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Admiralty-Office, October 30, 1810.

Copy of a Letter from Captain M. Kerlie, of His Majesty's Sloop the *Caliope*, addressed to Rear-Admiral Lord Gardner, at Yarmouth, and transmitted by His Lordship to John Wilson Croker, Esq.

His Majesty's Sloop *Caliope*, at Sea,  
October 25, 1810.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the Honour to inform you, that at Seven this Morning, in Latitude 54° 47' North, and Longitude 2° 45' East, saw a Schooner in the South West, under easy Sail, standing towards us; and soon afterwards perceived her to be an Enemy; as she appeared to take the *Caliope* for a Merchant Brig I judged it most prudent not to make any Sail until she found out her Mistake, which was at the Distance of about Three Miles, when she bore up and made all Sail; at Half-past Eight made all Sail in Chase; at Half-past Ten was within Reach of Shot, firing the Bow Guns occasionally; at Eleven within Reach of Musket-Shot, but keeping upon my Lee Bow, could not get the great Guns to bear (the whole of the Marines and Small-Arm Men kept up a constant and well directed Fire, which was returned with great Spirit); at Half-past Eleven got the great Guns to bear with Round and Grape, and most of the Time within Pistol-Shot; and as there was so little Difference in sailing, my great Object was to disable her in her Sails and Rigging as soon as possible, and which appeared to be his grand Object likewise.

At Twelve his Main-Mast went overboard, and the rest of his Sails and Rigging being all cut to Pieces, he hailed, and told me he had struck.

She proved to be *La Comtesse d'Hambourg*, of Fourteen Guns, Eight of which are Twelve-Pounders, and Six Eight-Pounders, and Fifty-one Men, from Dunkirk, out Eight Days, but had taken nothing. Mr. Blake, the First Lieutenant, a gallant and most excellent Officer, behaved greatly to my Satisfaction. Mr. Borough, Second Lieutenant, and Mr. Roberts, Master, did their Duty creditably to themselves, and highly satisfactorily to me; as well did all the Warrant, Petty Officers, Seamen, and Marines; and had the Weather been so fine as to make it practicable to board her, I am well convinced she would have been carried in a few Minutes.

I am well assured that the Capture of this Vessel will be of the utmost Consequence to the Trade to Heligoland and the Baltic, she being a new Vessel and her first Cruize, and sails remarkably well, with a most determined Crew.

I am extremely happy our Loss has been but small, having only Three wounded. The Serjeant of Marines I beg Leave particularly to mention as a highly deserving and brave Man, and was severely wounded, by receiving Two Musket Shots through his Body, and One through his Right Arm, before he quitted his Post on the Forecastle with the Small-Arm Men; the other Two, One slightly wounded.

I have judged it prudent to return to Yarmouth with the Prisoners and Prize, our Sails and Rigging in many Places being cut and shot away, and Two of the Carronades being disabled, by the Bolts of the Chock being broke. I conceive my Proceedings will meet your Approbation, and shall not lose a Moment's Time in following former Orders.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOHN M. KERLIE.

War-Office, October 30, 1810.

- 5th Regiment of Dragon Guards, Lieutenant William Keary, from the 26th Foot, to be Lieutenant, vice Wrixon, who exchanges.
- 1st Regiment of Dragoons, Cornet and Adjutant Cook to have the Rank of Lieutenant.
- Cornet T. R. Keily to be Lieutenant, without Purchase, vice Dawson, who resigns.
- 3d Ditto, Captain John Johnstone, from the 21st Light Dragoons, to be Captain of a Troop, vice Grey, who exchanges.
- Cornet and Adjutant John Bowater to have the Rank of Lieutenant.
- 12th Regiment of Light Dragoons, Hospital-Mate Thomas Cock to be Assistant-Surgeon, vice Wardroper, superseded.
- 17th Ditto, James Cockburn, Gent. to be Cornet, without Purchase, vice Curtayne, promoted.
- 21st Ditto, Captain John Grey, from the 3d Dragoons, to be Captain of a Troop, vice Johnstone, who exchanges.
- Goldstream Regiment of Foot Guards, Edward Nixon, Gent. to be Assistant-Surgeon, vice Herbert, who resigns.