

Ellery, Second-Lieutenant of the said Ship, having since died of the Wounds he received in Action, I have appointed Mr. Peter Creed, Master of the Flora, whom I strongly recommended to their Lordships for Promotion after the Action with the Nymph, to succeed him; which Steps I hope their Lordships will approve. In my own Ship I have appointed Mr. John Evans to act as Third Lieutenant; a young Man who has served his Time in the Navy; and who is very deserving of Promotion.

The following is an Account of the Killed and Wounded on Board His Majesty's Frigates Flora and Crescent; and the Dutch Frigate Castor.

Flora, { 9 killed;
32 wounded.

Among the latter is Lieutenant Poffell of the Marines; Mr. Stewart, Gunner, who I fear will not survive; and Mr. Hutchinson, Master's Mate.— Eight Men have since died of their Wounds.

Crescent, { 26 killed;
67 wounded.

Among the former is greatly to be regretted Captain Hayward of the Navy, who was a Volunteer in the Crescent; and fell distinguishing himself in a most gallant Manner.—The latter; Lieutenant Ellery, Second of the Crescent, who died a few Days after of the Wounds he received; as also one of the Seamen.

Castor, { 22 killed;
41 wounded.

Among the former was their Officer of Marines.— 11 of the latter are since dead.

I am sorry to add to this Letter a Circumstance which gives me infinite Concern.

As soon as the Damages of the Three Ships were repaired in the best Manner we were able, which employed us Five Days, we proceeded on our Passage without Interruption till the 19th instant; when, early in the Morning, in Lat. 47. N. Long. 6: 30 W. being in Chace of a Privateer Brig, which had dogged us all Night, and Part of the preceding Day, I discovered, upon the clearing away of a Squall, Two Ships to Windward edging towards me; whereupon I veered Ship, and returned to the Crescent and Castor, flattering myself the Appearance of our Force united would check the Ardour of their Pursuit: But in this I was mistaken; they still continued the Chace, encouraged, I have no Doubt, by the disabled Appearance of my Consorts, and gained upon us very fast. Conscious of our actual Want of Strength, I did not think it adviseable to hazard an Action, and my Officers were unanimously of the same Opinion. Each Ship therefore shaped a different Course, and about One o'Clock P. M. I had the Mortification to see the Castor retaken by one of the Frigates, which fired a Gun and hoisted French Colours, though till that Moment they had chased under English. The other Frigate, not being able to come up with the Flora, bore away about Three o'Clock after the Crescent, and, as the Night was clear, I am very apprehensive she fared the same Fate as the Castor.

When their Lordships reflect how reduced the Complement of His Majesty's Ships were by the Loss of the Killed and Wounded, and from the Number of Men sent on Board the Prize, viz. 38 from the Flora, and nearly the same Number from the Crescent, (which Men were constantly employed at the Pumps to keep the Ship free) I flatter myself they will acquit me of having acted improperly on this Occasion.

N. B. The Flora had 36 Guns, and 270 Men; the Crescent 28 Guns, and 200 Men.

Copy of a Letter from the Honourable Captain Pakenham, of His Majesty's Ship Crescent; to Captain Williams, of the Flora, dated at Sea, the 30th of May, 1781.

S I R,

I HAVE the Mortification to inform you, that; after an Action of Two Hours and Twenty Minutes; the absolute Impossibility of fighting longer reduced me to the distressing Extremity of surrendering to a Dutch Frigate; of superior Force, His Majesty's Ship I had the Honor to command. The disabled State of our Opponent prevented his being able to take Possession; and as the Ship is retaken by having drifted down under your Protection, I request you will send an Officer to command her, till my Conduct has been investigated by a Court Martial. Though the Quarter-Deck, Forecastle, and Four of the Main Deck Guns were disabled, and our Head-Yards and Sails were shot away early in the Engagement, I had no Reason to apprehend that the Contest would have ended so unfavourably; but the Wreck of our Main, Mizzen-Mast, and Booms, falling into the Waist, rendered useless all the Guns before the Main-Mast, as well as lost all Government of the Ship; and our being to Leeward left us no Chance of getting on board him. In this Situation she fell round off with her Stern exposed to the Enemy's Broadside; when having no Guns to fight, and not a Yard of Canvas to set, I determined, with the unanimous Advice of the Officers, to strike His Majesty's Colours. The Position which I was obliged to take to engage our Enemy close alongside was exceedingly disadvantageous with respect to the other Dutch Frigate, who did us some material Damages, by raking us in the Course of the Action; we however omitted no Opportunity of returning her Fire, when our Guns could do any Execution. The universal Alertness and Intrepidity of the King's Officers and Ship's Company merit my warmest Acknowledgments; and it concerns me excessively to acquaint you, that (though no exact Returns have yet been made) the Number of Killed and Wounded must to a Certainty exceed Eighty. Among the Killed is Captain Hayward, and among the Wounded Lieutenant Ellery; both Officers, whose Behaviour on this unfortunate Occasion excites my Admiration.

War-Office, June 30, 1781.

Coldstream Regiment of Foot Guards, Honourable James Forbes is appointed to be Ensign, vice Charles Gould.

24th Regiment of Foot, Captain James Lord Torphichen, of an Independent Company of Foot, to be Captain of One of the Additional Companies, vice Richard Beacroft.

38th Regiment of Foot, John Hyde Bromwich, Gent. to be Ensign in One of the Additional Companies, vice John Winterton.

51st Regiment of Foot, Charles Alcock, Gent. to be Ensign, vice Edward Fuller.

61st Regiment of Foot, Francis Dingley Hasted, Gent. to be Ensign, vice Sir Edmund Thomas, Bart.

71st Regiment of Foot, Lieutenant Edward Fraser to be Captain of One of the Additional Companies, vice James Innes.