

Facilities in annoying the Privateers, and cutting off their Prizes from getting into Point à Petre.

His Majesty's Ship Cerberus, at Defeada,
30th March 1808.

SIR,

I HAVE the Satisfaction to announce to you the Capture of the Island of Defeada by the Force you did me the Honour to place under my Orders.

On the 29th Instant I weighed from Marie Galante with the Vessels named in the Margin *; and on the 30th, at half past Three P. M. the Boats under the Command of Captain Sherriff, of His Majesty's Sloop Lily, with a Detachment of Seamen and Marines from each Vessel, under their respective Commanders, (who gallantly volunteered their Services on the Occasion,) stood towards the Shore, which was defended by a Battery of Two Nine-Pounders, completely commanding the narrow Entrance of the Harbour, together with the National Troops and Militia, amounting to about Seventy Men, who opened their Fire upon the Boats, when I found it necessary to anchor the Squadron with Springs on their Cables, and commence a cannonading, which soon silenced them, and at Four o'Clock the French Flag was struck; the Boats landed at half past Four, hoisted the British Flag, and the whole Island surrendered without further Opposition.

I have the Satisfaction to acquaint you, that this Capture has been effected without Loss; the Commandant, National Officers, and Troops are made Prisoners of War, and the Militia have laid down their Arms.

I should not do Justice to the Merit of Captain Sherriff was I not to express in the highest Terms my entire Approbation of his Conduct, together with Captain Ward, and all the Officers and Men employed on this Service.

I have the Honour to be, &c.

W. SELBY.

The Honourable Rear-Admiral Sir Alexander Cochrane, K. B. Commander in Chief, &c. &c. &c. Leeward Islands.

P. S. Undermentioned is a List of the Ordnance and Military Stores found on the Island; the whole of the great Guns I have destroyed as well as the Batteries; and the small Arms and other Military Stores I have taken off the Island.

Iron Ordnance.

At the principal Battery—3 Twenty-four-Pounders and 2 Nine-Pounders.

At the Grand Bourg—2 Nine-Pounders, and 2 dismounted Six-Pounders.

50 whole Barrels of Powder.

50 Muskets.

W. SELBY.

* Cerberus, Lily, Pelican, Express, Swinger, and Mosambique.

Admiralty-Office, May 14, 1808.

Copy of a Letter from Captain Thomas Searle, Commander of His Majesty's Sloop the Grasshopper, to the Honourable W. W. Pole, dated at Gibraltar, 28th April 1808.

SIR,

ENCLOSED I send you, for the Information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, a Copy of a Letter I transmitted on the 24th Instant to Rear-Admiral Purvis, acquainting him of the

NO. 16144.

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Capture of Two Spanish Gun-Boats, the Destruction of Two others, and the Capture of Two valuable Vessels from South America, which I this Day arrived safe with at this Place.

I have the Honour to be, &c.

T. SEARLE.

His Majesty's Sloop Grasshopper, at Sea,
24th April 1808.

SIR,

I HAVE the Honour to acquaint you, that Yesterday Morning, in Company with His Majesty's Gun-Brig Rapid, I had the good Fortune to fall in with Two Spanish Vessels from South America, under the Protection of Four Gun-Boats, when, after a short Chace, they anchored under a Battery close in with Faro, among the Shoals; I immediately anchored within Range of Grape-Shot, and, after a very severe Action of Two Hours and a Half, the People on Shore deserted their Guns, Two Gun-Boats struck, and the other Two we drove ashore, and were destroyed. The Cargoes on board the Two Spanish Vessels are worth Thirty Thousand Pounds each, which we also captured; but am sorry to say it was not accomplished without Loss on our Part; we had One Man killed, myself slightly, and Three Seamen severely wounded; both Vessels suffered very much in their Hulls, Masts, Sails, and Rigging. The Enemy's Loss was very great in the Two Gun-Boats captured; they had Forty killed and wounded; Fourteen of the latter I sent on shore to Faro, as I had no Means of taking Care of our own wounded Men and those of the Enemy's, which I hope you will approve of.

It gives me Pleasure to inform you that I received every possible Assistance from Lieutenant Baugh, commanding His Majesty's Gun-Brig Rapid, who acted with great Gallantry the whole Time, and speaks in the highest Terms of the good Conduct of his Officers and Men, Three of which were severely wounded, and particularly of Mr. Baxton, acting Master. I also beg Leave to observe that Lieutenant Cutfield; Mr. Henry Bell, Master; Mr. Thomas Baitin, Purser, Warrant and Petty Officers, and Ship's Company, under my Command, merit my warmest Thanks for their gallant Conduct on this as well as former Occasions.

Messrs. Bell and Baitin I beg particularly to recommend; the former for taking the Brig into a very dangerous Navigation, and is at all Times a Volunteer on every Occasion; the latter has received a very severe Wound since he has been with me, and volunteered to command the after Guns, having only one Lieutenant on board, and is a very deserving good Officer. I have, &c. THO. SEARLE.

To John Child Purvis, Esq; Rear-Admiral of the White, &c. &c. &c.

Admiralty-Office, May 14, 1808.

Copy of a Letter from Charles Dashwood, Esq; Captain of His Majesty's Ship Franchise, to the Honourable W. W. Pole, dated on board that Ship, at Barbadoes, 1st of last Month.

SIR,

I BEG to acquaint you, that the French Lugger Privateer Le Hazard, of Four Guns and Fifty Men, commanded by Francois Blanchet, was taken on the 23d of February by the Franchise, Twelve Leagues South of Scilly, whilst hovering round the