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Admiralty-Office, August 31, 1799.

LIEUTENANT CLAY, of His Majesty's Ship Kent, arrived this Morning with a Dispatch from Admiral Lord Duncan, K. B. to Mr. Nepean, Secretary of the Admiralty, of which the following is a Copy.

*Kent, at Anchor off the Texel,
August 28, 1799.*

SIR,

BE pleas'd to acquaint the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, that I shall go on from my Letter of the 25th Instant, and say it blew so fresh on Sunday that we could not approach the Land, but the Weather becoming more moderate on Monday, the whole of the Fleet, with the Transports, were at Anchor close in Shore by Noon on that Day. I shall not enter into Detail of the landing the Troops, or what happened on Tuesday, as their Lordships will have that stated by Vice-Admiral Mitchell; suffice it to say, the Troops rowed towards the Shore at Day-break, and landed, though immediately opposed by Numbers, and from that Time till Half-past Four P. M. were continually in Action. However, the Gallantry of the British Troops surmounted all Difficulties, and drove the Enemy wherever they met them.

The Russian Ship got a-Shore on the South Haik, in coming to the Anchorage, where she remained some Time in great Danger, but by timely Assistance and Exertion of her Captain and Officers, in getting out some of the Guns and lightening her, she was got off; and last Night reported to be again fit for Service.

At Five P. M. the Belliqueux, with her Convoy from the Downs, anchored.

This Day it blows strong from the Westward with a great Surf, so that I fear little can be done; but I am sure the Vice-Admiral will avail himself of every Opportunity to carry on the Service, as I never witnessed more Attention and Perseverance in spite of most unfavorable Weather, to get the Troops landed; and nothing shall be wanting on my Part towards furnishing him with every Aid in my Power, in order to bring the Business to a happy Termination.

I am, &c.

DUNCAN.

P. S. Eight P. M. The Weather is still bad; but a Lugger is just returned with an Answer to a Letter I wrote Vice-Admiral Mitchell this Morning, by which I find the Helder Point was last Night evacuated and the Guns in it spiked up. The Lieutenant of the Lugger likewise reports that the General and Vice-Admiral had not sent off their Dispatches; and as I think it of the greatest Consequence that Government should have the earliest Notice, I detach a Cutter with this interesting Intelligence, although it was my original Intention only to have sent one away after the General and Vice-Admiral had forwarded their Dispatches; and as I have not Time to alter my other Letter to you of this Date, I beg to refer their Lordships to Lieutenant Clay, of His Majesty's Ship Kent, an intelligent and deserving Officer, for further Particulars.

DUNCAN.

Evan Nepean, Esq.

Admiralty-Office, August 31, 1799.

Extract of a Letter from Captain Cunningham, of His Majesty's Ship Clyde, to Evan Nepean, Esq; dated Plymouth-Sound, August 28, 1799.

I Have the Satisfaction to inclose, for the Information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, the Copy of a Letter addressed to Lord Keith.

*Clyde, Plymouth-Sound,
August 28, 1799.*

MY LORD,

I Have the Honor to inform you, that on the 20th Instant, at Half past Eight A. M. Cordovan Light-House bearing E. by S. Six or Seven Leagues, I discovered Two Sail in the S. W. to which I gave Chace, and soon perceived that they were standing toward us, which they continued to do until His Majesty's Ship under my Command was within Two Miles of them, when they both bore up and made Sail, going large on different Tacks. I continued to chase the largest, and soon brought her to Action, which was maintained with great Gallantry on the Part of the Enemy, until his Ship was wholly dismantled, and had received several Shot between Wind and Water; when La Vestale, a French Frigate of Thirty-six Guns, Twelve-Pounders, and Two Hundred and Thirty-five Men, commanded by