



SUPPLEMENT

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COLONIAL DEPARTMENT.

London, 16th September 1815.

CAPTAIN LEITH HAY, *Aide-de-Camp* to Lieutenant-General Sir James Leith, G. C. B. commanding His Majesty's forces in the Windward and Leeward Islands, arrived this afternoon with a dispatch, addressed to Earl Bathurst, one of His Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, of which the following is a copy:

Basseterre, Guadeloupe, Aug. 12, 1815.

MY LORD,

Having concerted with the Commander in Chief the necessary naval arrangements, Rear-Admiral Sir Charles Durham was so obliging as to receive me, with the head-quarters, on board His Majesty's ship *Venerable*, bearing his flag.

The fleet, consisting of the vessels of war, such parts of the troops as had been assembled from the South American Continent, and from the Windward Islands, sailed from Carlisle Bay, Barbadoes, on the 31st July, whilst the land force destined to proceed from St. Lucia, Martinique, and Dominique, were directed to rendezvous without delay at the *Saintes*.

Your Lordship will have already been apprized, by a former dispatch, that the important post of the *Saintes* was already garrisoned by British troops and placed in a state to have resisted all attacks of the enemy, while the expedition was not yet in a state of preparation.

It was important to keep the attacking force to windward of Guadeloupe, as long as the hurricane season (already begun) might permit.

The 1st division from Barbadoes anchored in the Bay of St. Louis, Mariegalante, on the 2d August, and from thence were ordered to threaten a landing to windward off Point-a-Pitre and Fort Fleur d'Epee, where the enemy was in force.

The 2d or Leeward division assembling (but were not yet collected) at the *Saintes*, threatened the whole coast from St. Marie to Basseterre and Baillif.

It was deemed advisable to accompany the demonstration of a landing in force from Gosier, by a summons to surrender the forts, Point-a-Pitre and Grande-Terre. It was the Rear-Admiral's intention and mine to have met the 1st division in the *Venerable*, which sailed from the *Saintes* for that purpose; calms and currents, however, prevented the *Venerable* from reaching the coast, and obliged the 1st division to anchor.

The appearance of the atmosphere denoted the approach of a hurricane, it became therefore necessary to give up secondary objects, and to embrace the first favourable moment for getting the fleet into the *Saintes*; for which the Commander in Chief made the necessary dispositions.

It was not until the night of the 7th that the whole force was assembled at the *Saintes*.

I had previously reconnoitred the coast, in the Barbadoes brig of war, which Rear-Admiral Sir Charles Durham had sent with me for that purpose.

The internal state of Guadeloupe, and the season were both so critical, that not a moment was to be lost; I determined therefore, to attack the enemy on the morning of the 8th instant.

Having made the necessary arrangements with