



# The London Gazette

## EXTRAORDINARY.

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WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 1809.

*Admiralty-Office, November 29, 1809.*

THE Honourable Lieutenant William Waldegrave, of the Ville de Paris, arrived here this Morning with Dispatches from Vice-Admiral Lord Collingwood, Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Ships and Vessels in the Mediterranean, addressed to the Honourable William Wellesley Pole, of which the following are Copies,

*Ville de Paris, off St. Sebastian,  
October 30, 1809.*

SIR,

BY my Letter of the 16th of September, their Lordships would be informed of the Intelligence I had received relative to the intended Movements of the French Squadron, and of my Reasons for changing my Station to St. Sebastian.

While on this Station, on the Night of the 22d Instant, the Pomone joined, and Captain Barrie (who with indefatigable Perseverance had, with the Alceste, watched the Port of Toulon) informed me, that the Day before, several of the Enemy's Squadron had put to sea, that others were coming out when he left them, and that there was every Appearance of the whole Fleet being on the move from the Harbour. They had a numerous Convoy with them, and as this Movement was made with the first of an easterly Wind, there was little Doubt of their being bound to the Westward. I immediately made the necessary Signals for the Squadron to be prepared for their Reception, and placed the Three Frigates and Sloop (Pomone, Hydra, Volontaire, and Minstrel,) to Windward, to give Notice of the Enemy's Approach.

On the following Morning (the 23d), soon after Eight o'Clock, the Volontaire made the Signal for a Fleet to the Eastward; while they continued to come down before the Wind, no Alteration was made in the Squadron, except by advancing Two fast-sailing Ships, the Tigre and Bulwark. At Ten,

the Pomone made the Signal, that the Enemy had hauled to the Wind; and the Convoy separating from the Ships of War, (which were now discovered to consist of Three Ships of the Line only, Two Frigates, Two smaller Frigates or Store-Ships, and a Convoy of about Twenty Sail of Vessels,) I ordered Rear-Admiral Martin to chase them, and Eight of the best sailing Ships, which standing on contrary Tacks, might take Advantage of the Changes of the Wind which was then variable.

At Two P. M. the Pomone, having got far to Windward, was directed by Signal to destroy such of the Convoy as could be come up with; and in the Evening she burnt Two Brigs, Two Bombards, and a Ketch. The Enemy before Dark was out of Sight, and the Ships chasing not much advanced, were standing to the Northward; while the Squadron with me stretched to the Southward. The next Morning neither the French nor our own chasing Ships were in Sight.

This Morning Rear Admiral Martin joined with his Division, as named in the Margin \*, having again fallen in with the Enemy on the 24th off the Entrance of the Rhone, and on the 25th they chased them on Shore: the Robust of Eighty-four Guns bearing the Flag of Rear-Admiral Boudain, and the Leon of Seventy-four, off Frontagan, where the Day following themselves let Fire to them. The Borcee of Seventy-four Guns and a Frigate ran on Shore at the Entrance of the Port of Cette, where there is little Probability of either of them being saved.

I cannot sufficiently express the high Satisfaction I have felt at the intrepid Perseverance of Rear-Admiral Martin, and of the Captains of the Ships who were with him in the Pursuit. Nothing less ardent, or less skillful, would have produced a Result so fortunate, where the Coast near the Rhone is ex-

\* Canopus, Renown, Tigre, Sultan, Leviathan, and Cumberland.