

the Engagement. Baffling and light Winds preventing the Pompee from getting within Gun Shot until the Action had ceased, and the Two Frigates and Batteries which defended the Anchorage completely destroyed.

The Blonde, Thetis, Cynet, Hazard, and Ring-dove, bore the Brunt of the Action from their being a-head of the other Ships, and by the animated Fire kept up from them, one of the Enemy's Frigates was very soon dismasted, when the Men began to desert their Ships, and soon after set Fire to them. Upon this Captain Cameron, of the Hazard, with the Boats of the Squadron, gallantly landed and stormed the Batteries, which were still annoying our Ships both with Cannon and Musketry, and in the Act of hauling down the Enemy's Colours, he fell by a Swivel Shot. In him the Service has lost a brave and distinguished Officer, and who, with Lieutenant Jenkins, Fifth of the Blonde, also killed, have left each a Widow and Family to lament their Loss.

The Names of the Frigates destroyed are, I understand, the Loire and Seine, pierced for forty Guns each, but had none mounted on their Quarter Decks or Forecables; they were moored in a strong Position in Ance La Barque, with their Broad Sides toward the Entrance, which was defended by a heavy Battery, now demolished, and the Magazines blown up.

I am informed by the Seven Prisoners brought off from the Shore, that these Ships had not their full Complement of Seamen, but that they had Four Hundred Troops on Board and Fifty Artillery Men, which all escaped, with the Exception of the above Seven, and Twenty others taken in a re-captured Vessel; but all the Warlike Stores and Provisions, intended for the Garrison of Guadaloupe, were blown up in the Frigates.

I enclose a List of Killed and Wounded; the Blonde's Loss is rather severe, and so is, I have Reason to believe, the Enemy's, who had Time to save Nothing but their Clothes.

I had every Reason to be highly pleased in witnessing the Emulation and Bravery displayed by the several Ships, in closing with the Enemy; and I request you to make the same known to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty; also Captain Ballard's Report, which is sent herewith.

I have not yet been able to fall in with the other Two Frigates; but I am in great Hopes of preventing their Arrival at Guadaloupe.

I have, &c.

ALEX. COCHRANE.

SIR, *Sceptre, off Guadaloupe, Dec. 18, 1809.*

THE Moment I took charge of the Squadron you did me the Honour to place under my Command; I that Instant rejected the Enemy's Truce, conceiving it a mere French Finesse, to procrastinate our Attack on their Frigates, at an Anchor in Port à la Duché.

The Captains of the Squadron most readily entered into my Plans, which, and that ready Zeal manifested throughout the Squadron, claims my most grateful Thanks. To Captains Ballard and Miller all possible Praise is due for so judiciously placing their Ships, in a Situation nearly annihilating the Enemy's Two Frigates, of Forty Guns each: the outer Ship's

Masts gone and on Fire, by the Time this Ship, and the Rest of the Squadron from baffling Winds, could render Assistance.

I lament that this little Affair has not been achieved without Bloodshed. To that gallant Officer, Captain Cameron, I gave discretionary Orders with the other Commanders, aided by the Armed Boats, to act against the Batteries; and, while in Possession of the Northernmost Fort, which we had before silenced, he received a Wound from a Musket Ball, and afterwards his mortal Wound from a Swivel Shot. In him the Service has lost a most meritorious and good Officer. I grieve to find he has left a Widow to mourn his Loss.

I beg Leave to recommend to your Notice Lieutenants Wyborn and Collins, of this Ship; as well as Guise and Mollsworth, for their prompt Measures in destroying the Batteries; and to every other Officer there employed; for the same Spirit that excited them seemed in short to animate every Individual in the Squadron.

From Captain Dix I received every Assistance the Nature of the Service required, who I trust stands high in your Estimation.

Enclosed is a List of the Wounded on board the Thetis, which is the only Return I have received:

I have, &c.

(Signed) V. V. BALLARD.

To Sir Alex. Cochrane, K. B. Vice-Admiral of the Blue, &c.

*List of Men wounded in Action with the Enemy belonging to His Majesty's Ship Thetis, George Miller, Esq; Captain, dated December 18, 1809.*

John M'asters, Quarter-Master's-Mate; badly wounded; in destroying the Battery and Two Frigates.

William Royle, Landman; ditto.

William Upton, Able Seaman; ditto.

Wm. Hooper, Ordinary Seaman; slightly wounded, in destroying the Battery and Two Frigates.

Patrick Steele, Landman; ditto.

William M'Ferrett, Able Seaman; ditto.

G. MILLER, Captain.

W. DAVIS, Surgeon.

*His Majesty's Ship Blonde, off Guadaloupe, December 18, 1809.*

SIR,

I HEREWITH return you a List of Killed and Wounded on board His Majesty's Ship Blonde, in Action with Two French Frigates, Foire and Renommée, of Forty-four Guns each, under a Battery of Ance-la-Barque, on the Evening of the 18th December. Thank God our Loss is not greater. The Blonde has not suffered either in her Hull, Masts, or Yards: One Bower and Stream Cables were shot away; the other lower Cable was cut: we are now without a Bower Anchor. The Conduct of the Officers and Ship's Company merit my warmest Praise. Mr. Thompson, the Master, lost his Arm about Three Months past in a gallant Manner, destroying a small Privateer under the Batteries of Guadaloupe. I have the Honour to be, &c.

(Signed) V. V. BALLARD.

*List of Killed and Wounded on board His Majesty's Ship Blonde, in Action, on the Evening of 18th December, with the French Frigates Renommée and*