



The London Gazette.

Published by Authority.

From Saturday September 1, to Tuesday September 4, 1810.

Admiralty-Office, September 4, 1810.

Copy of a Letter from Vice-Admiral Bertie, Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Ships and Vessels at the Cape of Good Hope, to John Wilson Croker, Esq; dated on board the Ranger Transport, Table Bay, 30th of June 1810.

SIR,

I HAVE the Honor to transmit herewith, for the Information of their Lordships, a Copy of a Letter addressed to me by Captain Lambert, of His Majesty's Ship Iphigenia, with its Inclosures from Captain Willoughby, commanding His Majesty's Ship Nereide, containing an Account of an Enterprize successfully performed by him at Port Jacotel.

I have the Honour to be, &c.

A. BERTIE.

His Majesty's Ship Iphigenia, off the Mauritius, May 5, 1810.

SIR,

I HAVE the Honor to transmit you a Letter that I this Day received, bearing Date the 1st Instant, from Captain Willoughby, of His Majesty's Ship Nereide, detailing an Account of a most gallant Enterprize performed by him at Port Jacotel, on the South East Coast of this Island; his Success, I am happy to add, was crowned with inconsiderable Loss, considering the Force he had to contend with.

I have the Honour to be, &c.

H. LAMBERT.

Vice-Admiral Bertie, &c. &c. &c.

His Majesty's Ship Nereide, May 1, 1810.

SIR,

ON reconnoitring the South East Coast upon this Date, I perceived at the Anchorage of Jacotel a Ship of about Four Hundred Tons, and as she lay within Pistol-Shot of the Two Batteries which commanded the Entrance and the Harbour I did not leave the Nereide until Twelve o'Clock A. M. and after much Difficulty found and entered (at Five) the narrow intricate Passage, and owing to low Water, the Surf half filling the Boats, I was in hopes of landing and falling in upon their left Battery without being discovered, but the Imperial Schooner L'Estafette, of Four Brass Guns and Fourteen Men, commanded by Ensign de Vaisseau Henry Chauvin, unfortunately laying at Anchor, so completely gave the Alarm, that by the Time

the Boats grounded both Batteries and Two Field-Pieces were playing upon the only Spot we could land, and our Men no sooner formed upon the Beach than received by a heavy Fire of Musquetry. As every Officer knew before we landed what was to be done afterwards, the whole Party was instantly upon the run, and in Ten Minutes in Possession of the above Battery; having spiked the Guns we moved towards the Guard House, protected by Two Field-Pieces, Forty Troops of the 18th Regiment of the Line, Twenty-six Artillery, and a strong Party of Militia, the whole commanded by Lieutenant Rockman, of the 18th Regiment. This Party, while we were taking the Battery, had attacked and driven our Boats, with the Division left to protect them, into the Centre of the Harbour. Their opening Fire upon us was the Signal for charging, and, to my Astonishment, they instantly gave way with a Speed we could not equal; their Officer, who deserved to command better Soldiers, was taken Prisoner with his Two Field-Pieces.

Hitherto Twilight had hid our Force; full Day shewed to the Enemy the Nereide's small Band of Volunteers, consisting of Fifty Seamen, and the same Number of Marines; the strongest Battery in their Possession, and to gain which it was necessary to pass the River Jacotel, at the Foot of a high Hill, covered with Wood, and defended by the Commandant of the Savannah District, Colonel Etienne Colgard, Two Cannon, and a strong Body of Militia. Owing to the late heavy Rains, we found the River swelled, and Current so strong, that the tallest Men could scarcely wade, the short helped over, and more than Half the Party upon the Swim, and in the thick of Fire from the Enemy; but this Difficulty no sooner surmounted, (though not without the Loss of the greatest Part of our Ammunition,) than Three Cheers warned the Enemy to prepare for the Bayonet. The Jungle-Hill, Two Guns, Battery, and Colours were carried in Silence, and the Commandant, Colonel Colgard, taken Prisoner; nor do I think an Officer or Man of the Party, except myself, had an anxious Thought for the Result of this unequal Affair.

Having spiked the Guns and One Mortar, burnt and destroyed their Carriages, the Works, Magazines, &c. and embarked the Field-Pieces, some Naval and Military Stores, I was upon the Point of