewart, volunteered to board the convoy, if I

would give him the boats. I was so struck with the gallantry of the offer, that I could not refrain from granting them, although attended with great risk. He went, accompanied with Lieutenant Pipon and Lieutenant Hawky of the Royal Marines, who most handsomely volunteered to go, as their party were chiefly employed working the ship. Mr. Arscott and Mr. Day, masters mates, Messrs. Parker, Adair, Crooker, M'Caul, and M'Lean, midshipmen; they were soon followed by the Mercury's boats, under the command of the First Lieutenant W. O. Pell, accompanied by Lieutenant Gordon, and Lieutenant Whylock, Mr. Duncairn, and Mr. M. R. Cummings, masters mates. The boats, led by Lieutenant Stewart, pushed on in the most gallant manner, boarded and brought out seven tartans from under the very muzzles of the enemy's guns, and from under the protection of the barges and pinnaces of the combined fleet, which had, by that time, joined the gun-boats. I was greatly indebted to Lieutenants Hickman and Jervoise, (who both wished to go in the boats,) for the spirited and well-directed fire they kept up from the main deck; also to Mr. Westlake, the master, for his great attention to the steering and working the ship; and I have much pleasure in adding, that the other officers, seamen, and marines, behaved with the utmost bravery and coolness. Captains Gordon and Searle (whose gallantry and excellent conduct it might be presumption in an officer of my standing in the service to comment upon) also report upon the great bravery and coolness of their respective officers, seamen, and marines. It is with much pleasure I have to add, the frigates have received no material damage; the Mercury, an anchor shot away, her sails and rigging cut, though not much worth; our sails and rigging in the same way; but the Grasshopper, I am sorry to say, is a great deal damaged in the hull, the main topmast shot through shrouds, sails and running rigging cut almost to pieces; she had one man mortally wounded, the gunner and two others wounded, but not severely.

The captured vessels are all loaded on government account for the arsenal at Cadiz; and, I am happy to say, their is a very considerable quantity of valuable ship timber.

The zest of this little service was greatly heightened by being performed in the mouth of Cadiz harbor, and in the teeth of eleven sail of the line.

I have, &c.

(Signed) MURRAY MAXWELL.

Rear-Admiral Purvis, &c.

WAR-OFFICE, APRIL 26, 1808.

24th Regiment of Foot—Lieut. Vardy, from the 4th Garrison Battalion, to be Lieutenant, vice Redman, who exchanges. Ensign Charles Arch Bartholomew to be Lieutenant, by purchase, vice Andrews, promoted.

30th—Lieut. Francis Annesley, from the 7th Garrison Battalion, to be Lieutenant, vice Bland, who exchanges.

31st—Major Guy G. C. L'Estrange, from the 98th foot, to be Major, vice Stafford, who exchanges.

38th—John Magill, gent to be Ensign, without purchase, vice Whitley, promoted in the 1st Garrison Battalion.

44th—Hospital-Mate Richard Hanly to be Assistant-Surgeon, vice Hicks, appointed to the 2d foot.

46th—Ensign Frederick Elliott to be Lieutenant, vice Christian, deceased. Ensign Hans Morrison, from the 70th foot, to be Lieutenant, vice Beauclerc, deceased. Donald Thomson, gent. to be Ensign, vice Elliott.

50th—Major the Hon. Charles Stanhope, from the