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Admiralty-Office, July 16, 1796.

*Extract of a Letter from Sir John Jervis, K. B. Admiral of the Blue, and Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Ships and Vessels in the Mediterranean, to Mr. Nepean, dated Victory, off Toulon, June 10, 1796.*

I Acquaint you, for the Information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, that last Evening, having observed a French Cruizer working up to Hieres Bay, within the Islands, I called Captain Macnamara, of His Majesty's Ship Southampton, on Board the Victory, pointed the Ship out, and directed him to make a Dash at her, through the grand Pass, which he performed with admirable Spirit and Alacrity: And I beg Leave to refer their Lordships to his Statement inclosed, for the Detail of this gallant Action.

Southampton, off Toulon, June 10, 1796.

S I R,

IN Obedience to the Orders I received from you on the Victory's Quarter Deck last Evening, I pushed through the Grand Pass, and hauled up under the Batteries on the North East End of Porquerolle with an easy Sail, in Hopes I should be taken for a French or Neutral Frigate, which I have great Reason to believe succeeded, for I got within Pistol Shot of the Enemy's Ship before I was discovered, and cautioned the Captain through a Trumpet not to make a fruitless Resistance, when he immediately snapped his Pistol at me and fired his Broadside. At this Period, being very near the heavy Battery of Fort Breganson, I laid him instantly on Board, and Lieutenant Lydiard, at the Head of the Boarders, with an Intrepidity no Words can describe, entered and carried her in about Ten Minutes, although he met with a spirited Resistance from the Captain (who fell) and a Hundred Men under Arms to receive him. In this short Conflict the Behaviour of all the Officers and Sail's Company of the Southampton had my full Approbation, and I do not mean to take

from their Merit by stating to you that the Conduct of Lieutenant Lydiard was above all Praise. After lashing the Two Ships together, I found some Difficulty in getting from under the Battery, which kept up a very heavy Fire, and was not able to return through the Grand Pass before Half after One o'Clock this Morning, with the L'Utile Corvette of 24 Guns, French Six Pounders, commanded by Citizen François Veza, and One Hundred and Thirty-six Men, several of whom escaped on Shore in the Launch. I am happy to inform you that I only lost One Man, William Oirton, Marine, who was killed by a Pistol Shot near me on the Quarter Deck. From the best Information I can obtain, the Enemy had killed and wounded Twenty-five. I have the Honour to be,

S I R,

Your very obedient,

humble Servant,

(Signed)

J. MACNAMARA.

Admiralty-Office, July 16, 1796.

*Copy of a Letter from Admiral Sir John Jervis, K. B. Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Ships and Vessels in the Mediterranean, to Mr. Nepean, dated Victory, off Toulon, June 8, 1796.*

S I R,

I Herewith enclose a Letter I received last Evening from Commodore Nelson, in the Gulf of Genoa, with an Account of the important Articles taken from the Enemy in the Expedition under the Commodore's immediate Direction, the 31st Ultimo; also a List of the Killed and Wounded.

Their Lordships are so thoroughly acquainted with the Vigilance and Enterprize of Commodore Nelson, that I forbear to repeat his Merits on this Occasion.

I am, &c.

J. JERVIS.