

*Horſe Guards, February 14, 1795.*

A Diſpatch, of which the following is an Ex-  
tract, dated Deventer, January 21, 1795,  
has been received from the Honorable Lieutenant-  
General Harcourt by His Royal Highneſs the Duke  
of York, and communicated by His Royal High-  
neſs to the Right Honorable Henry Dundas, One  
of His Majeſty's Principal Secretaries of State.

I HAVE the Honor to acquaint your Royal High-  
neſs of the Arrival of the Army in their Can-  
tonments on the Banks of the Yffel on the 18th  
Inſtant, though not without ſome Loſs, as ſome  
of the *Traineurs*, unable to ſupport the Fatigues  
of the March and the extreme Severity of the  
Weather, were left behind, and have probably  
fallen into the Hands of the Enemy.

It is a Matter of no ſmall Satisfaction to ac-  
quaint your Royal Highneſs, that we have not only  
ſaved all the Ordnance and moſt of the other Stores  
depoſited at Arnheim, but that we have burnt all  
the Veſſels containing Forage and Stores upon the  
Leck, and have deſtroyed moſt of the Ammuni-  
tion contained in Fifteen Ordnance Veſſels at Rot-  
terdam.

*Horſe Guards, February 14, 1795.*

A Diſpatch, of which the following is a Copy,  
has been received from General the Honorable  
Sir John Vaughan, K. B. by the Right Honorable  
Henry Dundas, One of His Majeſty's Principal Se-  
cretaries of State.

*Martinico, December 18, 1794.*

S I R,

THE Evacuation of Fort Matilda, Guadaloupe,  
was an Event to be expected; the Poſition of  
the Place is weak, the Ground riſing inland immedi-  
ately from the Glacis. The Work, which has been  
added at different Times, is irregular, preſents a nar-  
row Front to the ſtrong Ground to the Eaſtward, and  
has been conſtructed with bad Maſonry.

Under theſe Circumſtances, Lieutenant-General  
Preſcott, with a ſmall Garrifon, protracted the Siege  
from the 14th of October to the 10th of December.  
Early in December the Enemy's Batteries were in-  
creaſed ſo as greatly to exceed the Artillery of the  
Garrifon. Their Fire on the 6th Inſtant diſmounted  
all our Guns upon the Cavalier, which is the higheſt  
and moſt commanding Part of the Fort; the Cur-  
tain, from thence to the next Baſtion near the Town,  
and the Faces and Flanks of that Baſtion in many  
Places, threatened to fall into the Ditch; the Number  
of Killed and Wounded was proportional to the Ef-  
fect made upon the Work; and the Place became no  
longer tenable.

On the Night of the 10th Inſtant, Lieutenant-Gen-  
eral Preſcott having previously arranged the Order  
and Time of Retreat with Rear-Admiral Thompson,  
the whole Garrifon was embarked without Loſs.

I have the Honor to incloſe to you the Lieute-  
nant-General's Account of the Siege and Evacua-  
tion, by which you will be fully informed of all the  
attending Circumſtances.

Lieutenant-General Preſcott reports, that it has  
been greatly owing to the ready Aſſiſtance afforded  
to the Garrifon by Vice-Admiral Sir John Jervis,  
and ſince by Rear-Admiral Thompson, that he was  
enabled ſo long to reſiſt the Efforts of the Enemy.

He alſo gives the higheſt Encomiums to Captain  
Bowen, of His Majeſty's Ship the *Terſichore*, who  
ſuperintended the Embarkation, and by whoſe able  
Diſpoſition of the Boats every Thing was managed  
with the moſt perfect Order and Regularity; unfor-  
tunately he was ſeverely wounded, but we hope not  
in ſuch a Manner as to endanger his Life.

Of the Conduct of all the Officers and Men, the  
Lieutenant-General makes a moſt favourable Report,  
expreſſive of his entire Satisfaction of their Behaviour  
during the Whole of the Siege.

I beg to expreſs to you my Approbation of the  
Conduct of Lieutenant-General Preſcott in the De-  
fence of Fort Matilda: It has been judicious in a  
high Degree; and throughout the whole Tranſaction  
he has ſhewn the greateſt Judgment and Reſolution.

I have the Honour to be, &c.

JOHN VAUGHAN.

*Right Hon. Henry Dundas,  
&c. &c. &c.*

*On Board His Majeſty's Ship Vanguard, at Sea,  
December 11, 1794.*

S I R,

THE Evacuation of Fort Matilda in Guadaloupe,  
the Defence of which devolved upon me, having  
unavoidably taken Place, I find it neceſſary to give  
you a particular Account thereof.

To enter into a minute Detail of the Siege, which  
commenced on the 14th of October, and terminated  
by evacuating it on the 10th of December, would  
not only too much occupy your Time, but might be  
deemed equally unneceſſary. It may be ſufficient to  
remark, that, on entering the Fort, I found it totally  
out of Repair, the Materials compoſing the Wall-  
Work thereof being of the worſt Kind, and having  
apparently but little Lime to cement them properly.  
By the Middle of laſt Month the Works were very  
much injured by the daily and frequent heavy Fire  
of the Enemy, and almoſt all the Carriages of our  
Guns rendered uſeleſs. Theſe were in general in a  
very decayed State, but even the new ones for the  
Braſs Mortars, that were made during the Siege,  
gave Way, from the almoſt inceſſant Fire we kept  
up; ſo that, upon the Whole, what from the Nature of  
our Defences, and the ſmall Number of our Garrifon,  
we were in a very unſit Situation to reſiſt the very vi-  
gorous Exertions of our Enemy, who began to prepare  
additional Forces about the 20th of laſt Month, but  
who, from a Number of Cauſes, and eſpecially from  
heavy and continued Rains, could not open their  
new Batteries until the 6th of this Month. On that  
Day they began to fire from Twenty-three Pieces  
of Cannon, Four of which were Thirty-fix Pound-  
ers, and the Reſt Twenty-four, and from Eight  
Mortars, Two of Thirteen Inch and Two of Ten.  
The Fire was very heavy, and continued all Day  
and Night, and by it all the Guns on the Gallion  
Baſtion were diſmounted, and the Baſtion itſelf a  
Heap of Ruins. Every Day after this grew worſe  
until the 9th; on the Evening of which Day I went  
into the Ditch, accompanied by the Engineer, when  
we were both but too well convinced of the totter-  
ing State of the Works from the Gallion along the  
Curtain, and indeed the Whole, from the Eaſt to the  
North-Eaſt. I could not hesitate a Moment about  
the Neceſſity of evacuating the Fort. I therefore  
ſent