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Admiralty-Office, December 29, 1810.

Copy of a Letter from Admiral Sir Roger Curtis, Bart. Commander in Chief at Portsmouth, addressed to John Wilson, Esq; dated the 25th Instant.

SIR,

I INCLOSE a Letter which I have received from Captain Grant, of the *Diana*, informing me that the Boats of that Ship, under the Command of Lieutenant Rowe, had succeeded in setting Fire to the Enemy's Frigate *L'Elize*, which was reported in his Letter, transmitted with mine Yesterday, as having run on shore to the Northward of *Tatihou* in attempting to escape from *La Hogue*.

I cannot avoid expressing my extreme Satisfaction that Captain Grant, after having so long and arduously watched this Frigate to prevent her Escape, has by his Perseverance and Judgment at length accomplished her Destruction, and it appears by his Report that the Conduct of Lieutenant Rowe, and the other Officers and Men employed under him on this Occasion, has been highly meritorious.

I am, Sir, &c.

(Signed) ROGER CURTIS.

His Majesty's Ship Diana, off La Hogue, 24th December 1810.

SIR,

SINCE I had the Honour of addressing you by the *Vautour*, I have ascertained that the Enemy's Frigate was so far embayed and protected by *Tatihou*, and the Batteries on the North Shore, that nothing could be done with the Ship to prevent the Enemy from working during the falling Tide to save the Stores, and that the Ship was so completely bilged that there appeared little Chance of their being able to save the Hull; however, as I once already had been deceived in my Expectations of her being destroyed, I determined to risk the Chance of the Boats being able to set her on Fire, which Service was generally volunteered, notwithstanding the Ship was completely under the Fire of heavy Batteries, and Three Armed Brigs lying within Hail of her. I anchored immediately after dark, and gave the Charge of the Boats to Lieutenant Rowe, of the *Diana*, in the Barge, (who I knew would execute it if possible,) Mr. Bean the Gunner, and Mr. Noble the Boatswain, who always volunteer; Lieutenant Sparrow went in the *Gig* to reconnoitre and watch the Brigs to prevent Sur-

prize. and Mr. Knocker, Master's Mate, went in the Cutter, and, as the Service required the least possible Loss of Time, they took no other Materials but Two Kegs of the combustible Matter received from the *Roman*, and I am happy to say that, though the Water was nearly up to her Quarter Deck, we had the Satisfaction in an Hour from the Time they left this Ship to see her completely on Fire. The Batteries and Brigs immediately opened a very heavy Fire of Round and Grape, and, as our People did not leave the Frigate until the Fire took effect, it is with extreme Pleasure I inform you that not a single Man was hurt.

Lieutenant Rowe speaks in the strongest Manner of all employed under him, and I hope you will agree with me in thinking that this Service was most gallantly and well executed; they have brought off with them the Colours of the Frigate and two other Ensigns.

Captain Collier very handsomely offered the Boats of the *Cyane* to assist, but as it was not to be done by force, I deemed it best to send the Boats of this Ship only.

Although there had been Boats constantly employed about the Enemy's Frigate since she ran on shore, they had not cleared any Part of the Wreck.

I have, &c.

(Signed) CHARLES GRANT.

Admiral Sir Roger Curtis, Bart. Commander in Chief, &c. &c. &c.

Admiralty Office, December 29, 1810.

Copy of a Letter from Rear-Admiral Sir Richard Goodwin Keats, K. B. addressed to Admiral Sir Charles Cotton, Bart. and transmitted to John Wilson Croker, Esq.

His Majesty's Ship Milford, Cadix Bay, November 23, 1810.

SIR,

HAVING observed the Enemy to have collected several Gun-Boats in the River of *Santa Maria* in a Situation subject to Bombardment, at a proper Time of Tide Yesterday, I placed the Mortar and Howitzer Boats under the able Direction of Captain Hall, which (whilst the Devastation, Thunder, and *Ætna*, with One Division of Spanish and Two Divisions of English Gun-Boats, under the zealous Command of Captain Thomas Fellowes and Lieu-