

Commissions in the Essex Militia, signed by the Lord Lieutenant.

Supplementary Battalion of Militia.

John Marmaduke Grafton, Esq; to be Captain. Dated May 22, 1798.

Cæsar Corfellis, Gent. to be Lieutenant. Dated as above.

John Bruce, Gent. to be Ensign. Dated as above.

Richard Newman Harding Newman, Esq; to be Captain. Dated May 23, 1798.

John Williams, Gent. to be Lieutenant. Dated as above.

Lieutenant Joseph Wallinger (from the East Essex) to be Captain. Dated May 24, 1798.

Lieutenant James Boggis (from the East Essex) to be Captain. Dated May 25, 1798.

James Blatch, the younger, Esq; to be Captain. Dated May 26, 1798.

Commission signed by His Majesty for the Army in Ireland:

Ensign Henry Patterson, from the 30th Regiment of Foot, to be Lieutenant in the 13th Foot, by Purchase, vice Lieutenant James H. Mitchell, who disposes of his Commission at the regulated Price. Dated April 1, 1798.

Admiralty-Office, June 9, 1798.

Copy of a Letter from Captain Sir Richard John Strachan, Bart. to Evan Nepean, Esq; dated on board His Majesty's Ship Diamond, off Havre, June 2, 1798.

S I R,

I Have the Honor to inclose a Letter from Sir Francis Laforey, Captain of His Majesty's Ship Hydra, detailing the Particulars of a very gallant Action in the Ship he commands, with the French Frigate La Constance, and Vefuve, a Corvette, both of which were forced on Shore, together with a Cutter that accompanied them. I must add, that the whole of this Affair reflects the highest Honor upon Sir Francis Laforey, the Officers, and Ship's Company of the Hydra.

I have the Honor to be, &c.

R. J. STRACHAN.

S I R, *Hydra, off Havre, June 1, 1798.*

I Beg Leave to acquaint you, that on the Morning of the 30th Ult. His Majesty's Ship under my Command being off Havre, with the Vefuvius Bomb and Trial Cutter, carrying into Execution the Orders I had the Honor to receive from you on the 28th. at Break of Day Three Sail were discovered to Windward, which, upon the Hydra drawing up within Gun-Shot, hoisted French Colours, and proved to be a Frigate, a Corvette, and a Cutter.

The Corvette being the Leewardmost, commenced the Action as the two Ships passed on different Tacks. Upon the Hydra being put about, she pitched up in a Position nearly equal Distance between the two, when the Frigate opened the Fire. In about a Quarter of an Hour the Cutter bore away, and run ashore under a Prés of Sail near a small Battery off the Entrance of Dieu River; floating with the rising Tide, she attempted to proceed further down towards Cæen, but, upon the Approach of the Ve-

svivius and Trial, was compelled again to run on Shore.

The Frigate endeavoured to regain the Port of Havre, but, after engaging His Majesty's Ship Three Quarters of an Hour, she likewise ran on Shore, at the Time of high Water, a little to the Eastward of Dieu, where she sustained the Fire of His Majesty's Ship, with little Return on her Part, till the falling of the Tide rendered it necessary for our own Safety that we should haul off Shore. A Number of Troops having formed on the Beach and adjoining Heights, I could not attempt to board her that Evening with any Prospect of Success; but on the Morning of the 31st, perceiving that a great Part of her Crew had left her, I sent the Boats of His Majesty's Ship, under Cover of the Trial Cutter, whilst the Tide was sufficiently high to enable the Hydra to approach within Gun-Shot for Protection, to haul down her Colours and burn her; which I have the Pleasure to state was compleatly achieved without any Loss on our Part, such as remained on board having abandoned her upon the Approach of the Trial and the Boats, and which was the more satisfactory, as it was effected in the Face of a Party of Cavalry drawn up on the Beach, and amidst a small, though ineffectual, Fire of Musketry from the Military on the commanding Heights. The Corvette having grounded very high upon the Beach, and being within the Range of a Battery of Two Twenty four Pounders, nothing could be attempted towards destroying her; during the Night she was hauled into the River of Dieu; the Cutter ran on Shore on the Action commencing: These Ships had sailed from Havre on the Night of the 29th; the Frigate was named La Constance, mounted 36 Guns, Twelve-Pounders, was full of Stores, and had Ordnance in her Hold; she was commanded by Mons. Leorier, and by a Note D'Equippage found on board, appears to have been manned with 300 Men; the Number of slain left on board, and the State of the Decks, leads me to suppose her Loss in killed and wounded was severe. The Corvette was named Le Vefuve, mounted 20 Nine-Pounders, and was commanded by a Monsieur L'Eutier. I am truly happy at having it in my Power to inform you, that the Hydra escaped without Loss; her Rigging was much cut, and her Mainmast wounded, but not badly. It is with peculiar Satisfaction I report the steady Conduct of the Officers and Crew of His Majesty's Ship I have the Honor to command; from Lieutenant Jones and Mr. Pickering, the Master, I experienced Co-operation; the Judgment and active Gallantry exhibited by Lieutenants Acklom and Simonds, and Lieutenant Blanch, of the Marines, who commanded the boarding Party, reflects the highest Credit upon them; and I beg Leave to express my perfect Approbation of the Exertions displayed by Captain Fitzgerald, of the Vefuvius, and Lieutenant Garrett, of the Trial, to support the Hydra.

I have the Honor to be, &c.

FRA. LAFOREY.

*Sir Richard Strachan, Bart.
Senior Officer, &c. &c.*

Downing-Street, June 9, 1798.

THE Letter and Attestation, of which the following are Translations, having been humbly submitted to His Majesty by the undermentioned Officers