



# The London Gazette

## EXTRAORDINARY.

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FRIDAY, APRIL 21, 1809.

*Admiralty-Office, April 21, 1809.*

SIR HARRY NEALE, Bart. First Captain to Admiral Lord Gambier, Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Ships and Vessels employed in the Channel Soundings, &c. arrived here this Morning with a Dispatch from His Lordship to the Honourable William Wellesley Pole, of which the following is a Copy:

*Caledonia, at Anchor, in Basque Roads,  
April 14, 1809.*

SIR,

THE Almighty's Favour to His Majesty and the Nation has been strongly marked in the Success he has been pleased to give to the Operations of His Majesty's Fleet under my Command; and I have the Satisfaction to acquaint you, for the Information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty; that the Four Ships of the Enemy named in the Margin\* have been destroyed at their Anchorage, and several others, from getting on Shore, if not rendered altogether unseaworthy, are at least disabled for a considerable Time.

The Arrangement of the Fire Vessels placed under the Direction of Captain the Right Honourable Lord Cochrane were made as fully as the State of the Weather would admit, according to his Lordship's Plan, on the Evening of the 14th Inst.; and at Eight o'Clock on the same Night they proceeded to the Attack under a favourable strong Wind from the Northward, and Flood Tide, (preceded by some Vessels filled with Powder and Shells, as proposed by his Lordship, with a View to Explosion,) and led on in the most undaunted and determined Manner by Captain Woodrige, in the Mediator Fire-Ship, the others following in Succession, but owing to the Darkness of the Night several Mistook their Course and failed.

\* Ville de Varsovie, of 20 Guns; Tonnerre, of 74 Guns; Aquilon, of 74 Guns; and Calcutta, of 56 Guns.

On their Approach to the Enemy's Ships, it was discovered that a Boom was placed in Front of their Line for a Defence. This however the Weight of the Mediator soon broke, and the usual Intrepidity and Bravery of British Seamen overcame all Difficulties. Advancing under a heavy Fire from the Forts in the Isle of Aix, as well as from the Enemy's Ships, most of which cut or split their Cables; and from the confined Anchorage, got on Shore; and thus avoided taking Fire.

At Daylight the following Morning, Lord Cochrane communicated to me by Telegraph, that Seven of the Enemy's Ships were on Shore, and might be destroyed. I immediately made the Signal for the Fleet to unmoor and weigh, intending to proceed with it to effect their Destruction. The Wind however being fresh from the Northward, and the Flood Tide running, rendered it too hazardous to run into Aix Roads, (from its shallow Water), I therefore anchored again at the Distance of about Three Miles from the Forts on the Island.

As the Tide suited, the Enemy evinced great Activity in endeavouring to warp their Ships (which had grounded) into deep Water, and succeeded in getting all but Five of the Line towards the Entrance of the Charente before it became practicable to attack them.

I gave Orders to Captain Blyth, of the Valiant, to proceed with that Ship, the Revenge, Frigates, Bombs, and small Vessels, named in the Margin to anchor near the Boyard Shoal, in Readiness for the Attack. At Twenty Minutes past Two P. M. Lord Cochrane advanced in the Imperieuse with his accustomed Gallantry and Spirit, and opened a well directed Fire upon the Calcutta, which struck her Colours to the Imperieuse; the Ships and Vessels

\* Indefatigable, Aigle, Emerald, Pallas, Beagle, Etna Bomb, Insolent Gun-Brig, Conflant, Encounter, Ferret, and Crocodile.

above mentioned soon after joined in the Attack upon the Ville de Varfovie and Aquilon, and obliged them, before Five o'Clock, after sustaining a heavy Cannonade, to strike their Colours, when they were taken Possession of by the Boats of the advanced Squadron. As soon as the Prisoners were removed, they were set on Fire, as was also the Tonnerre, a short Time after by the Enemy.

I afterwards detached Rear-Admiral the Honourable Robert Stopford in the Cæsar with the Thefeus, three additional Fire Ships (which were hastily prepared in the Course of the Day), and all the Boats of the Fleet, with Mr. Congreve's Rockets, to conduct the further Operations of the Night against any of the Ships which lay exposed to an Attack. On the Morning of the 13th, the Rear-Admiral reported to me, that as the Cæsar and other Line of Battle Ships had grounded and were in a dangerous Situation, he thought it advisable to order them all out, particularly as the remaining Part of the Service could be performed by Frigates and small Vessels only; and, I was happy to find that they were extricated from their perilous Situation.

Captain Bligh has since informed me, that it was found impracticable to destroy the Three-decked Ship, and the others which were lying near the Entrance of the Charente, as the former, being the outer one, was protected by Three Lines of Boats placed in advance from her.

This Ship and all the others, except Four of the Line and a Frigate, have now moved up the River Charente. If any further Attempt to destroy them is practicable, I shall not fail to use every Means in my Power to accomplish it.

I have great Satisfaction in stating to their Lordships how much I feel obliged to the zealous Co-operation of Rear-Admiral Stopford, under whose Arrangement the Boats of the Fleet were placed; and I must also express to their Lordships the high Sense I have of the Assistance I received from the Abilities and unremitting Attention of Sir Harry Neale, Bart. the Captain of the Fleet, as well as of the animated Exertions of the Captains, Officers, Seamen, and Marines under my Command, and their Forwardness to volunteer upon any Service that might be allotted to them; particularly the Zeal and Activity shewn by the Captains of Line of Battle Ships in preparing the Fire Vessels.

I cannot speak in sufficient Terms of Admiration and Applause, of the vigorous and gallant Attack made by Lord Cochrane upon the French Line of Battle Ships which were on Shore, as well as of his judicious Manner of approaching them, and placing his Ship in the Position most advantageous to annoy the Enemy, and preserve his own Ship; which could not be exceeded by any Feat of Valour hitherto achieved by the British Navy.

It is due to Rear-Admiral Stopford, and Sir Harry Neale, that I should heretake the Opportunity of acquainting their Lordships of the handsome and earnest Manner in which both these meritorious Officers had volunteered their Services before the Arrival of Lord Cochrane to undertake an Attack upon the Enemy with Fire Ships; and that, had not their Lordships fixed upon him to conduct the Enterprize, I have full Confidence that the Result of their Efforts would have been highly creditable to them.

I should feel that I did not do Justice to the Services of Captain Godfred of the *Ætna*; in bombarding the Enemy's Ships on the 12th, and nearly all the Day of the 13th, if I did not recommend him, to their Lordships' Notice; and I cannot omit bearing due Testimony to the anxious Desire expressed by Mr. Congreve to be employed wherever I might conceive his Services in the Management of his Rockets would be useful; some of them were placed in the Fire Ships with Effect, and I have every Reason to be satisfied with the Artillerymen and others who had the Management of them, under Mr. Congreve's Direction.

I send herewith a Return of the Killed, Wounded, and Missing of the Fleet, which, I am happy to observe, is comparatively small. I have not yet received the Returns of the Number of Prisoners taken, but I conceive they amount to between Four and Five Hundred.

I have charged Sir Harry Neale with this Dispatch (by the *Imperieuse*) and I beg Leave to refer their Lordships to him, as also to Lord Cochrane, for any further Particulars of which they may wish to be informed.

I have the Honour to be, &c.

(Signed) GAMBIER.

15th April.

P. S. This Morning Three of the Enemy's Line of Battle Ships are observed to be still on Shore under Fouras, and One of them is in a dangerous Situation. One of their Frigates (*L'Indienne*), also on Shore, has fallen over, and they are now dismantling her. As the Tides will take off in a Day or Two, there is every Probability that she will be destroyed.

Since writing the foregoing, I have learnt that the Honourable Lieutenant-Colonel Cochrane (Lord Cochrane's Brother) and Lieutenant Bissett of the Navy, were Volunteers in the *Imperieuse*, and rendered themselves extremely useful, the former by commanding some of her Guns on the Main Deck, and the latter in conducting one of the Explosion Vessels.

*Names of the Ships in Aix Roads, previous to the Attack on the 11th April 1809.*

*L'Océan*, 120 Guns, Vice-Admiral Allemande, Captain Roland.—Repaired in 1806; on Shore under Fouras.

*Foudroyant*, 80 Guns, Rear-Admiral Gourdon, Captain Henri.—Five Years old; on Shore under Fouras.

*Cassard*, 74 Guns, Captain Faure, Commodore.—Three Years old; on Shore under Fouras.

*Tourville*, 74 Guns, Captain La-Caille.—Old; on Shore in the River.

*Regulus*, 74 Guns, Captain Lucas.—Five Years old; on Shore under Madame.

*Patriote*, 74 Guns, Captain Mahée.—Repaired in 1803.

*Jemappe*, 74 Guns, Captain Fauvau.—On Shore under Madame.

*Tonnerre*, 74 Guns, Captain Clement de la Rouchiere.—Nine Months old, never at Sea.

*Aquilon*, 74 Guns, Captain Maingon.—Old.

*Ville de Varfovie*, 80 Guns, Captain Guvillier.—New, never at Sea.



Calcutta, 56 Guns, Captain La Tonic.—Loaded with Flour and Military Stores.

*Frigates.*

Indienne, Captain Proteau.—On Shore near Isle d'Enet, on her Beam Ends.

Elbe, Captain Perengier.

Pallas, Captain Le Bigot.

Hortense, Captain Allgand.

N.B. One of the Three last Frigates on Shore under Isle Madame.

*Return of the Names of Officers, Seamen, and Marines killed, wounded, and missing, belonging to the Fleet under the Command of Admiral the Right Honourable Lord Gambier, Commander in Chief, &c. between the 11th and 14th of April 1809, inclusive.*

CALEDONIA.

Mr. Edward Fairfax, Master of the Fleet; Contusion of the Hip.

CÆSAR.

William Flintoft, Acting Lieutenant; killed.

Thomas Maddox, Able; ditto.

John Nelson, Able; ditto.

John Ellis (2d), Able, missing, and supposed to be drowned.

THESEUS.

Richard Francis Jewers, Master's Mate; severely wounded in the Head and Hands by Powder in the Fire Ship.

John Podney, Marine; wounded in the Scrotum.

Thomas Williams, Boy; wounded in the Hand and Arm.

IMPERIEUSE.

Henry Crookman, Captain of the Forecastle; killed.

Peter Darouk, Boatswain's Mate; ditto.

John Marfovick, Seaman; ditto.

James Mafon, Seaman; severely wounded.

John Solomon, Seaman; slightly wounded.

Mr. Gilbert, Surgeon's Assistant; ditto.

M. Marsden, Purser; ditto.

John Gordon, Seaman; ditto.

John Sheridan, Seaman; ditto.

John Hunter, Seaman; ditto.

John Wheelan, Seaman; ditto.

Matthew Goud, Seaman; ditto.

William Meuchenton, Marine; ditto.

John Budd, Marine; ditto.

REVENGE.

Henry Johnson, Landman; killed.

Thomas Cranmer, Marine; ditto.

Thomas Peffey, Marine Boy; ditto.

James Garland, Lieutenant; severe Contusion of the Shoulder and Side.

James Cooke (1), Ordinary; Left Thigh amputated, and a very dangerous Wound of the Right Foot.

Thomas Whittock, Landman; Wound in the Head.

Thomas Tyler, Landman; Wound of Eye.

Dennis Grey, Ordinary; Contusion of Back.

Thomas Trigworth, Ordinary; Contusion and Wound of Right Foot.

Charles Chew, Marine; Right Thigh amputated, and a very dangerous and extensive Wound of Left Leg and Thigh.

Thomas Berry, Marine; Contusion of Thigh.

John Wifeman, Marine; Contusion of Shoulder.

Timothy Burn, Marine; Contusion of Thigh.

George Skelly, Marine; Contusion of Shoulder.

Joseph Weeks, Marine Boy; Wound of Thigh, and Contusion of Back.

John Cooper, Marine; Contusion of Head and Arm.

James Hughes, Corporal of Marines; Contusion of Back.

John Ward, Marine; Contusion of Arm.

MEDIATOR.

James Seggefs, Gunner; killed.

James Wooldridge, Captain; very much burnt.

Nicholas Brent Clements, Lieutenant; slightly burnt.

James Pearl, Lieutenant; ditto.

Michael Gibson, Seaman; ditto.

N. B. The last Four blown out of the Mediator after she was set on Fire.

GIBRALTAR.

John Conyers, Master's Mate; very badly scorched in the Face and Hands.

Total—2 Officers, 8 Men, killed; 9 Officers, 26 Men, wounded; 1 Man, missing.—Total 46. GAMBIER.

*Received since the above was written.*

Beagle—James Sutherland, Seaman, wounded.

Ætna—Richard W. Charlton, Midshipman, slightly wounded.

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