

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07702-6 - Naval Chronology: Or, an Historical Summary of Naval and Maritime Events from the Time of the Romans, to the Treaty of Peace 1802: Volume 2

Isaac Schomberg

Excerpt

[More information](#)

A

SUMMARY

OF

NAVAL & MARITIME EVENTS.

VOL. II.

EUROPE.

AT AND NEAR HOME.

	A. D. 1780
Supplies granted by parliament for the sea service.	
FOR 85,000 men, including } 18,779 marines and sea ordnance }	l. s. d. 4,420,000 0 0
For the ordinary, including half-pay } to sea and marine officers - - }	85,381 7 6
For building, repairs, &c. - - -	697 903 0 9
Towards discharging the navy debt	1,000,000 0 0
Total for the navy - - -	7,003,284 8 3
Total supplies granted for the year	£ 21,196,496 12 9½

Flag Officers employed.

<i>Officers.</i>	<i>Rank.</i>	<i>Ships.</i>	<i>Guns.</i>
	Portsmouth.		
Sir Thomas Pye, Knt.	Admiral of } the White - - -	Diligente	70
	Plymouth.		
James Gambier, Esq.	Vice-Admiral } of the Blue. - - -	Dunkirk	- 60
VOL. II.	B		None

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07702-6 - Naval Chronology: Or, an Historical Summary of Naval and Maritime Events from the Time of the Romans, to the Treaty of Peace 1802: Volume 2

Isaac Schomberg

Excerpt

[More information](#)

2

NAVAL CHRONOLOGY.

A.D.		Nore.		
1780	Robert Roddam, Esq. Vice-Admiral of the White.	- - -	} Conquestadore	60
		Channel Fleet.		
	*Francis Geary, Esq. Admiral of the White.	- - -	} Victory	- 110
	Hon. S. Barrington, Vice-Admiral of the White.	- - -	}	Britannia - 110
	Geo. Darby, Esq. Vice-Admiral of the White.	- - -		
	Rob. Digby, Esq. Rear-Admiral of the Red.	- - -	} Prince George	98
	Sir J. L. Rofs, Bart. Rear-Admiral of the Red.	- - -	} Royal George	100
		Lisbon.		
	Geo. Johnstone, Esq. Commodore		Romney	50
		North America.		
	M. Arbuthnot, Esq. Vice-Admiral of the White.	- - -	} Europe	- 64
	Thomas Graves, Esq. Rear-Admiral of the Red.	- - -	} London	- 98
		Newfoundland.		
	Rd. Edwards, Esq. Rear-Admiral of the Red.	- - -	} Portland	- 50
		Leeward Islands.		
	†Sir G. B. Rodney, Bart. Admiral of the White.	- - -	} Sandwich	- 98
	Hyde Parker, Esq. Vice-Admiral of the Blue.	- - -	}	Princess Royal 98
	Sir Sam. Hood, Bart. Rear-Admiral of the Blue.	- - -		
	Jof. Rowley, Esq. Rear-Admiral of the Red.	- - -	} Suffolk	- 74
	Will. Hotham, Esq. Commodore		Vengeance	74
	Hon. B. Walsingham, Commodore		Thunderer	74

* Succeeded to the command on the death of Sir Charles Hardy on the 10th of May. Admiral Geary resigned in August; the command devolved on Vice-Admiral Darby, Admiral Barrington having declined accepting it.

† Sailed the end of the year 1779.

Vice-Admiral Francis William Drake commanded in the Downs.
Jamaica.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07702-6 - Naval Chronology: Or, an Historical Summary of Naval and Maritime Events from the Time of the Romans, to the Treaty of Peace 1802: Volume 2

Isaac Schomberg

Excerpt

[More information](#)

NAVAL CHRONOLOGY.

3.

			A. D., 1780
	Jamaica.		
Sir Peter Parker, Knt. Vice-Admiral of the White.	- - -	} Bristol	50
	East-Indies, and on the passage home.		
Sir Edward Hughes, K. B. Vice- Admiral of the Blue	- - -	} Superb	74
Sir Edward Vernon, Knt. Rear-Ad- miral of the Red.	- - -	} Rippon	60
In September his Majesty was pleased to order the following promotion of flag officers, viz.			
Mathew Buckle, Esq.	}	Vice-Admirals of the Red	
Robert Mann, Esq.		to be Adm. of the Blue.	
Hugh Pigot, Esq.	}	Vice-Admirals of White	
Lord Shulldham		to be Vice-Admirals of	
John Vaughan, Esq.	}	the Red.	
Robert Duff, Esq.		Vice-Admiral of Blue to	
	}	be Vice-Ad. of the Red.	
John Reynolds, Esq.			
Sir Hugh Palliser, Bart.	}		
Hon. John Byron			
Mathew Barton, Esq.	}	Vice-Admirals of the Blue	
Sir Peter Parker, Knt.		to be Vice-Admirals of	
Hon. Sam. Barrington	}	the White.	
Marriot Arbuthnot, Esq.			
Robert Roddam, Esq.	}		
George Darby, Esq.			
John Campbell, Esq.	}	Rear-Admirals of the Red	
James Gambier, Esq.		to be Vice-Admirals of	
William Lloyd, Esq.	}	the Blue.	
Fra. Will. Drake, Esq.			
Sir Edward Hughes, K. B.	}		
Hyde Parker, sen. Esq.			
John Evans, Esq.	}	Rear-Ads. of White to be	
Mark Milbank, Esq.		Vice-Ads. of the Blue.	
Nicholas Vincent, Esq.	}	Rear-Admirals of the	
John Storr, Esq.		White to be Rear-Ad-	
Sir Edward Vernon, Knt.	}	mirals of the Red.	
Joshua Rowley, Esq.			
Richard Edwards, Esq.	}	Rear-Admirals of the Blue	
Thomas Graves, Esq.		to be Rear-Admirals of	
Robert Digby, Esq.	}	the Red.	
Sir John Lockhart Ross, Bart.			
	B 2		Captains.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07702-6 - Naval Chronology: Or, an Historical Summary of Naval and Maritime Events from the Time of the Romans, to the Treaty of Peace 1802: Volume 2

Isaac Schomberg

Excerpt

[More information](#)

4

NAVAL CHRONOLOGY.

A. D.	Captains.	
1780	Charles Webber, Esq.	} To be Rear-Admirals of the White.
	William Langdon, Esq.	
	Benjamin Marlow, Esq.	
	Alexander Hood, Esq.	
	Alexander Innes, Esq.	} To be Rear-Admirals of the Blue.
	Sir Chaloner Ogle, Bart.	
	Sir Samuel Hood, Bart.	
	Mathew Moore, Esq.	
	Sir Richard Hughes, Bart.	
	Fra. Sam. Drake, Esq.	
	Richard Kempfenfelt, Esq.	

EUROPE.

On the 2d of January the Squadron, under Captain Charles Fielding, which had been sent to intercept a Dutch convoy, fell in with it a little to the westward of the Isle of Wight, escorted by two sail of the line and two frigates, commanded by Admiral Count Byland.

Captain Fielding desired that he might be allowed to examine the merchant vessels, which the Dutch Admiral persisted in refusing, and fired at the boats which had been sent to board them, to resent this insult Captain Fielding ordered a shot to be directed ahead of the admiral, who instantly discharged a broadside into the *Namur*, and upon her returning it struck his colours.

Seven of the merchant vessels laden with naval stores were detained; and Count Byland given to understand that he was at liberty to hoist his colours and prosecute his voyage with the remainder of his convoy. The Dutch admiral accepted the former and saluted the British flag, but declined proceeding on without the whole of his charge, and sailed into Spithead.

From the darkness of the night many of the transports with stores escaped and got safe into Brest.

On the 8th of January Sir George Brydges Rodney, on his passage to relieve Gibraltar, fell in with, and after a chase of a few hours, captured the whole of a Spanish convoy from St. Sebastian, bound to Cadiz, laden with naval stores, provisions, &c. under the escort of seven ships and

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07702-6 - Naval Chronology: Or, an Historical Summary of Naval and Maritime Events from the Time of the Romans, to the Treaty of Peace 1802: Volume 2

Isaac Schomberg

Excerpt

[More information](#)

NAVAL CHRONOLOGY.

5

and vessels of war* belonging to the Royal Caraccas A.D. Company. 1780

Sir George Rodney commissioned the Spanish 64 gun ship, and named her the Prince William, in compliment to his Royal Highness Prince William Henry, in whose presence she was taken.

This fortunate officer, on the 16th, being about four leagues from Cape St. Vincent, at one in the afternoon discovered the Spanish fleet†, under the command of Don Juan de Langara. The day being far advanced, the signal was made for a general chase, the ships to engage as they came up, and to take the lee gage to prevent the enemy's retreat into their own ports. At four P. M. the headmost ships began to engage, at 40 minutes past, one of the enemy's ships blew up with a dreadful explosion while in action with the *Bienfaïtant*, and every soul perished. The chase and running fight continued the whole of the night in most tempestuous weather with a heavy sea; at two in the morning the *Monarca*, which was the headmost of the enemy's ships struck, making in the whole seven taken or destroyed. At this time the fleet was so much entangled on a lee shore, and some of the ships very materially disabled, that it was with the utmost difficulty they weathered the shoals off St. Lucar. The loss the British fleet sustained in this action was 32 killed, and 102 wounded. Lieutenant Strachan of the marines was among the former. Lieutenants Forbes and Forrest were in the list of wounded; the latter died of his wounds, by which the service lost a promising young officer. He was a son of the late gallant Commodore Arthur Forrest.

* Spanish ships and vessels of war taken by Sir George Rodney.

<i>Ships.</i>	<i>Guns.</i>	<i>Men.</i>
Guipuscaïo - - -	64 - -	550
San Carlos - - -	32 - -	200
San Rafael - - -	30 - -	155
Santa Teresa - - -	28 - -	150
San Bruno - - -	26 - -	140
San Fermia - - -	16 - -	60
San Vincente - - -	10 - -	40
Total - - -	206	1295

† See Appendix, Chap. II. No. 188.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07702-6 - Naval Chronology: Or, an Historical Summary of Naval and Maritime Events from the Time of the Romans, to the Treaty of Peace 1802: Volume 2

Isaac Schomberg

Excerpt

[More information](#)

6

NAVAL CHRONOLOGY.

A.D. 1780 The Phoenix, Don Juan de Langara's ship, was taken possession of by the Bienfaisant; but the small-pox being on board that ship, Captain Macbride, actuated by principles of humanity, was unwilling to risk the infection being spread amongst the prisoners, sent the following proposals to the Spanish admiral, which were accepted with thanks, and executed with the strictest honour.

“ *Bienfaisant at Sea, Jan. 18, 1780.*

“ The small pox being on board his Majesty's ship Bienfaisant (of a malignant kind) the feelings of a British officer cannot allow him to introduce an infection, even amongst his enemies. From this consideration, and the very gallant defence made by Admiral Langara and his officers; Captain Macbride consents that neither officers nor men shall be removed from the Phoenix, taken by his Britannic Majesty's ships the Defence and Bienfaisant; Admiral Langara being responsible for the conduct of his officers and men; and in case we fall in with any Spanish or French ships of war, he will not suffer Lieutenant Thomas Lewis,* his officer, to be interrupted in conducting and defending the ship to the last extremity, agreeable to his orders. And if, meeting with superior force, the Phoenix should be retaken, and the Bienfaisant fight her way clear, Admiral Don Juan de Langara, his officers and men, are to hold themselves prisoners of war to Captain Macbride, upon their parole of honour, (which he is confident with Spanish officers is ever sacred). Likewise, if the Bienfaisant should be taken, and the Phoenix escape, the Admiral Don Juan de Langara, his officers, &c. will no longer be prisoners, but freed immediately. In short, they are to follow the fate of the Bienfaisant.

(Signed) “ JUAN IGN. DE LANGARA.”
“ JOHN MACBRIDE.”

On the 27th Sir George Rodney† arrived with his prizes in Gibraltar bay, and immediately dispatched the fleet of

* Afterwards captain of the *Minotaur* in the memorable battle on the 1st of August, 1798.

† In March the freedom of the cities of London and Edinburgh was voted to be presented to Sir George Rodney in gold boxes, valued at 100 guineas each.

victuallers

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07702-6 - Naval Chronology: Or, an Historical Summary of Naval and Maritime Events from the Time of the Romans, to the Treaty of Peace 1802: Volume 2

Isaac Schomberg

Excerpt

[More information](#)

NAVAL CHRONOLOGY.

7

viſtuallers and ſtoreships for Minorca, under convoy of three copper-bottomed ſhips of the line*. A.D. 1780

Towards the middle of February Sir George Rodney having watered and refitted the fleet, ſailed from Gibraltar. After paſſing the Straits, he proceeded to the Weſt-Indies with a part of the fleet, directing the remainder to proceed to England with the Spaniſh prizes under Rear Admiral Dignyt, who on the 23d diſcovered and gave chace to a French convoy, conſiſting of 13 ſail, eſcorted by two ſail of the line, two ſhips armé en flute, and a frigate‡. The weather being extremely boiſterous and a dark night coming on, only three of the convoy, and one ſhip of the line, after a ſhort reſiſtance, were taken. They were from Breſt, bound to Mauritius, laden chiefly with naval and military ſtores.

The 26th of February is remarkable for the extraordinary meaſures purſued by the Northern Powers of Europe; the court of Ruſſia iſſued a manifeſto, by which it dictated a new code of maritime laws, and ſtruck at the ſovereignty and pre-eminence on the ocean, which had been ſo long claimed and maintained by this country. Ruſſia, joined by Denmark and Sweden, compoſed that formal naval confederacy, called the armed neutrality. Portugal was invited to the union, but declined acceding to it.

On the 9th of March the court-martial, which had aſſembled on board his Majeſty's ſhip the Victory in Portſmouth harbour, for the trial of Captain Philip Boteler, for the loſs of his Majeſty's ſhip Ardent, paſſed the following ſentence, viz.

“ That it appears that Captain Philip Boteler did not do the utmoſt to prevent the king's ſhip falling into the enemy's hands; and that therefore he ought to be diſmiſſed from his Majeſty's ſervice.”

The officers of the Ardent were all honourably acquitted.

<i>Ships.</i>	<i>Guns.</i>	<i>Commanders.</i>
* Marlborough	- 74	Taylor Penny
Defence	- 74	Wm. Cranſton
Invincible	- 74	C. Saxton
† See Appendix, Chap. No. 188.		
<i>Ships.</i>	<i>Guns.</i>	
‡ Prothee	- 64	600 M. de Chilot.
L'Ajax	- 64	600
	B 4	

On

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07702-6 - Naval Chronology: Or, an Historical Summary of Naval and Maritime Events from the Time of the Romans, to the Treaty of Peace 1802: Volume 2

Isaac Schomberg

Excerpt

[More information](#)

A.D. 1780 On the 13th of March, his Majesty's ships the *Alexander* and *Courageux*, of 74 guns each, commanded by Lord Longford and Lord Mulgrave, being on a cruize to the westward of Scilly, fell in with, and after a chace of 18 hours, captured *Le Monsieur* French privateer, mounting 40 guns, twelve and six pounders, and 362 men, commanded by M. Jean de Boeket, fitted out from L'Orient; being a fine new frigate, she was taken into the service by the same name.

On the 8th of April, Commodore Walsingham sailed from Portsmouth with a large convoy bound to the West-Indies.*

On the 18th of April, the Spanish fleet, under the command of Don Joseph Solano, consisting of twelve sail of the line, several frigates, and 83 transports, having on board 11,460 troops, sailed from Cadiz for the West-Indies.† Soon after the departure of this fleet, his Majesty's ship *Cerberus*, of 28 guns, Captain Robert Mann, being on a cruize, fell in with it; that vigilant and active officer continued to follow it for several days; at length being convinced of its destination, he quitted his station, and proceeded with the utmost dispatch to give the earliest intelligence to Sir George Rodney, whom he fortunately found at anchor in Carlisle bay, Barbadoes.

On the 17th of May, Rear-Admiral Graves sailed from Plymouth with a squadron, bound to North America.‡

On the 19th of May, Admiral Sir Charles Hardy, commander in chief of the channel fleet, died at Portsmouth; he was buried a few days after with the usual state upon such occasions; the whole fleet, during the proceffion, remained with their colours half staff up, and firing minute guns.

Admiral Francis Geary succeeded to the command; Vice-Admiral Barrington second; and Vice-Admiral Darby, third in command.

<i>Ships.</i>	<i>Guns.</i>	<i>Commanders.</i>
Thunderer, -	74	} Hon. B. Walsingham, Commodore. } Capt. Nichols.
Berwick, -	74	
Torbay, -	74	Hon. Keith Stewart.
Egmont, -	74	John Lewis Gidoin.
		John C. Allen.

† See Appendix, Chap. II. No. 190—after the Channel fleet, commanded by Admiral Geary.

‡ See Appendix, Chap. II. No. 189.

In

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07702-6 - Naval Chronology: Or, an Historical Summary of Naval and Maritime Events from the Time of the Romans, to the Treaty of Peace 1802: Volume 2

Isaac Schomberg

Excerpt

[More information](#)

NAVAL CHRONOLOGY.

9

In June Admiral Geary sailed from Spithead with 23 A.D. fail of the line, and was joined at sea by some others, to 1780 cruize in the Soundings.*

On the 4th of July the fleet discovered, and gave chase to a French convoy, twelve fail of which were overtaken and captured; they were from St. Domingo bound to France; the remainder, with *La Fier*, of 50 guns, effected their escape under cover of a thick fog.

On the same day his Majesty's ships *La Prudente*, of 36 guns, and 280 men, commanded by the honourable Captain Waldegrave, and *Le Licorne*, of 32 guns, and 220 men, commanded by the honourable Captain Cadogan, being on a cruize off Cape Ortegal, discovered, on the clearing up of a fog, a large ship bearing down upon them; but on the frigates chacing, hauled her wind, when she was clearly made out to be an enemy.

Light winds and calms prevented *La Prudente* getting alongside of her until half past eleven at night, when a most severe action commenced within pistol shot, and was continued with great spirit and bravery by the French commander, who was frequently engaged with both frigates until half past four in the morning, when she was obliged to strike, and proved to be *La Capricieuse* French frigate, quite new, from L'Orient only eight days, pierced for 44 guns, but only 32 mounted, and 308 men, commanded by M. de Renfonce, who, with M. de Fontaine, the second captain, was killed; above 100 of the crew were also killed and wounded. Upon taking possession of her, she was found in so disabled a state, having six feet water in the hold, her main-mast and fore-top-mast shot away, the other masts in great danger of falling overboard, and the hull so much damaged, that upon the report of a survey held by the carpenters of the *Prudente* and *Licorne*, Captain Waldegrave ordered her to be burnt.

La Prudente had four midshipmen and 13 men killed. Mr. Ellison, first lieutenant, lost his arm; † one midshipman, and 26 men wounded.

La Licorne had three men killed, and seven wounded.

On the 9th of July, the combined fleets sailed from Cadiz; that of Spain, consisting of 22 fail of the line, under

* Appendix, Chap. II. No. 190.

† Made post in 1783, regulating captain at Gravesend, and has a pension of 5s. per day.

Admiral

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07702-6 - Naval Chronology: Or, an Historical Summary of Naval and Maritime Events from the Time of the Romans, to the Treaty of Peace 1802: Volume 2

Isaac Schomberg

Excerpt

[More information](#)

10

NAVAL CHRONOLOGY.

A. D. 1780 Admiral Don Lewis de Cordova; the French nine sail of the line, six frigates, and four corvettes, under M. de Beauflet.

On the 14th of July, Sir James Wallace, in his Majesty's ship *Nonfuch*, of 64 guns, being on a cruize, discovered, and gave chase to a French convoy; the whole escaped into the Loire, excepting one frigate, *La Lazere*, which was driven on shore and destroyed; she was pierced for 36 guns, but had 12 mounted. Two other French frigates were in company, *La Bellone* and *L'Etourdie*, of the same force, which got off with the convoy. While the boats of the *Nonfuch* were destroying the above frigate, three more sail were discovered in the offing, making signals to each. Sir James Wallace instantly gave chase, and about midnight came up with one of them; which, after a gallant defence of two hours, struck, and proved to be *La Belle Poule* French frigate, of 32 guns, and 275 men, commanded by Le Chevalier Kergariou, who, with 24 of his crew, were killed; most of the remaining officers, and 50 men wounded. The *Nonfuch* had three men killed and 10 wounded. The frigates in company were *L'Amiable*, of 32 guns, and *Le Rosignolle*, of 20. *La Belle Poule* was taken into the service by the same name.

On the 9th of August, the East and West-India convoy, on its passage out, under the escort of one ship of the line and two frigates,* were intercepted by the combined fleets; above 60 sail were taken, and carried in great triumph into Cadiz. Among the number which fell into the enemy's hands on this unfortunate occasion, were five East-India ships, and 18 victuallers and other store-ships.† The number of prisoners, including passengers, amounted to 2865.

On the 10th of August, his Majesty's ship *Flora*, of 36

<i>Ships.</i>	<i>Guns.</i>	<i>Commanders.</i>
Ramillies, -	74	Captain John Moutrav.
Southampton, -	32	William Garnier.
Thetis, -	32	Robert Linzee.

† Names of the East-India ships captured.

<i>Ships.</i>	<i>Commanders.</i>
Royal George, -	Captain Foxall.
Mount Stewart, -	Haldone.
Hillborough, -	Collet.
Gatton, -	Bayten.
Godfrey, -	Grubber.

guns,