

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 Urtefabel,	

HENRY HARVEY.