



# The London Gazette.

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*Saint James's, January 18, 1800.*

**T**HIS Day being appointed for the Celebration of the Anniversary of the Queen's Birth-Day, there was a very splendid and numerous Attendance of the Nobility, Foreign Ministers, and other Persons of Distinction, to compliment their Majesties upon the Occasion. The Guns at the Tower were fired at One o'Clock. There was a Ball at Court in the Evening, and Illuminations and other Public Demonstrations of Joy in London and Westminster.

Admiralty-Office, January 18, 1800.

*Copy of a Letter from Admiral Sir Hyde Parker, Knt. Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Ships and Vessels at Jamaica, to Evan Nepean, Esq; dated on Board the Abergavenny, in Port Royal Harbour, the 25th October 1799.*

SIR,

**I** Have the Honor to enclose, for the Information of my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, a Letter from Captain Philpot, Commander of His Majesty's Sloop Echo, stating as gallant and daring an Enterprize, under the Command of Lieutenant Napier, of the said Sloop, as has been executed by any One Officer in the Service during this War, when it is known that the Two Boats employed on this Service were manned with Sixteen Men only, Officers included; and that, from the Confession of the Officers of the Brig, they were in Expectation of being attacked; and had held themselves in a State of Preparation for Two Days and Two Nights.

Being well assured there needs no further Comment from me to induce their Lordships to pay Attention to Men of such distinguished Merit as Lieutenant Napier appears to have had on such a hazardous and bold Undertaking, I shall implicitly submit it for their Lordships' Consideration.

I have the Honor to be, &c. &c. &c.

H. PARKER.

SIR,

*Echo, at Sea, Oct. 18, 1799.*

**I** Beg Leave to inform you, that on the 14th Inst. I chased into Lagnadille, the North West End of Porto Rico, a Brig; seeing several Vessels in the Bay, some of them loaded, on the 15th I sent

the Pinnace and Jolly Boat, under the Command of Lieutenants Napier and Rorie; they arrived too late to attempt boarding the Vessels at Anchor; but had the good Fortune to capture a Spanish Brig from Camana (on the Main) bound to Old Spain, laden with Cocoa and Indigo, and having on board Two Four-Pounders, and Twenty Men.

On the 16th I sent the Two Boats under the Command of Lieutenant Napier and Mr. Wood, (the Boatswain,) to cut out what they could from the Bay. They arrived at the Anchorage about Two o'Clock in the Morning, and were hailed from the Brig we chased in; they perceived her to be armed, and on the look-out for them, moored about Half a Cable's Length from the Shore, with her Broadside to the Sea, protected by Two Field Pieces, One Eighteen-Pounder, and some smaller Carriage Guns, all placed on the Beach. The Boats did not hesitate, but boarded her in the Bow; the Frenchmen and Spaniards (about Thirty in Number all upon Deck, with Matches lighted and Guns primed, every way prepared for Action) made the best of their Way down the Hatchways. By the Time the Cables were cut, the Guns on the Beach opened their Fire upon the Boats. The Third Shot, I am sorry to say, sunk the Pinnace, while she was a-head towing the Jolly-Boat. The Brig was several Times hulled, but a light Breeze favoring; she soon got out of Gun Shot.

I have every Reason to be pleased with the Conduct of Lieutenant Napier, and those under him; had I known what they had to contend with, I should not have considered myself justified in sending so small a Force; luckily not a Man killed or wounded; the only Loss is the Boat, with the Arms and Ammunition.

The Brig mounts Twelve Four-Pounders; had Thirty Men on board; is a French Letter of Marque, commanded by Citizen Pierre Martin, Enseigne de Vaisseau, is coppered, and a very fast Sailer; was to sail in Two Days for Curacao, there to be fitted as a Privateer; she is American built, and has a valuable Cargo on board; the Captain of her was on Shore.

I remain, &c.

ROBERT PHILPOT.

*Sir Hyde Parker, K. B. Admiral of the Blue, &c. &c. &c.*

