



# The London Gazette

## EXTRAORDINARY.

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*Parliament-Street, March 27, 1797.*

**E**ARLY this Morning Captain Drew, of the 45th Regiment, arrived from the Island of Trinidad, with a Dispatch from Lieutenant-General Sir R. Abercromby, K. B. to the Right Honourable Henry Dundas, of which the following is a Copy.

*Head Quarters, Trinidad,  
February 27, 1797.*

SIR,  
**O**N my Arrival in this Country, I did not fail to lay before the Admiral my Instructions, and to consult with him upon the Means to carry them into Execution. I found in him every Desire to co-operate in the Execution of the Views to which they are directed. The Arrival of Part of the Convoy from England enabled us to proceed with Confidence in our Operations; therefore, as soon as the Troops could be collected from the different Islands, which were ordered to rendezvous at Cariacou, the Admiral sailed from Martinique, which Island he left with his Squadron on the 12th Instant.

The Precision with which the Admiral had given his Orders to assemble the Ships of War and Transports, left us not a Moment of Delay. On the 15th, in the Morning, the Fleet sailed from Cariacou. On the 16th, in the Afternoon, it passed through the Bocas, or Entrance into the Gulph of Paria, where we found the Spanish Admiral with Four Sail of the Line and a Frigate, at Anchor, under Cover of the Island of Gaspargrande, which was fortified.

Our Squadron worked up, and came to Anchor opposite to, and nearly within Gunshot of the Spanish Ships. The Frigates and Transports were ordered to anchor higher up in the Bay, and at the Distance nearly of Five Miles from the Town of Port D'Espagne. The Disposition was immediately made for Landing at Day-light next Morning, and for a general Attack upon the Town and Ships of War.

At Two o'Clock in the Morning of the 17th we perceived the Spanish Squadron to be on Fire; the Ships burnt with great Fury, One Line of Battle Ship excepted, which escaped the Conflagration, and

was taken Possession of at Day-Light in the Morning, by the Boats from our Fleet; the Enemy at the same Time evacuated the Island, and abandoned that Quarter.

This unexpected Turn of Affairs directed our whole Attention to the Attack of the Town. The Troops were immediately ordered to land, and, as soon as a few Hundred Men could be got on Shore, about Four Miles to the Westward of it, we advanced, meeting with little or no Resistance. Before Night we were Masters of Port D'Espagne and the Neighbourhood, Two small Forts excepted. In the Morning a Capitulation was entered into with the Governor Don Chacon, and in the Evening all the Spanish Troops laid down their Arms, and the whole Colony passed under the Dominion of His Britannick Majesty.

Copies of the Capitulation, of the Stores and Provisions taken, are herewith transmitted.

It is a peculiar Satisfaction to me that there is no List of Killed or Wounded; Lieutenant Villeneuve, of the 8th Regiment of Foot, who was Brigade Major to Brigadier-General Hompesch, being the only Person who was wounded, and he is since dead of his Wounds.

From the Admiral I have experienced every possible Co-operation. Captain Woolley, of His Majesty's Ship the Arethusa, and Captain Wood, of the Favorite Sloop of War, who had been sent to reconnoitre in the Gulph of Paria, afforded us minute Information of the Situation of the Enemy previous to our Arrival. Captain Woolley, who directed the Disembarkation, shewed all the Zeal and Intelligence which I have experienced from him on former Occasions. To Lord Craven, who begged to attend the Expedition, I am indebted for great Zeal and Exertion.

Lieutenant-Colonel Soter, who is intimately acquainted with this Country, has been, and continues to be, of very great Use to me. I should not do Justice to his general Character, if I did not take this Opportunity to express it. My Aide-de-Camp,  
Captain

Captain Drew, of the 45th Regiment, will have the Honor to deliver this Letter: He has served long in this Country, and is capable to give such further Information as may be required. I humbly beg Leave to recommend him to His Majesty's Favor.

I have the Honor to be, &c.

RA. ABERCROMBY, K. B.

ARTICLES of CAPITULATION for the Surrender of the Island of Trinidad, between his Excellency Sir Ralph Abercromby, K. B. Commander in Chief of His Britannic Majesty's Land Forces; his Excellency Henry Harvey, Esq; Rear-Admiral of the Red, and Commander in Chief of His Britannic Majesty's Ships and Vessels of War; and his Excellency Don Josef Maria Chacon, Knight of the Order of Calatrava, Brigadier of the Royal Navy, Governor and Commander in Chief of the Island of Trinidad and its Dependencies, Inspector-General of the Troops of its Garrison, &c. &c. &c.

Article I.

THE Officers and Troops of His Catholic Majesty and his Allies in the Island of Trinidad are to surrender themselves Prisoners of War, and are to deliver up the Territory, Forts, Buildings, Arms, Ammunition, Money, Effects, Plans and Stores, with exact Inventories thereof, belonging to His Catholic Majesty; and they are thereby transferred to His Britannic Majesty, in the same Manner and Possession as has been held heretofore by His said Catholic Majesty.

Art. II. The Troops of His Catholic Majesty are to march out with the Honors of War, and to lay down their Arms, at the Distance of Three Hundred Paces from the Forts they occupy, at Five o'Clock this Evening, the 18th of February.

Art. III. All the Officers and Troops aforesaid of His Catholic Majesty are allowed to keep their private Effects, and the Officers are allowed to wear their Swords.

Art. IV. Admiral Don Sebastien Ruiz de Apodaca, being on Shore in the Island, after having burnt and abandoned his Ships, he, with the Officers and Men belonging to the Squadron under his Command, are included in this Capitulation, under the same Terms as are granted to His Catholic Majesty's Troops.

Art. V. As soon as Ships can be conveniently provided for the Purpose, the Prisoners are to be conveyed to Old Spain, they remaining Prisoners of War until exchanged by a Cartel between the Two Nations, or until the Peace; it being clearly understood that they shall not serve again! Great Britain or her Allies until exchanged.

Art. VI. There being some Officers among His Catholic Majesty's Troops, whose private Affairs require their Presence at different Places of the Continent of America: Such Officers are permitted to go upon their Parole to the said Places for Six Months, more or less, after which Period they are to return to Europe; but as the Number receiving this Indulgence must be limited, his Excellency Don Chacon will previously deliver to the British Commanders a List of their Names, Rank, and Places which they are going to.

Art. VII. The Officers of the Royal Administration, upon the Delivery of the Stores with which they are charged to such Officers as may be appointed by the British Commanders, will receive Receipts, according to the Custom in like Cases, from the Officers so appointed to receive the Stores.

Art. VIII. All the private Property of the Inhabitants, as well Spaniards as may such as have been naturalized, is preserved to them.

Art. IX. All Publick Records are to be preserved in such Courts or Offices as they are now in, and all Contracts or Purchases between Individuals, which have been done according to the Laws of Spain, are to be held binding and valid by the British Government.

Art. X. The Spanish Officers of Administration, who are possessed of landed Property in Trinidad, are allowed to remain in the Island, they taking the Oaths of Allegiance to His Britannic Majesty; and they are further allowed, should they please, to sell or dispose of their Property, and to retire elsewhere.

Art. XI. The free Exercise of their Religion is allowed to the Inhabitants.

Art. XII. The free Coloured People, who have been acknowledged as such by the Laws of Spain, shall be protected in their Liberty, Persons and Property, like other Inhabitants; they taking the Oath of Allegiance, and demeaning themselves as become good and peaceable Subjects of His Britannic Majesty.

Art. XIII. The Sailors and Soldiers of His Catholic Majesty are, from the Time of their laying down their Arms, to be fed by the British Government, leaving the Expence to be regulated by the Cartel between the Two Nations.

Art. XIV. The Sick of the Spanish Troops will be taken Care of, but to be attended, and to be under the Inspection, of their own Surgeons.

Art. XV. All the Inhabitants of Trinidad shall, within Thirty Days from the Date hereof, take the Oath of Allegiance to His Britannic Majesty, to demean themselves quietly and faithfully to his Government, upon Pain, in case of Non-Compliance, of being sent away from the Island.

Done at Port d'Espagne, in the Island of Trinidad, the 18th Day of February, 1797.

Ralph Abercromby.

Henry Harvey.

Josef Maria Chacon.

Return of the Spanish Garrison of the Island of Trinidad made Prisoners of War, Feb. 18, 1797.

Royal Artillery.—1 Captain, 1 Lieutenant, 43 Non-commissioned Officers, Drummers, and Privates.

Engineers.—1 Brigadier, 2 Captains, 1 Subaltern.

Trinidad Regiment.—2 Lieutenant-Colonels, 2 Captains, 15 Subalterns, 1 Adjutant, 2 Ensigns, 1 Surgeon, 1 Chaplain, 504 Non commissioned Officers, Drummers and Privates,

French Officers.—1 Lieutenant-Colonel, 3 Captains, 1 Subaltern, 2 Engineers.

Fifty Men sick in General Hospital.

John Hope, Adj. Gen.

Return of the Naval Officers and Seamen made Prisoners of War at the Capture of Trinidad, February 18, 1797.

1 Chef D'Escadre.

1 Brigadier.

5 Captains of Line of Battle Ships.

3 Captains of Frigates.

7 Lieutenants of Line of Battle Ships.

74 Officers of all other Descriptions.

91 Officers.

581 Marines.

1032 Seamen.

1613 Total of Marines and Seamen.

(Signed)

John Hope, Adj. Gen.

Office of Ordnance, Trinidad,  
February 20, 1797.

*RETURN of Stores and Tools found in the Engineer  
Arsenal of the Town of Puerta de Hispania.*

Species of Stores.	Serviceable.
Pickaxes helved	1918
Shovels	2739
Hoes	3461
Bill Hooks	2385
Sledges	1979
Cleavers	410
Chiffels	192
Crow Bars, Iron	84
Crow Bars, small Ditto	2015
Wedges, assorted	1989
Screws	124
Ladies	96
Plates for Wedges	4010
Steel, lbs.	7788
Iron Small drawn, lbs.	825
Iron Bars, flat 60 lbs.	3454
Iron Bars, double, 190 lbs.	12300
Iron Bars, round, 62 lbs.	4045
Jumpers, 5 Feet long	1436
Prickers	1732
Axes, Mafons	3427
Hammers, Mafons	134
Nails, Spike of 13 -Inches, lbs.	1800
Ditto, 11' Inches, do.	3000
Ditto, 6 Inches, do.	2500
Ditto, 4½ Inches, do.	930
Ditto, 1½ Inch, do.	600
Ditto, Scupper	1060
Sheets of Lead, each 8 Cwt.	24

N. B. No Return has as yet been received from the Commissary sent to *Gaspar Grande*, to take an Account of the Engineer Stores deposited in that Island, but it is understood there are, amongst other Articles, intrenching Tools sufficient for 500 Men.

(Signed) *Charles Shipley*, Major and Commandant Royal Engineers, Windward and Leeward Islands.

*Return of Ordnance, Ammunition and Stores, captured on the Island of Trinidad, February 18, 1797.*

**BRASS ORDNANCE.**

- 2 Twenty-six Poundsers, dismounted.
- 6 Twenty-six Poundsers, 4 Twenty-four Poundsers, 9 Sixteen-Poundsers, 6 Twelve-Poundsers, on Travelling Carriages.
- 3 Sixteen-Poundsers, dismounted.
- 11 Four-Poundsers, on Travelling Carriages with Limbers,
- 2 Four-Poundsers, on Garrison Carriages.
- 8 Twelve-Inch Mortars, on Brass Beds.

**IRON ORDNANCE.**

- 10 Sixteen-Poundsers, dismounted.
- 4 Twelve-Poundsers, on Travelling Carriages.
- 4 Short Twelve-Poundsers, on Garrison Carriages.
- 2 Six-Poundsers, dismounted.
- 7 Six-Poundsers, on Garrison Carriages.
- 13 Four-Poundsers, on Ditto.
- 6 Four-Poundsers dismounted.

**LOOSE ROUND SHOT.**

- 1698 Twenty-six Poundsers.
- 2799 Twenty-four Poundsers.
- 200 Eighteen-Poundsers.
- 4240 Sixteen-Poundsers.
- 1400 Twelve-Poundsers.

- 450 Ten-Poundsers.
  - 220 Eight-Poundsers.
  - 1082 Six-Poundsers.
  - 5092 Four-Poundsers.
  - 200 Three Poundsers.
  - 125 Six-Poundsers, double-headed.
  - 43 Four-Poundsers, double headed.
  - 54 Six-Poundsers, in Tin Cafes.
  - 50000 Loose Iron Balls, of 1½ lb. each.
  - 13600 Ditto, 4 oz. each.
  - 1067 Twelve-Inch Shells, empty.
- CANVAS CARTRIDGES, filled with Powder.**
- 195 Twenty-four Poundsers.
  - 193 Sixteen-Poundsers.
  - 201 Twelve-Poundsers.
  - 480 Six-Poundsers.
  - 143 Four-Poundsers.
  - 258 Twenty-four Poundsers, empty.
  - 85 Whole Barrels of Powder, HH of 100 lbs. each.
  - 6 Half Barrels of Ditto.
  - 5883 lbs. of Powder, in Cafes, in No. 39.
  - 70800 Musquet Cartridges, in Barrels, C. H.
  - 7718 Ditto, in Boxes.

**SPARE TRAVELLING CARRIAGES.**

- 2 Twenty-six Poundsers.
- 11 Sixteen-Poundsers.
- 2 Twelve-Poundsers.
- 3225 Musquets with Steel Ramrods and Bayonets.
- 142,000 Musquet Flints.
- 30 Cwt. Slow Match.
- 108 Cartouch Boxes, with Slings.
- 400 Spades, with Helves.
- 400 Hoes, with Ditto.
- 200 Felling Axes, with Ditto.
- 100 Picks, with Ditto.
- 100 Pickaxes, with Ditto.
- 400 Hand-Bills.
- 62 Covers of Leather for Musquet Locks.
- 9436 lbs. of Lead, in Pigs.

With a suitable Proportion of Side Arms and small Articles in the Ordnance Department.

N. B. 2 Iron Six-Poundsers, 138 Cartouch Boxes, with Slings, 298 Scabbards, with Bayonets, 118 Thirteen-Inch Fuzees, 1420 Tubes, and 227 Port-fires, unserviceable. and not included.

Note. The Sixteen-Pounder Brass Guns are the exact Dimensions of English Eighteen-Poundsers.

(Signed) *John Smith*, Major, commanding Royal Artillery, Windward and Leeward Islands.

*Return of Provisions found in the Stores in the Island of Trinidad, delivered over to me by the Commissary (or Contador) in the Service of the King of Spain.*

- 632 Whole Barrels of American Flour.
- 99 Half ditto.
- 154 Tierces of Rice.

(Signed) *John Glasford*,  
Dep. Com. Gen.

Port of Spain, Trinidad,  
February 20, 1797.

Admiralty-Office, March 27, 1797.

**CAPTAIN** Harvey, of His Majesty's Ship Prince of Wales, arrived at the Admiralty this Morning with a Dispatch from Rear-Admiral Henry Harvey, Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Ships and Vessels at Barbadoes and the Leeward

ward Islands, dated off Port D'Espagne, in the Gulph of Paria, February 21, 1797, to Mr. Nepean, Secretary of the Admiralty, of which the following is a Copy:

S I R,

I Have the Honor to acquaint you, for the Information of their Lordships, that it having been determined an Attack should be made on the Island Trinidad, both with a View to that Colony, and to the Spanish Squadron which had been there for some Time past, the Troops intended for this Expedition from Martinique were accordingly embarked in the Ships of War and Transports, and I sailed from Fort Royal Bay the 12th Instant, with the Ships and Vessels of His Majesty's Squadron under my Command, as per Margin\*. Lieutenant-General Sir Ralph Abercromby embarked with me in the Prince of Wales.

The Invincible had previously sailed for Barbadoes, with Two Transports, to embark a Part of the 14th Regiment, and the Thorn and Zebra were ordered to receive the Detachment from Tobago. The Favorite was sent to St. Vincent to collect some Troops from that Island, and the Whole were ordered to rendezvous at the Island of Cariacou, One of the Grenadines, on or before the 13th; and, on my Arrival at that Island, the 14th, I found all the Ships and Transports were assembled.

On the 15th, in the Morning, I sailed with the Squadron and Transports, passing between Cariacou and Grenada; and on the 16th arrived off Trinidad, and stood toward the Gulph of Paria, when, having passed through the Great Bocas Channel, at Half past Three in the Afternoon, the Spanish Squadron were discovered at Anchor in Shagaranus Bay, consisting of Four Sail of the Line, under the Flag of a Rear Admiral, and One Frigate.

As the Day was well advanced before I approached the Bay, and the Enemy appeared in Strength on Gasparaux Island, which commanded the Anchorage, by Batteries erected for that Purpose, I ordered the Arethusa, Thorn, and Zebra, to proceed a little farther up the Gulph, and anchor with all the Transports. The Alarm, Favorite, and Victorieuse were ordered to keep under Sail above the Transports during the Night, and prevent any Vessels sailing from Port Espagne.

In the Evening, just before Dark, I anchored with the Ships of the Line in Order of Battle, opposite the Enemy's Squadron, within Random-Shot of their Ships and Batteries, and in constant Readiness

\* Prince of Wales, Bellona, Vengeance, Scipio, Favorite, Zephyr, Terror Bomb.

to prevent their Escape during the Night, which I suspected they might attempt, as all their Sails were bent, and they appeared perfectly ready for sailing.

At Two o'Clock in the Morning of the 17th we discovered One of their Ships on Fire, and soon after Three others, all of which burnt with great Fury until near Daylight, when they were entirely consumed. One of them having escaped the Conflagration, the Boats were sent from the Squadron, and she was brought out without having received any Damage.

I have great Satisfaction in acquainting their Lordships, that this Squadron of the Enemy, commanded by Rear-Admiral Don Sebastian Ruiz de Apodaca, were destroyed or captured according to the List I herewith enclose; and although this Service was effected without any other Act, on the Part of His Majesty's Squadron under my Command, than being placed in such a Situation as to prevent their Escape, I am fully convinced that, had they remained at their Anchorage until the next Day, the Officers and Men whom I have the Honor to command would have completed, by their Exertion and Zeal, the Capture of the Whole, notwithstanding the Advantage of their Situation, under the Cover of about Twenty Pieces of Cannon and Three Mortars, which were mounted on Gasparaux Island, and had been placed there for the sole Purpose of defending the Ships in the Bay: That Island, which, like the Ships, had been abandoned during the Night, was taken Possession of soon after Day-light by a Party of the Queen's Regiment.

General Abercromby, early in the Morning, joined the Arethusa, and the Troops were all landed, in the Course of the Day, under the Direction of Captain Wolley, covered by the Favorite Sloop, about Three Miles from the Town, without Opposition: The General took Possession of the Town the same Evening, and the 18th the Governor desired to capitulate for the whole Island, and the Articles were agreed to, and signed the same Day; a Copy of which I herewith transmit\*.

Captain Harvey, of His Majesty's Ship Prince of Wales, will have the Honor to deliver this Dispatch, from whom I have always experienced the greatest Zeal and Attention to His Majesty's Service.

I have the Honor to be,

S I R,

Your most obedient humble Servant,

HENRY HARVEY.

\* Vide Sir Ralph Abercromby's Letter.

List of Spanish Ships of War burnt and captured in Shagaranus Bay, in the Gulph of Paria, February 17, 1797, by the Squadron under the Command of Rear Admiral Harvey.

	Guns.	Commanders.	
San Vincenté	- 84	Rear-Admiral Don Sebastian Ruiz de Apedaca,	} burnt.
Gallardo	- 74	Captain Don Geronimo Mendoza,	
Arroganté	- 74	Don Gabriei Soroñdo,	} captured, burnt.
San Damafo	- 74	Don Raphael Benafa,	
Santa Cecilia	- 36	Don Toref Jordan,	
		Don Manuel Urtzabel,	

HENRY HARVEY.