

ANNEX 7

RODNEY CARLISLE, PH. D.

The Trafalgar Campaign

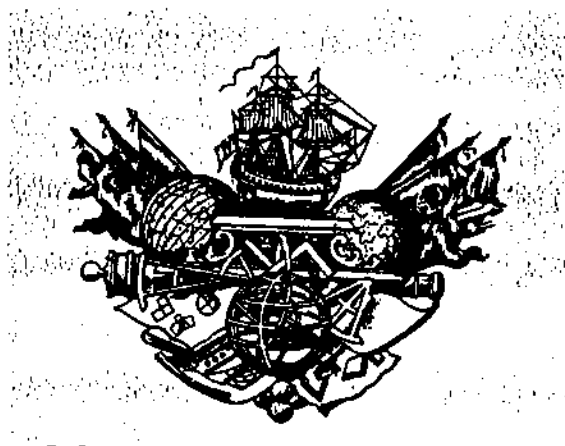
(1804-1805)

Documental Corpus Preserved in the Spanish Archives

Volume I

In Honor of the British, French, and
Spanish Sailors that Battled at Trafalgar

Jose Ignacio Gonzalez-Aller Hierro



Minister of Defense

Spanish Navy

P.S. I can guarantee to VICEROY that what it is said on both the gazette (newspaper) and the letters from Holland is known that the war was not yet declared, and the British official only had orders to detain.

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Paris, October 30, 1804

Letter: Federico Gravina, Spain's Ambassador, to Pedro de Cevallos. *News received regarding the capture of the Spanish frigates after the combat in the cape of Santa María. Express departure order from the General Beurnonville towards Madrid. Import of cargo from France to Spain.*

SIGNATURE: *AHN, State, leg. 5212 (original, signature); BRAH, Col. JPG, ms. 11/8302 (copy).*

N.^o 187. Esteemed Sir: The night before last, with the mail Don Fernando de Castañeda, the only one I had here, without wasting any time I told Viceroy the sad news about the unfortunate combat of four frigates of His Majesty with four British frigates by the cape of Santa María, which transported our wealth from Río la Plata, and which destiny was apparently the capturing of those three frigates and the vanishing of the fourth.

We had this fatal warning arrived the same day via several letters from Holland that were referring to the papers of England, and I received it on a letter from the businessman Cröes of Amsterdam which I addressed to Viceroy with the newspaper that was included and in which it was announced. Today, they are on the public papers dated with the same date. I beg the Viceroy to read the attached *Monitor* that is related to these incidents. Last night I received another letter from the Ministry of His Majesty (S.M.) in La Haya of the 25th of this month in which he tells me that nothing else was known about this event, and he only adds that there may only be papers presuming that the separation from Spain depended from the definite response

that would be received intimidating our Court. Last night I saw Ministry Talleyrand and he told me that he didn't know anything else regarding what the papers had either.

I knew that having received this Minister Talleyrand the night before last at nine the same warning via another mail from Mr. Senonville, Minister of this Emperor in La Haya, His Majesty gave the order to general Beurnonville to depart after the 24 hours to Madrid. In effect he called at twelve at night and told him that order. After visiting yesterday, he confirmed the same and today I thought about verifying it. Although I announced the day before yesterday through the extraordinary referral to the Viceroy that I would probably expedite to the Viceroy the next day, I haven't verified it for not concealing more regarding the same matter, or could tell the result of the claims for the extraction of the cargo. I have seen the Minister of the Interior to tell him what S.M.I. had responded in the public audience, ensuring that they had informed about this matter and that they would consider the extraction. The Minister told me that Mr. de Talleyrand had talked to him again insistently, and due to what I had just communicated to him regarding the dispositions of the Emperor, will renew his requests to him in his dispatch tomorrow, blandishing that the important business deal could get resolved and that I will be told instantly. In this case I will move him to the border immediately for the Viceroy with one of my servers, with the rest that until now I can find out regarding the affair with England.

I reiterate to the Viceroy my desires to please and pray that God bless his life for many years. Paris, October 30, 1804. Esteemed B.L.M. of the Viceroy thoughtfully and kindly,
Federico Gravina (signed). Esteemed Mr. DON Pedro Cevallos.

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November 2, 1804, Paris

CONFIDENTIAL-PRIVATE LETTER: Federico Gravina, Spain's Ambassador, to the Minister of Peace. *Comments regarding the capture of the Spanish frigates after the combat in the cape of Santa María.*

Letter from the Internal Minister regarding the export of wheat to Spain.

SIGNATURE: *AGP, Reserved Papers of Fernando VII, t. 100, fol. 254 (Gravina's signature); BRAH, Col. JPG, ms. 11/8304 fol. 12 (copy)*

Paris, November 2, 1804. Esteemed Mr. My dear Prince: The night of the 28th I wrote you to communicate to you about the terrible event of the combat of the frigates which had twice the strength of ours, and attacked while in peace. Among the British frigates there were two private vessels that were before 74, this way the maintain their battery of 32, and consequently their transport and sideways, this way the combat of our frigates is glorious for those that have not sustained, and particularly for the Commander of *La Medea*, according to the papers. One must be afraid of all the consequences that may transport and write neatly to Cevallos of this fatal event, and how for him can always find out about everything, no worries with the double relation.