

A little before the Dawn of Day the Enemy commenced the Attack, and the Boats were soon afterwards seen placed, and keeping up a constant Fire. A light Breeze springing up at that Time from the N. N. W. with an Ebb Tide, the Signal was made to weigh, and Captains Talbot, of the Eurydice, and Haggett, of the Orestes, were directed by me to stand in as fast as possible, and attack the Enemy in the Manner they should judge most effectual towards destroying them, on arriving up. While going down, however, it was perceived the Enemy was making his Retreat in a very hasty and confused Manner, and I am not altogether without Hope, that the near Approach of His Majesty's Ships in some Measure confirmed the Enemy in his Inclination of abandoning an Enterprize, which, from the very able Conduct, and well-directed Fire of Lieutenant Price, he would, at all Events, have been ultimately obliged to do. It again falling calm, and the Ships not having Steerage Way, rendered Pursuit on our Side impossible, and enabled them to make their Retreat to La Hogue.

It would be great Injustice in not joining with him in his very well bestowed Commendation on the Conduct of the several Officers and Men under his Command.

It may not be deemed improper to mention, that I this Morning saw some Pieces of Paper taken from the Vessel which has been towed in, and that amongst them there is a Sort of Return of the Crew, by which it appears that it consisted of 144 Men; the total Force, therefore, may have been very considerable, and there is every Reason to believe has suffered great Loss.

I have the Honor to be, &c.

W. HOTHAM.

*Badger, Isles St. Marcou, May 7, 1798.*

SIR,

I beg Leave to represent to you, that in consequence of the Information I received Yesterday, and the Movements of the Enemy at La Hogue, I conjectured they would attack us in the Night, about high Water, I therefore dispatched a Guard Boat, belonging to the Sandily, with Mr. Moore, Midshipman of the Eurydice, in her, to watch the Motions of the Enemy. About Twelve o'Clock he got amongst them, and made the Signal of their being in Motion, and about the same Time we clearly heard the Enemy talk, but it was so dark we could not discover them.

At Day-Break I observed their Line drawn abreast of the S. W. Face of the Western Redoubt, and having all my Guns I could bring to bear well pointed, I began a steady well-directed Fire on them, until the flat Boats came within Musquet Shot; when I observed Six or Seven of them go down, whilst the others took out the living Part of the Crews; one I am towing into the Islands, and the Remainder, consisting of 43, are returning into La Hogue. I am clear, from the crowded State of their Decks, that they must have received great Damage and Slaughter; but I am sorry to add, we had one Marine killed, and three severely wounded, and one Seaman wounded.

Lieutenant Bourne took every Method in his Power to assist me, but from the Situation of the Attack, the East Island was deprived for some Time

of doing much, but with the Shells from the 68-Pounders over the Length of the West Island, latterly did them great Damage, by flanking the N. W. Side of the West Island.

I beg leave to represent likewise to you that Lieutenants Maughan and Enfor with the Marines, Sergeant Henderson, and the Party of Artillery, and the Seamen under my Command, behaved as well as Officers and Men could do.

I am, Sir,

Your humble Servant,

CHA. P. PRICE.

*Captain Hotham, Senior Officer,  
&c. &c. &c.*

Admiralty-Office, May 12, 1798.

*Copy of a Letter from Lieutenant Charles P. Price, dated on Board His Majesty's Gun-Vessel Badger, Isles St. Marcou, the 9th of May, 1798, to Ewan Nepean, Esq.*

I beg Leave to represent to you, for the Information of my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, that, on the 6th Instant, observing the Enemy forming their Gun-Boats and Flats in Divisions in the Road of La Hogue, I considered it a certain Appearance of an Attack, and ordered every Person to remain under Arms to receive them; I, at the same Time, sent a Guard-Boat off the Mouth of La Hogue to watch their Motions. Mr. Moore, Midshipman of the Eurydice, who commanded the Boat, acquainted me, by Signal, about Twelve P. M. of their approaching us, and soon after we heard them distinctly giving Orders to the Men; but the Night being very dark, and calm, we could not see them. At Day-Break I observed them in Line, drawn abreast of the South-West Face of the Western Redoubt, and having every Man in Readiness, I opened a brisk Fire, of Seventeen Pieces of Cannon, on them, when they immediately returned the Fire from Fifty-two Gun Brigs and Flats, for Two Hours and some Minutes. The Gun Brigs remained to batter within about Three or Four Hundred Yards; and the Flats rowed up to us with great Resolution until they were within Musket Shot, when our Guns, loaded with Round and Grape, or Case, for about One Hour, cut them up in Chips before they could retreat; and our Fire on the Boats attempting to save those sinking, must have occasioned great Slaughter, as they were crowded with Soldiers for the Purpose of storming us. I conjecture, from the small Flat, No. 13, I have towed in Bottom up having 129 of the 2d Company of the Battalion of Boulogne Marine on Board, that there were Six or Seven Thousand Men embarked; and of the Fifty-two that began the Action, I could discover only Forty-three able to retreat.

Lieutenant Bourne took every Method in his Power to assist me, but from the Situation of the Attack the East Island was deprived for some Time of doing much, but with the Shells from the Sixty-eight Pounders over the Length of the West Island, but latterly did them great Damage, by flanking the North-West Face of the West Island.

I am pleased to acquaint you, that Lieutenant Enfor, who commands the Party of Marines under my Command, behaved, with his Men, in a very extraordinary good Officer-like Manner, having the whole