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Admiralty-Office, January 28, 1804.

*Copy of a Letter from Commodore Hood, Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Ships and Vessels at the Leeward Islands, to Sir Ewan Nepean, Bart. dated on board His Majesty's Ship the Centaur, off Martinique, the 26th November 1803.*

SIR,

EARLY this Morning as the Centaur was passing the Cape de Salines, on the Island of Martinique, she was fired at, and several Shot exchanged in passing: I immediately directed Captain Maxwell to stand on far enough, that by tacking, we could fetch into Petit Ance D'Arlette, where we anchored, and landed the greater Part of the Marines under Captain Crozier, and Forty Seamen commanded by Lieutenants Maurice and Aylcough, to destroy it; on the first Alarm the National Guards had assembled to aid Fourteen Cannoniers of the Marine Artillery, stationed in the Battery, but by the rapid and active Movements of the Officers and Men on this Service, the Enemy had not Time to arrange themselves in Defence of the narrow and steep Path to the Eminence, where was planted a Brass Two-Pounder, and on the Approach of our Men, flew to the Morne, and so dispersed themselves in its thick Woods, that only one Cannonier fell into our Hands; the Battery, mounting Six Twenty-four-Pounders, was completely destroyed, and the Guns, &c. thrown over the Precipice; but, unfortunately, in the Explosion of the Magazine a little too soon, One Seaman was killed; Lieutenant Maurice, 1st of the Centaur, Captain Crozier and Lieutenant Walker, of the Marines, with Six Men, wounded, but only one private Marine badly.

On drawing near the Bay of Point D'Arlette, between the Grande and Petite Ance of that Name, we discovered a Battery of Three Guns, (Two proved to be Forty-two Pounders, the other a Thirty two Pounder,) and People laying down; however the Ship was anchored in a Position to flank it, had they thought proper to annoy us, and Lieutenant Domett, with Lieutenant M'Laughlan, of the Marines, threw the Guns over the Cliff, and burnt and destroyed the Carriages, Barracks, and Ammunition most perfectly, the People having abandoned it on their Approach; from this I pro-

mise myself much Aid to the blockading Ships should the Enemy send out a Reinforcement, and also very convenient for Anchoring.

I have the Honor to be, &c.

SAM. HOOD.

Admiralty-Office, January 28, 1804.

*Copy of another Letter from Commodore Hood, Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Ships and Vessels at the Leeward Islands, to Sir Ewan Nepean, Bart. dated at Sea, 20th November 1803.*

SEND enclosed herewith, for the Information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, a List of Captures since my last Return.

I have the Honor to be, &c.

(Signed) SAM. HOOD.

*List of Vessels captured and detained by the Squadron under the Command of Commodore Hood since last Return.*

French Schooner Terese, laden with Molasses: Taken by the Swift, July 23, 1803.

American Ship Fame, laden with Flour and Corn: Detained by the Centaur and Netley, August 21, 1803.

Dutch Ship Surinam Planter, from Surinam to Amsterdam, laden with 922 Hogsheads Sugar, 342 Bales Cotton, and 70,000 lbs. of Coffee: Taken by the Heureux and Emerald, August 10, 1803.

Dutch Ship Burton, laden with Sugar and Cotton: Taken by the Chichester, same Date.

American Ship Reward, laden with 2000 lbs. of French Coffee: Detained by Ditto, same Date.

Dutch Brig Young Benjamin, laden with Sugar and Cotton: Taken by the Cyane, same Date.

Dutch Ship Haadstricht, laden with 519 Hogsheads Sugar, 492 Coffee, 149 Cotton, and 53 Cocoa: Taken by Ditto, same Date.

French Privateer Schooner Sally, of Six Guns and Twenty-eight Men: Taken by St. Lucia, same Date.

Dutch Ship Good Hope, laden with Wine, Cordage, &c.: Taken by the Centaur, August 31, 1803.

A Dutch Ship (Name unknown) laden with 410 Slaves: Taken by the Horvet, September 3, 1803.