

Ten, when the Frigate coming across our Stern, and pouring her Broadside into us again, without our being able to bring a Gun to bear on her, I found it in vain, and, in short, impracticable, from the Situation we were in, to stand out any longer with the least Prospect of Success; I therefore struck, (our Main-mast at the same Time went by the Board). The First Lieutenant and myself were immediately escorted into the Ship alongside, when we found her to be an American Ship of War, called the Bon Homme Richard, of 40 Guns and 375 Men, commanded by Captain Paul Jones; the other Frigate which engaged, us to be the Alliance, of 40 Guns and 300 Men; and the third Frigate, which engaged and took the Countess of Scarborough after two Hours Action, to be the Pallas, a French Frigate of 32 Guns and 275 Men; the Vengeance, an armed Brig of 12 Guns and 70 Men, all in Congress Service, and under the Command of Paul Jones. They fitted out and sailed from Port l'Orient the latter End of July, and came North about; they have on Board 300 English Prisoners, which they have taken, in different Vessels, in their Way round, since they left France, and have ransomed some others. On my going on Board the Bon Homme Richard, I found her in the greatest Distress; her Quarters and Counter on the Lower Deck intirely drove in, and the Whole of her Lower Deck Guns dismounted; she was also on Fire in two Places, and six or seven Feet Water in her Hold, which kept increasing upon them all Night, and the next Day, till they were obliged to quit her, and she sunk, with a great Number of her wounded People on Board her. She had 306 Men killed and wounded in the Action; our Loss in the Serapis was also very great. My Officers and People in general behaved well, and I should be very remiss in my Attention to their Merit were I to omit recommending the Remains of them to their Lordships Favor. I must at the same Time beg Leave to inform their Lordships, that Captain Piercy, in the Countess of Scarborough, was not in the least remiss in his Duty, he having given me every Assistance in his Power, and as much as could be expected from such Ship, in engaging the Attention of the Pallas, a Frigate of 32 Guns, during the whole Action. I am extremely sorry for the Misfortune that has happened, that of losing His Majesty's Ship I had the Honor to command; but, at the same Time, I flatter myself with the Hopes, that their Lordships will be convinced that she has not been given away; but, on the contrary, that every Exertion has been used to defend her; and that two essential Pieces of Service to our Country has arisen from it; the one in wholly oversetting the Cruize, and Intentions of this Flying Squadron; the other in rescuing the Whole of a valuable Convoy from falling into the Hands of the Enemy, which must have been the Case had I acted any otherwise than I did. We have been driving about in the North Sea ever since the Action, endeavouring to make to any Port we possibly could, but have not been able to get into any Place till To-day we arrived in the Texel. Herewith I inclose you the most exact List of the Killed and Wounded I have as yet been able to procure, from my People being dispersed amongst the different Ships, and having been refused Permission to muster them: There are, I find, many more, both killed and wounded, than appears on the inclosed List, but their Names as yet I find impos-

sible to ascertain; as soon as I possibly can, shall give their Lordships a full Account of the Whole.

I am, SIR,

Your most obedient and
Most humble Servant,

R. PEARSON,

P. S. I am refused Permission to wait on Sir Joseph Yorke, and even to go on Shore. Enclosed is a Copy of a Letter from Captain Piercy, late of the Scarborough.

Abstract of the List of Killed and Wounded.

Killed	—	49
Wounded	—	68

Amongst the Killed are the Boatswain, Pilot, 1 Master's Mate, 2 Midshipmen, the Coxswain, 1 Quarter-Master, 27 Seamen, and 15 Marines. Amongst the Wounded are the Second Lieutenant Michael Stanhope, and Lieutenant Whiteman, Second Lieutenant of Marines, 2 Surgeons Mates, 6 Petty Officers, 46 Seamen, and 12 Marines.

Pallas, a French Frigate, in Congress Service, Texel, October 4, 1779.

SIR,

I BEG Leave to acquaint you, that, about Two Minutes after you begun to engage with the largest Ship's of the Enemy's Squadron, I received a Broadside from one of the Frigates, which I instantly returned, and continued engaging her for about Twenty Minutes, when she dropt a-tern. I then made Sail up to the Serapis, to see if I could give you any Assistance; but upon coming near you, I found you and the Enemy so close together, and covered with Smoke, that I could not distinguish one Ship from the other; and for Fear I might fire into the Serapis instead of the Enemy, I backed the Main Top-sail in order to engage the Attention of one of the Frigates that was then coming up. When she got on my Starboard Quarter, she gave me her Broadside, which, as soon as I could get my Guns to bear, (which was very soon done) I returned, and continued engaging her for near Two Hours; when I was so unfortunate as to have all my Braces, great Part of the Running Rigging, Main and Mizzen Top-sail Sheets, shot away, 7 of the Guns dismounted, 4 Men killed, and 20 wounded, and another Frigate coming up on my Larboard Quarter. In that Situation, I saw it was in vain to contend any longer, with any Prospect of Success, against such superior Force; I struck to the Pallas, a French Frigate, of 32 Guns and 275 Men, but in the Service of the Congress. I likewise beg Leave to acquaint you, that my Officers and Ship's Company behaved remarkably well the whole Time I was engaged.

I am, with great Respect, SIR,
Your most obedient and very
Humble Servant,

THO. PIERCY.

To Richard Pearson, Esq; late Captain of His Majesty's Ship Serapis.

Admiralty-Office, October 12.

SIR Charles Hardy, in his Letter of the 9th Instant, to Mr. Stephens, has inclosed a Letter from Lieutenant George of the Rambler Cutter; and Lieutenant Michell, the Regulating Officer at Dartmouth, has likewise inclosed, in his Letter of the same Date, a Letter from Mr. Valentine, an Officer of the Revenue at Salcombe, giving an Account of an Engagement between His Majesty's Ship