

Copy of a Letter from Lieutenant-General Prescott to Vice-Admiral Caldwell, dated on Board the Vanguard, at Sea, Dec. 11, 1794.

S I R,

I Cannot suffer the Evacuation of Fort Matilda, in Guadeloupe, to pass over (the Defence of which was committed to me) without acquainting you with the very gallant and truly meritorious Conduct of Captain Bowen, of the Terpsichore. This Ship was, by Sir John Jervis, particularly allotted to the Protection of the Fort by Sea, and performed that Duty, from the Commencement of the Siege thereof on the 14th of October, to the Day of its Evacuation, in a Manner that begs all Description, to the 10th Instant, at Night. The Conduct of Captain Bowen in performing this Duty was above all Praise; his Vigilance was unremitting in covering the various Supplies of Men, Ammunition, Provisions, &c. which we had Need of during a Siege of Two Months, and received, without Loss, from his Attention and Zeal. He required but to be made acquainted with our Wants, to administer all in his Power to our Relief, and his Conduct, on this trying Occasion, has made such Impression on my Mind in his Favour, as Time cannot obliterate; and I am persuaded that the whole Garrison entertain the same Sense of his Services that I do.

I trust that the Wound which he has received in taking off the last of the Garrison in his own Boat, will not prove mortal, as thereby the King would lose a most gallant and truly deserving Officer.

I had no Acquaintance with Captain Bowen until the Commencement of this Siege, and, therefore, I trust that my thus taking the Liberty of addressing you respecting him, can be ascribed to no other Motive than the true one, an anxious Desire to pay that Tribute of Applause which is so justly due to Merit such as his.

I have the Honor to be, &c.

ROBERT PRESCOTT.

Extract of a Letter from Vice-Admiral Caldwell to Mr. Stephens, dated off Martinique, the 11th of January, 1795.

FOR the Information of my Lords Commissioner of the Admiralty, I enclose Two Copies of Letters received from Lieutenant Watkins, of the Blanche, with Minutes of Mr. Milne, her Second Lieutenant, who came to me Express, giving an Account of their taking the French Frigate La Pique, of 38 Guns, and 360 Men, after an Action of Five Hours, as brilliant and decided as ever happened; nor can too much Praise and Commendation be given to all the Officers and Ship's Company. Their Lordships will see by the Minutes, the judicious Manner in which the Blanche laid the Enemy on Board, and twice lashed her Bow-sprit to the Blanche's Capstern, and, when the former's Main and Mizzen Masts fell, she payed off before the Wind, and towed the Enemy; when the Stern Ports, not being large enough, they blew the upper Transom Beam away to admit the Guns to run out, and fired into her Bows for Three Hours. The Marines, under Lieutenant Richardson, keeping so well directed and constant a Fire, that not a Man could appear upon her Fore-castle until she struck, when the Second Lieutenant and Ten Men swam on Board, and took Possession of her.

Captain Faulknor was unfortunately killed after Two Hours Action, by which His Majesty has lost an Officer as truly meritorious as the Navy of England ever had.

P. S. It appears, by a recent Account, there were many more than 360 Men on Board La Pique; One Hundred and Seventy-four are brought here, One Hundred and Ten wounded, and landed at the Saints, Seventy-six found dead on Board when she was taken Possession of: It is probable some were thrown overboard during the Action, and it is known Numbers fell with her Three Masts, and were drowned.

Copy of a Letter from Lieutenant Frederick Watkins, First Lieutenant of His Majesty's Ship Blanche, to Vice-Admiral Caldwell, dated Isle de Saints, 5th of January, 1795.

S I R,

I Take the earliest Opportunity of informing you of my Arrival here in His Majesty's Ship Blanche, with La Pique, a Frigate of 38 Guns, belonging to the National Convention of France, which Captain Faulknor brought to Action at a Quarter past Twelve A. M. Mariagalante bearing East Half South, Three Miles.

It is with the utmost Regret I have to inform you that he fell in the Action. In him His Majesty lost a brave and gallant Officer, which I most sincerely lament, as must every one who knew his Merit.

I cannot sufficiently express my Thanks to Lieutenants Milne and Prickett, also the other Officers and Ship's Company, for their cool determined Bravery on the Occasion; and am happy to add that she struck her Colours at a Quarter past Five A. M.

From the best Information I have been able to obtain the Enemy had 360 Men on Board when we brought her to Action, and I have great Reason to suppose her Loss to be about 76 killed and 110 wounded.

Inclosed I have the Honour of sending you the Return of Killed and Wounded on Board His Majesty's Ship Blanche.

I have the Honour to be, &c.

FREDERICK WATKINS,
First Lieutenant.

Killed.

Captain Robert Faulknor.
Mr. William Bolton, Midshipman.
Five Seamen and One private Marine.

Wounded.

Mr. Charles Herbert, Midshipman.
Isaac Hutchinson, Quarter-Master.
Philip Griffiths, ditto.
William Fletcher, Armourer.
George Dice, Serjeant of Marines.
Twelve Seamen and Four private Marines.

Copy of another Letter from Lieutenant Watkins to Vice-Admiral Caldwell, dated Isle de Saints, January 6, 1795.

S I R,

THE Officer who delivers this to you is Lieutenant David Milne, Second of His Majesty's Ship Blanche. I think it my Duty to inform you, that his Conduct during the Action with La Pique is deserving