



# The London Gazette.

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Admiralty-Office, August 18, 1804.

Copy of a Letter from Vice-Admiral Lord Viscount Nelson, Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Ships and Vessels in the Mediterranean, to William Marsden, Esq; dated on board the *Victory*, off Toulon, June 8, 1804.

SIR,

HEREWITH transmit you, for the Information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, Copy of a Letter, dated the 3d Ultimo, from Captain Corbet, of His Majesty's Sloop *Bittern*, to Captain Schomberg, senior Officer at Malta, giving an Account of his having, on the 28th of April last, captured the French Privateer *L'Hirondelle*, and recaptured the Two English Merchant Ships named in the Margin\*, her Prizes. The Conduct of Captain Corbet, the Officers and Company of the *Bittern*, entitles them to my warmest Thanks for their very great Perseverance and Exertions in the Capture of the above Privateer, which, I understand, is a remarkable fine Vessel, and had greatly annoyed our Trade in these Seas.

I am, &c.

NELSON & BRONTE.

His Majesty's Ship *Bittern*, off Cape Passaro,

SIR,

3d May 1804.

IN Execution of your Orders of the 27th Ultimo, I have great Satisfaction in informing you, that, on the Morning of the 28th, Cape Passaro bearing N. E. Eight Leagues, I got Sight of the Privateer you alluded to, then apparently taking Possession of Two Brigs. On our Appearance they separated. Thinking the Appearance of the Weather favourable, I dispatched a Boat in chase of each Brig, and followed the Privateer.

On the Evening of the 29th, after a Chase of Thirty-six Hours in a perfect Calm, and Six Hours incessant Fire from his Stern and our Bow Chasers, he struck, finding the Vessel filling fast from a Shot Hole under Water, which we, however, stopped.

She proves to be the *L'Hirondelle*, a very fine Cutter, fitted out from Cette, mounting Fourteen Twelve-Pounders, his Complement Eighty Men (many of whom were with Prizes), coppered Bottom, and just launched.

\* *Mentor* and *Catharine*.

On the Evening of the 27th he had taken (after an Action) the King George, Malta Government Brig. At the Time I had the Luck to see him he had captured the abovementioned Brigs, and was in Chase of a Sloop, which we prevented him boarding.

We received no Damage from his Fire, (chiefly aimed at our Masts,) save a Twelve-Pound Shot through our Starboard Bow, between Wind and Water, and a few Ropes cut.

On hearing of the Capture of the King George, (as it still remained Calm,) I dispatched Lieutenant Nicholas in the Launch to Syracuse, hoping to intercept her; but, after rowing Fifteen Leagues, he had the Disappointment to find her a few Hours arrived. Lieutenant Pettet joined me here Yesterday with the Boats, having taken the Recaptures to Malta. They prove to be the *Mentor*, of London, and the *Catharine*, of Liverpool, from Messina to Malta to join Convoy, with valuable Cargoes.

The persevering Exertions of the Ship's Company deserve mention. They were at the Sweeps (to which Purpose I had converted all the small Spars) for Thirty-six Hours without Intermission, even to Meals, in which Time they swept the Ship Sixty Miles, without an Air of Wind. Their Conduct gives me much Reason to regret the Disparity of the Enemy's Force.

I am, &c.

(Signed) ROBERT CORBET.

C. M. Schomberg, Esq; His Majesty's Ship *Madras*.

Admiralty-Office, August 18, 1804.

Copy of a Letter from Vice-Admiral Sir John Thomas Duckworth, K. B. Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Ships and Vessels at Jamaica, to William Marsden, Esq; dated at Jamaica, the 16th June 1804.

SIR,

HEREWITH you will receive a Letter from Captain Inglefield, of His Majesty's Brig Hunter, reciting the Capture of a small Privateer off the East End of this Island, which I transmit for the Information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty.

I am, &c.

J. T. DUCKWORTH.