



# The London Gazette

## EXTRAORDINARY.

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MONDAY, MARCH 27, 1797.

*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