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Admiralty-Office, August 3, 1801.

I LEUTENANT PHILIP DUMARESQ, of His Majesty's Ship *Cæsar*, arrived last Night with Dispatches from Rear-Admiral Sir James Saumarez, Bart. of which the following are Copies :

Cæsar, off Cape Trafalgar, July 13, 1801.

SIR,

IT has pleased the Almighty to crown the Exertions of this Squadron with the most decisive Success over the Enemies of their Country.

The Three French Line of Battle Ships disabled in the Action of the 6th Instant, off Algeziras, were, on the 8th, reinforced by a Squadron of Five Spanish Line of Battle Ships under the Command of Don Juan Joaquin de Moreno, and a French Ship of Seventy-four Guns, wearing a Broad Pendant, besides Three Frigates, and an incredible Number of Gun-boats and other Vessels, and got under Sail Yesterday Morning, together with His Majesty's late Ship *Hannibal*, which they had succeeded in getting off the Shoal on which she struck.

I almost despaired of having a sufficient Force in Readiness to oppose to such Numbers, but, through the great Exertions of Captain Brenton, the Officers and Men belonging to the *Cæsar*, the Ship was in Readiness to warp out of the Mole Yesterday Morning, and got under Weigh immediately after with all the Squadron, except the *Pompée*, which Ship had not had Time to get in her Masts.

Confiding in the Zeal and Intrepidity of the Officers and Men I had the Happiness to serve with, I determined, if possible, to obstruct the Passage of this very powerful Force to Cadiz. Late in the Evening I observed the Enemy's Ships to have cleared Cabareta Point, and at Eight I bore up with the Squadron to stand after them. His Ma-

jefty's Ship *Superb* being stationed a-head of the *Cæsar*, I directed Captain Keats to make Sail and attack the Sternmost Ships in the Enemy's Rear, using his Endeavours to keep in shore of them. At Eleven the *Superb* opened her Fire close to the Enemy's Ships, and on the *Cæsar's* coming up and preparing to engage a Three Decker that had hauled her Wind, she was perceived to have taken Fire, and the Flames having communicated to a Ship to Leeward of her, both were seen in a Blaze, and presented a most awful Sight. No Possibility existing of offering the least Assistance in so distressing a Situation, the *Cæsar* passed to close with the Ship engaged by the *Superb*, but by the cool and determined Fire kept upon her, which must ever reflect the highest Credit on that Ship, the Enemy's Ship was completely silenced, and soon after hauled down her Colours.

The *Venerable* and *Spencer* having at this Time come up, I bore up after the Enemy, who were carrying a Press of Sail standing out of the Straits, and lost Sight of them during the Night. It blew excessively hard till Day-light, and in the Morning the only Ships in Company were the *Venerable* and *Thames* ahead of the *Cæsar*, and one of the French Ships at some Distance from them, standing towards the Shoals of Conil, besides the *Spencer* astern coming up.

All the Ships immediately made Sail with a fresh Breeze, but, as we approached, the Wind suddenly failing, the *Venerable* was alone able to bring her to Action, which Captain Hood did in the most gallant Manner, and had nearly silenced the French Ship, when his Main Mast (which had been before wounded) was unfortunately shot away, and it coming nearly calm, the Enemy's Ship was enabled to get off without any Possibility of following her.



The highest Praise is due to Captain Hood, the Officers and Men of the Venerable, for their Spirit and Gallantry in the Action, which entitled them to better Success. The French Ship was an Eighty-four, with additional Guns on the Gunwale.

This Action was so near the Shore, that the Venerable struck on one of the Shoals, but was soon after got off and taken in Tow by the Thames, but with the Loss of all her Masts.

The Enemy's Ships are now in Sight to the Westward, standing in for Cadiz. The Superb and Audacious, with the captured Ship, are also in Sight, with the Carlotta Portuguese Frigate commanded by Captain Crawford Duncan, who very handsomely came out with the Squadron, and has been of the greatest Assistance to Captain Keats, in staying by the Enemy's Ship captured by the Superb.

I am proceeding with the Squadron for Rosier Bay, and shall proceed the Moment the Ships are refitted to resume my Station.

No Praises that I can bestow are adequate to the Merits of the Officers and Ships' Companies of all the Squadron, particularly for their unremitting Exertions in refitting the Ships at Gibraltar, to which, in a great Degree, is to be ascribed the Success of the Squadron against the Enemy.

Although the Spencer and Audacious had not the good Fortune to partake of this Action, I have no Doubt of their Exertion, had they come up in Time to close with the Enemy's Ships.

My Thanks are also due to Captain Holles of the Thames, and to the Honorable Captain Dundas of the Calpe, whose Assistance was particularly useful to Captain Keats in securing the Enemy's Ship, and enabling the Superb to stand after the Squadron, in case of having been enabled to renew the Action.

I herewith enclose the Names of the Enemy's Ships.

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

(Signed) J. SAUMAREZ.

Evan Nepean, Esq.

List of the Spanish Squadron that arrived at Cadiz from Ferrol, on the 25th of April, under the Command of Don Joaquin de Moreno, (Lieutenant-General,) as Vice-Admiral, and proceeded to Algeziras Bay, the 9th of July 1801.

Real Carlos, of 112 Guns, Captain Don J. Esquererra.

San Hermenegildo, of 112 Guns, Captain Don J. Emparan.

San Fernando, of 94 Guns, Captain Don J. Malina.

Argonaut, of 80 Guns, Captain Don J. Herrera.

San Augustin, of 74 Guns, Captain Don R. Joseph.

San Antonio, of 74 Guns, under French Colours, taken by the Superb.

Wanton French Lugger, of 12 Guns.

The Admiral's Ship the Real Carlos, and the San Hermenegildo, were the Two Ships that took Fire and blew up.

(Signed) J. SAUMAREZ.

*Cesar, off Cape Trafalgar,
July 14, 1801.*

SIR,

I Herewith enclose, for their Lordships' further Information the Statement I have received from Captain Keats, to whom the greatest Praise is due for his gallant Conduct on the Service alluded to.

Captain Hood's Merits are held in too high Estimation to receive additional Lustre from any Praises I can bestow; but I only do justice to my own Feelings when I observe, that in no Instance have I known superior Bravery to that displayed by him on this Occasion.

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

Evan Nepean, Esq.

J. SAUMAREZ.

*Superb, off Cape Trafalgar,
July 13, 1801.*

SIR,

Pursuant to your Directions to state the Particulars of the Superb's Services last Night, I have the Honor to inform you, that in consequence of your Directions to make Sail up to and engage the Sternmost of the Enemy's Ships, at Half past Eleven I found myself abreast of a Spanish Three Decked Ship, (the Real Carlos, as appears by Report of some Survivors,) which, having brought in One with Two other Ships nearly Line abreast, I opened my Fire upon at not more than Three Cables' Length; this evidently produced good Effect, as well in this Ship as the others abreast of her, which soon began firing on each other, and at Times on the Superb.

In about a Quarter of an Hour, I perceived the Ship I was engaging, and which had lost her Fore-Top-Mast, to be on Fire, upon which we instantly ceased to molest her, and I proceeded on to the Ship next at Hand, which proved to be the San Antonio of Seventy-four Guns, and Seven Hundred and Thirty Men, commanded by the Chef de Division Le Rey, under French Colours, wearing a Broad Pendant, and manned nearly equally with French and Spanish Seamen, and which, after some Action, (the Chef being wounded), struck her Colours.

I learn from the very few Survivors of the Ships that caught Fire and blew up, (which, in an open Boat, reached the Superb at the Time she was taking Possession of the San Antonio,) that in the Confusion of the Action, the Hermenegildo, (a First Rate also,) mistaking the Real Carlos for an Enemy, ran on board her, and shared her melancholy Fate.

Services of this Nature cannot well be expected to be performed without some Loss, but though we have to lament that Lieutenant E. Waller, and Fourteen Seamen and Marines have been wounded, most of them severely, still there is Reason to rejoice that that is the Extent of our Loss.

I received able and active Assistance from Mr. Samuel Jackson, the First Lieutenant, and it is my Duty to represent to you, that the Officers of all Descriptions, Seamen, and Marines, conducted themselves with the greatest Steadiness and Gallantry.

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

(Signed)

R. G. KEATS.

Sir James Saumarez, Bart. Rear-Admiral of the Blue, &c.