

ANNEX 6

RODNEY CARLISLE, PH. D.

DISPATCHES AND LETTERS
RELATING TO THE
Blockade of Brest

1803—1805

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the Spanish coast where the *chasse-marées* were taken being wholly remote from any cannon whatever, I thought I fulfilled my orders in capturing vessels belonging to the enemy which were not in a situation to claim the protection of a neutral battery.

I have the honour to be, &c.,

RICHD. BOURNE.

No. 332

COCHRANE TO LORD MELVILLE

[*Extract.*]

5th September, 1804.

Orders are just arrived to fit out the ships mentioned in the inclosed list, with all possible dispatch. This coupled with the sailing of two three-decked ships from Cadiz for this port to be followed by another, and the circumstance of the inclosed ships being ordered to victual for three months *only* (although said to be bound for America) makes the conjecture that their designs are not of the most pacific nature. I have therefore ordered the *Illustrious* to proceed directly to Plymouth without calling off Ushant.

Should the Spaniards have any hostile views against Great Britain within a month, the following force may be collected here : three first-rates from Cadiz ; three seventy-fours fitting here ; five French ships, making in all eleven sail of the line. The finances of this country are low. They only wait the arrival of the frigates with treasure to put on a different countenance. I cannot conceive that Spain, even if at war with America, could require so many line-of-battle ships, for similar orders are given at Cadiz and Carthagena. The time that the armament will be ready for sea corresponding with that of the French squadron, the three first-rates fitted at

Cadiz to come round here—all tends to show that they have some united object in view. Numbers of soldiers for the French are now arriving at Ferrol from France; many more are now upon the road.

[The French ships at Ferrol at the time were reported to be the Héros, Argonaute, Redoutable, Duguay-Trouin, and Fougueux, 74's, the Guerrière and Revanche, 44's, the Observateur brig, and the Téméraire schooner. The Dutch ship Oldenbarneveldt, 64, was also at the port but in a bad state. The Spanish ships were two 74's in dry dock, four 74's which might be ready at short notice, three three-deckers and three 74's without masts in the arsenal, three 64's with few guns mounted, loaded with timber, and two frigates to be ready shortly, and three others without masts. Two vessels were building.

Cochrane's insistence upon the hostile purposes of the Spaniards, and upon the fact that only money was needed to bring them to execution, greatly impressed the Ministers at home, and led to the seizure of the treasure ships, for which see Nos. 345, 346, 353, and 354.]

No. 333

CORNWALLIS TO COLLINGWOOD

By the Hon. William Cornwallis, Admiral of the White, &c.

[An order to Admiral Collingwood to proceed in the Dreadnought off Rochefort, there to relieve Sir Robert Calder, and take under his command the Téméraire, Hero, Warrior, Repulse, Minotaur, Acasta, and Boadicea. On the same day Calder

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are, in conjunction with any other of his Majesty's ships, to intercept, if possible, the ships in which the above mentioned treasure may be contained, and detain them until his Majesty's pleasure shall be further known.

Given, &c., Ville de Paris, off Ushant, 21st September, 1804.

[On the same day the Ajax (Viscount Garlies), carrying the dispatch, and the Neptune (Sir Thomas Williams) were directed to join Rear-Admiral Cochrane.]

No. 346

CORNWALLIS TO CAPTAIN GRAHAM MOORE
(INDEFATIGABLE)

*By the Hon. William Cornwallis, Admiral of
the White, &c.*

You are hereby required and directed, in the ship you command, to proceed without a moment's loss of time to the westward of the Saints, and then open the sealed order herein inclosed.

Given, &c., Ville de Paris, off Ushant, 22nd September, 1804.

INCLOSURE

CORNWALLIS TO CAPTAIN GRAHAM MOORE
(INDEFATIGABLE)

[*Secret.*]

You are hereby required and directed, in the ship you command, to proceed off Cadiz and the entrance of the Straits with all possible dispatch, and use your best endeavours, in conjunction with any of his Majesty's ships you may find there, to intercept, if possible, two Spanish frigates expected

with treasure from South America, and to detain the vessels containing such treasure until his Majesty's pleasure shall be further known.

Given, &c., Ville de Paris, off Ushant, 22nd September, 1804.

[These orders were carried by the hired lugger Nile to the Indefatigable inshore off Brest. Captain Hamond in the Lively was directed, on September 23rd, to proceed on the same service, placing himself under the orders of Captain Moore. See No. 354, for Captain Moore's report of his proceedings in pursuance of these orders.]

No. 347

DECRÈS TO NAPOLEON¹

Paris, 2^e jour Complémentaire an XII [19th September, 1804].

J'ai l'honneur d'adresser à Votre Majesté Impériale le rapport du général Ganteaume. Votre armée de Brest sera prête à transporter 16300 hommes et 472 chevaux avant la fin de vendémiaire, et c'est le bon moment. L'amiral composerait son armée de 21 vaisseaux, 4 frégates, une corvette, une frégate armée en flûte et 5 transports. Il faut faire les équipages de la flûte et des 5 transports. Le désarmement de la partie de la flotille qui est près de Brest peut seul m'en donner les moyens, et je sollicite de Votre Majesté l'ordre d'y pourvoir de cette manière.

Si Votre Majesté décide que l'expédition aura lieu, il reste à voir sur quel point le débarquement devra s'effectuer. L'amiral observe que l'ennemi semble s'attendre que ce soit dans la baie de Bantry ou celle de Kenmare; il examine toute la côte et

¹ *Arch. Nat. A.F.*, iv. 1195, Dossier 2, No. 9.

No. 353

CORNWALLIS TO COLLINGWOOD

By the Hon. William Cornwallis, Admiral of the White, &c.

Pursuant to directions from the Lord Commissioners of the Admiralty, you are hereby required and directed, upon falling in with any Spanish ships or vessels laden with naval or military stores, to detain them, and to give orders to that effect to the respective captains and commanders of his Majesty's ships and vessels under my command with you either to send or bring them into the nearest port in England, there to remain until his Majesty's further pleasure shall be known respecting them; and they are to transmit to the secretary of the Admiralty an account of their having so done.

And in the event of their meeting with some Spanish frigates who are expected with treasures from South America, they are, in conjunction with any other of his Majesty's ships, to detain the vessels carrying such treasures, until his Majesty's pleasure shall be further known. On the 10th of July, six or eight Spanish frigates were at Monte Video,¹ laden with fourteen million of dollars. The late Governor, Berlerzante, was to come home with them. The frigates were not half manned—probably would sail early in August for Cadiz.

Given, &c., Ville de Paris, off Ushant, 3rd October, 1804.

[The same order was sent to Sir Thomas Graves and Rear-Admiral Cochrane; and orders to the same purport to the captains and commanders of the Sirius, Phoenix, Nautilus, Felix, Diamond, Indefatigable, and Lively.]

¹ Mendo Video in the original.

and the Santa Ana (both first-rates) are fitting, but not ready.'

[The instructions referred to as cancelled were dated from the Admiralty, 17th October, and Lord Melville's letter to Cornwallis of the same date (p. 95) was in explanation of them. Cornwallis was to have detached Rear-Admiral the Earl of Northesk, with the Britannia, Princess Royal, Prince George, Ganges, and Goliath, to join Lord Gardner at Berehaven. He was to have communicated immediately with Lord Gardner in the event of the enemy putting to sea from Brest, and, of the 34 sail of the line remaining under his command, he was to have stationed 8 off Ferrol, and 6 off Rochefort (see No. 369). Lord Gardner was at the same time directed to proceed to Berehaven, there to take the vessels named under his command, as also the Thunderer, Defence, Polyphemus, Courageux and Ruby, which had been ordered to proceed thither as soon as ready. The cancelling dispatch to Cornwallis was dated from the Admiralty on 18th October, and stated that, in consequence of intelligence received by Captain Hamond, of the Lively, it was judged inexpedient to execute the previous order. The intelligence was of the seizure of the treasure ships.]

No. 364

CAPTAIN GRAHAM MOORE TO CORNWALLIS

Indefatigable, Plymouth Sound, 19th October, 1804.

Sir,—I have to inform you of the arrival at this port of his Majesty's ship under my command, with the Amphion, which I thought proper to order to England for the security of the two Spanish frigates, La Medea and La Clara, which we have brought in

with us. We have seen nothing of the Medusa and Lively, with the Spanish frigate La Fama, since the evening of the action, when they parted from us. I inclose a copy of the account delivered to me by the Spanish major of the squadron of the treasure and cargo on board the four ships.

I have the honour to be, &c.,
GRAHAM MOORE.

INCLOSURE

A GENERAL STATEMENT OF GOODS AND EFFECTS

On account of the King

Medea : 35 sacks of Vidona wool, 20 chests and sacks of cascarilla, 1,627 bars of tin, 203 pigs of copper, and 521,940 dollars in silver.

Fama : 300 bars of tin, 28 planks of wood, and 30,000 dollars in silver.

Mercedes : 20 sacks of Vidona wool, 20 chests and sacks of cascarilla, 1,139 bars of tin, 961 pigs of copper, and 221,000 dollars in silver.

Clara : 20 sacks of Vidona wool, 20 chests and sacks of cascarilla, 1,666 bars of tin, 571 pigs of copper, and 234,694 dollars in silver.

Total : 75 sacks of Vidona wool, 60 chests and sacks of cascarilla, 4,732 bars of tin, 1,735 pigs of copper, 28 planks of wood, and 1,307,634 dollars in silver.

On account of the merchants

Medea : 32 chests of ratinia, 952,619 dollars in silver, 279,502 gold, reduced into dollars, and 124,600 ingots of gold reduced into dollars.

Fama : 316,597 dollars in silver, 217,756 gold, reduced into dollars, and 25,411 ingots of gold reduced into dollars.

BLOCKADE OF BREST

Mercedes : 590,000 dollars in silver.

Clara : 622,400 gold reduced into dollars.

Total : 32 chests of ratinia, 1,859,216 dollars in silver, 1,119,658 gold reduced into dollars, and 150,011 ingots of gold reduced into dollars.

On account of the Marine Company

Medea : 8,995 seal skins.

Fama : 14,930 seal skins.

Clara : 10 pipes of seal oil.

Total : 26,925 seal skins, and 10 pipes of seal oil.

No. 365

LIEUTENANT BOURNE TO CORNWALLIS

Felix, at Sea, 22nd October, 1804.

Sir,—Pursuant to your orders of the 3rd inst., I have the honour to acquaint you that his Majesty's schooner under my command this day detained the Spanish brig Santa Isabel (alias La Victoria) from Bordeaux bound to Cadiz, having on board 173 barrels of pitch, 190 barrels of tar, 20 bales of canvas, 88 coils of cordage, 2 cables, 1 hawser, 1,120 pine planks, with sundry articles of merchandise, among which is a case of watches, some cases of silk stockings, &c., and 50 barrels of beef and pork.¹ I have put a midshipman and five men on board her with directions to take her to Plymouth, or to a more convenient British port in the event of the wind being adverse. I understand that several Spanish vessels, laden, which had been waiting at Bordeaux for a favourable wind to put to sea, have

¹ In a letter to Consul O'Brien, dated 25th October, Lieutenant Bourne stated that the Santa Isabel was detained under the belief that her cargo was French property, and that no slight was intended against the subjects of his Most Catholic Majesty.