

## **ANNEX 8**

### **WILLIAM HENRY FLAYHART III**

DISPATCHES AND LETTERS  
RELATING TO THE  
**Blockade of Brest**

1803—1805

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for the French to dispatch soldiers across Spain to reinforce their squadron, then lying in the harbour of Ferrol, was contrary to the principles of neutrality and to the established law of nations. He was himself wishful to offer bounties for the drafting of Dutch and able-bodied French seamen into his own squadron. It was he who, on September 5, 1804, urged upon Lord Melville that the Spaniards were only awaiting the arrival of their treasure ships to put on a different countenance, and the suggestion bore fruit in the orders issued shortly afterwards. The activity at Ferrol at the time was very great, and Cochrane had not any doubt as to the hostile intentions of the Spaniards. He protested to the Captain-General against the fitting out of squadrons in the various ports, as was being done at Ferrol, and he demanded an explanation. He declared that if the French squadron, consisting of five sail of the line, should come out, it was his determination to attack it, and he hoped in this he should not be opposed by the Spanish squadron. The Captain-General attempted to temporise and explain, but Cochrane was not one whit less urgent in his protests against what was going on.

On September 21 Cornwallis issued most secret orders to him to resist the sailing of the Spaniards, if they should endeavour to come out, and he was to inform the Spanish Government of his instructions. It was in this letter also that Cochrane received orders to seize the Spanish treasure ships from South America if he should fall in with them (No. 345, p. 74). On the following day Cornwallis issued orders to Captain Graham Moore, of the

No. 315

*COCHRANE TO MR. MARSDEN*

Northumberland, off Ferrol, 19th August, 1804.

Sir,—I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 1st inst., by H.M.S. Phoenix, conveying to me the approval of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty of my having paid the bounty to the Dutch seamen, and directing the same to be done to such able-bodied French seamen as might enter.

I have every reason to think, when this information reaches those now on board the squadron at Ferrol, a good many will be induced to come off to the ships under my orders, and I expect that a number of the Dutch seamen will join as soon as they receive their pay, which they expect to do in a few days. We have already got some good men, and many others have sent messages that they intend to follow.

The French ships are much as formerly. Until the Spanish line-of-battle ships now in dock are repaired, the Redoubtable and Duguay-Trouin cannot be taken. As they continue to receive supplies of men by land from France, I conceived it my duty to write once more to the Captain-General of this Province.

I am, &c.,  
A. COCHRANE.

No. 316

*STATEMENT OF THE SPANISH NAVY AT  
FERROL, 22nd AUGUST, 1804*

Two of seventy-four guns in the dry dock, and for want of planks supposed will not be ready to come out these six weeks.

Four of seventy-four guns rigged, with yards and topmasts struck, and in good order for sea at short notice. Three three-deckers, and four frigates in ordinary and without masts.

Two of sixty-four guns with few mounted, loaded with timber and ready to sail for Cadiz. This makes three of that class which have loaded the same within these six weeks, and there is as much more timber found, which had been buried for many years, as will load three or four ships more; besides their daily progress in still recovering more—all oak timber and in good condition. Several packets rigged and ready for sea, one of which sailed from this, a little while ago, to Corunna, and sailed from that the 18th inst. for Buenos Ayres. I observed her take in several pieces of heavy ordnance, mortars, howitzers, &c. Two sail of the line building and some gun-brigs. They have also a number of gun-boats for twenty-four pounders long guns. But their exact number I have not yet ascertained.

A. HODGE,

Lieutenant of the *Northumberland*.

No. 317

*CAPTAIN ALDHAM TO COCHRANE*

*Nautilus*, at Sea, 23rd August, 1804.

Sir,—I have the honour to acquaint you that his Majesty's sloop under my command on the 9th inst., twenty leagues to the north of Santander, fell in with and after a short chase recaptured the *William Heathcotte* from Demerara to Liverpool, a fine frigate-built ship of five hundred tons burden, laden with cotton and sugar, and mounting twenty-four nine-pounders on her main-deck. The *William Heathcotte* was captured on the 4th inst. by the

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 NAPOLEON<sup>1</sup>*

Paris, 2<sup>e</sup> 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

<sup>1</sup> *Arch. Nat. A.F.*, iv. 1195, Dossier 2, No. 9.

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.<sup>1</sup> 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

<sup>1</sup> 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.