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Admiralty-Office, May 22.

CAPTAIN Winthrop, of His Majesty's Ship Circe, arrived here this Day with a Dispatch from Captain Home Riggs Popham, of His Majesty's Ship Expedition, to Evan Nepean, Esq; Secretary of the Admiralty, of which the following is a Copy.

*His Majesty's Ship Expedition, Ostend Roads,
S I R, May 20, 1798.*

IBEG you will do me the Honor to inform my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, that, in pursuance of their Orders of the 8th Instant, I proceeded to Sea the 14th, with the Ships and Vessels named in the Margin, * having on Board the Troops, under the Command of Major-General Coote, for the Purpose of blowing up the Bafon Gates and Sluices of the Bruges Canal, and destroying the internal Navigation between Holland, Flanders, and France. On the 18th, P. M. I spoke the Fairy, when Captain Horton told me he had taken a Cutter from Flushing to Ostend, and he understood from the People on Board, that the Transport Schuyts sitting at Flushing were to go round immediately by the Canals to Dunkirk and Ostend; and although it was impossible that any Information could give additional Spirit to the Troops forming

this Enterprize, or encrease the Energy and Exertion of the Officers and Seamen under my Command, yet it convinced Major-General Coote and myself that it was of the greatest Importance not to lose any Time, but to attempt, even under an encreased Degree of Risk, an Object of such Magnitude as the one in Question; and as the Weather appeared more favourable than it had been, I made the Signal for Captain Bazely, in the Harpy, to go a-head, with the Vessels appointed to lie as Beacons N. W. of the Town of Ostend, and for Captain Bradby, in the Ariadne, to keep between the Expedition and Harpy, that we might approach as near the Coast as possible, without the Chance of being discovered from the Shore.

At One A. M. we anchored; soon afterwards the Wind shifted to West, and threatened so much to blow, that the General and myself were deliberating whether it would not be better to go to Sea and wait a more favorable Opportunity, when a Boat from the Vigilant brought a Vessel along-side, which she had cut out from under the Light-House Battery, and the Information obtained from the Persons who were on Board her, under separate Examinations, so convinced us of the small Force at Ostend, Newport and Bruges, that Major-General Coote begged he might be landed to accomplish the great Object of destroying the Canals, even if the Surf should prevent his Retreat being so successful as he could wish. I of Course acceded to his spirited Propositions, and ordered the Troops to be landed as fast as possible, without waiting for the regular Order of Debarkation. Many of the Troops were on Shore before we were discovered, and it was not till a Quarter past Four that the Batteries opened on the Ships, which was instantly returned in a most spirited Manner by Captain Mortlock, of the Wolverine, Lieutenant Edmunds, of the Asp, and Lieutenant Norman, of the Biter. The Hecla and Tartarus Bombs very soon opened their Mortars, and threw their Shells with great Quickness and Precision. The Town was on Fire several Times, and much Damage was done to the Ships in the Bafon. By Five o'Clock all the Troops ordered to land, except those from the Minerva, were on Shore with their Artillery, Miners, wooden Petards, Tools and Gunpowder; and before Six o'Clock I heard from General Coote that he had no Doubt of blowing-up the Works. I now became very anxious for the Situation of the Major-General, from

* To anchor to the Eastward,

Hecla Bomb,	J. Oughton.
Harpy,	H. Bazely.
Ariadne,	J. Bradby.
Expedition,	H. Popham.
Minerva,	J. McKellar.
Savage,	N. Thompson.
Blazer,	D. Burgess.
Lion,	S. Bevel.
Circe,	R. Winthrop.
Vesta,	C. White.
Hebe,	W. Bitchall.
Druid,	C. Apthorpe.
Terrier,	T. Lowen.
Vesuvius,	W. Elliott.
Furnace,	M. W. Suckling.

To keep to the Westward, for the Purpose of making a Feint to land there.

Champion,	H. Raper.
Dart,	R. Raggett.
Wolverene,	L. M. Mortlock.
Crash,	B. M. Praid.
Boxer,	J. Gilbert.
Acute,	J. Seaver.

[Price One Shilling.]