

Fire, jointly with the Batteries around the Port, without doing much Execution.

The Cerberus, after getting under Sail, grounded on one of the Sand-Banks, and remained above Three Hours before she floated; Nine of the Gun-Boats, perceiving her Situation, endeavoured to annoy her, and kept up a heavy Fire upon her for some Time, but were silenced by the Charwell and Kite, and also by the Fire from the Sulphur and Terror Bombs, and by the Carronade Launch of the Cerberus, under the Orders of Lieutenant Maffell, assisted by the Eling and Carteret, which obliged them to take Shelter in their Port.

In the Performance of this intricate Service I cannot too highly applaud the Zeal and persevering Exertions of all the Officers and Men under my Orders; and I should not do Justice to the Merits of Captain Selby, was I not to acknowledge the able Assistance I have received from him since I have had the Honor of being in his Ship. The Steadiness and good Conduct of all the Officers and Men in the Cerberus, during the Time the Ship was aground, also do them infinite Credit.

The various Services on which Captain M'Leod, of the Sulphur, and Captain Hardinge, of the Terror, have been employed this War, are already sufficiently known, but I will venture to assert that in no Instance can they have displayed greater Zeal and Gallantry than on the present Occasion; and great Praise is also due to Lieutenant Macartney and Lieutenant Smith, and the Parties of Artillery embarked on board the respective Bomb-Vessels. It is not possible to ascertain the Damages the Enemy have sustained on this Occasion, but as, during the Bombardment, very few (if any) of the Shells missed taking Effect, they must have been very considerable.

I am, &c. JA. SAUMAREZ.

Admiralty-Office, September 24, 1803.

*Copy of a Letter from Rear-Admiral Montagu to Sir Evan Nepean, Bart. dated on board His Majesty's Ship the Utrecht, in the Downs, the 20th Instant.*

SIR,

ENCLOSED I have the Honor to transmit a Duplicate of Intelligence received from Captain Owen, of His Majesty's Ship the Immortalité, the Original being sent to the Commander in Chief.

I am, &c. ROBERT MONTAGU.

*His Majesty's Ship Immortalité, off Saint Vallery en Caux, 14th*

MY LORD, September, 1803.

IN Obedience to the Order of Rear-Admiral Montagu, I, at Eight o'Clock this Morning, in Company with the Perseus and Explosion Bombs, commenced an Attack on the Batteries which protect the Town of Dieppe, and Vessels building there (in Number, Seventeen).

The Firing was continued on both Sides till past Eleven, when the Lee Tide making strong, and the Town having taken Fire badly in one Place, and slightly in Two others, I caused the Bombs to weigh, and proceeded with them off St. Vallery en Caux, where they are constructing Six Vessels, and at Three in the Afternoon opened our Fire at that Place for an Hour. The Enemy was for the most Part driven from their Batteries, the Inhabitants

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flying to the Country, and judging from the Direction in which many of the Shells burst, they must have suffered much.

On a Service of this Nature we cannot expect to escape unhurt; I have, however, pleasure in reporting to your Lordship, that although the Enemy's Fire, especially from Dieppe (which is very strong in Batteries), was heavy and well-directed, and that many of their Shot took Effect, our Loss has been but small; the Perseus has One Man missing, and the Serjeant of Artillery is slightly wounded. The Boatswain of this Ship and Three Seamen were bruised by Splinters, but did not leave their Quarters; the other Damage (but that not material), is confined chiefly to the Rigging.

The Manner of executing my Instructions, and the Judgment shewn in placing and managing the Bomb Vessels, entitle Captain Methuit and Captain Paul to my best and warmest Thanks; their Conduct has been every Thing I wish, and they speak highly of the Officers and Detachments of the Royal Artillery embarked with them, as well as of the Officers and Men of their respective Crews. My Opinion of the First Lieutenant of this Ship, Charles F. Payte, is already known to your Lordship, and his Conduct this Day, as well as that of the other Lieutenants, Officers, and Men, without Exception, has fully justified the Reports I have made your Lordship concerning them on former Occasions, who have the Honor to be, &c.

E. W. C. R. OWEN.

Right Honorable Lord Keib, K. B.

*Ec. Ec. Ec.*

Admiralty-Office, September 24, 1803.

*Copy of a Letter from Captain Hallowell, of His Majesty's Ship Argo, to Sir Evan Nepean, Bart. dated at Sea, the 12th September 1803.*

SIR,

BE pleased to acquaint their Lordships, that His Majesty's Ship Argo has this Day captured L'Oiseau Cutter Privateer, of Ten Guns and Sixty-eight Men, commanded by Nicholas Brune Daubin, Enseigne de Vaisseau: her Second Lieutenant was unfortunately killed by One of our Guns during the Chase. She had been Nine Days from Rochfort, and taken nothing.

I am, Sir, &c. B. HALLOWELL.

Admiralty-Office, September 24, 1803.

*Copy of a Letter from Lieutenant William Gibbons, commanding His Majesty's Fired Cutter Joseph, to Sir Evan Nepean, Bart. dated at Falmouth, the 20th Instant.*

SIR,

HAVING received Orders from Captain Bafs of His Majesty's Brig Garnet to cruise off Mounts' Bay, and being led considerably to the Southward and Westward in Chace, and by strong Gales of Wind, blown off Cape Finisterre, on the 8th of this Month, at Daylight, and at the clearing up of a Fog, discovered the Maria Privateer of Guernsey Two or Three Miles to Windward of us in Chace of Two Brigs, One of which, L'Espoir Privateer of St. Malo, was firing her Stern Chasers at her, and at Times giving her Broadides; we tacked, and in about an Hour we got within Pistol