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Downing-Street, March 7, 1801.

A LETTER, of which the following is an Extract, has been received by the Right Honorable Henry Dundas, One of His Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, from Lieutenant-Colonel Frazer, Commandant of the Garrison of Gorée, on the Coast of Africa, dated off Senegal, 5th January 1801.

ON the 3d Instant, the Weather being very favourable, and the Surf unusually low, it was determined by Sir Charles Hamilton and myself to attack an Armed Brig and Schooner laying at Anchor in the River.

The Party destined for this Service, consisting of Fifty-five Volunteers from the Melpomene, under the Command of Lieutenant Dick, Five from the Crew of the Transport, and Thirty-six, commanded by Lieutenant Christie, from the African Corps, left the Frigate at Half past Nine o'Clock in Five Boats, and having passed the Bar without Accident, and the Batteries at the Point without being discovered, arrived at a Quarter before Eleven o'Clock within a few Yards of the Brig, when the Enemy commenced a very heavy Fire, through which our People boarded, and, after a severe Contest, which lasted Twenty Minutes, carried the Vessel.

It appears she was called the Senegal, commanded by M. Renou, mounted Eighteen Guns, with about Sixty Men, Eighteen of whom are Prisoners.

Two of the best Boats having been destroyed by the Enemy's Shot, Lieutenant Dick judged it better to turn the Guns of the Brig upon the Schooner than to attempt boarding her, and kept up a well-directed Fire for some Time; but she was so well protected by the Batteries on Shore, and by small Arms from the Southern Bank, that he found it necessary to desist; and cutting the Brig's Cable, made Sail with her down the River.

After Two Hours Possession she unfortunately grounded, and he was obliged to relinquish his Prize, after rendering her unfit for further Service.

The Retreat was conducted with the greatest Order, and the Whole of the Prisoners and Wounded brought off notwithstanding the Surf upon the Bar, and under a Fire of Grape and small Arms from the adjoining Batteries.

I enclose a Return of the Killed and Wounded*, and have to regret the Loss of Two very gallant Officers, Lieutenants Palmer of the Navy, and Vivion of the Marines.

* See Captain Hamilton's Letter.

Admiralty-Office, March 7, 1801.

Copy of a Letter from Sir Charles Hamilton, Bart. Captain of His Majesty's Ship Melpomene, to Evan Nepean, Esq; dated at Gorée, 8th January 1801.

S I R,

YOU will be pleased to inform their Lordships, that, being off the Bar of Senegal, on the 3d Instant, the Weather moderate, and the Surf low, with the Concurrence of Colonel Frazier, I conceived it possible, if we could surprize a Brig Corvette and an Armed Schooner, anchored within the Bar, to possess ourselves of the Battery commanding the Entrance, and, by the Means of their own Vessels, as I had none under my Command fit for the Purpose, to have finally reduced Senegal; I therefore detached Lieutenant Dick, with Ninety-six Officers and Men from the Melpomene, and African Corps, in Five Boats, who left the Ship at Nine P. M. were fortunate enough to pass the heavy Surf on the Bar with the flood Tide without Accident, and unobserved by the Point Battery; but on their approaching within hail of the Brig the Alarm was given, and the Two Bow Guns discharged, by which Lieutenant Palmer, with Seven Seamen, were killed, and Two Boats sunk. Notwithstanding this unfortunate Accident, the Brig was carried after an obstinate Defence of Twenty Minutes, but which gave the Schooner Time to cut her Cable:—Lieutenant Dick finding that the Loss of his Two best Boats, and many of his best Men, added to a constant Fire from the Schooner and Two Batteries, must have rendered any farther Attempt abortive, he judged it right to make every Attempt to get her over the Bar, but the Ebb Tide having made, and being totally unacquainted with the Navigation of the River, she got a-ground; and seeing it impossible ever to get her off, and being hulled by every Shot from the Point Battery, he found it absolutely necessary to retreat; and, under the many Obstacles he had to surmount across a tremendous Surf, under a heavy

