

ANNEX 20

WILLIAM HENRY FLAYHART III



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Admiralty-Office, October 23, 1804.

Copy of a Letter from the Honorable William Cornwallis, Admiral of the White, &c. &c. to William Marsden, Esq; dated on board the Ville de Paris, in Torbay, the 20th of October 1804.

SIR,

I HAVE the Honor to enclose, for the Information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, Copies of the several Communications transmitted to me from Captain Moore, of the *Indefatigable*, giving an Account of his Proceedings in the Execution of the Service he was sent upon, in which he has, in Company with the *Medusa*, *Lively*, and *Amphion*, succeeded in detaining the Spanish Frigates therein named.

Admiral Montagu communicated to me the Arrival of the *Lively* at Spithead, on the 17th, with the *Fama*.

I have the Honor to be, &c.

W. CORNWALLIS.

SIR, *Indefatigable, at Sea, Oct. 6, 1804.*

I HAVE the Honor to acquaint you, that I have executed the Service you did me the Honor to charge me with.

On the Morning of the 29th of September, the *Indefatigable* got off Cadiz; on the 30th, we fell in with the *Medusa*; Captain Gore having informed me the *Amphion* was in the Strait's Mouth, and that the *Triumph* was off Gibraltar, and that Sir Robert Barlow meant to go into Cadiz for the Trade there, on his Way to England; I thought fit to send the *Medusa* to apprise Sir Robert Barlow of the Nature of my Order, that he might then judge whether or not he should go into Cadiz, and I directed Captain Gore to rejoin me with the *Amphion* as soon as possible off Cape St. Mary. On the 2d Instant, I was joined by the *Lively*, and on the 3d, by the *Medusa* and *Amphion*; the latter having communicated, what I thought necessary, to Sir Robert Barlow.

Yesterday Morning, Cape St. Mary bearing N. E. Nine Leagues, the *Medusa* made the Signal for Four Sail W. by S. I made the Signal for a general Chase; at Eight A. M. discovered them to be Four large Spanish Frigates which formed the Line of Battle a-head on our Approach, and continued to steer in for Cadiz, the Van Ship carrying a Broad Pendant, and the Ship next to her's Rear-

Admiral's Flag; Captain Gore being the headmost Ship, placed the *Medusa* on the Weather Beam of the Commodore; the *Indefatigable* took a similar Position alongside of the Rear-Admiral; the *Amphion* and *Lively* each taking an Opponent in the same Manner, as they came up: After hailing to make them shorten Sail, without Effect, I fired a Shot across the Rear-Admiral's Fore-foot, on which he shortened Sail; and I sent Lieutenant Ascott, of the *Indefatigable*, to inform him, that my Orders were to detain his Squadron; that it was my earnest Wish to execute them without Bloodshed; but that his Determination must be made instantly: After waiting some Time, I made the Signal for the Boat, and fired a Shot a-head of the Admiral. As soon as the Officer returned with an unsatisfactory Answer, I fired another Shot a-head of the Admiral, and bore down close on his Weather-Bow; at this Moment the Admiral's Second a-stern fired into the *Amphion*; the Admiral fired into the *Indefatigable*; and I made the Signal for close Battle, which was instantly commenced with all the Alacrity and Vigour of English Sailors. In less than Ten Minutes *La Mercedes*, the Admiral's Second a-stern, blew up alongside the *Amphion*, with a tremendous Explosion. Captain Sutton having, with great Judgment, and much to my Satisfaction, placed himself to Leeward of that Ship, the Escape of the Spanish Admiral's Ship was rendered almost impossible; in less than Half-an Hour she struck, as did the Opponent of the *Lively*. Perceiving at this Moment the Spanish Commodore was making off, and seeming to have the Heels of the *Medusa*, I made the Signal for the *Lively* to join in the Chase, having before noticed the superior Sailing of that Ship, Captain Hammond did not lose an Instant; and we had the Satisfaction, long before Sunset, to see from our Mast-Head that the only remaining Ship had surrendered to the *Medusa* and *Lively*.

As soon as our Boats had taken Possession of the Rear-Admiral, we made Sail for the floating Fragments of the unfortunate Spanish Frigate which blew up; but, except Forty taken up by the *Amphion*'s Boats, all on board perished. This Squadron was commanded by Don Joseph Bustamente, Knight of the Order of St. James, and a Rear-Admiral. They are from Monte Video, Rio de la Plata, and, from the Information of the Captain of

the Flag Ship, contained about Four Millions of Dollars, Eight Hundred Thousand of which were on board the Mercedes which blew up. Other Accounts state the Quantity of Specie to be much greater, public and private, and there is besides much valuable Merchandize on board the captured Ships. Our Loss has been very trifling. I have not yet had the Returns from the other Ships, but the Indefatigable did not lose a Man. The Spaniards suffered chiefly in their Rigging, which was our Object. The Captains of the different Ships conducted themselves so ably, that no Honor could accrue to me but the fortunate Accident of being Senior Officer.

The Zeal, Activity, and Spirit of the Officers, Seamen, and Marines of the Squadron is best evinced by the complete Manner in which they performed their Work. Lieutenants Gore, Parker, and Alcott, of the Indefatigable, and Lieutenants Haviland and Hole, of the Marines, gave me that Support which their uniform good Conduct formerly taught me to rely on. Mr. Griffith's, the Master, Conduct has my perfect Approbation. I presume to recommend, in the strongest Manner, Lieutenant John Gore, of the Indefatigable, to your Favour and Protection.

I have the Honor to be, &c.

GRAHAM MOORE.

Force of the Spanish Squadron.

La Medée, (Flag-Ship.)—Forty-two Guns, Eighteen-Pounders, on the Main Deck, and Three Hundred Men, taken; Two Men killed and Ten wounded.

La Fama, (Commodore's Ship,)—Thirty-six Guns, Twelve Pounders, on the Main Deck, and Two Hundred and Eighty Men, taken; no Returns.

La Clara.—Thirty-six Guns, Twelve Pounders, on the Main Deck, and Three Hundred Men, taken; no Returns.

La Mercedes.—Thirty-six Guns, Twelve-Pounders, on the Main Deck, and Two Hundred and Eighty Men, blew up; Second Captain and Forty Men saved.

*Indefatigable, Plymouth Sound,
October 19, 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 Medée 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 enclose 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 Honor to be, &c.

(Signed) GRAHAM MOORE.

*The Honorable Admiral Cornwallis,
&c. &c. &c.*

A General Statement of the Goods and Effects brought by the Frigates of this Division, commanded by Don Joseph de Bustamante y Guerra, Chief of the Squadron of the Royal Navy.

On Account of the King.

Medée.—35 Sacks of Vienna Wool, 20 Chests and

Sacks of Cascarilla, 1627 Bars of Tin, 203 Pigs of Copper, and 521,940 Dollars in Silver.

Fama.—300 Bars of Tin, 28 Planks of Wood, and 330,000 Dollars in Silver.

Mercedes.—20 Sacks of Vienna Wool, 20 Chests and Sacks of Cascarilla, 1139 Bars of Tin, 961 Pigs of Copper; and 221,000 Dollars in Silver.

Clara.—20 Sacks of Vienna Wool, 20 Chests and Sacks of Cascarilla, 1666 Bars of Tin, 571 Pigs of Copper, and 234,694 Dollars in Silver.

Total.—75 Sacks of Vienna Wool, 60 Chests and Sacks of Cascarilla, 4732 Bars of Tin, 1735 Pigs of Copper, 28 Planks of Wood, and 1,307,634 Dollars in Silver.

On Account of the Merchants.

Medée.—32 Chests of Ratina, 952,619 Dollars in Silver, 279,502 Gold, reduced into Dollars, and 124,660 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.

Mercedes.—590,000 Dollars in Silver.

Clara.—622,400 Gold, reduced into Dollars.

Total.—32 Chests of Ratina, 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.

Medée.—8995 Seal Skins.

Fama.—14,930 Seal Skins.

Clara.—10 Pipes of Seal Oil.

Total.—26,925 Seal Skins and 10 Pipes of Seal Oil.

Admiralty-Office, October 23, 1804.

Copy of a Letter from Captain Moore, of His Majesty's Ship the Indefatigable, to William Marsden, Esq; dated the 21st Instant.

SIR,

I HEREWITH transmit to you, for their Lordships' Information, a Return of the Killed and Wounded on board His Majesty's Ships in the Action of the 5th of October 1804, together with the Loss of the Spaniards.

I am, Sir, &c.

(Signed) GRAHAM MOORE.

Indefatigable.—None.

Medusa.—Her Return not received.

Amphion.—Lieutenant William Bennett, wounded, 3 Seamen and 1 Marine, wounded, badly.

Lively.—2 killed; 4 wounded.

La Medée (the Spanish Admiral).—2 Killed; 10 Wounded.

La Clara.—7 Killed; 20 Wounded.

La Fama.—11 Killed, and 50 Wounded.

La Mercedes.—Blown up, the Second Captain, and 45 Men saved by the Amphion, all the Rest perished.

(Signed) GRAHAM MOORE.

Commissions in the Middlesex Militia, signed by the Lord Lieutenant.

Royal Westminster Regiment.

George Gascoyne, Esq; to be Captain. Dated October 15, 1804.