

This unavoidably must have been their wretched Fate, had they not been dragged from amidst the Flames by the personal Intrepidity of Brigadier Curtis, at the utmost Hazard of his own Life, a Life invaluable to His Majesty's Service. For some Time I felt the utmost Anguish, seeing his Pinnace close to one of the largest Ships at the Instant she blew up, and spread her Wreck to a vast Extent all round. The back Cloud of Smoke being dispersed, I was again revived by the Sight of the Pinnace, little apprehending that the Brigadier was in the utmost Danger of sinking, some Pieces of Timber having fallen into, and pierced the Boat, (killing the Coxswain, and wounding others of the Men) scarce any Hope left of reaching the Shore: Providentially he was saved by stopping the Hole with the Seamens Jackets, until Boats arrived to their Relief.—One of our Gun Boats was sunk at the same Moment.

In the Course of the Day the remaining Eight Ships severally blew up with violent Explosions; one only escaped the Effect of our Fire, which it was thought proper to burn, there being no Possibility of preserving her.

The Admiral's Flag remained flying on Board his Ship, 'till she was totally consumed.

Your Lordship will be pleased to inform His Majesty, that the Royal Artillery Additional Gunners and Marine Brigade only could be employed on this Service, which they executed with the deliberate Coolness and Precision of School Practice, but their Exertion was infinitely superior. The Fire was incessant, and the Batteries abundantly supplied with Ammunition; every Soldier in the Garrison, not on Duty, eagerly pressing to share in the honourable Labours of the Day. The Enemy's daring Attempt by Sea was effectually defeated by the constant and well-supported Fire from our Batteries; but the well-timed, judicious and spirited Attack made by Brigadier Curtis, rendered this Success a compleat Victory.

The Enemy's Loss, Killed, Burnt, Drowned, and Wounded, must have been great indeed.

I inclose a List No. 1. of the Ships destroyed; No. 2. of Prisoners taken, all by Brigadier Curtis, except One Spanish Officer with Eleven French Soldiers, who out of Four-score escaped on the Wreck of their Boat Two large Launches from the Fleet were taken with the Officers and Men belonging to them. The sincere Gratitude all the Prisoners of War expressed for their Deliverance from the various Horrors that surrounded them, afforded the highest Satisfaction to Humanity.

I am happy to say, my Lord, that notwithstanding the Enemy's violent Effort, our Loss has not been great in Numbers; yet such gallant Individuals must be ever regretted.

Captain Reeves, of the Royal Artillery, was the only Officer killed, and is much to be lamented for his Knowledge and constant unwearied Attention to every Duty. Our wounded Officers will all do well; and we are hopeful not to lose many of the Soldiers.

The Duke de Crillon, a General of the highest Reputation, having the Chief Command of the Allied Forces, Princes of Royal Blood of France, Dignified Characters of Europe, First Nobility of Spain, and Great Military Officers, being present with the Besieging Army, an amazing Concourse of Spectators, that filled the Camp, and covered the adjacent Hills on this Occasion, induce us to believe, the Combined Powers had formed the most sanguine Expectations of Success from their Battering Ships, deemed perfect in Design, compleated by Dint of prodigious Labour, and unlimited Profusion of Expence; and, by common Report, pronounced invincible.

I am, MY LORD, with Respect,  
Your most obedient and  
most humble Servant,

To the Earl of Shelburne, G. A. ELIOTT.  
Esq. Esq. Esq.

N. B. The Substance of the Lists of the Ships destroyed, and Prisoners taken, referred to in the above Letter, has already been printed in the Gazette Extraordinary of the 8th Instant.

( C O P Y . )

Gibraltar, September 28, 1782.

MY LORD,

THE Publick Dispatches will be delivered by Captain Vallotton, my First Aid de Camp, who is sufficiently well informed to answer any farther Particulars your Lordship may wish to have minutely explained.

Captain Vallotton is an active, intelligent, and zealous Officer: If His Majesty is graciously pleased to bestow any Mark of Favour upon him, I am sure he will never prove undeserving.

I am, MY LORD, with Respect,  
Your most obedient and  
most humble Servant,

G. A. ELIOTT.

The Earl of Shelburne,  
Esq. Esq. Esq.

( E X T R A C T . )

Gibraltar, October 2, 1782.

THE Night of the 30th Instant, between Ten and Twelve, the Enemy's Mortar Boats threw a Number of Shells for the Town, Incampments, and Hospital: At the same Time the Land Batteries increased the Quantity of their Fire; but no Injury was done to our Works, Stores, or Magazines.

*Extract of the Returns of Killed and Wounded in the several Corps at Gibraltar, from the 9th of August to the 17th of October, 1782, inclusive.*

6 Serjeants, 1 Drummer, 58 Rank and File, killed.

2 Majors, 2 Captains, 2 Captain-Lieutenants, (one since dead) 6 Lieutenants, (one since dead) 20 Serjeants, 2 Drummers, 366 Rank and File, wounded.

*Names of Officers wounded.*

58th Regiment. Lieutenant Whittham.

72d Regiment. Major Horsfall.

73d Regiment. Captain M'Kenzie, Lieutenant Wharton, Lieutenant Kenneth M'Kenzie.

Artillery. Major Lewis, Captain Grove, Captain-Lieutenant Seward, Lieutenant Boag, Lieutenant Godfrey.

*Wounded and since dead.*

Artillery. Captain-Lieutenant Reeves, Lieutenant Grumly.

( Signed ) G. A. ELIOTT.

*Extract of a Letter from Lord Viscount Howe, Admiral of the Blue, Esq. Esq. Esq. to Mr. Stephens, dated on Board the Victory, off St. Helen's, the 14th of November, 1782.*

I N Addition to the Contents of my last Letter of the 24th, I am to inform you, that as soon as the Masts of the Ships, damaged by the Enemy's Fire, were properly secured, the first Opportunity was taken (on a light Breeze from the N. E. succeeding the Calm which intervened) to stand to the Northward the 22d at Night, under all the Sail possible, with requisite Care for keeping the Fleet duly connected, to get up again with the Enemy.

The Wind continuing in the same Quarter 'till the 25th, and more Easterly the Three following Days, the same pressed Sail was carried as before; but as the Enemy, who had persisted to avoid a Renewal of the Action of the 21st, could not (as the Wind since remained) be forced thereto, except by working in with the Barbary Shore for an uncertain Time, which the State of the Ships in many Respects did not admit, I brought the Fleet to, on the 28th, to prepare the Detachments directed by my Instructions at that Period.

*Extract of a Letter from Hugh Pigot, Esq; Admiral of the Blue, Esq. Esq. Esq. to Mr. Stephens, dated on Board the Formidable at New York, the 5th of October, 1782: Received November 16, 1782.*

I N C L O S E a List of Prizes sent in by His Majesty's Ships since my Arrival. I cannot give their Lordships a better Account of the taking the L'Aigle, a very fine Frigate, than by enclosing Captain Elphinston's Letter to me.