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Admiralty-Office, December 15, 1810.

Copy of a Letter from William Shield, Esq; Commissioner of His Majesty's Navy at the Cape of Good Hope, to John Wilson Croker, Esq; dated at the Cape, the 24th September 1810.

S I R,

IT is with the deepest Regret I acquaint you, for the Information of the Right Honourable the Lords, Commissioners of the Admiralty, with the Loss of a Part of His Majesty's Squadron on this Station.

The Account I have now the Honour to present to you, came to my Knowledge by His Excellency Lord Caledon having had the Goodness to send, for my Perusal, Dispatches he received last Night, by the late Master of the Sirius from the Governor of Bourbon. I have transcribed and inclosed such Part thereof as may lead their Lordships' Judgment to the Extent of this disastrous Event.

The Isle de la Passe had fallen by Assault from a Party landed by Two of the Frigates; subsequent to which, the Bellona, Minerva, and Victor arrived and ran into Port South East, with their Prize the Honourable East India Company's Ship Ceylon, taken in Company with the Windham, after a gallant Resistance, on their Way from the Cape to Madras with a Part of the 24th Regiment on board.

The Windham was turned from Port South East, and recaptured by the Sirius, but the Troops had been removed to the Bellona.

Captain Pym appears to have immediately determined on attacking these Ships, and to his not being aware of the Difficulties of the Navigation within the Port is to be attributed his Failure and the Loss of the King's Ships. The Sirius and Magicienne were burnt by their Crews, after doing every Thing that was possible to extricate the Ships from the Situation they had fallen into. The Nereide, after every Officer and Man on board were either killed or wounded, fell on shore a mere Wreck, and was taken possession of by the Enemy.

I am sorry to add to this List of Misfortunes, that the Ranger Transport, laden with Provisions for the Squadron, and having some Stores on board, has also fallen into the Hands of the Enemy.

The Transports having the Troops on board, and which were to have sailed Yesterday from hence

without Convoy, will be prevented putting to Sea by the Arrival of this lamented Intelligence.

If it should prove that I have not been exactly correct in the Information I have now given, I hope for their Lordships' Indulgence, and that they will impute it to my Anxiety to give them the most early Intimation of so important an Event.

I have the Honour to be, &c.

(Signed) W. SHIELD.

P. S. Captain Willoughby has lost an Eye, and is otherwise wounded, and is in the Hands of the Enemy.

Copy of a Letter from Captain Pym, of His Majesty's late Ship the Sirius, addressed to Captain Rowley, of the Boadicea.

S I R, L'Isle de la Passe, August 24, 1810.

BY my last you were informed of my Intention to attack the Frigates, Corvette, and Indiamen in this Port.

Magicienne, having joined just as the recaptured Ship was about to make Sail, I sent Captain Lambert Orders to bring her and the Gun-Brig with all Dispatch off L'Isle de la Passe; and that the Enemy in Port Louis should not be alarmed, I made all Sail round the South Side, and although blowing very hard, reached L'Isle de la Passe next Day. At Noon Nereide made Signal ready for Action; I then closed, and from the Situation of the Enemy decided on an immediate Attack; and when her Master came on board as Pilot, made Signal to weigh, but when within about a Quarter of an Hour's Run of the Enemy, he unfortunately ran me on the Edge of the inner narrow Passage. We did not get off (and that with wonderful Exertion) until Eight o'Clock next Morning. At Noon on the 23d the Iphigenia and Magicienne came in Sight; the Enemy having moved further in, and making several Batteries, as also manning the East India Ship, and taking many Men on board the Frigates, I called them to assist in the Attack, having all the Captains and Pilot on board, and being assured we were past all Danger and could run direct for the Enemy's Line, we got under Weigh, and pushed for our Stations, viz. Sirius alongside the Bellona, Nereide between her and the Victor, Iphigenia alongside La Minerva, and Magicienne