

**Naval Documents
related to the
United States Wars
with the Barbary Powers**

**Volume IV
Part 3 of 3**

**Naval Operations
including diplomatic background
from April to September 6, 1804**

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328 NAVAL OPERATIONS, APRIL-SEPTEMBER 6, 1804

Extract from log book kept by Sailing Master Nathaniel Haraden, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Tuesday, 31 July 1804

Fresh Breezes from the Eastward with a rough Sea Standing in for Tripoly (Squadron in company) under double reefed Topsails & Courses — The Gun boats and Bombards are invariably continued in Tow by the Squadron — We condemned by survey 804 pounds of cheese Rotton, stinking & unfit for men to eat: the same was hove Overboard — At 1 P. M. we saw Tripoly bearing by compass S S E. We stood in for it till 4 P. M. when we wore to the North^d — The Bashaws Castle S E b S four Leagues — At this time strong breezes & cloudy weather. At $\frac{1}{2}$ past 5 P. M. Tripoly S E b S $\frac{1}{2}$ S. 5 Leagues At $\frac{1}{2}$ past 6 P. M. the wind shifted in a squall from East to N E b N — We sp[lit] the foresail from clew to Earing — In a few minutes after we split the Main Top sail — Unbent both & bent others — From this time till till 8 P. M. we were under a reef'd main-sail and close reefed fore topsail — At 7 down top gall^l Yards; As the Gale is nearly dead on shore, it became necessary to press the ship which makes it hazardous in Towing the Gun boats & Bombards —

At $\frac{1}{2}$ past 9 handed the foretopsail; and set a reefed foresail At 10 Rove preventer tacks & sheets — by this time the gale had shifted by degrees to E B N —

At Midnight strong gales from the Eastward.

At $\frac{1}{2}$ past 2 A. M. the wind shifted in a squall from E b S to N N E, which heaves us direct aback.

The two Bombards in Tow were very much exposed, but fortunately no damage was done — We immediately wore & came to the same tacks as before — From this time till day light strong Gales from the N E.

At $\frac{1}{2}$ past 5 A. M. wore to the S E. The Squadron all in sight, many of them hull down — The Gale continued Strong till 8 in the morning when it became more Moderate

At 7 A. M. set close reefed Main & Mizen Topsails —

Sixteen hours out of the twenty four we have been necessarily under low sail with a rough sharp sea — Winds veering between N E & East. Surgeons report 1 sick 3 convalescent At Noon we are under low sail. Squadron in Sight. — Standing in for the coast.

Tripoly supposed to bear (Var: Cor:) S E b S $\frac{1}{2}$ 30 Miles
Latitude Observed 33° 17' N.

[LC. EPP, Log *Constitution*, 1803-1804.]

To Lieutenant John Cassin, U. S. Navy, Navy Yard, Washington, D. C., from Charles W. Goldsborough for Secretary of the Navy

NAVY DEPM^t 1 Aug^t 1804.

M^t Buller Cocke has been appointed Storekeeper to the Yard at this place, under the Act supplementary to the Act entitled "An Act providing for a Naval Peace Establishment and for other purposes". You will be pleased to deliver to him by Inventory all the Articles of Stores now under your charge; excepting the Timber, taking his receipt therefor as your voucher in the Settlement of your Store Account with this Department. As it is an object of considerable importance that the Accounts should be arranged and methodized with all practicable dispatch, you will be pleased to lose no time in carrying the object of these Instruction into effect.

A System will presently be devised and communicated to you which it is hoped will ensure methodical operations in all the Departments contemplated by the supplementary Act above alluded to. —

[NDA. OSW, Vol. 6, 1802-1805.]

To Captain Samuel Barron, U. S. Navy, from James Simpson, U. S. Consul, Tangier, Morocco

TANGIER 1st August 1804. —

DEAR SIR My last of 21st July advised the Emperour had directed one thousand Fanegins Wheat being laden on His Ship *Mirboha* destined for the poor of Tripoly, — after Arraez Lubarez had actually begun to receive that wheat he represented to His Majesty the notification I had made to him of Tripoly continuing to be blockaded. — By order of the Emperour, (I am assur'd) the Wheat has been relanded and the Ship proceeded to Salle to join the two others at their return from Magadore. —

Alcayde Hashash has however written me, complaining of the opposition I had made to Lubarez going to Tripoly and requiring a Passport for the Ship for that special Voyage; adding that by that means Peace will continue to subsist between us. —

I answered his Letter yesterday and told him that as Tripoly continues to be blockaded no such Passport as he asks can be granted — we shall see what reply he will make. —

Under these circumstances I persuade myself you will see it proper to leave a couple of Frigates in the Straits untill these matters be satisfactorily cleared up. —

At return of an Express I fortunately dispatched on Saturday last with a Letter for His Majesty and another for the Minister I shall be able to speak with precision on the subject. —

3^d AUG^t Since writing the foregoing I have received another Letter from Alcayde Hashash copy of which I enclose for your perusal — he has changed his stile and now requests as a favour what he in a manner demanded before. —

I have answered him that neither myself or any other Consul is competent to grant Passports to insure Vessels entrance into blockaded Ports. — I have besides represented to him the impossibility there is for any of His Majestys Ships to go to Tripoly now the Neapolitan Squadron is in those Seas. —

I have told him that I should lodge copy of his Letter for your perusal at Gibraltar, and that you would give your answer to His Majestys request. — I am highly sensible of the very great impropriety there is in Muley Soliman making such a request, but as Commodore Morris authorised me to grant a Passport for a Cargo of Wheat to be sent to Tripoly after my return to this Country in the year 1802, I have thought you may perhaps have latitude to yield to His Majestys solicitations, especially as such a favour might conduce to the better treatment of the unfortunate Americans now in Tripoly, and I am persuaded the Emperour would receive it as a mark of particular attention to him. — The Wheat I am assured is to be distributed to the poor gratis. —

As the Emperours Ship certainly cannot go on the intended Voyage because of the Neapolitan Squadron I should presume he would now

propose to send a neutral Merchant Vessel, — which would certainly be preferable with us too, for I should not recommend an Armed Ship being permitted to enter Tripoly. — This morning it is said Lubarez is still at Larach, the certainty I shall know in a day or two and advise you —

I repeat what I mentioned in the former part of this Letter, that I trust you will leave two Frigates at Gibraltar untill this matter be settled, to which I am instigated by the recollection that it was on a refusal of a similar request I was sent from this Country in June 1802

[Mrs. James S. Barron Col. NDA photostat.]

To Secretary of State from Richard O'Brien

On board The UNITED STATES FRIGATE *Constitution*

The 1st of August 1804 — 14 miles North of Tripoli

ESTEEMED SIR After aiding Co^l Lear to make a good Settlement^l on the annuities and cash payment to the regency of Alg^{rs} on the same day of The 26th of March I left that city of Algiers. to render every service in my power on our affairs with Tunis and Tripoli —

The Purport of the audiences I. and M^r Davis had with the Pascha of Tunis and his Minister on the latter End of April will give you. with other communications — from M^r Davis a detail from which you can judge what course. That The United States. should steer relative to Tunis —

Permit me to Observe, That it is more the interest of Tunis to Keep The peace with The U States. Than it is for us to offer anything extra to induce her to a permanent and pacific conduct towards us — if our conduct. should convince her (*which it has*) that we are afraid of her, Then 8 fathoms will not Annually content or feed Their Avarice —

Comodore Preble & Co^l Lear, has given you full details, on this Subject and also, you can Judge by The Purport of my conferances, and audiences with The Pascha of Tripoli and his Minister on the 13th of June what is his Views. They are very great — agreeable to The intreauging reports. and letters of The french Consul at Tripoli — which if They were complied with, would bring on us — more extravagant in proportion from Tunis and Algiers —

We sailed from Malta the 21st ul^l and on the 25th made the land to The East of Tripoli on the 27th we anchored with our whole fleet. to The N^o of Tripoli 3 miles. and intended to commence Bombarding The City, but The wind Commenced, to blow. Very fresh from the N E. and we were again Obligated to put to sea — the weather has remained, untill This. evening Very Boisterous — but if it remains fine to Commence — operations — against the City of Tripoli — The Pascha aided by the advice of his Ministry, and The insinuations of The Christian Consuls — is very confident of his own. strength. and of Course does not apprehend. we can do him much injury — he has 19 Gunboats and several. rowboats. A Brig 2 Schooners. a Xebec and 2 other Small Corsairs — with Sundry very strong and important. Castles. to oppose This and make a requisite impression — we have The *Constitution Argus Siren Vixen Nautulas Enterprize & Scourge* 2 bombards. & 6 Gunboats. — The Vessels in general. not well manned — and much deficient. as to Their Compliment of men — perhaps this force. applied and with The — offer of 60 — fathoms. we

might, thereby — extricate the officers, and crew of The *Ex-Philadelphia* — this would be doing a great deal — but I have my fears. That we must have more force. Then we have at present before we shall convince tripoli That it is his interest, to be at peace with The U States, he is biased, up that, we must finally get tired and give him the Extint of his demands, if we do we are gone in this Sea —

it must therefore be evident, to The U States, that it is necessary, that we should have built. The 6 — 74 Gun Ships a few heavy Corvettas — and 9 or 10 Schooners of 200 — or 250 tons to carry each 4 — long 24 pounders & 6 — 24 pounders Caronades — and a 13 inch mortar to be coppered to have 90 Mariners, and 10 — Bombardiers, these Vessels, would by throwing Bomb shells into tripoli at all times render them a City of torment, and if they intended to keep up the war they must all along The coast abandon their Villiages — this would Bring them to Their Bearings, and would be a terror of a new system — of Warfare — and blockade to, deter Algiers and tunis from irritating us by new — or extra demands. —

My services I shall not be wanting to contribute to The honor and interests, of my Country. The same time I recommend to your friendly aid — and Services My wife and 4 Children at present at Malta —

RICH^d OBRIEN

P S — We shall at last be obliged to Send an adequate force. — a dribling war ought not to be our System I have my fears the Expected frigates will not arrive in time to aid Us — in the attack on tripoli Modern troy —

[NA. SDA. CL, Algiers, Vol. 7, Part 1, Jan. 1804–Nov. 1805.]

Extract from journal kept on board the U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, by Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, Wednesday, 1 August 1804

Wind N E, steering by the wind on the Larb^d Tack. all the Squadron in sight. At ½ past 3 pm Tripoly in sight bearing S b E, the weather very unsettled and a rough sea, wore ship to the N N W, at 5 pm made the signal for the squadron to close to prevent separation. in the Night the wind moderated, at 5 AM wore to the S E, at 8 Sent up Top Gall^t Yards, out large Boats and compleated discharging the store ship, at noon we obs^d in Lat^d 33° 13' N° Tripoly bearing S S E 7 Leagues dis^t — Wind E N E very light.

[LC. EPP, Vol. 12, June–August 1804.]

Extract from log book kept by Sailing Master Nathaniel Haraden, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Wednesday, 1 August 1804

Sent to the *Syren* two 12 pounders belonging to the *Constitution* with the carriages &^a belonging to them. Towards Noon brought to, & took the store ship in tow in Order to complete discharging her.

The Captains of the Squadron waited on the Commodore (per Signal) —

Noon, Moderate breezes from N E. Squadron in Company Sent Carpenters to one of the Bombards to repair some damage done her Masts, during the Blow —

Latitude Observed 33° 13' North.

[LC. EPP, Log *Constitution*, 1803–1804.]

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Extract from journal of Midshipman F. Cornelius deKrafft, U. S. Navy, in U. S. Brig *Siren* of 18 guns, Master Commandant Charles Stewart, U. S. Navy, commanding, Wednesday, 1 August 1804

Midnight fresh gales & cloudy At 6 wore to the S. E. At 10 made all sail. At 11 shorten'd sail, the Commodore made signal for all Commander to repair on board of his ship. $\frac{1}{2}$ past 11 Lieu^t Stewart went on board the Comm^o — Meridian rec^d 2 long 12 pounders complete from the Commodore. —

Latt: Obs: 33° 20' N.

[NDA.]

To William Higgins, U. S. Navy Agent, Malta, from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

U. S. SHIP *Constitution*
At Sea. August 2^d 1804

DEAR SIR I arrived off Tripoly with the Squadron in Company the 27th Ult^o and Anchored near the Town in hopes of immediately commencing an Attack, but a Gale of wind came on from the N E and obliged us to weigh and get to Sea as fast as possible The Gale continued three days, and was so severe as to bring us under reefed courses — The Gun boats stood towing very well — We are now about 6 Leagues from Tripoly & endeavouring with a light breeze to gain anchorage near the Town.

If you can hire a Vessel under English colours on reasonable terms by the month to come immediately off here with 10 or 15,000 Gallons of Fresh Water I wish you to do it: and send me Ten dozⁿ Fowls & twenty or thirty Sheep with plenty of Grass or Hay for them, 200 bushels of Potatoes & 200 bushels of Onions, a parcel of Cabbages & good melons. I wish you to hire or borrow water casks — I think Cap^t Schomberg will lend you as many as you want for a few days

I have written to Cap^t Schomberg to lend us casks, which, I have no doubt he will do on your application —

I send this by the Store ship — She has a number of Casks which you can have taken out; but, I believe, some of them will want coopering Hire a careful man to see the Water filled & the casks well rinsed. The Vessel you hire must be at the Risk of the People you hire her of: and must be protected by an English Passport & papers — She can clear out for Tripoly.

[LC. EPP, LB, April-Nov. 1804.]

To Captain Schomberg, R. N., commanding H. B. M. S. *Madras*, from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

Constitution Off TRIPOLY August 2^d 1804

DEAR SIR, I have had a fair trial of Our flotilla as Sea boats Our Squadron anchored before Tripoly the 27th Ult^o at Noon, the Wind light from S E, a smooth Sea and pleasant weather: but in less than an hour the sea began to rise, and by 4 O'Clock it blew a gale from N E which Obligated us to Weigh & gain an Offing as fast as possible: The Gale continued three days, most of which time, we have been under reefed courses — I have lost a foresail & Main topsail in the Gale, and mention it to give you some Idea of the Weather — The Gun boats towed well & made much better Weather than I expected — We are now about 6 Leagues from Tripoly with a light breeze from the South^o endeavouring to gain our Anchorage —

I have desired M^r Higgins our Agent at Malta to send me a Vessel with fresh Water — Can you Oblige me by lending him some Water Casks for a few days, to be returned in good Order? —

[LC. EPP, LB, April–Nov. 1804.]

[2 August 1804]

To Midshipman Henry Wadsworth, U. S. Navy, from Captain Edward Preble,
U. S. Navy

SIR You are forthwith to repair on board this Ship, and consider yourself attached to her as one of her Lieutenants — Until farther Orders —

Given &^{ca} August 2^d 1804

Signed EDWARD PREBLE

Lieut^t HEN^y WADSWORTH
On board the *Scourge*

[LC. EPP, Order Book, May 1803–June 1805.]

[2 August 1804]

To Midshipman Charles Morris, U. S. Navy, from Captain Edward Preble,
U. S. Navy

SIR You are to repair on board this Ship until farther Orders —
Given &^{ca} August 2^d 1804

Signed EDWARD PREBLE

M^r CH^s MORRIS
Master of the *Scourge*

[LC. EPP, Order Book, May 1803–June 1805.]

[2 August 1804]

To Midshipman John M. Haswell, U. S. Navy, commanding the Transport
St. Guiseppe, from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

SIR, Having discharged your Cargo into the Squadron here, you are to fill up all your Empty water casks with Salt Water for Ballast, and proceed to Malta, and there deliver up the Polacre S^t *Guiseppe* to M^r Higgins American Agent.

You are not to part company with the *Scourge* if you can possibly avoid it.

Given &^{ca} the 2^d of August

Signed EDWARD PREBLE

M^r JOHN M HASWELL
Midshipman U. S Navy commanding
the Transport S^t *Guiseppe* in the Service of U. S

[LC. EPP, Order Book, May 1803–June 1805.]

[2 August 1804]

Certificate of Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, regarding the Polacre *St. Guiseppe*

I hereby Certify that the Polacre S^t *Guiseppe* is employed in the Service of the United States under command of M^r John M Haswell Midshipman as a Transport to supply the American Squadron under my command with provisions from Malta and that she leaves the Squadron at sea this day on her way to that Island, she having

nothing on board excepting Casks filled with Salt water as ballast —
The Commanders of Vessels of All nations in peace and friendship
with the U. S. are desired to let her pass free and unmolested —

Given &^{ca} the 2^d day of August 1804

Signed EDWARD PREBLE

To all Whom it may Concern.

[LC. EPP, Order Book, May 1803-June 1805.]

[2 August 1804]

Statement of Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, regarding the Polacre *St. Guiseppe*

I Certify that the Polacre *S^t Guiseppe* Transport for Supplying
the American Squadron off Tripoly Leaves the Squadron at Sea
without any of her crew having had any communication whatever
with the Shore, or with any Vessel of the Squadron, or any other
Vessel Whatever that has had any such communication for forty
days past —

Given on board the U. S. Ship
Constitution 2^d August 1804

(Signed) EDWARD PREBLE

[LC. EPP, Order Book, May 1803-June 1805.]

[2 August 1804]

To Midshipman (acting as Lieutenant) Ralph Izard, Jr., U. S. Navy, from
Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

SIR, You are hereby Ordered to take under your convoy the Trans-
port *S^t Guiseppe* commanded by M^r John M Haswell Midshipman
in the Service of the United States; and see her safe into some Port
or Harbour in the Island of Malta and return directly to join the
Squadron off this Station — You are not to go into any port in
Malta — You are to defend your Vessel against the Attack of any
of the Barbary cruizers and to capture Tripoline Vessels should you
meet with any —

Given &^{ca} the 2^d day of August 1804

Signed EDWARD PREBLE

P. S. M^r Haswell & the two Seamen belonging to this ship you are
to bring back from the Transport as soon as she is in safety.

[LC. EPP, Order Book, May 1803-June 1805.]

Extract from journal kept on board the U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, by Captain Edward
Preble, U. S. Navy, Thursday, 2 August 1804

Wind E N E supplied the Vessels of the Squadron with a large
quantity of Provisions & stores. in the Evening the Wind came from
the S E stood to the E N E all night, in the morning calm ordered
L^t Dent Commander of the *Scourge* with 30 of his crew to join the
two Bombs which with the Neapolitans on board of them compleats
their crews, ordered L^t Wadsworth & M^r Morris (Master) of the
Scourge to join this ship, Wadsworth to do duty as a L^t on board and
Morris to serve in the Boats. — sent off the store ship to Malta, under
convoy of the *Scourge*, in charge of L^t Izard who is to see her safe into
some port in Malta & return to this Station the *Scourge* has 36 men

on board including Officers. At noon Lat^d 33° 11' N^o discharg'd from the service Lewis Bashaw a seaman & sent him to Malta in the store ship, on account of Indisposition and his pleading that he was a frenchman. Tripoly Bears S b E dis^t 6 Leagues. —

[LC. EPP, Vol. 12, June–August 1804.]

Extract from journal of U. S. Frigate *John Adams*, Master Commandant Isaac Chauncey, U. S. Navy, commanding, Thursday, 2 August 1804

First Part of these 24 Hours fresh Gales and Cloudy with frequent Squalls of Rain At 1 P M. saw a Brig to the Northward standing to the Southward on a wind; she appeared to be a Brig of War — made the Private Signal of the Day to her, she did not answer it, hauled it down, and hoisted our own Colours, which she answered by hoisting American, judged then it was the United States Brig *Scourge*, but that the Commander did not understand the Private Signal made to him. I then made the Signal for him to shew his distinguishing Flag, this Signal also he did not answer, I then judged that she was some armed Merchantman, or that she shewed false Colours, she was at so great a Distance to Windward that I thought it wou'd be only losing much Time and a fair Wind to Chase her — At 6 call'd all Hands to Quarters and exercised the great Guns and small Arms — At 7 Cape Farino S. E ½ S. and Cape Bon S. E b. E — At ½ past 2 A. M saw the Island of Cimaro bearing S. S. E. — At 4 the Island of Cimaro bore W b S. distant 2 Leagues, Cape Bon, South Dist. 5 Leagues — At 5 Cape Bon bore S, S W. Dist 3 Leagues — Latter part frequent and heavy Squalls, attended I think with the heaviest Rain I ever Saw — At 6 saw a Sail a Head standing the same way that we were — At 9 saw the Island of Pantalaria bearing S. S. E — At the same Time spoke the Brigg we saw at 6 this Morning she proved to be a Ragasa from Algiers bound to Smyrna 7 Days out full of Algerine Pilgrims on their Way to Mecca — People scrubbing Hammocks and washing Cloths — Wind N W b W

[LC. EPP, Journal, June to 6 August 1804.]

Extract from journal kept by Purser John Darby, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. S. *John Adams*, Master Commandant Isaac Chauncey, U. S. Navy, commanding, Thursday, 2 August 1804

At. half past three this morning we made Cape Rosso fine breeze & pleasant Weather at 8 came on Squally with considerable rain at ½ past 10. we discovered the Island of Galetie bearing S E ½ E. at Meridian the middle Point of the Island bore S E ½ S. distance 4 leagues. Note. in all the books & charts onboard the ship the Island Galatie is in Latt^d 37. 50 but by Observation we find the Island in 37. 33. the Island of Galatie is [space]

at 1 Oclock. we discovered a brig on our [manuscript mutilated] at 2 the Brig passed to Windw^d made the signal of the Day. it not being answered hauled it down and hoisted our colours, she likewise hoisted American soon after made the Signal to shew her distinguishing flag which was not done from which we concluded she was American Merchantman — At 6 the Islands of Solcanos bore W. S. W at 7 Cape Ferino bore S. E ½ S. Calld all hands to quarters to exercise the great guns & Marines the Small arms.

[NDA original. Miss Camilla S. McConnell.]

Extract from journal of Midshipman F. Cornelius deKrafft, U. S. Navy, in U. S. Brig *Siren* of 18 guns, Master Commandant Charles Stewart, U. S. Navy, commanding, Thursday, 2 August 1804

Light winds & pleas^t Lying bye with the fleet At 4 fill'd away to the N W. made sail. At 9 wore to the Eastw^d —

Latt: Obs: 33°16' N.

[NDA.]

Extract from Memorandum Book of Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, 3 August 1804

Attacked the town and harbour and captured 3 gun boats. Lt. [James] Decatur was killed.

[LC original.]

Extract from journal kept on board the U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, by Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, Friday, 3 August 1804

Wind E S E to E b N. Exercised the Bomb Vessels & threw some shells, fresh Breezes & pleasant, during the night we had fresh Gales lay to with the ships head to the N E. in the morning wore & stood for the Land, Tripoly about 4 Leagues dis^t Bearing S S W. at 8 A M wind E b N at noon we were within two miles of the City of Tripoly which is defended by Batteries mounted with 67 Heavy cannon pointing sea ward, and 22 Gun Boats each carrying a piece of heavy Brass Ordnance [*], besides small cannon, muskets Pistols Pikes &c — and man'd with 30 to 50 Men each they have als[o] an Armed Brig two armed schooners in the Port full of men. I made the signal to wear and haul off and immediately after the signal to come within hale, clear'd ship for Action & beat to quarters. — made signal to prepare for Battle intending to attack their Gun Boats & the City as I observed their Boats without the Rocks,

[*Commodore Preble's Diary indicates "Batteries mounted with 115 heavy Cannon pointed sea ward, and Nineteen Gun Boats each carrying a peice of heavy Brass Ordnance".]

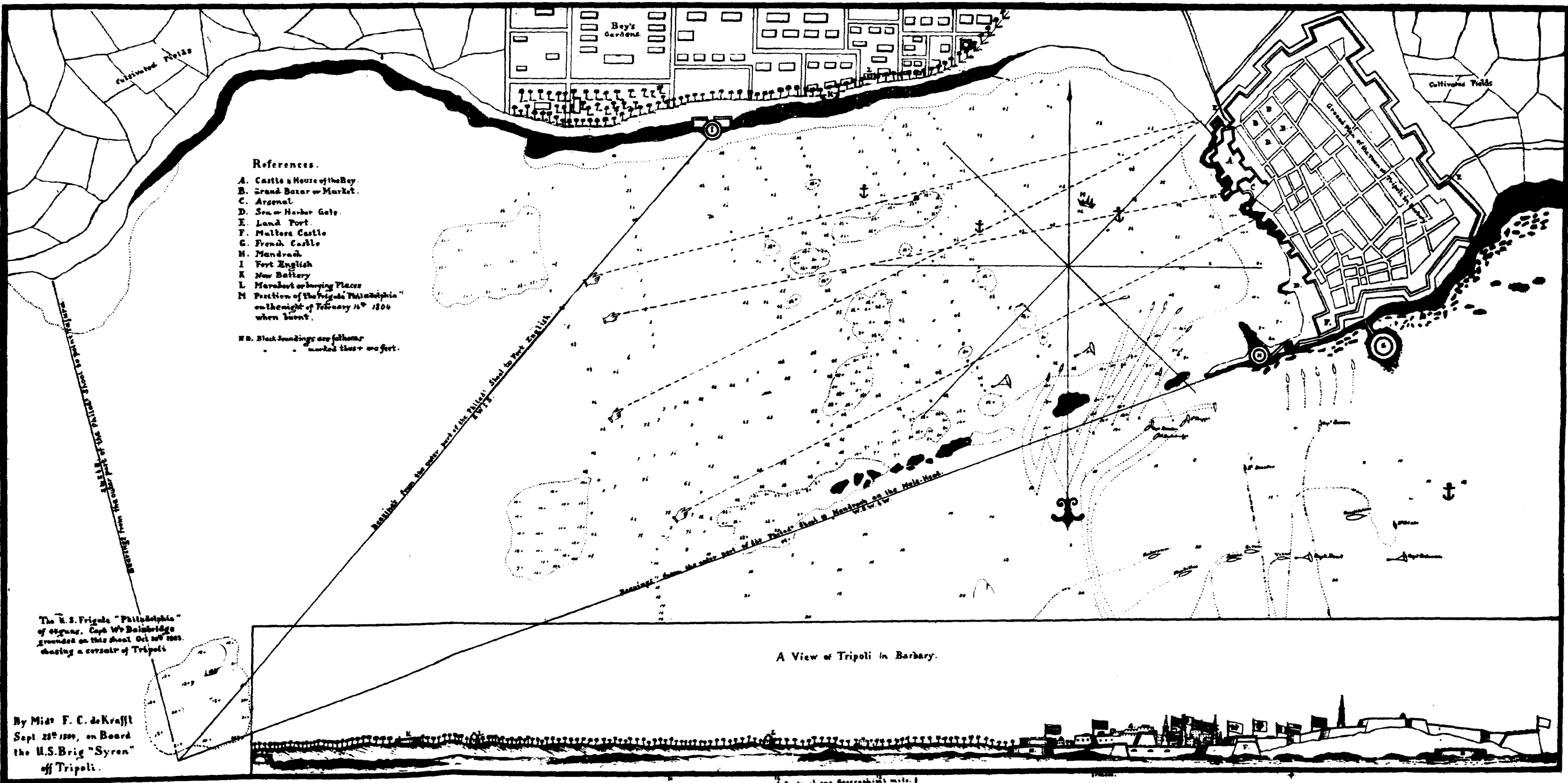
[LC. EPP, Vol. 12, June-August 1804.]

[3 August 1804]

Extract from journal kept on board the U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, by Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, Saturday, 4 August 1804

Wind E b S. Standing off shore on the Starbord Tack the signal out to come within hail spoke the different Vessels and acquainted their Commanders that it was my Intention to attack the shipping & Batteries, — directed the Gun Boats & Bombs to be prepared for immediate service. —

at 12½ pm Tack'd & stood for the Batteries. Back'd the Main Topsail, at ½ 1 pm made the general signal to follow the motions of the Commodore. filled the Maintopsail & stood in towards the Batteries, at ¼ past 2 made the signal for the Bombs & Gun Boats to advance & attack the ships & Batteries. ½ past 2 general signal for Battle. the whole squadron advanc'd within point Blank shot of the Enemies Batteries & shipping, our Gun Boats in two divisions the 1st consisting of 3 Boats Commanded by Cap^t Somers the 2^d of three Boats by Cap^t Decatur, at ¾ past 2 the Action commenced on our side by throwing a shell into the Town, and in an Instant the whole Squadron were engaged. — the Enemies Gun Boats were Anchord with springs on, in three divisions the Eastern or van division



- References.
- A. Castle & House of the Bey.
 - B. Grand Bazar or Market.
 - C. Arsenal.
 - D. Sea or Harbor Gate.
 - E. Land Fort.
 - F. Maltese Castle.
 - G. French Castle.
 - H. Mandrach.
 - I. Fort English.
 - K. New Battery.
 - L. Merchant or Landing Places.
 - M. Position of the Frigate "Philadelphia" on the night of February 16th 1804 when burnt.
- N.B. Black soundings are fathoms marked thus 100 feet.

The U. S. Frigate "Philadelphia" of 40 guns. Capt Wm Bainbridge grounded on this shoal Oct 19th 1803 chasing a corsair of Tripoli.

By Mid^r F. C. de Krassl Sept 23rd 1809, on Board the U.S. Brig "Syren" off Tripoli.

A View of Tripoli in Barbary.



(Scale of one Geographical mile.)

MAP OF THE ATTACK ON TRIPOLI, 3 AUGUST 1804.

consisted of 9 Boats the center of 7 Boats, and the Western or Rear of 5 Boats. As the wind was from the Eastward our Boats were ordered to lead in to Windward and attack the Enemy. the Rear & center division of the Enemies Boats are close under their Batteries, & the Van division consisting of their largest Boats are within Grape distance of the Bashaws Castle & fort English at 3 observed our Gun Boats engaged in close action with the Enemies Boats, while a tremendous fire was kept up by this ship and the rest of the Squadron. Cap^t Decatur with N^o 4 L^t Trippe of N^o 6 & L^t Bainbridge of N^o 5 & L^t James Decatur of N^o 2 attacked the enemys Boats within Pistol shot. N^o 1 Cap^t Somers fell to Leward but fetched up with the Enemys Rear of 5 Boats which he gallantly attacked disabled & drove in altho within pistol shot of the Batteries. N^o 3 L^t Blake did not go into close Action, had he gone down to the assistance of Cap^t Somers it is probable they would have captured the Rear Boats. Cap^t Decatur Boarded and after a stout and obstinate resistance took possession of two of the Enemies Gun Boats, L^t Trip Boarded and carried a third. L^t James Decatur in the Act of Boarding to take possession of a fourth Boat was shot through the Head & Mortally wounded the officer next in command (M^r Brown) hauld off. L^t Bainbridge had his Latten Yard shot away early in the Action which prevented him from taking a Boat but he Galled the Enemy by a steady fire within Musket shot, indeed he pursued the Enemy until his Boat touch'd the ground under the Batteries. the Bombs kept their stations which were well chosen, by L^t Dent & L^t Robinson, who commanded them, and threw a number of shells into the town altho the spray of the sea occasioned by the enemies shot almost covered them, three different times the Enemies Gun Boats rallied and attempted to surround ours. I as often made the signal to cover them, which was properly attended to by the Brigs & Schooners, and the fire from this ship not only had the desired effect on the enemies flotilla by keeping them in check and disabling them, but silenced one of their principal Batteries for some time, at $\frac{1}{2}$ past 4 pm made the signal for the Bombs to retire from action out of Gun shot, and a few minutes after the general signal to Cease firing and Tow out the Prizes & disabled Boats. sent our Barge and Jolly Boat to assist in that duty. Tack'd ship & fired two Broadides in stays which drove the Tripolines out of the Castle & brought down the Steeple of a Mosque, by this time the wind began to freshen from N E at $4\frac{1}{4}$ PM hauld off to take the Bombs in tow, at 5 pm Brought to, two miles from their Batteries, Rec^d L^t James Decatur on board from Gun Boat N^o 2, he was shot through the Head (in Boarding a Tripoline Boat which had struck to him) he expired in a few moments after he was brought into the ship. — We lay to until 10 P M to receive the Prisoners on board captured in the Prizes, then made sail & stood off to the N E the wind Veering to the E S E. — we have all the surgeons of the squadron on board dressing the wounded. —

During the Action we fired 262 Rounds shot besides Grape double head & Canister from this ship and were several times within 3 cables lengths of the Rocks & Batteries where our soundings were from 10 to 16 fath^s the Officers Seamen & Marines of the Squadron behaved Gallantly throughout the Action. Cap^t Decatur in Gun Boat N^o 4 particularly distinguished himself as did L^t Trip of N^o 6. Our loss in Killed & Wounded has been considerable the damage we rec^d in this ship is a 24 pound shot nearly through the center of the Mainmast

20 feet from the Deck, Main Top Gallant R. Yard & sail shot away, one of the Fore shrouds and the sails & running rigging considerably cut one of the 24 pounders on the Quarter deck was struck by a 24 pound shot which damaged the Gun and carriage and shattered the Arm of a Marine to pieces, Gun Boat N^o 2 had her latteen yard shot away, & the Rigging & sails of the Brigs & Schooners were considerably cut. We captured 3 Gun Boats two of which carried each a long Brass 24 pounder & two Brass Howitzers and 36 men with a plenty of muskets pistols pikes sabres &c, the other mounted a long Brass 18 pounder & two Howitzers & 24 men 44 Tripolines were killed on board of the 3 Boats and 52 made prisoners, 26 of which were wounded, 17 of them very badly 3 of which died soon after they were brought on board, the Enemy must have suffered very much in Killed & wounded among their Shipping and on shore, one of their Boats was sunk in the Harbour several of them had their decks nearly cleared of men by our shot, and several shells burst in the Town, which must have done great execution. —

We have lost in Killed & Wounded Viz^t

	Killed	Wounded
L ^t James Decatur		Cap ^t Decatur slight L ^t Tripp[e] severely 10 Seamen & Marines wounded
Total	1 Officer Killed 2 Officers Wounded 10 Seamen & Marines Wounded	
	13	

[LC. EPP, Vol. 12, June-August 1804.]

[3 August 1804]

Extract from log book kept by Sailing Master Nathaniel Haraden, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Saturday, 4 August 1804

Fresh breezes from E b N. We are standing off shore 2 or 3 Miles from Tripoly with a signal out, for the Squadron to come within hail — We spoke them, & directed the Gun boats & Bombards to be ready for immediate service —

We made a short board off till 12½ Noon when we tacked in for the Batteries, and made signal for the Gun boats & Bombards to cast off — Our Gun boats are in two divisions — The first is commanded by Cap^t Somers of the *Nautilus*, L^t Decatur & L^t Blake; The 2^d division by Cap^t Decatur of the *Enterprise*, L^t Tripp[e] & L^t Bainbridge The Bombards are commanded by Cap^t Dent of the *Scourge* [*] & L^t Robinson of the *Constitution* —

The Enemy's gun boats are the same in number as on Saturday last, and are stationed in three divisions as a line of defence — The two Western divisions are close under the Batteries, and the 3^d consisting of their largest boats carrying either long 24 or 32 p^{dr}s is to the Eastward, and under cover of Grape from the Batteries — A few minutes after we tacked in towards the batteries we backed the main topsail to make some arrangements in the Squadron —

At 1¼ P. M. made the *Nautilus* Signal to make more sail, & a few minutes after made signal for the Bombards to take their stations, and for the Gun boats to advance Cap^t Decatur and Lieut^t J. Decatur, Tripp & Bainbridge led in for the Eastern division of the Enemy's Gun

boats — At 2 P. M. made signal to advance — We were now within gun shot of all the Enemy's batteries and stood in within a mile of them before a shot was exchanged — At 2¼ Bombard N° 1 hove a shell — The Enemy's batteries & Gun boats immediately commenced firing which we returned with our Larboard Guns —

Cap^t Decatur boarded and after a stout resistance took possession of two of the Enemy's Gun boats; Lieu^t Trip boarded & carried a third — L^t J. Decatur in the Act of boarding a third was mortally wounded and the Officer next in Command hauled off —

L^t Bainbridges boat was partly disabled in proceeding to the Attack — however she was in, and in close action Cap^t Somers was some way astern when the signal to advance was made — He came up with every possible expedition, received the fire of four boats, and pursued them within musket shot of the Bashaws castle The Bombards kept their stations and continued to throw shells, altho nearly covered with the spray of the Enemy's shot. —

Gun boat N° 3 was not in close action

Three different times we made the general signal to cover the Boats —

At 4 P. M. the Enemy's boats attempted to surround Cap^t Somers — The *Vixen* bore down to his support, and we immediately hove about & gave them our starboard Guns, on which they all retreated under the Batteries. At 4½ P. M. made the Bombards signal to haul off, and a few minutes after, the general signal to cease firing, and tow out the prizes, and disabled boats.

Sent two boats from the *Constitution* to assist in Towing out the Prizes Tacked within half a Gun shot of the Bashaws Castle & round Battery, and gave them a full broadside in stays, which drove them out of the Castle & brought down a steeple in the direction of the Castle.

By this time the wind freshened and began to Veer to N E.

At 4¾ P. M. we hauled off & made Signal to take the Bombards & gun boats in Tow. At 5 P. M. brought to, two miles from the Batteries —

Rec'd L^t J. Decatur from Gun boat N° 2 — He was Wounded in the head and Expired in a few Minutes after being brought on board.

Cap^t Decatur reports that ten on our side were wounded & Sixty of the Enemy killed in the three Gun boats which we have captured — We recieved on board fifty two Prisoners, twenty of whom are wounded — Four of the wounded prisoners died soon after they were brought on board — All the Surgeons in the Squadron assisted (p^r Signal) in dressing the Wounded —

Although the *Constitution* was exposed to the fire of all the Enemy's batteries & Gun boats for upwards of two hours, Nine shot only struck her — The Commodore had a very narrow escape — He was close to a Gun disabled by one of the Enemy's shot; — The shot broke & severely wounded one man — The Commodores cloathes were cut in several places by pieces of the shot —

We had one of the fore shrouds, and the main Royal Yard cut away. Our main mast is wounded about 28 feet above deck with a 24 lb ball which came from the Bashaws Castle — It is wooded about 15 Inches. —

During the action we were several times within three cables length of the reefs and the Western rocks. Our soundings were from 21 to 16 fath^s, hard bottom — There were upwards of 200 shot that fell within 10 fath^s of the ship, and a number which hove the spray upon our deck.

At Sun set Tripoly bore South 3 Miles — We were necessarily employed till 10 P. M. when we filled under Easy sail to the N E —

At 7 A. M. wore in shore — Tripoly in sight bearing by compass S W b S $\frac{1}{2}$ S. 5 leagues Light breezes from E b S, till 10 A. M. when we had fresh when we had fresh breezes from E N E

At 9 A. M. the *Argus* was Ordered to chace to the W N W.

At Noon came to 7 or 8 Miles to the Northward of Tripoly in 32 fath^s hard bottom

As our bower is light; we were under the necessity of Veering to 140 fath^s before the ship brought up — We had taken the *Argus's* two Gun boats in Tow when she was Ordered to chace.

Latitude Observed 33° 4' N.

[* See journal of 2 August 1804.]

[LC. EPP, Log *Constitution*, 1803-1804.]

[3 August 1804]

To George Davis, U. S. Chargé d'Affaires, Tunis, from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

Copy

Constitution at ANCHOR
off Tripoli 7th of Aug^r 1804

DEAR SIR, I have the pleasure to inform You that on the 3^d Instant we made an attack on the Town and Harbour of Tripoli; the Action commenced at $\frac{1}{2}$ past 2. P. M. and lasted till $\frac{1}{2}$ past 4, during which time a most tremendous fire was kept up by our Squadron, and the Enemies Batteries — Six of Our Gun Boats, led by the Gallant Captain Decatur, advanced into the Harbor to engage 19 Gun Boats, a Brig, two Schooners and a Galley of the Enemies, they were completely beaten, and three of thir best Gun Boats, were taken and brought out, one was Sunk, and all of them suffered very considerably — Decatur within musket shot of their Batteries, boarded and brought out two of the Enemies Gun Boats, each of Superior force.

L^t Trippe of the *Vixen*, boarded and brought out another; the boats captured are all new, and each carried a long brass 24, and two brass 3, pounders, and were manned with 108, Men, 52, of which were killed, and 18, wounded — we made 56, prisoners, 14 of which were so badly wounded that I sent them on Shore at Tripoli to be taken care of, and soothed by their friends.

The Town of Tripoli, as well as the Shipping in the Harbor has suffered very considerably — We lost one brave Officer, L^t [James] Decatur, (brother to the Gallant Captain [Stephen Decatur Jr.]) who was shot through the head, at the moment he had obliged an Enemies Gun Boat to strike to him, on board of which all the Men were killed in the Conflict excepting three.

We had a few Men wounded, and the Squadron suffered some trifling Damage in Masts, Spars, rigging &c. but nothing what we had reason to expect, from being two hours in action, within 500, Yards of the Enemies Batteries — Our Bombs threw several Shells into the Town, with good effect.

I intend to attack the City again this day — enclosed is a Copy of a letter from the French Consul,

Please to write Colonel Lear, and enclose him a Copy of this, and the French Consul's letter.

[NA. SDA. CL, Tunis, Vol. 2, Part 2, 1803-1806.]

[3 August 1804]

Narrative of Attacks on Tripoli by Richard O'Brien

No. 1

Narrative of The attacks on tripoli. The 3^d and 7th of august 1804. with remarks and observations Thereon. by OBrien —

After our hopes. had been exhausted. relative to The expected frigates. from The United States. arriving to Join our division in order to attack tripoli. and by that means extricate our brethern from bondage. We. sailed from Malta. destined for tripoli on The 21st of July — our force as Viz — *Constitution Vixon and Nautulas.* 6 gunboats & 2 bombards. — on the morning of *The 25th* we fell in with. *The Siren Argus and Enterprize* in the Evening *The Scourge* Joined us — we were about This time 22 miles to The N E. of tripoli —

On the 26th the wind fresh at East. we stood to The N^d and at mid-night tacked to The South^d —

On the morning of *The 27th of July* — the whole fleet steering down for tripoli. at 2 P M The fleet anchored in an East and west line to The N^d of tripoli 3½ miles — we were getting our bombards ready, in order to Throw Shells into The town when the wind freshened up to The N N E. that it threw up a great Sea. it was no longer safe to remain to an anchor — The signal was made to get underway — and at 8 P M The whole fleet was standing to The N^d The weather remained severe with fresh winds at N N E. and East until The night of *The 2^d of August* when we tacked for tripoli, and on *The morning of The 3^d* at Midday was as near as 5 miles — to The N N E. of tripoli. Variation allowed

(It will Observed. That we had not made or agreed on any Plan of attack. The gunboats was to lead in and commence firing at The Gun boats of tripoli. and we were to be guided by The result or Event.)

our gun boats were in 2 divisions.
The 1st Commanded by
Captain Somers.....
Lieu^t Blake.....
Lieu^t James Decator.....

2^d Division Captain Decator
Lieu^t Tripp.
Lieu^t Bainbridge
Division of Bombards —
Lieu^t Comd^t Dent.
and Lieu^t Robinson —

our force was Thus —
The *Constitution*..... 46 Guns
Argus..... 18
Siren..... 18
Vixon..... 16
Nautulus..... 16
Enterprize..... 14
6 Gun boats.....
2 bombards.....

NB. each of The gun boats and bombards had 15 Neopolitans and 25 Americans. This took away. The 2^d of The crew of The *Nautulas* and *Enterprize* and 1^d of The crew of The *Vixen* and 1th of The crew of The *Argus* and 2^d of The crew of The *Scourge*.

Tripoli had its Castles Batteries A Brig in The harbour a schooner & Galliotta. with 19 Gunboats. Mounting 24 pounders & 18 pounders The first Division of Gunboats of tripoli was 6 sail without masts. was moored in a line ahead extending from The double battery East 1^d of a mile, to The South. of This division was 2 gunboats under sail and to an anchor a schooner of 8 guns and a Galliotta of 4 Guns.

Under The double battery moored in a half moon line from N, to South was 11 Gun boats. The wind at S b N a fresh breeze The Paschas Pallace and castles were filled with men the flags of tripoli were displayed on the castles — corsairs and Gun boats, it being Mahometan Sunday —

The *Constitution* was to The N E b N of The double or Pierhead battery, distance about $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles. The *Nautulas* a stern rather on The weather Quarter. The *Siren Argus Vixon* and *Enterprize* to The East of The *Constitution* with our heads to The Southard; when the Signal was made for The gunboats to cast loose from the Vessels towing Them. The Signal was next made for The gunboats and bombards to advance in a line abreast extending from The S E. to The Nw^d but as The *Constitution* was with The *Nautulas* to The west of The fleet. The 2 bombards — towed by The *Constitution* and Gunboat towed by The *Nautulas* did not get sufficient East. to Join. The rest of The Gunboats. — Which kept leading in for the Van division of The tripoli Gunboats as ours approached The Van The Enemy. a firing commenced — from the tripoline Gunboats. at ours which kept approaching firing round shot.

The 2 bombards commanded by Lieu^t Comidant Dent. and 1st Lieu^t Robinson of The *Constitution*. commenced firing Their Shells — one of which burst. adjacent to The double Battery and another Pashed said Battery into The town. — The *Constitution*. Then had her top G^t Sails handed a reefe in the topsails, fore sail & Mⁿ sail in The Brails — main and mizen top sail^s aback heading in about S b W — The Batteries and gun boats of tripoli commenced a very severe firing at The 2 bombards, — and *Constitution* — it seemed then as if it was impossible but The shot of tripoli would sink The two bombards, all round Them and under The starboard, bow of The *Constitution* the Water was kept. entirely in a foam from The Enemies shot. —

(with Cap^t Somers, was M^t Ridgely as 2^d officer.) Captain Somers falling to Lewards he led in to The West of The Bombards, and kept firing at The double battery and at the 11 Gun boats. he soon drew a part of their attention one of our Gunboats. kept to The East of. The Enemy firing at a Gun boat and Galliotta. which was under sail, whilst Cap^t Comid^t Decator. with Lieu^t Tripp and Lieu^t James Decator stood in Through the 12 feet channel exposed to a heavy fire from The Paschas Castle &^s when all but along side of The Van division of tripoli — gunboats fired their large canister shot. of Muskett balls. laid The Enemy on board and with the 1st fire of their Musketts and pistols. each a boarding pike and cutlash. boarded The tripoline Gunboats, — Lieu^t Bainbridge in approaching This Van division. had his lattene yard shot off $\frac{1}{2}$ ^d from the upper End, he nevertheless used his Oars and sail with his usual exertion, and kept a continual firing on the tripoline. 6 boats engaged with The 3 Americans — but The wind & sea and loss of his lattene did not Permit. him to get sufficient to windward to board The Enemies Gunboats. —

As our boats fired advanced and boarded. The Van of The Enemy — exposed to The fire of The batteries corsairs and Gunboats. We Perceived a movement. from The 11 Gunboats. under The double battery. and a Galliotta & Gunboat to The South of The Enemies Van line of Gunboats. These made an attempt to succour. The

Van of their boats. Engaged with Capt Decator Lieu^{ts} Tripp & Decator. but before this time. The *Constitution* had filled away The main and mizen topsails and stood within $\frac{1}{2}$ Cables Length of The double battery, fired 3. of her starboard. bow Guns — and bow chaces — at The boats. under The double battery. Wore with our head to. The West^d and The after division of our larboard Guns was fired at The Galliotta & Gun boat. leading to our boats Engaged — boarding our Centre division — was fired at The Paschas. Castle and The forward division at The double battery and Gun boats under it.

We again loaded our larboard broadside with 2 round shot and grape and in. divisions fired at The round or double Battery and at The 11 Gun boats. by this time we perceived we Threw The 11 Gunboats. into confusion. our Grape and 2 Shells burst over them. They were annoyed in a cross fire by the Gunboat commanded by Cap^t Somers.

We finding we should get to Leward. of our station we hawled off to The N^d made sail covering our retreat with our two stern chases — in $\frac{1}{2}$ an hour we tacked stood in under a press of sail. and fired our starboard broadside at The double Battery and Gun boats 3 of Them was rowing up

[H. E. Huntington L&AG, EA 480.]

Extract from journal of Midshipman F. Cornelius deKrafft, U. S. Navy, in U. S. Brig *Siren* of 18 guns, Master Commandant Charles Stewart, U. S. Navy, commanding, Friday, 3 August 1804

Light winds & pleas^t the *Scourge* left the fleet with the store ship to convoy her into port — $\frac{1}{2}$ past 2 shorten'd sail. At 4 back'd the main top sail. At 7 wore to the N E reef'd the topsails. Tripoli bore S $\frac{1}{2}$ W 3 leagues. —

Midnight fresh breezes & a heavy sea — $\frac{1}{2}$ past 3 wore the S. W. day light made all sail. At 10 took in sail. dismounted the aftermost carronade on each side & plac'd the long 12 pounders in their births. —

Meridian handed top gall^t sails. All hands employ'd, in preparing for the attack against the Town of Tripoli, gun boats &c. —

[NDA.]

[3 August 1804]

Extract from journal of Midshipman F. Cornelius deKrafft, U. S. Navy, in U. S. Brig *Siren* of 18 guns, Master Commandant Charles Stewart, U. S. Navy, commanding, Saturday, 4 August 1804

FIRST ENGAGEMENT OFF TRIPOLI

Fresh breezes & pleasant all the fleet close in with the harbour. At 2 the Commodore made signal to cast off the gun boats & bombards, At 3 commenc'd a heavy fire on the enemy's gun boats which were moor'd under the enemies batteries, the enemy keeping up an incessant fire on Our boats from all quarters $\frac{1}{2}$ past 3 the Commodore made signal to cover the gun boats when all the squadron stood close in with the rocks & commenc'd a heavy fire on the Town $\frac{1}{4}$ past 3 the signal was made for the gun boats to join the Squadron as soon as possible. At 4 the boats return'd from Action with 3 Tripolian gun boats in tow, 2 of which had been boarded & captur'd by Cap^t Decatur & 1 by Lt Trip $\frac{1}{4}$ past 4 took N^o 5 gun boat in tow. $\frac{1}{2}$

past 6 took 1 prize gun boat in tow from the *Vixen*. Tripoli bearing S $\frac{1}{2}$ E 3 leagues. Midnight hove too $\frac{1}{2}$ past 6 wore to the S W. $\frac{1}{2}$ past 9 Cap^t Decatur came on board fill'd away & made sail. —

Meridian handed top gall^t sails & over haul'd a range of the larboard cable —

Latt: Obs: 33° 4' N.

[NDA.]

[3 August 1804]

Extract from journal of U. S. Brig *Argus*, Master Commandant Isaac Hull, U. S. Navy, commanding, Saturday, 4 August 1804

These 24 hours Commences with fresh Breezes and Clear W^t standing in for the town of Tripoli at $\frac{1}{2}$ past 2 the Commodore made Sig^l 175 with a Preparative flag at 3 PM, he made Sig^l N^o 341 the Preparative flag display'd immediately after Cast off the Gun boats they stood in for the Batteries and an Engagement took place between the Squadron Batteries and Gun boats at 5 the Commod^o made Sig^l N^o 1201 stood off and took the Gunboats in tow they having as prizes brought off 3 Tripolitan Gunboats well manned and Armed at 6 Tripoli bore S b E Cap^t Hull went on board the Commodore and returned at 9 PM, At 6 AM wore to the N^o & W^o at 9 saw a sail on our lee bow — the Commodore hoisted our Distinguish^d flag and made Sig^l 259 made all Sail in Chace at 12 came up with her she proved to be a french privateer the Cap^t of her came on board

[NDA photostat.]

[3 August 1804]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from Lieutenant Richard Somers, U. S. Navy

UNITED STATES SCHOONER *Nautilus*
At Anchor Off Tripoli Aug^t 4th 1804

SIR, Agreeable to your orders I send you herewith a statement of the proceedings of the Gun Boats of the 1st Division under my Command on the 3rd Ins^t —

At 2 P. M. when the signal was made to cast off the Gun Boats, I then beeing far to leeward, made sail with the *Nautilus* to Join the rest of the Division which were to windward and advancing with the 2nd Division under Cap^t Decatur; When the Signal for battle was made, I immediately Cast off and advanced with all sail upon a wind with my sweeps out, I found it was impossible to Join the division to Windward which had Commenced firing on the weather line of the Enemy, who lay at Anchor close under the rocks, by this time there was five of the Enemy's Gun Boats of the lee line under way advancing and firing; when within point blank shot I commenced firing on the Enemy with round & grape, they still advanced until within pistol shot when they wore round & stood in for the Batteries I pursued them untill within musket shot of the Batteries which kept up a Continual fire of round & grape, three of their boats had got in behind the rocks, I then wore and stood off — The boats has received no damage and but two of the men slightly wounded. — Gun Boat N^o 2, under the Command of Lieu^t James Decatur & M^t Thomas Brown Midshipman

Second in Command, engaged one of the Enemy's Gun Boats which after a short conflict haul'd down their Colours to him; the treacherous enemy in the act of Lieu^t Decatur's getting on board to take possession, discharged a Volley of Muskettry in which that brave and gallant officer was killed; the enemy then sheered off from a long side and by superior sailing escaped being Captured; Gun Boat N^o 2 received no damage and except Lieu^t Decatur but one man slightly wounded in the breast by a muskett ball; Gun Boat N^o 3 was to windward. —

Permit me Sir to say that the Officers on board N^o 1. M^r Ridgley & M^r Miller and the Men behaved with the greatest magnanimity. —

[LC. EPP, Vol. 12, June–August 1804.]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from Captain Stephen Decatur, Jr.,
U. S. Navy

GUN BOAT N^o 4 off TRIPOLI

August 3rd 1804

Commodore EDWARD PREBLE

SIR In obedience to your directions to state the proceedings of the 2nd division of boats that you did me the honor to place under my command, — I beg leave to acquaint you, that after the Signal was displayed to advance and engage the enemy I led in with my boats; finding it impossible to bring their weather division to close action, I bore down on their line of boats consisting of seventeen, which were moored within two cables length of their Batteries, — I boarded and carried two of them, and was successfull in bringing them off, — I was supported in the handsomest manner by Lieutenants Tripp and Bainbridge, Lieutenant Jonathan [John] Tripp who commanded N^o 6, Boarded, carried, and got off one of the enemies Boats, I regret that Lieutenant Bainbridge's boat N^o 5 being disabled prevented him being equally Successful, I now feel it my duty to Assure you that nothing could surpass the zeal, courage, and readiness of Lieutenant John [Jonathan] Thorn & Mr Thomas Macdonough and every discription of Officers & Men under my command, and I am sorry that my words fall short of their merits, — The Prizes taken by N^o 4 are new boats and well fitted, the first captured mounted a long Brass peice carrying a Ball of 27 lb & 2 brass swivels, her crew consisted of 36 men & Officers, 16 of whom were killed, 15 wounded & 5 well Prisoners, the second Boat mounted a long brass 18 Pounder & 2 brass howets her crew consisted of 24 men & Officers, 17 of whom were killed, 4 wounded & 3 well Prisoners, — The Boat captured by N^o 6 was of the same dimentions, mounted the same metal, and had the same number of men as the largest Boat captured by N^o 4, she had 14 men killed, and 22 made Prisons, 7 of whom were wounded, —

I am happy to mention the damage sustained on our part was trifling, N^o 4 has 4 wounded Including myself slightly, N^o 6 Lieutenant Tripp and 2 men wounded, —

I have the honor to be

Sir

with great Respect

Your Obed^t humble Serv^t

STEPHEN DECATUR J^r

[LC. EPP, Vol. 12, June–August 1804.]

[3 August 1804]

To Purser Keith Spence, U. S. Navy, from Captain Stephen Decatur, Jr., U. S. Navy
(Copy)

UNITED STATES SHIP *Congress*
Tunis Bay Jan'y 9th 1804 [1805]

DEAR FRIEND I had the satisfaction of receiving yours of 2nd of November, with a letter for Captain Stewart and one for Robert, which I shall keep until their return, which is expected shortly. Your son [Midshipman Robert T. Spence] has displayed a Manliness of Conduct, that will make every American proud of him as a Countryman. After the accidents which befel his boat, he served in the boat with me, his Conduct with me was such, as you would have wished; as to his being confirmed there can be no doubt as Comodore P. has given me his word that he will have it done

I have requested Captain Bainbridge to shew you some papers I have enclosed to him, You will see in my report to Comodore P. on 7th August, your son is mentioned in a way, that will not be displeasing to you. I shall be happy to have him with me, and I know he wishes it, but Cap^t [James] Barron wishes him to sail with him in the *Essex*, R has more than my friendship if possible, and by Sailing with Captain Barron he will insure his, for he is already attached to him, therefore by sailing with B. [two words illegible] when I see R, I will speak to him upon the Subject, Pray let me Know your opinion respecting it. You see he is in great demand —

You will observe I am in the return of the wounded on the 3^d of August. My wounds were slight and as follows, in the arm by a sword and in the breast by a pike. I find hand to hand is not childs play, 'tis kill or be killed

You no doubt recollect a conversation we had when in the City of Washington, I then informd you 'twas my intention to board, if ever I had an opportunity and that 'twas my opinion that there could be no doubt as to the issue. You will not doubt me I hope, when I say, I am glad the event has proved my ideas to be correct. I always thought we could lick them their own way and give them two to one. The first boat they were 36 to 20 we carried her without much fuss, the second was 24 to 10, they also went to the leeward —

I had eighteen Italians in the boat with me, who claimed the honor of the day, While we fought they prayed. They are convinced we could not have been so fortunate, unless their prayers had been heard. This might have been the case, therefore we could not contradict it Some of the Turks died like men, but much the greater number like women —

I leave this tomorrow for Tripoly, if you are suffered to walk out, you will know my Ship by her having stump top G1 Masts

Believe me to be yours

Sincerely

STEPHEN DECATUR j^r

P S. If I do not write often do not attribute it to neglect. I need not tell you I dislike writing, you know it, and my reason, for fear you should have forgotten, I will tell you, I have always thought, that they who write badly should write little or by the way of practice a great deal. Now as I know I can never become an adept, I know you will think me prudent for not writing much.

(Note The person spoken of as R — was Robert T. Spence afterwards a Captain in the Navy)

[NDA, A-4.]

[3 August 1804]

Extract from "Life of Stephen Decatur," by Alexander Slidell MacKenzie, U. S. Navy

"* * * The Tripolitan colors were hauled down, and Decatur, taking his prize in tow, was proceeding out of the harbor, when the boat, which had been commanded by his brother, came under his stern, and informed him that they had engaged and captured one of the largest of the enemy's boats, but that, after she had struck, Lieutenant James Decatur, in the act of stepping on board of her to take possession, had been shot through the head by her treacherous commander.

Decatur's noble indignation at such base treachery needed not the stimulant of fraternal agony, at the sight of an expiring brother, to impel him to the immediate pursuit of the assassin. Lieutenant Thorn, with the greater part of his crew, had been left in possession of the prize. Still heedless of every prudential suggestion, he laid the head of his boat towards that of his brother's murderer, and, following him within the enemy's line, where he had taken refuge, ran on board, and leaped upon his deck, followed by the gallant young Macdonough, and the nine remaining Americans of his crew. This was a desperate undertaking, suggested by a courage which stopped to consider no inequality. For twenty minutes, the result of the contest seemed uncertain. Three of Decatur's followers were already disabled by wounds.

At length Decatur was able to single out the treacherous commander, conspicuous no less by gigantic size, than by the ferocity with which he fought, and to meet him face to face. Decatur was armed with a cutlass, the Turk with a heavily ironed boarding-pike. As the latter made a thrust at Decatur, he struck it violently with his cutlass, in the hope of severing the head; but his cutlass, coming in contact with the iron, broke at the hilt, and left him without a weapon. Many a brave man thus disarmed might have turned to seek another weapon. But Decatur stood his ground, and, attempting with his right arm to parry the next thrust of his antagonist, received the point of it in his arm and breast. Tearing the weapon from the wound, he succeeded likewise, by a sudden jerk, in wresting it from the hands of his adversary, who immediately grappled him; and, after a fierce and prolonged struggle, both fell with violence on the deck, Decatur being uppermost. During this time, the crews, rushing to the aid of their respective commanders, joined in furious conflict round their persons. A Tripolitan officer, who had got behind Decatur, aimed an unseen blow at his head, which must have decided his fate, had not a young man, by the name of Reuben James, who had lost the use of both arms by wounds, rushed in, and intercepted the descending cimeter with his own head, thus rescuing his beloved commander by an act of heroic self-sacrifice which has never been surpassed.*

Just then the Tripolitan, exerting to the uttermost his superior strength, succeeded in turning Decatur, and, getting upon him, held him to the deck with an iron clutch of his left hand, whilst, thrusting his right beside him, he drew from his sash the shorter of two yataghans, which, for the very purpose of such close work, he carried in the same sheath. The moments of Decatur's existence seemed numbered; scarce an interval remained to breathe a prayer for mercy

in another world; a second brother was about to perish beneath the rage of the fierce Tripolitan. But the cool courage and fertile resources of Decatur came to his rescue in this extremity. Disengaging his left hand, he caught the right of the Tripolitan, stayed the yataghan as it was about to drink his blood, and, thrusting his own right hand into his pantaloons' pocket, succeeded in cocking a pistol, which he had there, and, giving it the proper direction, fired. The Tripolitan relaxed his hold, and Decatur, disengaging himself from the heap of wounded and slain, which the struggle had gathered around him, stood again that day a victor on the enemy's deck. †

*Some have said this noble act of self-devotion was performed by Daniel Frazer, which left the name of the individual somewhat uncertain. See a notice of Reuben James, in the Appendix.

†The above version of this celebrated struggle, which has in other places been narrated somewhat differently, is derived from Messrs. J. K. Hamilton and Francis Gurney Smith, early companions of Decatur, who, feeling a natural curiosity to learn the true history of the adventure, drew from Decatur himself the statement embodied in the text. On the body of the Tripolitan, or rather Turk, (for the officers, like the Bashaw, were from Constantinople,) a devotional work was found, containing Arabic prayers and passages from the Koran. This work has, since the death of Decatur, been presented by Mrs. Decatur to the library of the Catholic College in Georgetown, where it may now be seen by the curious.

[NR&L. No. 9516, Bn^d D 291 M.]

Surgeons Report of wounded on board the Gunboat N^o 4, Lt: Decatur, junr: Esqr: Commander. Aug^t 3^d 1804.

Capt: Decatur, wounded slightly in the arm.

Sj^t Sal: Wren burnt & slightly wounded in the hand.

Tho^s James, superficial puncture in the face.

Dⁿl Frasier, two incised wounds on the head, one of them severe; one bad wound across the wrist & seven slightly about his hands.

LEWIS HEERMANN.

[LC. EPP, Vol. 12, June-August 1804.]

[Gun Boat] N^o 4 expended on Aug^t 3. 1804

19 — 24^{lb} Cartreges
 11 — D^o Round Shott
 5 — D^o Grape
 3 — Bags Musquits Balls
 19 — Wadds —
 19 — Tubes
 ½^{lb} Priming Powder
 25 — Doz. Musquet & Pistol cartriges
 8 — Blunder bus cartriges
 2 — Men wounded

7^{lb} — 108^{lb} Powder
 12 Round Shot
 24 Wads
 12 Tubes —

Rec^d a shot in the Hull. —

[LC. EPP, Vol. 12, June-August 1804.]

Expended on board Gun Boat N^o 6 3rd August 1804

- 15 — 24th Cartredges
- 15 — 24th Round Shot
- 10 — 24th Grape
- 60 — Musket Cartredges
- 3 — Fathom Match Rope
- 25 — Wads
- 1½ — thPriming Powder

JN^o TRIPPE

[LC. EPP, Vol. 12, June–August 1804.]

[3 August 1804]

List of wounded on board gun boat N^o 6 — in the attack of the 3rd Ins't:

Lieut: J. Trippe
 C. Allan — B. Mate
 M. Connor Marine
 J. Ryan D^o

[LC. EPP, Vol. 12, June–August 1804.]

[3 August 1804]

Statement of Jacob Boston concerning his service and movements of U. S. Ships in the Mediterranean

In the year 1803 in March, I entered the United States Service in Philadelphia and some time in May, I was ordered to Baltimore under the command of Capt. Hall and Lieut Johnson of the marine corps, the detachment was divided, and I left with Lieut Johnson at Baltimore, Where I was appointed as sargent of the marines and was Stationed at the navy yard with a guard of marines. Whilst the brig *Vixen* was fitting for sea, then I was ordered aboard of her with a detachment of marines under the command of Capt Smith. In August 1803, we sailed for hampton roads, then to Gibraltar where we fell in with Our american Squadron. Capt Smith replenished the ship with water and provisions, then sailed for Malta, where we fell in with the *Philadelphia* frigate, then sailed for tripoli in order to blockade harbour, we arrived at tripoli in october 1803, here we soon received information that a tripolitan cruiser had escaped from the port, Capt. Bainbridge dispatched us to cruise off cape bon in quest of her, after cruising several days we were forced to put in to harbour on account of a violent storm where we unship'd our ruder and injured the bottom of our ship, we repaired our damages, then sailed to Malta, where we got information that the *Philadelphia* frigate were taken by the tripolitans then we immediately [sailed] for tripoli, where we found her moored in the harbour to our surprise, we continued Cruising off there for Several weeks, then returned to Syracuse where we found our comadore with the rest of the Squadron, in a couple of weeks afterwards we sailed for tripoli in company with the *Syren* where we drove a tripolitan ship on shore west of the town which we distroyed, after a cruise of six weeks we returned for Syracuse, where we replenished our ship with water and provisions and then was ordered to take another cruise for tripoli, where we took two tripolitan ships that were bound

for Constantinople which were loded with slaves, animals, and four boxes of gold dust, which we carried into Malta. In the Spring it being determined to make an attack upon Tripoli; Commodore Preble obtained from the king of Naples the loan of Six gunboats and two bombards which he formed into divisions, and give the command of one of them to Capt. Decatur, the other to Lieut Sommers, the Squadron sailed from Syracuse consisting the frigate *Constitution*, the brig *Syren*, the Schooner, *Nautilus* and the *Vixen* and gunboats and bombards, having arrived on the coast of Barbary, they were for some days prevented from making the attack'd by adverse winds and weather, at length the morning of the Second of August the weather being favorable, the signal was made from the Commanders ship, to prepare for action Sargent Migs and me were ordered aboard the gunboat with ten marines under the command of Lieut. Trip, the *Vixen* towing us to the windward, at nine O'clock the Signal was made for bombarding the town and to engage the enemies vessels, the gunboats was cast off, and advanced in a line ahead, lead on by Capt. Decatur, and covered by the other Vessels, the enemies gunboats were moored along the mouth of the harbour under the battery and within musket shot, and was ordered to sink rather than abandon their positions they were aided and covered by a brig and schooner and the battery, as soon as we came in range of the battery, a heavy fire was opened upon us we returned their fires and continued advancing until we came in musket shot of the gunboats, where we fired on them five rounds of musketry Which were so well directed by the marines, which caused them to haul down their colours, by this time we came along side, and boarded her on her Starboard bow, Lieut. Trip gave orders to Mr Henly to run to the (leeward) and take another that were there, we not expecting any further resistance there being only ten marines that boarded and Lieut Trip and one Sea man of all Which were Americans, the enemies Seeing our boat put off a heavy combat ensued with the turks and us, in fifteen minutes we cleared the deck of them, Eight sought refuge in the holds And the[y] fell and Jumped over board the number supposed to be thirty, Lieut Trip and the Turkish Capt. were the two last in combat Lieut. Trip fell, I sprang to his assistance, where I contended with the turk for several minutes Where I broke my sword and had but eighteen inches of blade. I sought shelter round the mast and was warmly persued by the turk. I cried out my sword was broke to Lieut Trip that he could give me his, by this time the Lieut. had come too, and made a pass at the turk he fended it off, which gave me a chance to cut him down with my broken sword. Our hands were engaged in killing them that had Jumped over board, we then prevented them immediately and saved the lives of seven, our boat had got so far to the leeward, that She could not come to our assistance. The Commodore made signal for retreat. The boats all retreated and we were left in a helpless State and became an entire mark for the enemy. With what few hands we had, we got out our Sweeps, and rode her out as fast as possible, at this time there was a cannon ball passed my shoulders within six inches or less, that blackened the skin, which ball passed through the mast, the Commodore came down, and we had got nearly out of gun shot by that time, he asked us if we would wish to be taken into tow, Lieut. Trip, Answered no, we should make our way out, the Commodore poured several broadsides into the town which drew their attention on him, and we made safe our re-

treat, the next day the Comadore ordered a day of rest and sent all the turkish prisoners that were dangerously wounded, Likewise tould the Bashaw that he should prepare himself for the next day, we also engaged the town the next day, where we lost two of our gunboats that were blowed up by the enemies fire, we also continued besieging the town for nearly a month untill Col. Lear appeared off the harbour to negotiate a peace with the Bashaw, a treaty was at last concluded between the two nations, and the Americans and Tripolitans prisoners were Exchanged and the Sum of Sixty thousand dollars were given to the Bashaw which I always felt sorrow for. From thence we sailed for tunis and blockaded the harbour there. We got our consul out and took off the tribute After affairs being settled there, we Sailed to Algiers and then to gibraltar where the *Vixen* was Stationed to convoy merchant ships up and down the straits, as it was a very difaculty time there then, for England France and Spain being at war with one another at that time, after a long and tedious cruise the *Vixen* returned to America which was upwards of three years or more. We arrived at Charlestown South Carolina Being about a week there then we sailed for Hampton roads and from thence to the City of Washington where I was discharged in the year 1806. — then I retired to a private life untill the late war with great Brittian. I volunteerd my service again in defence of my Country, Where I rendered my utmost service, till I was discharged.

JACOB BOSTON.

[VA. OW Inv. 146.]

[3 and 7 August 1804]

To Mrs. Keith Spence, Portsmouth, New Hampshire, from Midshipman Robert T. Spence, U. S. Navy

GIBRALTAR, November 12, 1804

DEAR HONOURED AND RESPECTED MOTHER: I wrote you from Malta, on the 6th ultimo, mentioning the late change thats taken place in my situation; and advis'd you of our intention to leave that place for a few days. On our arrival we found the *Essex* Frigate which ship I intend joining. Capt Stephen Decatur is to succeed Capt Barron, in the Command of her. This Capt Decatur is a friend of my Father's no doubt you have heard of him by fame; he Commanded the expedition in burning the *Philadelphia* & for which he was promoted to a post Captain although greatly out of his turn — He since has done an action, which by far exceeds the brilliancy of that; it perhaps for intrepidity & Courage equals any thing ever done; In the Action of the 3 of August he entered with his division of Gun Boats (which was only 3) the Harbour of Tripoli under the fire of 60 pieces of heavy Cannon from the Batteries & 20 pieces from their Gun Boats — boarded, himself, & brought out 2, Mounting each superior forces & carrying a greater number of men. A Circumstance were you present to see it done you could hardly conceive it credible. In this affair he lost his brother Lieut James Decatur, who Commanded a boat of his brothers division he was shot through the head with a Dundebuss in the Act of boarding a boat — One boat more was brought out by a Lieut Tripp who received 11 dangerous wounds in boarding (he's recovered of them). The Capt of this boat died in the most Heroic Manner. Although cut all to pieces by the Assailants swords he

continued to fight; Lieut Tripp, who encounter'd him, was almost falling with weakness from the loss of Blood; when one of his sailors run him through with a Boarding Pike. He died brandishing his Sword & exhorting his men to revenge the death of their Commander. The Contest was long, 20 Turks lay weltering in their Gore, before they surrendered to the Americans. Out of 170 men, which man'd the Boats, 50 only were captured alive. The day following we brought too a French privateer & sent her in with 25 wounded Turks; they were past recovery. The next Action, the Boat I was in, Commanded by Lieut Caldwell, was Blown up. The Lieut, with a midshipman and 14 men, out 24, were kill'd. I, astonishing to relate, & 6 men escaped. 4 of the men in so wounded a condition that their lives, at first, were despair'd of. It was my Conduct on this occasion that got me my Promotion. I, at the time the shot struck, was forward, taking sight at the Gun; though not a minute before I had been aft, assisting in binding up the wounded. It being a red hot shot, she instantly exploded; I went up some distance in the air, & lighted by the Gun again; the only part remaining was that on which the Gun stood. I found by my side, one man only. Around me lay arms, legs, & trunks of Bodies, in the most mutilated state; though a little confused & bewilder'd by things tumbling on my head, & by the prospect of death before me; for I cannot swim, I had presence of mind sufficient to know my duty, & not to quitt while there was a part remaining. I fired the Gun, & loaded her again. When she went down from under me I gave a cheer and went down — came up again; when I was taken up by one of the other Gun Boats — I cannot describe my sensations, on this melancholy Occasion — I felt as though I wish'd to die, because I should die Nobly — This accident will distress my Father much, as Mr. Caldwell he look'd on as a Son, & loved him equally as well as he does me; in fact I never knew so pure, and so strong a friendship to subsist between any two men. He certainly was the most honourable little fellow I ever knew, & the most respected of any young man in the Navy — My Father in a letter from Washington to me says thus, "Remember me to my oldest of all Modern Friends Mr. Caldwell." You may judge from this language how fond he was of him. Young Dorsey was a man of great Merit & highly esteem'd by me. I saw Mr. C. after he came down, without arms, or legs; his face so mutilated that I could not discriminate a feature — by his dress only, I recognized him; he was not dead although he sank instantly — I made another escape as astonishing as this. I made application, as well as Capt Stew't for me, to go in to the Harbour of Tripoli, in an Infernal, containing 150 Barrels of Powder & 300 shells, for the purpose of blowing the Bashaws Castle up; this expedition was Commanded by Capt Sumers — I received no direct answer, from the Commodore, & of course, expected to go; but a favorite of the Commodores, persuaded him, to allow *him* to go. Capt Decatur then made Application for me; But the Commodore reply'd he had already selected the officer, that was to go with Capt Sumers; the Night came — She went in, all were anxious with expectation when Cannon announced her near approach to the Castle. Cannon were fired from all parts of the town. In a few moments she went up — How awfully Grand! Every thing wrapp'd in Dead silence, made the explosion loud, and terrible, the fuses of the shells, burning in the air, shone like so many planets, a vast stream of fire, which appear'd ascending to heaven portrayed the

Walls to our view — 20 minutes elapsed, without seeing the signal agreed on, between Capt S & the Commodore. Guns were fir'd from the Commodore's ship; signals repeated by the different vessels — our small schooners sent to reconnoiter the Harbour — but no Boat appear'd. Poor Sumers a Lieut & a midshipman were gone, no more to return! We conjectured the explosion to have been premature; it has since been confirm'd by information from Tripoli. He was within the Rocks, & only $\frac{1}{2}$ mile distant from the Bashaws Castle, when he was boarded by two Gun Boats, 50 men each, — He might have escap'd; but he started with a determination never to let so seasonable a supply fall into their Hands; & never to return alive unless he had, satisfactorily, executed his mission. He touched fire himself to match & she went up, sending 100 Turks and 15 Christians souls to eternity. What a Noble Death, & truly characteristic of that Noble Sumers. He certainly was an extraordinary man. He united every thing that made the man, or the officer — possessing more firmness & determination than any man I ever saw — sought danger in every shape — dangerous undertakings were the most pleasing ones to him. In losing him we were deprived of one of the Navys most valuable officers. The Lieut with him was a schoolmate of William's his name was Wadsworth, of Portland.

Much will be done the ensuing Summer. Our force will be formidable. I shall expect the command of a Gun Boat. I hope an opportunity may offer that I may do something conspicuous. It's impossible to conceive that spirit of emulation which prevails among officers & men; danger is sought for, & the most daring intrepidity has been discover'd, in officers. Commodore P. has been succeeded by Commodore Barron, a senior officer; But in the most delicate manner. The letters from the President, to him, are of the most flattering kind, pointing out the necessity of this Act. He returns to America soon, to receive the grateful applause of his Countrymen. He certainly deserves *all* the Honours they can pay him, & more too. His conduct in Bombarding Tripoli with so *pitiful* force has astonished all Europe.

Your affec son,

R. T. SPENCE.

[U. S. Naval Institute Proceedings, April 1923, p 627.]

[3 August 1804]

To whom not indicated from Purser Noadiah Morris, U. S. Navy

UNITED STATES FRIGATE *Constitution*,
off Tripoli, 7th September, 1804

DEAR SIR, I improve the opportunity of the prize Brig *Scourge's* going to the United States, to give you an abstract of the proceedings of the American squadron before Tripoli, since the 25th of July, at which time the *Constitution*, *Vixen* and *Nautilus* arrived from Malta towing six gun, and two mortar boats, and was joined on this station, by the *Syren*, *Argus*, *Scourge* and *Enterprise*.

— 27th [July] all the squadron came to anchor near the town of Tripoli, and all hands employed in preparing for a general attack, but was obliged a few hours afterwards to get under way, the wind having veered to the N. E. and blowing a heavy gale on shore, we stood off, and could not again approach the coast till the 3d of August, when being within three miles of the town, wind S. E., the signal was made

for action, and you can hardly conceive with what promptitude the several preparative signals were answered and executed. At half past two the action was general, the *Constitution* within musket shot of the Batteries, which could bring eighty pieces of heavy cannon to bear on her, the bombards in a position to send all their shells into the town, and the six gun boats covered by our brigs and schooners bravely engaging nineteen gunboats, two galleys, a schooner and a brig within the harbour, and in pistol shot of the Bashaw's castle; in the heat of this doubtful conflict, the intrepid Captain Decatur with his division of three boats, bore down on a division of the enemies boats seven in number, and fought them hand to hand under the walls of their castles, and in view of twenty-four thousand Arab and Turkish soldiers, and hauled down four of their flags, three of which boats were brought out, the other boat got into the Mole, after treacherously killing Lt. James Decatur after their flag was struck.

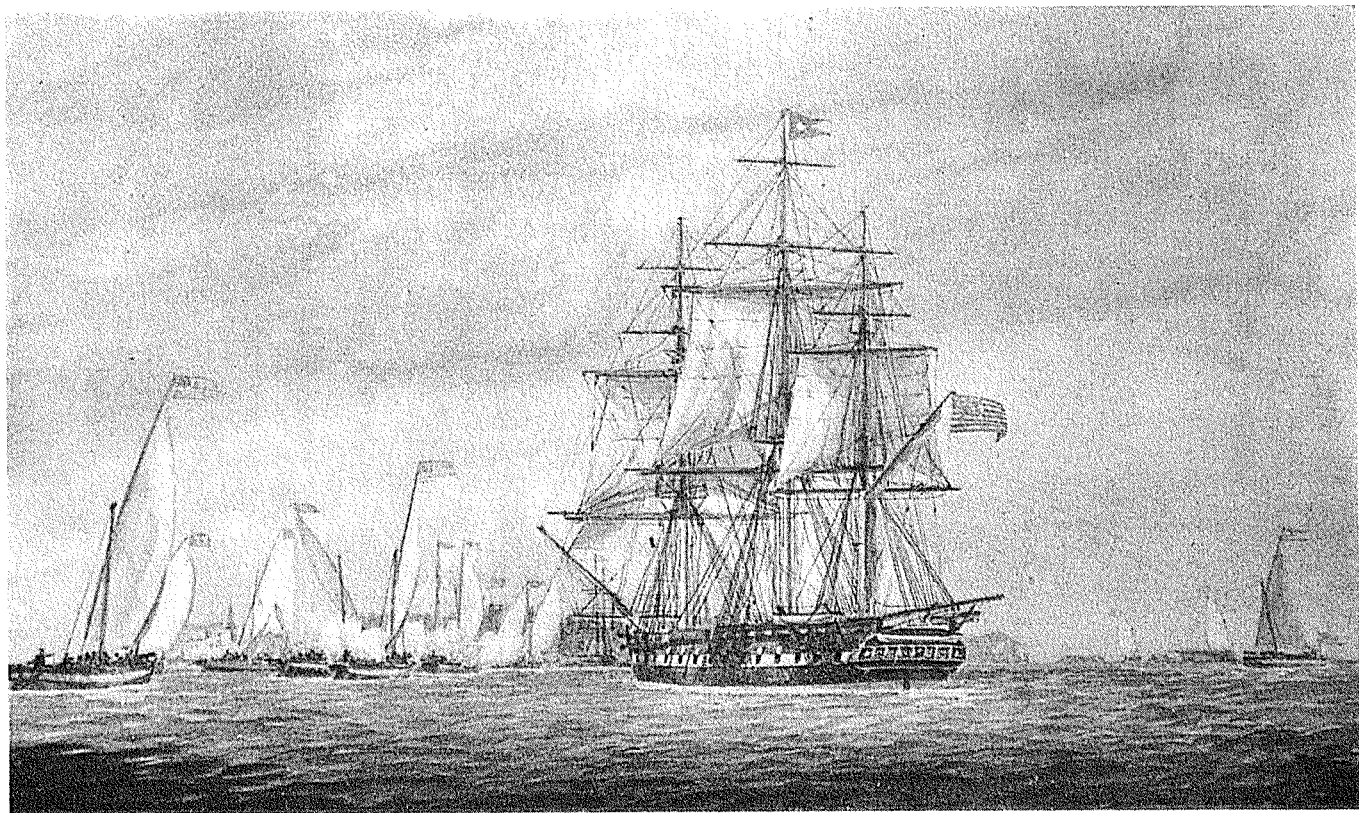
Capt. Somers who commanded the leeward division of three boats was equally intrepid, but not so successful. One of his boats was disabled early in the action, and another from some almost unaccountable reason, did not come into close action; but this brave officer alone attacked five of the enemies' boats, and obliged them to haul off, and run into the Mole, where all their boats had taken shelter in a shattered condition, and we have since learned, with a great proportion of men killed or wounded — we must account for this great slaughter from their boats being full of men, and our boats reserving their fire 'till close along side, and their guns loaded with forty pounds of musket balls each — the three boats captured were mounted with new brass Spanish pieces 13 feet long, and carrying a ball of 28 pounds — the carnage on board them was very great, out of 52 prisoners one half were covered with sabre and pike wounds. Capt. Decatur boarded and carried two of them and received but one slight wound, though his life was twice saved by his gallant tars. Lt. Trippe boarded and carried the others, but received eleven sabre wounds, none of which however proved mortal; he is again at his duty.

Never was there a more complete victory — to recount every instance of personal bravery would be to name almost every officer in the squadron. — The Turks were driven from their batteries in the greatest terrour and confusion; and I think I may say with propriety, that since Charles the 5th of Austria never have any of the Barbary States met with so severe a check.

The *Constitution* suffered some in her spars, sails and rigging, a shot in the center of her mainmast I fear has done it considerable injury; it has been strongly fished.

Fourth, 5th and 6th in continual preparation for battle, but weather unfavourable. The wind to the Northward of East, heaves such a swell on shore as to make it improper to attack.

7th wind favourable but the Tripoline gun boats &c. not inclined to give us battle, our gun boats now nine in number and two bombards, ran in and attacked the town to the Westward, in order to entice the enemies' boats out, but without effect — they however sustained a heavy fire for four hours from the town forts, and a severe gun battery on the beach, which they succeeded in silencing — the two bombards commanded by Capt. Dent and Lt. Robinson, did great execution in the town — one of our prize boats unfortunately blew up; and Lieutenant Caldwell who commanded her, Mr. Dorsey, midshipman



ATTACK ON TRIPOLI. 3 AUGUST 1804.

and seventeen men lost their lives — a Mr. Sprague [Spence] midshipman and ten men who were stationed forward, to load and fire the gun, were not injured, and while all the stern of the boat was blown off, and actually sinking, they finished loading their gun, and just in the act of touching the match, the boat sunk under their feet, while this brave young officer, and his gallant comrades, gave three cheers, and plunged into the sea, but they were fortunately all saved by the small boats. Independent of those which were blown up, we had but two men killed and several wounded during this action, at the close of which the *John Adams* hove in sight.

On the 8th there were overtures made by the Bashaw through the French Consul for an accommodation — but before I give you these proposals, it will be well to take a retrospect of circumstances which precede this event. — Several months past at the intercession of our Minister at Paris, Bonaparte was induced to interfere for the liberation of our prisoners in Tripoli, and about the same time, the Court of St. Petersburg, interceded thro' the medium of the Ottoman Porte for the same purpose; but with the intercession of these two most powerful Governments in Europe, a ransom could only be obtained, but by the payment of 500,000 dollars down at the liberation of the prisoners. These were the only terms this haughty Bashaw could accede to, and induced there was a great deal of acrimony, between the French Consul at Tripoli (who was the mediator) and Commodore Preble because the latter would not honour these terms with his immediate coincidence, which he contended would be thought honourable by the greatest maritime powers in Europe. But our intrepid Commander determined to oppose to this unwarrantable demand, the emulative bravery of his Officers and Seamen: and the event proved the fallacy of the idea, that these Barbarians were invincible, for in the short space of seven days our little squadron fought off 350,000 dollars of this insolvent demand — Yes Sir, peace and ransom were offered for 150,000 dollars — by which you will discover the contest ceased to be a point of honour; nothing was asked for peace or tribute, of course it became a point of humanity — the 150,000 dollars ought to have been given, without hesitation, and so it would, had not the *John Adams* at this moment arrived, and announced the coming of four more Frigates, for the declared purpose of dictating terms to these barbarians. Our Commander not knowing the expectations of Government on this head, could not accede to these terms at the moment such force was expected. The consequences that would have attended such a measure were but too obvious; the conclusion would be, that if our frigate could command these terms, five would certainly force a peace and ransom for little or nothing — But for my part I cannot but think, that the only alternative left our Gallant Commander, was an unfortunate one, and I firmly believe that altogether they will not command much better terms — under these peculiar and disagreeable circumstances, Commodore Preble could not accede to the terms with honour to himself. But he offered twenty thousand dollars as a present in addition to eight thousand which he had previously offered (and was rejected with disdain both by the Bashaw, and French Consul) but this offer was not acceded to, and we have since the 7th of August been constantly prepared for action, and as often as the weather would permit been under the batteries of Tripoli. You can form no idea of the

rigour of this service, officers and men are worn out for want of necessary rest — never was there a greater emulation in any service, no altercation but what has arisen from who should have the most chances of meeting danger and death. We have repeatedly driven the Turks from their batteries, have attacked their boats &c. at their moorings, and sunk many of them, and in fact no means by which they could be distressed have been neglected. We have in all, between 40 and 50 Seamen and Marines killed and six officers, as follows — Capt. Somers of the *Nautilus*, Lieut. James Decatur of the *Nautilus*, Caldwell of the *Siren*, Wadsworth of the *Constitution*, Israel of the prize Ketch *Intrepid*, and Midshipman Dorsey of the *Siren*. This loss is severe from the uncommon merits of the officers; but it cannot be considered as a large number when we reflect that we have been exposed to the fire of 115 pieces of heavy cannon from the different Castles and Forts of Tripoli; a brig, a schooner, two galleys and nineteen gun-boats — The squadron generally have suffered in their rigging, and sails and spars; the *Constitution* has received upwards of 40 heavy shots, besides a great number of Grape.

It is peculiarly unfortunate that the *John Adams* left her gun carriages on board the squadron at Hampton Roads, to be brought out by them; had she brought them out herself there is not a shadow of doubt but we should have effected a ransom and peace within 48 hours after her arrival, and for the last mentioned sum of 100,000 dollars. One frigate besides the *Constitution* at that moment would have been fully competent to the accomplishment of so desirable an object, but the *J. A.* was of no service: the Commodore however received great support from the Commander Capt. Chauncey, who volunteered with a number of his officers and men on board the *Constitution* and gun-boats — The squadron have been daily and hourly expected since her arrival but have not yet made their appearance; and the Commodore has found himself under the necessity this day of returning the gun and bomb vessels to the King of Naples, as the weather has become boisterous, and too uncertain for boats of their small draft of water on a lee shore, that have no other shelter than the stern of our vessels, which would be found insufficient to save them in a Northerly gale, which we have great reason to expect on the seas, approaching the Equinox, independent of which, we have expended nearly all our ammunition.

It is impossible to ascertain how many of the enemy have been killed during these several engagements, but I think I may safely say thousands — and the Bashaw has only been deterred from acceding to the last mentioned terms, from a belief that our gun and bomb boats could not keep the coast much longer — that Tripoli has been reduced to the last extremity there is no doubt, and I am sanguine in my opinion that if the Frigates arrive soon, we may yet have a peace this fall.

We are informed that government is fully apprized of the merits of our commander and that they have given frequent and unquestionable proofs of their approbation. Yet the officers of this squadron cannot but regret the necessity of superceding him in a command which has reflected so much honour on his country by the intrepidity which has marked all his measures, and for the field which he has opened for his young officers, to assert and support the innate principles of Americans, and which cannot fail of impressing all Europe

with sentiments of the highest respect for our growing naval characters.

I have entered so fully into the operations of our Commodore, for these six weeks past, that I hope to be excused for adverting to ma[n]y circumstances, previous to this sanguinary warfare, in my opinion equally honourable to his country and himself. You have been fully apprized of the honourable peace he made with Morocco—our government generously approbated his conduct, and I can only observe, that this event has been brought about by his ready conception of the Turkish characters, which has been but too long mistaken, however the Commodore's object accomplished he lost no time in sailing to join the *Philadelphia* and *Vixen* in the blockade of Tripoli; between Algiers and Malta, he met the unwelcome news of the loss of that frigate, which wrested from him almost a certainty of making the same honourable peace with Tripoli, that he had a few days before made with Morocco — This unfortunate event placed our affairs with that regency in quite a different point of view; and the Commodore shifted his course for Syracuse which was previously fixed upon as a place of rendezvous for the Squadrons and deposit of provisions. We arrived there the last of November, and after procuring the necessary stores and arsenals sailed for the coast of Tripoli, where we encountered heavy gales of wind, and a tremendous swell setting on shore, but on the 23d of December, we captured a vessel with a number of Tripolines on board, among which were some officers of distinction, after this we returned to Syracuse, and the Commodore embarked on board the *Vixen* for Malta, for the purpose of getting some Turkish letters translated and to fix on some plan of supplying our unfortunate countrymen in Tripoli with money and other necessaries; from which however they were long withheld either thro' the or of the American Consul at that place — It was during the time the Commodore was at Malta that indirect proposals were made him for the ransom of our prisoners for 400 dollars each, and the restoration of the *Philadelphia* for a schooner. Of this circumstance I see (by the newspapers) the publick are apprized, and I presume ere this that they are informed of what followed — It was by mere chance while at Malta, that the Commodore learned that this pretended desire for an accommodation, was nothing less than a deep laid scheme to prevent any plan he might have formed for the destruction of that Frigate, until they had carried into effect, a contract then existing between the Bashaw of Tripoli, and Bey of Tunis, the nature of which was, that the Bey of Tunis was to give two Xebecs of 24 guns each for the frigate *Philadelphia* at her moorings in the harbour of Tripoli, where he was to send officers and seamen from his regency and bring her out under Tunisian Colours; of the truth of this, I believe Doctor Davis (then charge of affairs at that regency) will readily subscribe to — The Commodore convinced of this pernicious design sailed immediately for Syracuse, when he formed the plan for the destruction of that frigate which was so nobly executed by the gallant Decatur. — This event is attended with greater and better consequences than will naturally occur to those who are not acquainted with the particular relative situation of the Barbary states — The main force of Tunis (which is but too large already) would have been augmented by a valuable frigate while that of Tripoli would have had an addition of two large Xebecs,

completely armed and while the squadron were blockading Tripoli they would have sailed from Tunis unsuspected, and ere we had been apprised of the circumstance, the commerce of the United States would have suffered incalculable injury, as they would have been permitted to carry their prizes into either Algiers or Tunis — The existence of these States depend in a very great degree on each other — that their manners and customs are the same, there is no question, and that their strength and arrogance has rather proceeded from the duplicity of the Maritime powers of Europe, than from any superiority in bravery or enterprize is equally certain.

The truth of this has been fully demonstrated by our small squadron. The Americans have conquered them, hand to hand, one to five; and they have reduced the insolent demand of the redoubtable Bashaw to the standard of reason.

Soon after the destruction of the *Philadelphia*, the movements of the Tunisians, wore the appearance of hostility towards our commerce. Commodore Preble in the course of the spring, was three times in Tunis Bay — to the impression of this vigilance and the efficient operations against Tripoli, are we at this moment indebted for his Beyship's forbearance — it is a fact that the Bey of Tunis has it in his power to injure our commerce more fatally than any other State, they have sixty four cruisers and ten gun boats, as follows.

- 1 Frigate of 36 guns ready for launching.
- 1 do. of 36 do. ready for sea.
- 2 Xebec's of 36 do. do. do.
- 1 do. of 32 do. do. do.
- 9 do. from 30 to 24 guns each ready for sea.
- 10 do. from 16 to 12 do. do. do.
- 10 do. from 10 to 6 do. do. do. do.
- 30 gallies from 1 to 2 guns each, carrying from 30 to 40 men.
- 10 gun boats carrying 50 men each.

Independent of which, their position is infinitely more favourable to success than Algiers or Tripoli — I would refer you to the Mediterranean Chart, where you will discover that its continuity to the principal maritime ports in the sea, fully justifies the idea.

Commodore Preble's exertions have not been confined simply to the prosecution of war against these barbarians; for while at Naples, negotiating for the gun and mortar boats, he found that our Commerce at that place, was shackled with the most injurious requisitions — American vessels without distinction of place, or time they left the United States, were obliged to perform a rigorous quarantine of 40 days, after which they are obliged to manifest their cargoes under the most unprecedented restrictions — the commodore presented a memorial to the Neapolitan Government placing this grievance in its true light, contrasting it with commercial privileges other nations had with them, from which we were unjustly excluded — the consequence of this statement was that he had the firmest assurances, that America should have equal privileges with the most favoured nations — whether these honourable intentions are carried into effect, I cannot say, but I am persuaded that from the influence the Commodore has acquired by his correspondence and exertions, will ensure many important advantages to the commercial interests of his country, as it respects the Barbary affairs — a ransom of our prisoners once effected, there is not the most distant idea of their provoking another contest, for in this the Regency of Tripoli is impoverished to the last

degree and experience has taught them that they are not invulnerable to American intrepidity.

N. MORRIS

[NHF.]

[3 August 1804]

Presumably Neapolitans serving with U. S. Squadron

GUN BOAT N° 1

Padrone }-----	Tommaso Procida	
Guardiano }-----		
3 ^d Capo-----	Guiseppe San Filippe-----	Casato
Appuntatore-----	Antonio Migliore-----	Casato
2 ^a Classe-----	Guiseppe Parzieri	
3 ^a d ^e -----	Giacomo Candela	
Mar ^a di 3d ^e -----	Raffaile Criscuolo-----	Casato
	Catiello Battimiello-----	Casato
	Guiseppe Pace	
	Pasquale Artiuno [?]	
	Guiseppe Percuece [?]	
	Vincenzo Sposito d'Giov-----	Casato
	Raffaile Sposito	
	Bartolomeo Favaruolo	
	Pasquale Sposito Di Giov.	
4 th Classe-----	Giovanni Isace	
	Guiseppe Caravello	

GUN BOAT N° 2

Padrone }-----	Ancello Santa lamaechia-----	Casato
Guardiano }-----		
3 ^d Capo-----	Givacchino Raja-----	Casato
Appuntatore-----	Vincenzo Mirabilo	
2 nd Cl ^e -----	Giovanni Stajano	
3 rd Cl ^e -----	Francesco Angelene	
Mar ^a di 3d ^e -----	Biaggio Messina-----	Casato
	Scipione Morgera	
	Fedele Donnarumena [?]------	Casato
	Antonio Apuzza	
	Nicola Raffone	
	Domenico Tasulo	
	Tommaso Torte-----	Casato
	Luigi Raspacele	
	Domenico Ricciardo	
	Antonio Cutulillo-----	Casato
	Antonio Tricoli-----	Casato

GUN BOAT N° 3

Padrone }-----	Salvatore Scuada	
Guardiano }-----		
Appuntatore-----	Givacchino Zaraffa	
	Pasquale Nobilione-----	Casato
2 ^a Cl ^e -----	Gaetano Luongo	
3 ^a d ^e -----	Francesco Sacco	
Mar ^a di 3d ^e -----	Antonio Fariello-----	Casato
	Antonio Sposito-----	Casato
	Guiseppe Cingolla	
	Domenico De Simone	
	Tommaso Arrito-----	Casato
	Domenico Candelo-----	Casato
	Salvatore Donnarumena [?]	
	Guiseppe Aveta	
	Felice Bongiorno	
	Guiseppe La Cava	
	Vincenzo Persico	

360 NAVAL OPERATIONS, APRIL-SEPTEMBER 6, 1804

GUN BOAT N° 4

Captured the Tripoline Boat

Padrone }-----	Ottavio Talanga	Casato
Guardiano }-----		
Appuntatore	Giovanni Pizzarello	Casato
2 Cl ^e	Antonio Salpietro	
	Agostino Tortora	Casato
	Guiseppe Raja	
Mar ^a di 3 ^d Cl ^e	Giovanni Regina	Casato
	Gaetano Terrigno	
	Girolamo Castellaccio	
	Francesco Ant ^o Migliaccio	
	Pasquale Mirro	Casato
	Mariano di Martino	
	Raffaele di Paola	
	Guiseppe di Alessandro	
	Tommaso Sposito	
	Francesco Sposito	
	Pasquale Magliano	Casato

GUN BOAT N° 5

Padrone }-----	Giovanni Romitiello	Casato
Guardiano }-----		
2 nd Capo	Francesco di Elia	Casato
3 ^d Cl ^e	Pasquale di Leva	
	Antonio Muollo	Casato
	Domenico Molica	
Mar ^a di 3 ^d Cl ^e	Antonio Rotunno	Casato
	Gennaro di Palma	
	Arcangelo Casteliaccio	
	Pasquale Nobilione	Casato
	Giovanni Curcio	Casato
	Antonio di Lorenzo	
	Antonio di Fino	Casato
	Antonio Santoro	Casato
	Rajine Jacono	Casato
	Geremia Palle	
4 th Cl ^e	Tommasco Geri	

GUN BOAT N° 6

Captured a Tripoline Boat

Padrone }-----	Genaro Salemo	Casato
Guardiano }-----		
Appuntatore	Filippe Cafarello	Casato
3 ^d Cl ^e	Diego Sciarrone	
	Guiseppe Sinagra	
	Andrea Burrello	
Mar ^a di 3 ^d Cl ^e	Caleguo Cristino	Casato
	Antonio Portelli	
	Guiseppe Cesario	
	Giacomo Cesario	
	Domenico Basile	
	Francesco di Martino	Casato
	Michele Pinelli	
	Vincenzo Fiorentino	
	Carmine Apreo	Casato
4 th Cl ^e	Carto Castellano	
	Michelangelo Cristino	

[Maine HS. NDA photostat.]

Recognition of Gallant Conduct of Personnel in Action of 3 August 1804 by
Commodore Preble

GENERAL ORDERS

The Gallant behaviour of the Officers Seamen & Marines of the Squadron in the Action of Yesterday, with the Enemies Batteries, Gun Boats and Corsairs, claim from the Commodore the warmest approbation and praise he can bestow —

Captain Stewart of the *Siren*, Captain Hull of the *Argus*, Captain Smith of the *Vixen*, will please to accept the Commodores thanks for the Gallant Manner in which they brought their Vessels into action, and for their prompt obedience to Signals, particularly that to cover Gun Boats and prizes —

Captain Somers will please to accept the Commodores thanks for the Gallant Conduct, display'd by him, in attacking five of the enemies Gun Boats, within musket Shot of the Batteries, and obliging them to retreat after a warm conflict —

The very distinguished judgment and intrepidity of Captain Decatur in leading his Division of Gun boats into Action, in boarding, capturing & bringing out from under the Enemies Batteries, two of their Gun Boats each of superior force, is particularly gratifying to the Commodore, and Captain Decatur will be pleased to accept his thanks —

Lieut. Command^t Dent, and Lieut^t Robinson, commanding the Two Bomb Vessels, are entitled to the thanks of the Commodore for the judgment & Bravery display'd by them, in placing their Vessels, and for the annoyance they gave the enemy —

Lieut^t Lawrence of the *Enterprise* and Lieutenant Read of the *Nautilus* (commanding those Vessels in the absence of their Captains) merit the Commodores thanks for their active exertions in towing out and protecting prizes —

The Commodore deeply regrets the Death of Lieut^t James Decatur, who nobly fell at the moment he had obliged an enemy of superior force to strike to him —

Lieut^t Bainbridge's Conduct in pressing into the Harbour, and engaging the enemy, and his conduct through the action, merits and receives the Commodores thanks. —

Lieut^t Trippe will be pleased to accept thanks for the Gallant conduct which distinguished him, in boarding, capturing, and bringing off, one of the enemies Gun Boats of Superior Force —

I have now to tender my warmest thanks to the Lieutenants, Sailing Master, Marine Officers & other Officers of the *Constitution*, for the prompt support I received from them —

The Conduct of the Officers Seamen and Marines of the Squadron, have not only in the Action of the 3rd Instant, but on every other Occasion, merited the highest encomiums —

Given on board the UNITED STATES

Ship *Constitution* at Anchor off

Tripoli the 4th day of Aug^t 1804.

Signed EDW^d PREBLE

362 NAVAL OPERATIONS, APRIL-SEPTEMBER 6, 1804

Expended of[f] tr'epli august 3 1804

Fired 109 — 24 P^{rs} ----- Powder 848 ^{lb}

D^o Round Shot 24 P^{rs} — 130

Grape unknown

Canister unknown

Double h^d unknown

12 P^{rs} Fired 61 ----- Powder 240 ^{lb}

Round Shot 61

Grape unknown

Canister unknown

Double hed^d unknown

25 P^{rs} 20 — Powder ----- 120 ^{lb}

Round Shot ----- 20 N^o

Grape unknown

[LC. EPP, Vol. 12, June-August 1804.]

[3 August 1804]

[NOTE: Concerning Daniel Frazier, seaman, in Gunboat No. 4 during the attack of Commodore Preble's squadron, in the U. S. pension records is a certificate granting a pension of \$9.00 per month to begin 7 December, 1805, to be issued to Daniel Frazier. Another certificate dated 21 February, 1838, sworn to by Edward North, indicates that his brother James North on entering the service of the U. S. Navy in 1802 changed his name to Daniel Frazier. He died in New York about April 22, 1833. Although he suffered from his wounds until his death, there are several affidavits in the pension records indicating that he did not at any time claim his pension.]

Extract from journal of U. S. Frigate *John Adams*, Master Commandant Isaac Chauncey, U. S. Navy, commanding, Friday, 3 August 1804

Throughout these 24 Hours moderate Gales and fine Weather — At 1 P. M. saw two Sails to the Southward standing to the Northward — At 4 Pantalaria bore W. b. S. at 6 it bore W $\frac{1}{2}$ N. — At Day light saw several Sail in Different Directions — At 9 A M saw the Island of Gozo bearing S. S E distant about 8 or 9 Leagues — At Meredian the End of Gozo bore S. b. E. distant about 3 or 4 Leagues. — Ends with fine Weather. — Wind W b N

[LC. EPP, Journal, June to 6 August 1804.]

Extract from journal kept by Purser John Darby, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. S. *John Adams*, Master Commandant Isaac Chauncey, U. S. Navy, commanding, Friday, 3 August 1804

At half past 2 this morning discovered the Island of Simeria bearing S S. E. at half past 3 Squally with sharp lightning heavy rain at 4 Island Simaro bore S W. b S. distance 2 Leagues at 5 Cape Bon bore S S W. distance 3 Leagues. at 6 saw a sail on our Lar^d and another close in with the Land at 9 the Island of Pantalaria bore S S. E. Dist. 7 or 8 leagues.

At Meridian spoke a Rigusian Brig from Algiers bound to Smyrna out 7 days. the West End of Pantalaria bore S. S W $\frac{1}{2}$ W. distant 5 leagues the E part S $\frac{1}{4}$ E. distant 4 leagues. at $\frac{1}{2}$ past 1. discovered two sails on our Lar^d bow standing to N^d & E^d at. 4 the Island of Pantalaria bore W S W at 6 the center of Pantalaria bore W $\frac{1}{4}$ N. distant 7 Leagues

[NDA original. Miss Camilla S. McConnell.]

[4 August 1804]

To Prime Minister to the Bashaw of Tripoli, from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

To His Excellency Sidi Mahomed D'Ghies Prime Minister to his Excellency the Bashaw of Tripoly.

SIR The Fortune of War has placed a number of your People in my Power, and while I regret the Effusion of Blood, humanity dictates that those who are wounded may be soothed by the presence of their friends, and by them furnished with fresh provisions, and other necessaries which we have not on board — Under these impressions I am induced to improve a good opportunity of sending them on shore, and shall leave it altogether to the known Magnanimity of his highness the Bashaw whether or not these good Offices are to be reciprocal —

The letters I received from Cap^t Bainbridge respecting the cloathing consigned to your care, have been highly satisfactory, and mark in the strongest light to nobleness of your nature & sentiments —

I enclose an Invoice of the Prices of the cloathing before mentioned which you will have the goodness to deliver Cap^t Bainbridge —

Signed EDWARD PREBLE

Constitution — Off TRIPOLY
August 4th 1804

[LC. EPP, LB, April–Nov. 1804.]

[4 August 1804]

To the French Chargé d'Affaires and Commissary General, Tripoli, from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

SIR, I am honored with your letters of the 13th June, 6th July, & 3^d Ins^t The first & second I have long since replied to. The latter I am happy in the present opportunity of answering — I do not consider the terms I have offered as humiliating to the Bashaw: and as I am determined not to deviate much from the terms already offered, I think the Bashaw will act wisely to accept of them. However, if you think he is disposed for peace, you will do us a favor by assuring him that the offer for ransom with the addition of ten thousand dollars is still open to him untill the arrival of our additional force of four Frigates momentarily expected, after which we never shall consent to give him a cent.

The Cap^t of the french Corsair *Rusé*, M^r P^r Blaise Mercellise actuated by the Noble and honorable sentiments of humanity has consented to convey some unfortunate Tripoline prisoners to their friends. I regret that the Effusion of blood has been necessary and humanity dictates the sending the unfortunate wounded prisoners on shore as we have no fresh provisions on board proper for their nourishment —

I shall be glad to hear from you by the return of this Vessel —

Constitution — Off Tripoly.
August 4th 1804

[LC. EPP, Vol. 12, June–August 1804.]

Extract from journal of U. S. Frigate *John Adams*, Master Commandant Isaac Chauncey, U. S. Navy, commanding, Saturday, 4 August 1804

Throughout these 24 Hours moderate Gales from the Westward and fine clear Weather — At 4 P. M. saw the Town of Valette bearing

S. S. E Dist about 6 or 7 Leagues at Sun down it bore S. b E. Dist 2 Leagues — At half Past 8 took in studding Sails and hauled down the Staysails at 9 anchored in the Harbour of Malta with the Starboard Bower in 13 Fathoms Water — At 10 the Proteque Boat came off, and after informing were I was from &c he desired that I wou'd hoist the Yellow Flag at the Fore, and consider myself in Quarantine which was done accordingly — At 7 A. M M^r Higgins the Navy Agent came alongside and delivered me a Letter from Commodore Preble, directing me to proceed off Tripoli without Loss of Time — At 8 weighed and warped over on the Weather Shore, got the Topsails and Top G^t Sails on the Ship, the Wind however soon hauling more in took in top G^t Sails and topsails and run Warps out to the Mouth of the Harbour and warped down to the Point where the light house stands — hoisted the Top Sails and top Gall^t Yards to the Mast Heads with the Sails stoped with Yarns, got the Ship in a Position that I wished and a favourable flaw, cast off the Hawzers made sail and run out of the Harbour — Fresh Gales & fine Weather

[LC. EPP, Journal, June to 6 August 1804.]

Extract from journal kept by Purser John Darby, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. S. *John Adams*, Master Commandant Isaac Chauncey, U. S. Navy, commanding, Saturday, 4 August 1804

At 8 O'clock this morning discovered several sail in sight. At $\frac{1}{4}$ past 9 Discovered the Island of Goza on our Starboard bow & Sicily on our Starb^d Beam at Meridian the S W. Point of Gozo bore S b E. at 4 the West Point of Gozo bore W b S. $\frac{1}{2}$ S. distant $3\frac{1}{2}$ leagues. at $\frac{1}{2}$ past 4 Discovered the Island of Malta. We have a light breeze & standing in for the town of Velette at Sunset the town bore S by E distant 4 miles. at 9 O'clock we got in to the town of Malta & came to anchor several boats immediately came off[f] to us. One from the Pratique master — who informed us that we must perform quarantine for 18 days. and that we could have no communication with the shore

[NDA original. Miss Camilla S. McConnell.]

To Secretary of the Navy from Master Commandant Isaac Chauncey, U. S. Navy

U. S. SHIP *John Adams*,
MALTA 5th August 1804

SIR I have the honor of informing you that I arrived here at 10 o'clock last Night after a pleasant passage of 5 Days from Algiers — I have this Moment received Commodore Preble's Orders from the Hands of M^r Higgins directing me to proceed off Tripoli without Loss of Time in Consequence of which I am now getting under way for that purpose

Commodore Preble left this Place for the Coast of Tripoli about 15 Days ago with 6 Gun and two Mortar Boats in Addition to the other parts of his Squadron, since which Time There has been no News from him,

[NDA. MC LB, 1804-5.]

Extract from journal kept on board the U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, by Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, Sunday, 5 August 1804

Fresh Breezes E b N at Anchor 7 or 8 miles from the City of Tripoly bearing South. Squadron and prizes in company. Every

one busily Employ'd in preparing for another attack on Tripoly, the *Argus* in chase of a small vessel to the Westward. At 1 P M the *Argus* brought the chase within hail and anchored, she is a french privateer of 4 guns saild from Tripoly this morning & brought me letters from the french Consul, the Cap^t informed me that he put into Tripoly for water being in distress for that Article. I prevail'd on him for a consideration in provisions to convey 14 badly wounded Tripoline prisoners to Tripoly, which I put on board him with a letter to the French Consul & one to the Prime Minister. at ½ past 1 P M. made signal for all Captains at 2 P M the Body of L^t James Decatur was committed to the Deep with the Usual Military honors His funeral was attended by the Officers of the Squadron at 6 A M the French privateer weigh'd & stood into the Harbour, Ordered our three spare Top Gall^t masts for masts for the Prize Gun Boats, all hands employ'd in Rigging & fitting them for service, they each carry a Brass cannon of 27th Ball and 2 Brass Howitzers, Caused General Orders of Thanks to be read on board each Vessel of the Squadron

[LC. EPP, Vol. 12, June-August 1804.]

Extract from journal of Midshipman F. Cornelius deKraft, U. S. Navy, in U. S. Brig *Siren* of 18 guns, Master Commandant Charles Stewart, U. S. Navy, commanding, Sunday, 5 August 1804

Light winds & pleasant, ½ past Meridian furld all sail At 1 came too with the stream anchor in 35 fathoms to the N^d of Tripoli, the Bashaws castle bore S ½ E 6 miles, At 2 the Commodore made signal for all Commanders to repair on board his ship. At 4 moor'd ship with the larboard bower. —

Midnight light airs & warm. At 7 weigh'd the larboard bower. At 9 sent Carpenter & sail maker on board the Commodore P^r signal. ½ past 10 the Commodore came on board of us At 11 he return'd on board his ship. —

Meridian light airs & pleas^t

[NDA.]

Extract from log book kept by Sailing Master Nathaniel Haraden, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Sunday, 5 August 1804

Brought along side two of the captured Gun boats in Order to rig & commission them in the U. S. Service — They appear to be strong boats — Length on deck 51 feet — Beam 14½ feet Depth in the hold 3 feet 8 Inches — They each carry a brass gun 13 feet long which takes a 28 pound shot We stepped the main top gall^t Mast in One, and the fore top gall^t Mast in the other — They are to be Sloop rigged —

The *Syren* riggs and Manns the other boat which is rather smaller than these two, and carries a long brass 18 pounder — We supplied her with one mizen top gall^t mast —

The Commodore this forenoon Visited all the Squadron Supplied the Bombards with 240 Gall^s water each The carpenters & sail makers of the Squadron are employed (p^r Signal) in fitting out the three Gun boats Towards noon made the *Vixen* signal to weigh, and reconnoitre the Enemy's batteries —

Surgeons report 3 sick, 4 convalescent. Of the 21 wounded prisoners taken out of the captured Gun boats 4 only remain, three having died & 14 sent to Tripoly —

We have now on board in all 35 Prisoners.

Noon Moderate breezes from E N E & pleasant Weather

[LC. EPP, Log *Constitution*, 1803-1804.]

Extract from journal of U. S. Brig *Argus*, Master Commandant Isaac Hull, U. S. Navy, commanding, Sunday, 5 August 1804

all the Squadron at Anchor off Tripoli at 2 PM came to an Anchor a head of the Commodore at $\frac{1}{2}$ past Cap^t Hull went on board of him At Sundown the town of Tripoli bore SbW $\frac{1}{2}$ W at 7 took N^o 2 & 3 Gunboats in tow again at 8 Cap^t Hull returned hoisted in the launch and Barge At 6 AM, have in the Slack Cable At 9 the Commod^o made Sig^t N^o 1000 and 1007 Cap^t Hull went on board the Commod^o

[NDA photostat.]

Extract from journal of U. S. Frigate *Congress*, Captain John Rodgers, U. S. Navy, commanding, Sunday, 5 August 1804

At $\frac{1}{4}$ past 3 departed this life John Rodgers Carpenters Mate. at $\frac{1}{2}$ past 8 Sam^l Shrote fell over board rounded Too Lowered down the boat & pickd Him up. hoisted the boat up & made sail at $\frac{3}{4}$ past 10 saw the land bearing S E., Sick list 34.

Latitude Observed 32° 11' N. Longitude Observed 10° 04' W.

[USNA.]

Extract from journal of William Eaton, U. S. Navy Agent for the Barbary Regencies, 5 August 1804

[On board U. S. Frigate *President*.] August 5. Sunday — [At $\frac{1}{2}$ Past 11] Made Magadore — on the coast of Africa, bearing S b. E.

[H. E. Huntington L&AG, EA 206.]

Extract from journal of U. S. Frigate *John Adams*, Master Commandant Isaac Chauncey, U. S. Navy, commanding, Sunday, 5 August 1804

Commences with strong Gales and fine Weather — at 1 P M made sail and stood to the Southward to clear the Island

At 4 the Extremes of Malta bore from N $\frac{1}{2}$ E to N E b N. Distant about 8 Leagues — At 5 A M. set all the Starboard Studding Sails, Put all Hands on an Allowance of 3 Quarts of Water p^r Man, my reason for so doing was, that not knowing how long the Commodore might require my Services on the Coast of Tripoli and that the Service might Suffer by my being obliged to return to Port to Water, I therefore judged such a Step expedient — Ends with Moderate Breezes and fine Weather — Wind W. N. W.

[LC. EPP, Journal, June to 6 August 1804.]

Extract from journal kept by Purser John Darby, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. S. *John Adams*, Master Commandant Isaac Chauncey, U. S. Navy, commanding, Sunday, 5 August 1804

It being in the night when we came in here [Malta] I was disappointed in having a view of the town when we came in and our not being admitted to go on shore prevents my saying anything more of this place than nearly the appearance from the ship, when you get into the harbour it is large and spacious, sufficient for 500 ships to lay

with saifty. and place if possible is stronger fortified than Gibraltar. the town of Villet has the appearance of an amphitheatre being built upon the declivity of hill one house rising above another. As we came in the harbour last night it appeared to be covered with boats — full of boys & girls singing particular tunes. it being as we supposed some particular Sai^{ns} day a number of the boats came around us singing and playing on musical instruments. some of them wanted to come on board but were prevented by our not being allowed Pratique, this morning a boat came off with a band of musick and played all round the ship which is always their custom when any ship of War comes in. they played hail Columbia & Yanke dudle. & several other American Patriotic tunes — M^r Higen^s our Agent came along side of us. & we delivered him our dispatches. & he gave us others for Commodore Preble off Tripoli. We found none of our Squadron here they having sailed from this about a fortnight before this, as we were not admitted to have any communication with the shore and Capt Chauncey being Very desirous to apprise Commodore Preble. of the sailing of Commodore Barron and his squadron as they had been expecting our ship so long that they had concluded that we were lost as they supposed that we had sailed long before we did. for those reasons Capt. Chauncey determined to sail immediately and we commenced getting under way and warping the ship out. as the Wind blew into the harbour and at one oclock we made sail on the ship & cleared the harbour. the Wind W. by N. we bore away S W $\frac{1}{2}$ W. and went. to the E^d of the Town — at half past 1. the Town of Velette bore W $\frac{1}{2}$ S. Dist. 2 Miles. We have now a fresh breeze & fair Standing our course for Tripoli —

[NDA original. Miss Camilla S. McConnell.]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from George Davis, U. S. Chargé d'Affaires,
Tunis

TUNIS Aug^t 6th 1804.

SIR, Agreeable to Your request, (by letter bearing date Tunis Bay June 20th 1804.) I have given a Passport to a Copigi Bashaw of the Grand Signior to enter Tripoly, subject to Your final approbation.

His Excellency the Bey, directs me to inform You, that he has written the Bashaw of Tripoly, not to embark on board said Vessel, Passengers other than those mentioned in the Passport on any pretext; and requires me to add, that as it is his indispensable duty, to send said Copigi Bashaw to Tripoly, he feels satisfied, that no interruption will be given to his safe arrival —

TUNIS August 10th

There has been much difficulty, concerning the form of the passport — with which the Spanish Consul is by no means contented— I have informed the Cap^t If he takes one passenger on board more than is mentioned that you will certainly capture him — altho we have not a friend in either of the French Commissaries — I have made a merit of permitting the articles mentioned in the passport to be embarked — I had the honor to write you fully on the 8th Ins^t via Malta

GEORGE DAVIS

Should you not permit the Vessel to enter Tripoli — The packages Marked C D, you will be pleased to take in your possession — and forward to Tunis by the first occasion — they contain letters &c for Cap^t B

[LC. EPP, Vol. 12, June-August 1804.]

To Captain William Bainbridge, U. S. Navy, from George Davis, U. S. Chargé d'Affaires, Tunis

TUNIS Aug^t 6th 1804 —

SIR, By the Spanish Polacre *Mariana*, Capt. Andrea Rossello, carrying a Copigi Bashaw from the Grand Segnior to His Excellency the Bashaw of Tripoli, with my Passport, I do myself the pleasure to offer you a line, enclosing a Duplicate of my last.

I am favoured with your letter of the 10th ult^o and duplicate of the 17th June, both under cover from the French Consul, by a Courier lately from Tripoli; and cannot omit expressing my Surprise, at your not acknowledging the receipt of mine of the 23^d June; particularly as I delivered in person to this same Courier a Package for you, and a line for M^r Nissen, whose answer has come to hand — it is presumable you have received them before this — they however offer you no news; and are of no farther value, than tokens of my sincere regard, & esteem.

No news from the U. States — no letters for you from any quarter. — We learn that the Coronation of Bonaparte, is differed untill the 19th Nov^r; and that the Pope has refused to officiate; (as was intended) in consequence the French Ambassador, has left the papal dominions. — The Russian Ambassador, has again left Paris; and the Fleet of His Imperial Majesty of both the Russias, is daily expected at Malta and Syracuse — their intentions will not be immediately put in execution; but the delay will not vary the object.

Gen^t Moreau, has left France for the U. States. — how, and in what manner, We are not informed. — I have no news papers of any kind to forward you, which might dissipate a tedious hour. — And can only repeat my prayers for the full completion of your desires —
Sympathetic ink [Written in lime juice.]

The Commodore, has doubtless made an attack on Tripoli; before this — I hope your situation is not rendered more disagreeable in consequence of it — nor that it will prevent your receiving as heretofore, communications from your friends —

To avoid any suspicion of your having been apprized of his intentions, I have not written you so frequently for the last two months, as I should have done. — I learn from L^t Porter, that a consul is appointed for Tunis — if it hastens your liberation, or my projected visit to Tripoli, as stated in my last — I shall rejoice most sincerely at the event; should my proposed embassy, accord with your ideas, let the application to Gov^t be strengthened by yourself and friends. I shall dispatch you a courier express on M^r Russel's arrival, and charge myself with the delivery of all your letters for America, as I shall not make any stay in the Mediterranean; unless it be by the absolute orders of the Sec^y of State. Rely on a just and energetic representation of y^r situation, and believe me under all circumstances Y^r Sincere friend. G. D.

[NYHS. Geo. Davis LB, Vol. 1.]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from Monsieur Beaussier, French Chargé d'Affaires and Commissary General, Tripoli

TRIPOLY. BARBARY. August 6th 1804

COMMODORE I received your letter by the French privateer on board of which you forwarded the wounded prisoners notwithstanding the just representations of the Captain The Commendable and humane motive in sending them was misunderstood, and we had difficulty in persuading the Bashaw to retain them —

I should have been happy to have received an answer to my letters of the 13th of June & 6th July —

I repeat to you again Commodore that notwithstanding the Pacha's aversion to conclude a treaty of Peace with the United States, I prevailed upon him to accept reasonable proposals — The Efficacious means that you have adopted in order to force them to accept your proposals will certainly hasten a cessation of hostilities, as well as liberate your unfortunate countrymen who, notwithstanding the Attachment to their country and their wishes for the glory & success of it's Arms must shudder at every discharge of your cannon.

The Fanaticism & fury of these Africans would be difficult to curb in case of a total destruction — I think that I ought to lay before you these considerations, not that I wish to Serve this government, but in Order that you may be ignorant of nothing that would enlighten your operations and direct your conduct — Since the reception of your letter which was yesterday, I have been constantly with the Pacha, who has assembled his divan several times to which Sidi Mohammed DGhies has not been able to attend, being very much indisposed — I have caused him to reflect upon what he had experienced in the first Attack, and what he had to fear from what must follow — He declared to me that he ardently desired to be at peace with the Americans: but that he would not conclude a peace with such dishonorable conditions. That if you desired it as much as he did you would not certainly hesitate at augmenting the sum a little which you had already offered: but if your instructions would not permit you to go farther he would be obliged to make use of Every method to oppose your attacks, the result of which would be ordained by providence — These are his own expressions —

As for my part, I conjure you to propose a ransom more consistent with the number and quantity of the Prisoners, which would not be inconsistent with the honor and dignity of your nation, and to listen to the fine sentiments which should actuate you to avoid the Effusion of blood — If you should wish to communicate to me your last resolution, you can send your boat as a cartel as far as the rocks which form the Entrance of the Harbour, and I will engage that they shall be in Perfect Safety — I propose you this expedient as the privateer cannot be delayed longer & I beg of you to let her proceed a[ft]er the reception & perusal of this letter —

The two papers shall be given immediately to Capⁿ Bainbridge — Sidi Mohammed DGhies regrets that his indisposition should prevent him from answering your Obliging letter — Accept the Assurances of my high Esteem and Consideration —

(Signed) BEAUSSIER

P. S. Would it be imprudent to beg of you to display the French flag at the Mizen when you intend to bombard the Town.

[Mrs. James S. Barron Col.]

370 NAVAL OPERATIONS, APRIL-SEPTEMBER 6, 1804

Extract from journal of U. S. Brig *Argus*, Master Commandant Isaac Hull, U. S. Navy, commanding, Monday, 6 August 1804

at $\frac{1}{2}$ past 3 the *Vixen* got under way and stood in for Tripoli a number of gunboats came out At $\frac{1}{2}$ past 6 Consul OBrien Cap^t Hull Somers & Decatur came on board At $\frac{1}{2}$ past 11 they returned on board their respective Vessels —

At 8 AM the Commodore made Sig^l N^o 995 Cap^t Hull went on board at $\frac{1}{2}$ past 11 Cap^t Hull returned —

[NDA photostat.]

Extract from journal kept on board the U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, by Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, Monday, 6 August 1804

At Anchor 2 Leagues North of Tripoly with the Squadron, Employ'd this Ships Company in Fitting the Prize Boats, & supplying the Squadron with Provisions Water & Military Stores, all the Sailmakers in the Squadron are employ'd in making sails for the Prizes, the *Vixen* was kept under way all night making false signals to alarm the Enemy, At noon wind N N W.

[LC. EPP, Vol. 12, June-August 1804.]

Extract from journal of U. S. Frigate *John Adams*, Master Commandant Isaac Chauncey, U. S. Navy, commanding, Monday, 6 August 1804

First Part of these 24 Hours moderate Breezes and Pleasant Weather — At 5 P. M. saw the Land bearing from S W b W to S. S. E. Distance off Shore about 10 Leagues — At Day light made Sail and stood in for the Land, but it soon fell Calm or the Wind so very light that we made no Progress Sounded with an Hundred Fathoms of Line No Bottom — Ends with light Airs from the Westward and Weather extremely Hot. —

[LC. EPP, Journal, June to 6 August 1804.]

Extract from journal kept by Purser John Darby, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. S. *John Adams*, Master Commandant Isaac Chauncey, U. S. Navy, commanding, Monday, 6 August 1804

We have light breezes and pleasant weather this morning being favored with a fair Wind we are in ourly expectation of faling in with some of our Mediterranean Squadron, at $\frac{1}{2}$ past 5 this evening we discovered land ahead which knew to be coast of Tripoli. at 6. called all hands to quarters and exercised the guns. at Midnight we hope [hope] to with the main topsail to the mast. and at $\frac{1}{2}$ past one we have a cast of the lead with a hundred fathom of line no bottom

[NDA original. Miss Camilla S. McConnell.]

Extract from journal of Midshipman F. Cornelius deKrafft, U. S. Navy, in U. S. Brig *Siren* of 18 guns, Master Commandant Charles Stewart, U. S. Navy, commanding, Monday, 6 August 1804

Light airs & pleasant, hands employ'd rigging the prize gun boat (N^o 9) supplied the gun boat astern with water.

Midnight light airs & pleas^t the launch employ'd in supplying us with water from the Commodore 11 Cap^t Stewart went on board the Comm; Meridian rec^d spars from the Comm: for the prize gun boat. —

[NDA.]

To Daniel Bedinger, Navy Agent and Superintendent of Navy Yard, Norfolk, Va.,
from Secretary of the Navy

NAV. DEP^t Aug^t 7th 1804

A Provision Ship has been ordered from Boston to Norfolk to receive the Residue of a cargo intended for the Mediterranean. We shall send certain articles from this place to be put on board the Provision Ship and we wish you to send out in her the powder left by the Vessels of War — 6 or 7 tons of assorted Cordage if you should have as much in Store — the Bowsprit intended for the *Constitution* and as many spare spars as the Provision Ship may Conveniently receive —

We are advised by M^r Brown agent at Boston, that the Provisions will probably leave Boston on the 8th ins^t — the articles from this place will be sent on immediately so that in all probability the Provision Ship from Boston and the Vessels carrying part of her cargo from this place, will arrive in the Roads nearly at the same time — it is therefore submitted to you to determine whether, in the event of the Vessels from this place arriving first it would not be expedient to detain them with their cargoes on board until the arrival of the Provision Ship and then have the Cargoes of the Vessels from this place put immediately on board the Provision Ship — But we rather Presume that the Vessel from Boston will be first in the Roads —

[NDA. GLB, Vol. 7, 1803-1805.]

To William Higgins, U. S. Navy Agent, Malta, from Secretary of the Navy

NAV. DEP^t Aug. 7. 1804

We have chartered the Provision Ship the *Alfred* to carry Provisions to the Mediterranean for the use of our Squadron in that Sea —

We have agreed with the Owner that she shall proceed first to Gibraltar and thence if required by the Consul at that place to land her cargo, but if M^r Gavino the Consul from his understanding with the Commodore of the Squadron in relation to Supplies, should not deem it adviseable to receive the cargo at Gibraltar, he will direct the Commander of the *Alfred* to proceed either to Malta or Syracuse. — If directed to Malta you will on her arrival there, receive her cargo and should it be delivered to you in good condition you will pay the freight, Viz^t 9000\$. agreeably to Bill of lading and invoice which will be transmitted to you by Daniel Bedinger Esq. Norfolk Virginia and you will give advice in due season to Commodore Barron

You will pay the freight by Bills on Mess^{rs} Degen Purviance & C^o at Leghorn or on Frederick Degen Esq^t at Naples or otherwise as may be found the most adviseable. We are to pay the freight at the place where the Cargo shall be delivered —

[Similar letter sent to George Dyson, Syracuse.]

[NDA. GLB, Vol. 7, 1803-1805.]

To John Gavino, U. S. Consul, Gibraltar, from Secretary of the Navy

NAV. DEP^t Aug 7th 1804

Daniel Bedinger Esq^t navy agent at Norfolk will transmit to you Invoice and Bill of lading of the Cargo of the ship *Alfred* freighted by Government with provisions &^t for the Squadron in the mediterranean —

The Captain of the *Alfred* is directed to Call on you for your directions respecting the cargo. — If you deem it Expedient to land the Cargo at Gibraltar you will do so, but if you deem it most adviseable that it should proceed to Malta or Syracuse you will direct the Captain to proceed on accordingly — The understanding you have with the Commodore upon this subject will enable you to decide in the present case with propriety —

Should you direct the Cargo to be landed at Gibraltar and it should be delivered to you in good condition you will pay the amount of Freight Viz Seven thousand five hundred dollars to Such person as may be properly authorized to receive it, by Bills either on Mess^{rs} M^r Kenzie & Glennie, London Mess^{rs} Degen Purviance & C^o Leghorn or otherwise as you may deem most adviseable, letting me know particularly how it is paid — Should you pay the freight at Gibraltar you will receive from the Captain of the *Alfred* all the letters in his possession from this Department, But in case you direct the *Alfred* to proceed on to Malta or to Syracuse, the freight being payable at the place where the cargo shall be delivered, the agent at such place will pay it and has my instructions on the Subject —

[NDA. GLB, Vol. 7, 1803-1805]

To Daniel Bedinger, Navy Agent and Superintendent of Navy Yard, Norfolk, Va.,
from Secretary of the Navy

NAV DEP^t 7th Aug^t 1804

Samuel Brown Esq^r navy agent at Boston, agreeably to my instructions has chartered the Ship *Alfred* and ordered her to Proceed with part of a cargo — (of which he will particularly inform you and Transmit you invoice and bill of lading) to Norfolk where she is to take in the Residue of her Cargo and thence proceed to Gibraltar and if directed by M^r Gavino the Consul there, thence to Syracuse or Malta to Deposit her Cargo for the use of our Squadron of Ships in the mediterranean Sea —

Captain Cassin is ordered to Send to you to be shipped on board the *Alfred*

130,000	lb ^s	Bread in Barrels or Hogsheads
125		Barrels of Flour
400		Bolts Russia Duck & Canvas
40		Boxes Spermaceti Candles
20		Hh ^q Melasses — a Quantity of Cheese
2		Anchors from 4 to 500 lb ^s W ^t
3		Tons assorted Cordage & ^q
8.32		Pound Carronades with Carriages, Rammers

Captain Cassin will send you invoice and bill of lading agreeably to which you will pay the freight — To this Cargo you will add 7 Tons of assorted Cordage should you have as much in Store —

All the Powder landed from the Squadron while lying in Hampton Roads, and the Bowsprit intended for the *Constitution*, with as many Spare Spars as the *Alfred* can conveniently receive —

The Freight of the *Alfred* is to be paid either at Gibraltar, Syracuse or Malta, wherever the cargo may be ultimately landed — you will therefore transmit to each of the following Gentlemen an invoice and

Bill of lading of the Cargo of the *Alfred*,
 John Gavino Esq — Gibraltar
 Geo. Dyson Esq^r Syracuse
 W^m Higgins Esq. Malta

For the freight we are to pay, if the cargo should be landed at Gibraltar the Sum of \$7,500 — if landed at Syracuse or Malta the Sum of 9000\$ of which the agents at these places are fully advised and instructed by me

You will also transmit an Invoice and Bill of lading of the Cargo to Commodore Sam^l Barron —

You will direct the enclosed letter to the Commander of the *Alfred*, left Blank because we do not know his name, and advise me of his name — and you will deliver, to him the letter to himself and also the enclosed letters directed to Commodore Samuel Barron — John Gavino Esq Geo. Dyson Esq and William Higgins Esq^r and you will despatch the *Alfred* as early as may be practicable — & so soon as she shall have sailed you will transmit me an invoice and bill of lading of her Cargo —

[NDA. GLB, Vol. 7, 1803-1805.]

To Captain Joseph Patch, of the American Provision Ship *Alfred*, from Secretary of the Navy

NAV DEP^t Aug 7, 1804

So soon as you are Ready for sea you will weigh anchor and proceed with all practicable despatch for Gibraltar

You will there call on John Gavino Esq the American Consul to whom you will deliver the letter which you will herewith receive addressed to him. Should M^r Gavino determine to land the cargo of the *Alfred* at Gibraltar you will deliver it to him (with all the letters in your possession from this Department) he will pay the freight agreeably to Bill of lading — Should M^r Gavino determine to send the *Alfred* to Malta or Syracuse with the public Property you will then take his directions and proceed on accordingly to either of these ports where you will deliver to the agent the enclosed letters to Com^{rs} Barron Geo. Dyson Esq & William Higgins &^r

[NDA. GLB, Vol. 7, 1803-1805.]

To Secretary of State, from George Davis, U. S. Chargè d'Affaires, Tunis

N^o 17

TUNIS August 7th 1804.

SIR, In consequence of the recent visit of the Neapolitan force, (as stated in the last I had the honor to write you) His Excellency, has ordered all his Corsairs mann'd: — they will sail in two divisions; and it is said, are to attack the enemy's Squadron, under any, and all circumstances — there are on board two half Gallies five hundred & fifty men; and the rest of the Squadron is manned in proportion — the first division is now at Sea.

The new Prophet, has occasioned much disorder in different parts of Algiers: he made but a short stay at Constantine; but perfectly stripped that place; taking with him, arms, ammunitions, cloathing, horses, and a vast number of Cattle; retiring again to the mountains. — I learn (indirectly from this Gov^t) that his Army at this moment,

consists of one hundred & eighty thousand men, and is daily increasing — all communication between this and Algiers by land is stopp'd in such a manner, that I could not procure a Courier to go Col^o Lear, for any consideration — as yet we can form no opinion as to his probable fate. — *much; perhaps all;* depends on G. B. should that Power ultimately resolve to avenge their innumerable outrages and indignities (*which I have never suspected*) by an attack on Algiers, it is probable that the consequent disorders of the Regency, will so far aid the Marabout's intentions, as to make him a formidable pretender to the Throne.

My last advices from Tripoli, are of the 14th of July, nothing however of any moment could have transpired at that period — the Officers and Crew, enjoy good health; and have Suffered no change in their Situation — Capt. Bainbridge, writes me, that the Bashaw, has made known to him, that no person will be received to treat for peace, or ransom, who, does not come with full powers immediately from the U. States for that purpose: — his pretensions appear to be more extravagant than ever.

On the 4th & 5th Inst. I was called to Bardo, relative to a Passport for a Copigi Bashaw to enter Tripoli — I have the honor to enclose you a copy of that I have accorded. — His Excellency, took occasion to mention the affair of the Sandal; (as stated in my Dispatch of June 23^d) I endeavoured to convince the Bey, that on no principle of Justice, (*the sacred rule by which we were governed*) any restitution could be expected; he left me in doubt whether he was satisfied, or if it should be the subject of a future demand —

With Profound Respect and Consideration,

GEORGE DAVIS

[NYHS. Geo. Davis LB, Vol. 1.]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, Commodore of U. S. Squadron in the Mediterranean, from Secretary of the Navy

NAVY DEPT: 7 Aug¹ 1804 —

Commodore ED^d PREBLE —

Mediterranean.

Your communication dated Malta Harbour, 11 March 1804 has been received. —

Before this reaches you, you will have perceived that we have not been inattentive to our Affairs in the Mediterranean. We knew that the force under your Command was not adequate to carry on vigorous and effectual measures against Tripoli, and watch the Coast of Morocco and Tunis. With a view to accomplish these important objects, and to excite among the Barbary Regencies a just idea of our National character and Resources, we fitted out the Armament of which you have been already advised.

We have already & repeatedly assured you, Sir, of our high and unqualified approbation of your measures and your conduct. Your Successor will have conveyed to you before this can reach you our Sentiments on these Subjects.

You suggest the propriety of sending eight 32 pound Carronades for the upper Deck of the *Constitution*, and six 12 pound Carronades for our Boats. We cannot by this opportunity send the 12 pound Carronades as we have not got them at hand, but I have ordered the

32 pounders with Carriages, Worms, Sponges, Rammers, Shot &c. These will be delivered to you, unless circumstances should arise which in the opinion of Commodore Barron will render a different distribution of them more advisable. Continue to let me hear from you — It will afford me pleasure to receive your Communications.

(Per the *Alfred* Provision Ship, from Norfolk V^s Aug^t 1804.)
[NDA. LB, 1799-1807.]

To Captain Samuel Barron, U. S. Navy, from Secretary of the Navy

NAVY DEP^t 7 Aug^t 1804 —

Commodore SAM^l BARRON —

*Commanding The American Squadron
Mediterranean.*

This letter will be delivered to you by the Commander of the Ship *Alfred*, having on board for the use of the Squadron under your command, Beef, Pork, Flour, Bread, Rum, Butter, Melasses, Cheese Canvas, Cordage, Candles, Powder, Shot, Anchors, a Bowsprit for the *Constitution*, some spare Spars, and 8, 32 pound Carronades for the upper deck of the *Constitution* (if they cannot be otherwise & more advantageously disposed of among the other Vessels of the Squadron, which is left to your judgment) with Carriages, Worms, Rammers, Sponges &c agreeably to Invoice which I have directed Daniel Bedinger Esq^t to transmit to you.

The 32 pound Carronades have been requested by the Commander of the *Constitution* who has suggested that they will be very useful in the event of a war with Tunis. It will be agreeable to me that they be delivered to the *Constitution*, but as circumstances may arise to render a different distribution of them more advisable, I do not deem it proper to bind you by any particular Instructions on the subject.

Should the *Alfred* arrive safe and deliver her Cargo in good order, you will have an abundant supply of provisions for eight months. Be pleased to make me a return of the quantity on hand. —

(Per the *Alfred*.)
[NDA. LB, 1799-1807.]

Extract from Memorandum Book of Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, 7 August 1804

Attacked the batteries. Lost Lt. [James R.] Caldwell, one Midshipman Mr. [John] Dorsey and several men.

[LC original.]

Extract from journal kept on board the U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, by Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, Tuesday, 7 August 1804

Wind N b W Cloudy, at Anchor off Tripoly. — Making arrangements for a second attack at ½ past 1 made signal to prepare to weigh. — but falling calm, annulled the Signal. — in the Evening the French Privateer came out, at 11 the French Cap^t came on board with a letter from the Consul of His Nation in which he says our attack of the 3^d has disposed the Bashaw to accept of reasonable terms and invites me to send a Boat to the Harbour as a flag, but as no specific sum is mentioned and no security for the Boat, can be depended on I declined the invitation, at 9 AM the Squadron weighd p^t Signal & stood in shore towards the Western Batteries. — the Gun

Boats 9 in number with the addition of the Prizes now compleatly fitted & manned and Commanded by L^{td} Crane of the *Vixen*, Thorn of the *Enterprize* and Caldwell of the *Syren*, the whole advanc'd with sails & oars. With orders to attack the Western Batteries & throw shells into the City. at this time we were at anchor 6 miles from the city, calm and a current so strong to the Eastward that we remain at anchor, our Top Sails & Top Gall^t Sails are sett ready for the first Breeze The *Argus Syren Vixen Nautilus & Enterprize* becalm'd three miles within us. — Gun Boats & Bombs advancing to the attack

[LC. EPP, Vol. 12, June-August 1804.]

[7 August 1804]

Extract from journal kept on board the U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, by Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, Wednesday, 8 August 1804

At Anchor 6 miles N N E from Tripoly becalmed, the Gun Boats & Bombs advancing with all their sweeps, at $\frac{1}{2}$ past 1 a light Breeze from the N N E, We immediately weigh'd & stood in for the Town, but the wind being on shore could not with prudence attack or allow any of the squadron to attack the Batteries, as in case of a mast being shot away the loss of the Vessel would probably ensue. at $\frac{1}{2}$ past 2 P M Made the Signal for the Gun Boats & Bombs to attack the Batteries & Town from the West, when they immediately opened a tremendous fire within half cannon shot of the Town & less than that distance of a Battery of 7 heavy 24 pounders this Battery in less than two hours was silenc'd excepting one Gun I presume the others were dismounted as the Walls were almost totally destroyed, the Bombs were well and effectually employ'd by L^t Com^{dt} Dent & L^t Robinson of the *Constitution*, L^t Robinson from a dangerous position he took, threw 28 shells into the Town, but the well directed fire of heavy artillery from the Enemy obliged him to shift his station not however until the cloths of every man in the Boat was wet through with the spray of sea which the Enemies shot threw over them, L^t Dent threw 20 shells from a position not so favorable as L^t Robinsons but which a strong Westerly current in shore would not allow him to change, at $\frac{1}{2}$ past 3 P M a Frigate in sight in the Offing standing for the Town, made the *Argus's* Signal to speak, ordered her to chase the strange sail at $\frac{1}{2}$ past 3 PM the magazine of one of our Gun Boats N^o 9 Blew up & she immediately sunk — She had on board thirty Officers seamen & Marines 10 of which were killed & six badly wounded, among the Killed were L^t R. Caldwell 1st of the *Syren* M^t Dorsey Midshipman two good Officers. — M^t Spence Midshipman & 13 Men were picked up unhurt —

The Enemies Gun Boats and Galleys 17 in number are all in motion under their Batteries, and appear to meditate an attack on our Bombs & Gun Boats, ordered the *Argus Nautilus Vixen & Enterprize* to Windward in reserve to cut them off from the Harbour if they should attack, & the *Syren & Vixen* to leward to support and cover any of our Boats that might be disabled, kept to windward with the *Constitution* — ready to bear down & support the Whole, at $\frac{1}{2}$ past 5 PM the Wind began to blow fresh from the N N E Made the signal for Bombs & Gun Boats to retire out of Gun shot of the Enemy and be taken in tow by their respective Vessels. at 6 PM *Argus* made the

signal that the strange sail was a friend. in the Action of this day N^o 6 Commanded by L^t Wadsworth had her Latteen Yard shot away. N^o 4 Cap^t Decatur a shot in the Hull, N^o 8 lost 2 Men killed by a cannon shot, some of the other Boats received trifling damage. the Gun Boats fired about 50 Rounds each. the Enemy must have lost many men & the buildings in the City must have received considerable damage from our shot & shells. All the Officers & men engaged in Action behaved gallantly, at $\frac{3}{4}$ past 6 all the Boats were in tow & the Squadron standing off to the N W, at 8 the *John Adams* store ship Cap^t Chauncey Joined Company, at 9 being N W. about 5 miles from Tripoly Made signal to Anchor & Came to with the Squadron in 35 fath^s Water hard Bottom. — Cap^t Chauncey came on Board & brought me dispatches from the Navy Office, announcing that 4 frigates the *President* Commodore Barron who is to supercede me in the Command of the Mediterranean, Squadron, the *Congress* Cap^t Rodgers, *Constellation* Cap^t Campbell and *Essex* Cap^t [James] Barron, were ready and would sail in a day or two after the *John Adams* Cap^t Chauncey brought me a letter from the Navy Office approving my conduct, and stating that the superceedure has been necessary to enable them to send the frigates out as only two junior Captains to myself were in the US. He also brought me the thanks of the President for my services which have been conveyed to me by letter from the Sec^{ty} of the Navy, how much my feelings are lacerated by this supercedure at the moment of Vicotry cannot be described and can be felt only by an Officer placed in my mortifying situation Gave Cap^t Chauncey orders to remain with the Squadron for the present. —

[LC. EPP, Vol. 12, June–August 1804.]

Extract from log book kept by Sailing Master Nathaniel Haraden, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Tuesday, 7 August 1804

Moderate breezes from N b W, with rising clouds to the North^d At Single anchor off Tripoly — Squadron in company Every necessary arrangement has been made for bombarding Tripoly this afternoon, but the northerly wind, and the appearance of the weather have prevented it — At 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ Made the Signal for the Squadron to prepare to weigh. We have a stay Peak — Towards evening the Northerly wind died away by degrees to a dead calm —

The french Privateer which carried the Wounded Prisoners to Tripoly came out this Evening, and rowed off for the *Constitution* — The Commodore Ordered Gun boat N^o 9 and our cutter to examine her. At 11 P. M. she anchored in company with the Squadron — Her Captain waited on the Commodore —

Moderate weather through the Night — Light airs from S E or Calms from day light till noon —

At 9 A. M. the Squadron weighed, p^t Signal, and stood in shore. We exchanged three cheers at parting — Our three captured gun boats are Numbered by the Commodore N^o 7, N^o 8 & N^o 9.

Gun boat N^o 6 is now commanded by L^t Wadsworth N^o 2 by Lieut^t Gordon, N^o 3 by M^t Brooks Master, N^o 7 by L^t Thorn — N^o 8 by L^t Crane, & N^o 9 by L^t Caldwell. The other boats are under the same Officers as on the 4th Inst: When the Gun boats & Bombards parted company, we were nearly 6 miles N b E from Tripoly —

Their Orders were to row in shore, and take a station to the Westward of the Town in order to bombard & batter the Western batteries —

On their leaving the ship they had a strong Easterly current As they proceeded in shore we observed they had a strong current to the Westward.

At 10 A. M. the French Privateer parted company to the N N W.

At Noon calm — The Gun boats are in shore to the Westward of the Town rowing to the Eastward — The two Bombards are rowing in for the Town, and are almost near enough for firing shells — The *Syren*, *Argus*, *Enterprise*, *Nautilus* & *Vixen* are becalmed between the shore, and the *Constitution* As it is Calm, and a Current going to the Eastward, we are obliged to continue at Anchor — We have top gall^s Sails set ready for the first breeze —

[LC. EPP, Log *Constitution*, 1803-1804.]

[7 August 1804]

Extract from log book kept by Sailing Master Nathaniel Haraden, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Monday, 8 August 1804

Calm — At Single Anchor 7 Miles N E from Tripoly with topsails & top gall^s Sails hoisted in readiness for the first breeze — Our Bombards & Gun boats are all pulling in for the town — At 1 P. M. Bombard N^o 1 commenced heaving shells — After throwing two or three shells, she landed them & let go her Anchor — In the course of the afternoon she landed in the town 24 shells — Bombard N^o 2 was swept by the current more to the westward — Her situation was not so favorable — She threw 18 shells, several of which went into the town —

At 1½ P. M. a light breeze sprang up from N N E. We immediately weighed & stood in for the town — There is a small shallow anchorage nearly a mile to the Westward of the Town of Tripoly and as their Batteries cannot bring their Guns to bear on it the Town is much exposed from it — On the gun boats leaving the ship it was the Orders of the Commodore that they should pull in to the Westward of the Town and proceed to this Anchorage — An Eight & a five gun battery have within two or three days past been built near this place unknown to the Commodore — At 2½ P. M. they opened a heavy fire on our Nine Gun boats which soon silenced the 5 Gun battery, and in the course of the Afternoon silenced the 8 Gun battery three times — The Enemy's Gun boats 17 sail, are all in motion under their batteries — At 3½ P. M. one of our Gun boats N^o 9 blew up — She was then in close action with the 8 Gun battery — She was one of the prize boats commissioned by the Commodore, and (except M^t Spence Midshipman from the *Constitution*) officer'd and Manned from the *Syren* — L^t Caldwell, M^t Dorsey Midshipman and 8 seamen & [space] Marines were lost in her and six wounded This Unfortunate circumstance was Occasioned by the fire of one of our Own Gun boats — The Grand Battery kept up a constant fire all the afternoon on the Brigs and Schooners which were wisely stationed to receive the Enemy's fire on the greatest elevation, but were however sometimes necessarily exposed to closer shot. Our gun boats fired on an average 50 rounds each, and must have done great execution on the Western point of the Town.

At 4 P. M. Bombard N^o 1 was driven by the Enemy's batteries from her station she took another more to the Westward.

At 4½ P. M. Made the *Argus* Signal to chase to N E — At 5½ the wind began to breeze from N N E — Made signal for the Gun & bomb Vessels to cease firing and join company — At 6 P. M. answered the *Argus* signal that the chase was a friend — At 6¾ made the general signal to tow the Gun boats & Bombards.

At 7 made signal for the Squadron to fill off shore — At this time the wind was N N E direct in shore.

In the action of this day Gun boat N° 6 had her yard shot away, and N° 8 had two men killed by a shot from the Enemy.

In the close of the Evening Tripoly bore S E, 4 Miles. At 9 P. M. came to, in 32 fath^s N W from Tripoly 4 or 5 Miles dis^t The Squadron also came to Anchor

At this time we had a strong current setting to S S E, with moderate breezes from N b E.

Joined company the U. S. Ship *John Adams*, Cap^t Chauncey who waited on the Commodore —

This Afternoon the following Signals have been made Viz^t — At 2¾ for the *Argus* & *Syren* to assist the *Nautilus* & *Enterprise* — At 2¾ Bombards attack the Batteries At 3 come within hail — the *Argus* — At 5. Bombards haul out of Gun shot of the batteries —

At 8½ the Night Signal prepare to anchor.

During the night moderate weather with a swell setting in from N N E.

From day light till 9 A. M. cloudy hazy weather.

At Anchor all forenoon. Winds Moderate from N W —

Surgeons report 3 sick & 4 convalescent.

[LC. EPP, Log *Constitution*, 1803-1804.]

[7 August 1804]

Extract from journal of U. S. Brig *Argus*, Master Commandant Isaac Hull, U. S. Navy, commanding, Wednesday, 8 August 1804

[Tripoli] This day begins with light airs and pleasant W^t standing in for the batteries in C^o with the Squadron at 12 rec^d orders from the Commod^o to keep out of Gunshot of the Batteries if the wind Continued light but a Breeze Springing up stood in and fired Several Shot at the batteries at ½ past Meridⁿ the Commod^o made Sig^l N^o 3 to the Gunboats at 2 the Gunboats and bombards Commenced firing on the Batteries at 3 observed one of the Gunboats to blow up by which Accident Lieu^t Caldwell and M^t Dorsey Midshipⁿ belonging to the *Syren* were lost at ¼ past 3 the Commod^o hoisted our Distinguishing flag made Sail for him he ordered us to give Chace to a Strange Sail to the Eastw^d she proved to be the U. S. frigate *John Adams* bore away for the Commod^o at ½ past 4 the Commod^o made Sig^l N^o 1201 at 5 took Gunboat N° 3 in tow stood off the land in C^o with the Squadron at 10 the Commod^o made Night Sig^l N^o 10 came to with the larb^d bower in 35 fathoms water Cap^t Hull went on board the Commod^o at ½ past 1 AM he returned —

[NDA photostat.]

Extract from journal of U. S. Brig *Argus*, Master Commandant Isaac Hull, U. S. Navy, commanding, Tuesday, 7 August 1804

At ½ past 2 the Commodore made Sig^l N^o 879 * * * at 8 * * * made Sig^l N^o 1005

at ½ past got under way at 9 the Commodore made Sig^l N^o 356 Cast the Gunboats off at ¼ past made Sig^l N^o 30 and at 10 Sig^l N^o 7 to the Gunboats at ½ past 10 the Gunboats stood in for Tripoli at 11 got out Sweeps & towed the Brig towards the town —

[NDA photostat.]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from Captain Stephen Decatur, Jr., U. S. Navy

GUN BOAT N^o 4 Off Tripoli August 7th 1804

SIR On the signal being made on board the *Constitution* I cast off the Boats of the 2nd division, formed and Joined the 1st division, and proceeded to put your orders into execution, we advanced a head of the Bombards, and commenced the attack on the Western Batteries, within half point blank shott, where we continued until the signal was made to retire from action, —

Tis with regret I have to inform you of the loss of N^o 8[9] which was blown up by a hot shott from the enemy, after the smoke cleared off, I found all abaft the mast was under water, the gun and bows being the only part out, Mr Robert T Spence Midshipman was the Officer superintending the gun. who at the time of the explosion was in the act of loading her, after which accident he and the Brave fellows left, compleated the loading of the gun before she sunk, and then swam to the nearest Boat where they assisted during the engagement, N^o 8 was the second boat captured on the 3rd by N^o 4, —

List of Killed & wounded in the 2 division

	Names		
N ^o 8 [9]	{ James R Caldwell [John S.] Dorsey eight Seamen Killed six — ditto wounded }	{ Lieutenant Midshipman }	
N ^o 9 [8]	{ two Seamen Killed }	{ by a Cannon shot which damaged the Hull of the Boatconsiderably.— }	

STEPHEN DECATUR J^r

[LC. EPP, Vol. 12, June-August 1804.]

Concerning Gunboat No. 8

List of Men Killed on board GUN BOAT N^o 8 August 7th 1804

John Brown, O Seaman
Alexander Jones Do

WILLIAM CRANE

Expended on board Gun Boat N^o 8 August 7th 1804

46 ---- 24^{lb} Cartridges
46 ---- 24^{lb} Shot
92 ---- Wads
12 ---- Tubes
2^{lb} -- Priming Powder
4 ---- fathoms Match Rope
2 ---- Sweeps
2 ---- Cutlasses
1 ---- Boarding Pike

WILLIAM CRANE

[LC. EPP, Vol. 12, June-August 1804.]

[7 August 1804]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from Master Commandant Charles Stewart, U. S. Navy

Syren off TRIPOLI August 8th 1804

SIR, Enclosed I transmit you a return of the Officers and Men belonging to the United-States Brig *Syren* under my command, who were killed and wounded in Gun-Boat N^o 9, when she blew up on the 7th of August at the attack of the Enemy's Batteries.

I have the honor to be

Sir, Your ob^t Serv^t

(Signed) CHARLES STEWART

Commodore PREBLE —

Return of the Officers & Men composing the Crew of the Gun Boat N^o 9, blown up at the attack of the Tripolitan Batteries — 7th August 1804 —

James R. Caldwell.....	Lieut.....	Killed
Rob ^t T. Spence.....	Midshipman	
John S Dorsey.....	Ditto.....	Killed
Jonathan Meridith.....	Serg ^t Marines.....	Ditto
James Farrell.....	Q ^r Gunner.....	Ditto
Edm ^d P. Kennedy.....	Gunner's Mate	
John Brown.....	Q ^r Master	
William Davis.....	Boat ^m Mate.....	Killed
James Morgan.....	Seaman}	Saved by the Boats
William Rodgers.....	Ditto}	
William Mitchell.....	Ditto.....	Slightly Wounded
Thomas Devers.....	Ditto.....	Badly — D ^o
Stephen Gallagher } Rob ^t Dunn }	Ditto.....	Saved by the Boats
John la Mott.....	Ditto.....	
John Spears.....	ditto.....	Slightly Wounded
Walter Mitchell.....	ditto	Killed
Francisco Rodgers.....	ditto.....	badly wounded
James Wilmer.....	ditto}	Saved by the Boats
James Alexander.....	ditto}	
Geo. Irving.....	ditto.....	Killed
James Derney [or Desney].....	Ord ^r Seam ^a	badly wounded
John Holmes.....	ditto.....	Killed
Antonio Currin.....	ditto.....	badly wounded
John Smith.....	ditto.....	saved by the Boats
Antonio Morrell.....	ditto.....	Ditto —
John Robinson.....	ditto.....	Killed
Nathan Holmes.....	Marine.....	ditto.

(Signed) CHARLES STEWART

[LC. EPP, LB, April–Nov. 1804.]

[7 August 1804]

Extract from journal of Midshipman F. Cornelius deKrafft, U. S. Navy, in U. S. Brig *Syren* of 18 guns, Master Commandant Charles Stewart, U. S. Navy, commanding, Wednesday, 8 August 1804

Light winds & pleasant. At ½ past 1 the Comm: made signal to attack'd the enemy's batteries &c. & which was immediately done by an incessant fire from our boats &c also a very heavy cannonading from every quarter of the enemys batteries & gun boats. At ½ past 2 the gun boat commanded by L^t Caldwell, m^t Dorsey & Spence blew up, by fire communicated to the magazine by a hot shot from the enemies batteries L^t Caldwell, M^t Dorsey & 8 men were blown up with her, the remainder were pick'd up by our boats, 7 of which we[r]

desperately wounded, our boats were immediately sent for the wounded. At $\frac{1}{2}$ past 3 the Comm: made signal for the gun boats & bumbards to retire from action. $\frac{1}{2}$ past 4 the *Argus* under a croud of sail in chace of a large ship to windw^d. At 5 took our gun boat in tow. At 6 saw the above ship bearing down with the American flagg hoisted. At 8 shorten'd sail & came too with the stream. Also the above ship which prov'd to be the U. S. Frigate *John Adams*.

Meridian light airs & pleas^t Tripoli bearing S E $\frac{1}{2}$ S 8 lea:
(SECOND ENGAGEMENT ON TRIPOLI)

[NDA.]

Extract from journal of Midshipman F. Cornelius deKrafft, U. S. Navy, in U. S. Brig *Siren* of 18 guns, Master Commandant Charles Stewart, U. S. Navy, commanding, Tuesday, 7 August 1804

Light airs & pleas^t At 1 the Cap^t return'd Tripoli bore E N E hands employ'd arming & sending provisions on board the gun boat. At $\frac{1}{2}$ past 1 the signal prepare to weigh. At 3 call'd all hands & got a crew for the gun boat — Midnight calm $\frac{1}{2}$ past the signal to weigh — $\frac{1}{2}$ past 8 hove up, made sail in shore. At 9 the Comm: made signal to prepare for battle. $\frac{1}{2}$ past 9 cast off the gun boats p^t signal. At 11 set royals —

Meridian light airs & fine weather —

[NDA.]

[2 to 7 August 1804]

Expenditure of Ammunition

Expended on board BOMBARD N^o 2 August 2nd 1804

	2	-----	Shells with Cartridges fuzees &c.
August 3 rd	7	-----	Shells with Cartridges fuzees &c.
August 7 th	19	-----	Shells with Cartridges fuzees &c.

Expenditure on board BOMBARD N^o 1. Aug^t 3^d 1804

7	----	Shells, with thier loading
7	----	Cartidges
7	----	Fusees
$\frac{1}{2}$ lb	---	Priming powder
2	----	fathoms Match Rope
1	----	Shell to try the force of the powder & 2 Swivels on

August 2nd 1804.

Expenditure of Powder & Ball on Board GUN BOAT N^o 1 August 3rd 1804

204	lb of Powder
200	Musket Cartridges
25	Twenty four lb Shot
14	Stand of Grape

Expend'd on

7 th Aug ^t	
390	lb of Powder
48	Twenty four pound Shot

RICH^d SOMERS

Expended on Board GUN BOAT N^o 2, Aug^t 3^d 1804

72 ^{lb} of Powder — 9 twenty four pound Shot
 600 Pistol & Musket Cartridges
 32 Blunderbuss ----- D^o

THOS: BROWN

Aug^t 7th 56 ^{lb} of Powder & 7 — 24 ^{lb} Shot
 174 ^{lb} of D^o & 29 24 ^{lb} D^o

Expended on board GUN BOAT N^o 3 August 3^d 1804

8. ----- 24 ^{lb} Cartridges — 4 of 12^{lb}
 2. ----- 24 ^{lb} Round Shot
 6. ----- 24^{lb} Grape.
 8. ----- Tubes
 12. ----- Musquet Cartridges
 2. ----- fathom Match Rope
 8. ----- Wads

JOS BLAKE

Expended August 3^d 1804 on board GUN BOAT N^o 5

17. ----- 24 ^{lb} Cartridges
 11. ----- 24 ^{lb} Round Shot
 5. ----- 24 ^{lb} Grape
 1. ----- 24 ^{lb} Cannister.
 17. ----- Wads
 17. ----- Tubes
 1^{lb} ----- Priming Powder.
 100. ----- Musquet Cartridges
 2. ----- fathoms M[atch Rope]

Expended August 7th 1804 on board GUN BOAT N^o 5.

33. ----- 24 ^{lb} Cartridges
 33. ----- 24 ^{lb} Round Shot
 33. ----- Wads
 33. ----- Tubes
 2^{lb} ----- Priming Powder
 2 ----- fathoms Match Rope

JOSEPH BAINBRIDGE

Expended on board BOMBARD N^o 1. August 7th 1804

27. ----- Shells with their loading, fusees &c.

Expended on board GUN BOAT N^o 3. August 7th 1804

44. ----- 24 ^{lb} Cartridges
 44. ----- 24 ^{lb} Round Shot
 44 ----- Wads
 44. ----- Tubes
 2^{lb} ----- Priming Powder
 3 ----- fathoms Match Rope.
 1 ----- Sweep.

SAMUEL B BROOKE

Expended on board of GUN BOAT N^o 7 — August 7th 1804 —

58	-----	24 ^{lb} Cartridges
58	-----	“ Shot
100	-----	Wads
100	-----	Tubes —
1 ^{lb}	-----	Priming powder

J THORN

[LC. EPP, Vol. 12, June-August 1804.]

Extract from journal kept by Purser John Darby, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. S. *John Adams*, Master Commandant Isaac Chauncey, U. S. Navy, commanding, Tuesday, 7 August 1804

We this morning made the coast of Tripoli, and discovered from the appearance of the Land. that we were to the Eastward of the Town of Tripoli. We stood off from the land some distance hove about and Stood to the Southward & West^d and about ½ past 12 Oclock. we discovered a smoke rising in several places. Soon after we heard the sound of cannon. and about. half past. 1. we discovered a Sale. which proved to be the *Constitution* Commo^{rs} Preble off the Town of Tripoli, a bout 3. Oclock we saw with our Glasses, the Town of Tripoli, and several gun boats Schooners & Brigs. and could plainly discover the the firing from the gun boats and the Town. which appeared to be a very warm and incessent firing which was kept up. untill 4. Oclock. when it ceased and we could see the Schooners and brigs towing the Gun boats out. the Commodore about this time discovered us and dispatched one of Schooners to see what we were. She proceeded but a little way when she took us to be the Brig *Scourge*. and stood back. It seems that the Brig *Scourge* had been sent as fare as Malta as a convoy to some of our Vessels, and they were in hourly expectation of her., Soon after this. the Comodore made a Signal. which we answered he then supposed us to be the *John Adams*, We soon after that shewed him our distinguishing flag which he answered. We stood up for him and about half past 9 Oclock we gained a part of the Squadron. the wind being very light all day — about half past 10 we run up under the Commodores Stern and gave him three cheers — which was returned. — after hailing us his boat came along side & requested Capt Chauncey to come onboard of him as soon as possible — the Capt went onb[o]ard, in a little time we anchored, the ship to the West^d of the Town, in 35 fathom Water, before we anchor^d several boats came along side with a number of the Officers belonging to the Squadron out here. we deliv'd them the letters which we had for them. And the News from America. and they informed us that they had this day had a very severe engagement with Tripolian Gun boats under the Bashaws fort. but was not successfull enough to take any of them to day as they kept in shoal water nearly under the fort. But that a few days before this they had taken three of their Gun boats and a number of prisoners. & a number Kiled and Wounded. in this first engagement. Lieut. Ja^s Decator was Kiled after one of the Tripolian Boats had struck to him. in the last engagement. one of our Gun boats was blown up. by the magazine taking fire. in which perish^d several of our Officers & men. all that were in the stern of the boat & amidships were lost. Lieutenant Ja^s Caldwell & Midshipman Tho^s Dawrsey [Dorsey] were amongst the u[n]fortu-

nate. It is said. the Tripolians fought very desperately in the first engagement. and never Did the American officers & men act with more bravery and enterprize than on this occation every one being anxious to distinguish themselves in the glory of their Countrys cause, with one exception only. which is a Lieutenant Blake who it is said. did not. conduct himself in the manner which he aught to have done, and is now publickly caled a cowerd. by the officers of the Squadron — I shall not pretend here and at this time to give a particular description of the engagement as no doubt. Commodore Preble will give to the Public a very particular. & correct statement which is not in my power to do. — Our squadron under Com^{re} Barron has not yet. arrived but. is now. hourly expected. —

This brave and daring attack will hardly be credited by the Europeans who know the greate Advantage of a fort and strong fortified Battery with their greate superiority of gun boats, nor do I beleive any other nation except the Americans woud have attempted it with the same force, not even the British nation with all their boasted skill in Naval Tacticks, but here I may be said to be partial, and I will only say that no nation cou'd have done more than Commodore Preble with the same force

[NDA original. Miss Camilla S. McConnell.]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from Master Commandant Isaac Chauncey,
U. S. Navy

U. S. SHIP *John Adams*

Off the Coast of Tripoli 7th Aug^s 1804 —

SIR I have the Honor of enclosing you a Duplicate of my Letter to you of the 23^d Ult. N^o 1 also Copies of my Letters to the Secretary of the Navy N^o 2. 3. 4 & 5 a Copy of my letter to Commodore Barron N^o 6 and Copy's of 2 Letters from M^r Simpson the one to yourself and the other to Commo^e Barron N^o 7 & 8 with a List of Stores that I have on board for the Squadron under your Command; Also a List of the Officers, Seamen, Ordinary Seamen, Boys and Marines on board of the *John Adams*.

I arrived at Gibraltar on the 22^d Ult^s where I watered the Ship agreeable to Orders from the Secretary of the Navy — left Gibraltar on the 25th and arrived at Algiers on the 29th where I waited 24 Hours for Col. Lear's Dispatches to you; left Algiers on the 30th and arrived at Malta late in the Evening of the 4th Ins^t at 7 oClock in the Morning of the 5th M^r Higgins delivered me your Orders of the 23^d of April last and at 8 I got underway in Order to join you off Tripoli, the Wind hauling more to the Northward I was obliged to warp out, therefore did not clear the Harbour before 1 oClock.

The Reason I did not wait for to Water was that I was Quarrantined, I had no Boat of the Ships that was Sufficient to Water by, and there wou'd be considerable Difficulty and Detention to procure a Shore Boat, moreover I was only 1300 Gall^{ns} short and I naturally supposed that the Dispatches that I had on board for you that it was of importance that you shou'd receive as early as Possible, and likewise that the Ship and Crew might be wanted in your present Situation combining these Circumstances, I hope that my not waiting to fill up the small Quantity of Water that was out will meet with your Approbation, and in Order to reduce the Expenditure of Water

I have put the Officers and Men upon an Allowance of three Quarts p^r Day, which also I hope you will approve of.

The Crew of the *John Adams* are generally healthy, and the Ship cou'd be got ready for Service in 24 Hours, after her Birth Deck was cleaned of Stores — I have 8 Six Pounders mounted on the Quarter Deck and 8 twelve Pounders on the Gun Deck — The Remainder of the Guns are in the Hold, and the Carriages belonging to them are distributed in different Ships of the Squadron coming out —

The Provisions indented for this Ship Previous to our leaving the United States are, some Articles expended, others nearly so therefore with your Permission I will Permit the Purser to Use from the Stores intended for the Squadron such Articles as he is in immediate Want of

ISAAC CHAUNCEY

NB. I also have the Honor of enclosing to you an Abstract of my journal to this Day — inclusive —

[LC. EPP, Vol. 12, June-August 1804.]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from Lieutenant Joshua Blake, U. S. Navy

Aug^t 7th 1804

SIR, I have yet had no opportunity of conversing with Cap^t Somers, and am therefore obliged to decline being considered attached to a Gun Boat, — distressing as this resignation is to my feelings, I have chosen it, as less so, than to continue under a Suspicious Eye, when I feel conscious that every thing has been done by me, as my best judgement dictated. — I am able Sir, to convince every one, that the Boat N^o 3, was placed, & continued, in *close* Action, as Soon, & as long, as Signals, & a prospect of being of Service could justify. With this consciousness of rectitude on my part, I feel it my duty to give place to Some Officer that may be more congenial to the feelings of Cap^t Somers. — I am placed Under an Additional obligation to You Sir, for the continuance in Command, but am convinced you will think I do right to resign it.

JOS BLAKE

[LC. EPP, Vol. 12, June-August 1804.]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from George Davis, U. S. Chargé d'Affaires, Tunis

TUNIS August 8th 1804

SIR I should have did myself the honor, to acknowledge, long before this, the receipt of your favour, of the 17th ult: in reply to mine forwarded by the Spanish Courier; but have been daily expecting, some vessel; as you were pleased to inform me, that one, should touch at Tunis for my dispatches; presuming that contrary winds, or some other object, has prevented her arrival; I close my package, and forward it, by this conveyance, for Malta; where I trust it will find you —

I had the pleasure to offer you a line, on the 6th Inst^t, accompanying a passport, (subject to your final approbation) for a Copigi Bashaw, of the Grande Signior, to enter Tripoli — *our affairs are in Statu quo* — and for your full information, on the general position, of this Regency, I do myself the honor, to enclose you, a copy of my last to the Hon^{le} the Sec^{ry} of State; and an extract from my present not yet forwarded

This moment a Mamlouke, is sent by his Excellency the Bey, accompanying some Jerheens, with a new complaint — I am directed by His Excellency, to inform you of the circumstance; and learn if any restitution, can be expected —

The Complainants state, that they left the Island of Jerba, in a Sandal, laden,d with Oil Jars; bound to Bougia, on the Coast of Algiers — that between Sphax and Jerba, they observed a Brig and Schooner; the former gave them no molestation; but the latter fired, a quantity of Guns, which made, dreadful havoc, among *their Crockery Ware* — leaving only nine whole, out of the Cargo; which consisted of one hundred and thirty — after being boarded, they were permitted to pass — but in consequence of the injury, done to their Boat, were compell,d to desist from the farther prosecution of their voyage; and put into Sphax, where the Sandal now lies —

You will be pleased to direct what reply, shall be given to the Bey —

[LC. EPP, Vol. 12, June–August 1804.]

To Master Commandant Isaac Chauncey, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. *John Adams*, from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

Copy N^o 1 Constitution AUGUST 8th 1804

SIR The Service requires that the United States Ship *John Adams* under your Command, remains with the Squadron for the present: You will therefore immediately put her in the best State for Action that your Situation will admit of.

[NDA. MC LB, 1804–5.]

[8 August 1804]

To Midshipman Charles Morris, U. S. Navy, from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

SIR, You are hereby appointed Lieutenant of the United States Brig *Argus*, You will therefore repair on board said Brig, and take upon yourself the charge, and duty of Lieut^t, agreeable to the regulations of the Service, for which this shall be your sufficient Authority
Given under my hand on board
the United States Ship *Constitution*
this 8th day of Augt. 1804

Signed EDW^d PREBLE

[LC. EPP, Order Book, May 1803–June 1805.]

Extract from journal of U. S. Frigate *Congress*, Captain John Rodgers, U. S. Navy, commanding, Wednesday, 8 August 1804

[A. M.] at $\frac{1}{4}$ past 4 discoverd A sail on our Larb^d Quarter.

A 5 discoverd a sail on our weather bow.

At $\frac{1}{2}$ past 6 the commodore Made the Signal N^o 276 at 7 tackd ship made sail and gave chace — at $\frac{1}{2}$ past 7 the chace shewed Red colours the commod made the Signal N^o 871 — hoisted English colours — the strange sail proved To be a Moorish ship of 32 guns
Latitude Observed 33° 16' N Longitude Observed 11° 11' W

[USNA.]

Extract from Memorandum Book of Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, on board
U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, 8 August 1804

John Adams Capt. Chauncey arrived from the U. S. A.

[LC original.]

Extract from journal kept by Purser John Darby, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. S.
John Adams, Master Commandant Isaac Chauncey, U. S. Navy, commanding,
Wednesday, 8 August 1804

We were this morning at Anchor to the West^d of the town and fortification of the Town of Tripoli all of us in suspence not knowing what will be the next manuevers of the Com^{dr} a peace is talked off. as it is said Commodore Preble is now very anxious to make one before the arrival of Commodore Barron. about 12 Oclock Meridian. a sale was discovered making towards the Town of Tripoli. one of our Brigs & Schooner gave chase to her. she was supposed at first to be the Brig *Schurg*. but was afterwards found to be a strang sail. and having got in to the E^d of a long reef. which made out and which our ships could not cross. she made her escape into Tripoli before. our Vessels could weather the Point. about 2. Oclock we discovered another sale. and all the squadron got under way and sailed along past the town and harbour of the Town. stood some distance to the easted. and discovered, by signals, the sail to be the *Schurg* — We manuvered about. untill night. when the Squadron came too. except. a brig and a schooner which kept underway all night —

[NDA original. Miss Camilla S. McConnell.]

To Lieutenant James W. Murdoch, U. S. Navy, Philadelphia, Pa., from Secretary
of the Navy

NAV. DEP. 9th Aug: 1804.

The President has appointed you a Lieutenant in the Navy of the United States — and a commission will be forwarded to you in due season —

You will take the enclosed Oath and return it to this Office with a letter accepting this appointment, from the date of which your pay & emoluments will commence. — Geo: Harrison Esq^r Navy Agent at Philadelphia has been directed to make the necessary contracts for building a Gun-boat, agreeably to a draft which has been transmitted to him. — Your services as a professional Gentleman, may it is conceived be usefully directed to this object — you will therefore attend in person and superintend the execution of the work, and see that it is faithfully performed. You will communicate with G^e Harrison Esq^e when ever it may be necessary — He will put you in possession of the particular directions, which have been transmitted to him by me on the subject of dimensions and materials — by which you will be enabled to form a correct judgment of the work as the Contractor progresses in its execution.

[NDA. Off. Comg. Gunboats, 1803-1808.]

To Monsieur Beaussier, French Chargé d'Affaires and Commissary General, Tripoli, from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

Constitution. Off TRIPOLY
August 9th 1804

SIR I was honored with your letters by the French Corsair, and note their contents — I did not constrain the Captain to convey the wounded to Tripoly: It was his voluntary act for which I made him a handsome compensation —

One Frigate in addition to our Squadron has already arrived, and three others sailed from America in company with her which were to stop at Algiers and Tunis. I expect them every moment. Such a force you must be sensible will enable us to destroy all the Sea Port Towns in Tripoly — After their arrival it will not be in my power to offer a single dollar either as ransom or peace: As yet it is; and I now propose my last offer which I most solemnly assure you I will never transcend — I will give his highness the Bashaw Eighty thousand dollars for the ransom of the prisoners and restore him all the Prisoners in our possession & re-establish a treaty of Peace, and will give ten thousand dollars as a Consular present on the arrival of a Consul from the United States.

If these terms are agreeable to the Bashaw, I must be made acquainted with it by 10 OClock tomorrow morning If they are accepted, you will please to hoist the white flag under the french flag, and his highness the Bashaw will be pleased to hoist the white flag at his Castle to denote that we are at peace, which I shall answer by the white flag at the fore — M^r OBrien will deliver you this & consult with you if you wish it.

[LC. EPP, Vol. 12, June–August 1804.]

Extract from journal of U. S. Brig *Argus*, Master Commandant Isaac Hull, U. S. Navy, commanding, Thursday, 9 August 1804

This day Commences with mod^e breezes At ½ past 1 P, M, got under way cast off the Gunboat at 2 Commodore Preble and Consul OBrien came on board made sail and stood in for Tripoli at ½ past 2 fired a Gun and hoisted a Sig^l for the french Consul at 3 observed a Sail off our lee bow bore away for her found her Close in with the Shore T, K^e and Stood off at ½ past 5 Commod^e Preble & Consul OBrien Went on board the *Constitution* saw a Strange sail to the Eastw^d made all sail in Chace at 6 Exchange Sig^{ls} with the U. S. Brig *Scourge* at ¾ past 4 AM the Commod^e made Sig^l N^o 571 at 5 wore Ship to the Southw^d at 6 the Commod^e hoisted our Distinguishing flag at 7 Cap^t Hull Went on board the Commodore and returned at 9 at ½ past Commod^e Preble & Consul OBrien Came on board made sail and Stood in for the town at ½ past 10 fired a Gun and made a Sig^l for the french Consul At 12 hoisted the white flag under the french Consular Sig^l which was answered by him on Shore.

[NDA photostat.]

Extract from journal of Midshipman Charles Morris, Jr., U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Brig *Argus*, Master Commandant Isaac Hull, U. S. Navy, commanding, Thursday, 9 August 1804

Joined the U. S. Brig *Argus*.

1. M^r OBrien went into Tripoli with a flag of truce

2 M^r OBrien returned made sail and stood for the *Constitution*

390 NAVAL OPERATIONS, APRIL-SEPTEMBER 6, 1804

3 Hove to: The Commodore. M^r OBrien Capt. Hull & Cap^t Smith went on board the *Constitution*

A. M. Moderate. Wore occasionally to keep sight of the Commodores light

6½ the Commodore Hoisted our distinguishing flag — Capt Hull went on board

Sent the launch on board the *Jn^o Adams* —

[Mrs. C. E. Fox original. NDA photostat.]

Extract from journal kept on board the U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, by Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, Thursday, 9 August 1804

Wind N W at anchor with the Squadron N W from Tripoly 5 or 6 Miles, supplying the Gun Boats & Bomb Vessells with Ammunition & stores. — At 3 PM went on Board the *Argus* to reconnoitre the Harbour of Tripoly, stood in for the eastern Batteries, the Enemy fired several shot one of which was near sinking us as it struck below the Water line & raked the Copper down the Bottom. at 3½ P M made the signal for the Squadron to weigh and haul off the Wind blowing fresh from N N E — at 6 P M Joined the *Constitution*, a small Ketch stole into the Harbour under the Eastern shore while we were reconnoitering, the shoals prevented our cutting her off, fresh Breezes all night in the morning Calm. at 9 AM Anch^d with the Squadron 36 fath^s 5 miles N N E from the Town at 10 AM. the French Consul hoisted a french Flag & White flag under it, at his Flag staff on shore, in consequence of which I hoisted similar colours on Board the *Argus* & stood in near the Town & sent a Boat into the Harbour with a flag of truce, and a letter for the Prime Minister one for Cap^t Bainbridge enclosing an Invoice of clothing Provided by M^r Cathcart, and a letter to the French Consul. — The *Scourge* Joind comp^y L^t Izard reported that he convoyed the Store ship safe into Malta. —

[LC. EPP, Vol. 12, June-August 1804.]

Extract from log book kept by Sailing Master Nathaniel Haraden, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Thursday, 9 August 1804

Moderate breezes from N W. At Single Anchor 5 or 6 Miles N W from Tripoly — Squadron in company — We are Employ'd in supplying the Gun boats & Bombards with military stores. The Commodores General Orders were read this Afternoon thro' the Squadron, in the form of public thanks to the Officers Seamen & Marines — He mentions with regret those brave unfortunate Officers, Seamen & Marines who fell in the actions against Tripoly on the 5th & 8th [3 & 7] Inst.: His thanks were cheered from Van to rear of the Squadron At 3 P. M. the Commodore left the *Constitution* and went on board the *Argus* — He left Orders for the Squadron to weigh & stand to the E N E.

The *Argus* bore up for Tripoly in Order to reconnoitre the Harbour — The Batteries fired several shot at the *Argus* one of which hull'd her within two or three feet of the Place where the Commodore was standing.

At 3½ P. M. the Squadron weighed & filled to the E N E. At Sun set the Commodore rejoined the *Constitution* Tripoly S W b S ½ S.

The Weather at this time had the appearance of fresh breezes from N N E — A sail to the E b S which answered our private Signal — At 9 P. M. the weather cleared up and became More Moderate.

Pleasant weather through the night. We stood off & on with the Squadron in company till day light when we wore & stood in for Tripoly then bearing S W 9 or 10 Miles — From day light till 7 A. M. Light breezes from E S E. From this time till 8½ A. M. calm or light airs from S S W. At 8¼ A. M. made signal to the Squadron to prepare to anchor.

At 9 came to, with the small bower in 36 fms hard bottom, 5 Miles N N E of Tripoly — At 10 A. M. a light [breeze] sprang up from E b N — The Commodore left the *Constitution* and went on board the *Argus* which made sail in for Tripoly — The *Vixen* followed the *Argus* — As they drew in towards the batteries they shewed American colours & the french flag at the fore —

Joined company the *Scourge* which left the Squadron a few days ago as a convoy to the store ship —

Employed all forenoon supplying the Squadron with different articles — Supplied the Bombards with 256 Gal^s Water Each —

Noon light airs from E N E.

Surgeons report 3 Sick, 4 conv^{ed}

Latitude Observed 33° 4' N.

[LC. EPP, Log *Constitution*, 1803-1804.]

Extract from journal kept by Purser John Darby, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. S. *John Adams*, Master Commandant Isaac Chauncey, U. S. Navy, commanding, Thursday, 9 August 1804

We this day continued at Anchor making preparation to discharge part of our cargo on board the different ships laying here. as it seems we are to be equiped and to engage in the next atact provided there is not a peace. —

The Commodore sent in a flag of Truce to know whether the Bashaw woud treat on the Terms which had been offered by him before our arrival. and as I have no correct account of the terms offered. I shall not pretend to mention them here. the schooner and brig returned after having had some communication through the French Consul who came off. by permission of the Bashaw. and the white flag was haled down. which was a signal that no peace had been made. and. preparations are now making for anoth[er] attacck. we continue to have every day a number of the officers on board of us to dine and a repatition of the different engagm^{ts} which they have had with the Tripolians. — they seem to talk of butchering and cutting up a Turk with as much indifference as one is acustomed to carve a Turkey or chicken. the officers here are all very anxious that a peace shoud be made before the arrival of Commodore Barrion. that Commodore Preble may have the credit of it. most of the officers of our ship are opposed to it and we are praying for his arrival before a peace

[NDA original. Miss Camilla S. McConnell.]

Extracts from journal of Midshipman F. Cornelius deKrafft, U. S. Navy, in U. S. Brig *Siren* of 18 guns, Master Commandant Charles Stewart, U. S. Navy, commanding, Thursday, 9 August 1804

(Standing along the land with the Commodore $\frac{1}{2}$ past 3 hove up)

Light winds & pleasant. At 1 the *Argus* hove too. At 2 L^t Elbert from the *Constitution*, came on board with the Commodore's thanks to the Officers & men of the squadron for their spirited conduct & Exertions on the 3^d & 7th Instants in attacking & vanquishing the enemy, which was publicly read on the quarter deck. At $\frac{1}{2}$ past 2 the *Argus* hove about & stood in for the Town At 3 a signal to get under way. $\frac{1}{2}$ past 3 weigh'd & made sail. $\frac{1}{2}$ past 4 back'd the main topsail, saw a ketch enter the harbour of Tripoli. At 5 calm At 6 discov'd the *Scourge* to windward. At 8 a signal to anchor. At 9 the *Argus* stood in & hoisted the french flag & fir'd a gun to leeward At $\frac{1}{2}$ past 9 the *Vixen* stood in with a french flagg at the fore At 11 the french flag was hoisted ashore. —

Meridian light airs & pleasant, the *Argus* hoisted the White flag under the french. —

[NDA.]

To Captain Samuel Barron, U. S. Navy, Commodore of U. S. Squadron relieving Commodore Preble, from James Simpson, U. S. Consul, Tangier, Morocco

TANGIER 10th August 1804. —

DEAR SIR In continuation of the advices already lodged at Gibraltar for your information on the movements of the Vessels of War of this Country, I have now to acquaint you that on the 29th Ult^o the Frigate of 32 Guns remained at Anchor in Sallé Roads, waiting the return of that of 30 Guns from Mogadore, ordered back there. — The Copper & Salt petre laden on this Ship at that Port, it is said will be put on board a Schooner and a Sactia. — The other Ship *Mirboha* commanded by Arraez Lubarez sailed from Larach on Sunday last to join those two. — The three are to receive a farther supply of provisions and Ammunition, with an addition of thirty Seamen each and their ultimate Instructions, then to proceed in Company on a Cruise to be established, according to the best information, between Cape Finisterre and Cape S^t Vincent, but against whom it is impossible for me to say.

The two Gallies arrived here from Tetuan on Wednesday, the *Gilallia* Commanded by Arraez Mohamet Ben Mishod & the *Bercia* — Arraez Mohamet Ben Ottoman, of four Carriage Guns and sixty five Men each. — This morning the Captains have called on the Consuls for the usual Passports and have got them; — they will probably put to Sea tomorrow. — Some say they are to Cruise between Gibraltar and Malaga, but that is not certain, their station being commonly in the Straits, making this Port their Rendezvous. — The discontent I have been assured the Emperour shewed on finding Arraez Lubarez could not carry the Wheat he had ordered for Tripoly, and the destination of all the three Ships which certainly was for the Mediterranean Ports, being at that time changed for a Cruise in the Ocean, made me very anxious to have some direct communication from His Majesty and the Minister, subsequent thereto. — This day I have received a Letter from one of the Emperours confidential Friends dated at Mequinez the 6th Ins^t written by His Majestys order, acknowledging

that I lately wrote His Majesty, it is in very Friendly terms, but I have not any answer to that written Sidy Muhammed Selawy at same time, owing no doubt to the Express having come direct in place of takeing Sallé in his way, where that Minister at present is. —

The tenor of this Letter however makes me hope reports had gone abroad unfavourable to our future Peace here, are perfectly unfounded; still I consider it a prudent measure to watch the operations of these Cruizers both large and small, at least for such time as it shall be seen they suffer our Flag to pass free; — the conduct of the one will shew clearly the intentions of the other. —

[Mrs. James S. Barron Col.]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from Monsieur Beaussier, French Chargé d'Affaires and Commissary General, Tripoli

TRIPOLY BARBARY *August 10th 1804*

COMMODORE I did not receive your letter before yesterday at $\frac{1}{2}$ past 12. Though in my opinion the offer you make as a ransom is still inconsiderable, before it was communicated to the Bashaw, I wished to have a conference with Mohammed DGhies concerning it, and called on him for this purpose — He assured me that since the Effusion of blood had already commenced, his country was bent upon continuing the war — that the Bashaw, electrified more than ever by the decision of his council, and by the patriotic transport of his People, is determined to wait the event, unless the sum is considerably augmented — that the government speaks of nothing less than two or three hundred thousand dollars — He has promised to second me before the Bashaw, in these new considerations which I am about to lay before him —

He told me, (and I am sensible of it) that it would be prejudicial to the interests of both parties to propose Eighty thousand dollars, and desired me to inform you that he flattered himself with the hopes of being able to succeed in reducing these pretensions to the sum of one hundred & fifty thousand — This ransom Commodore is not exorbitant, and will not fail to meet with the approbation of your Government, if you wish to penetrate the disposition of the Bashaw, who persists in hazarding every thing rather than expose his dignity in this point. Besides you will set at liberty your unfortunate Countrymen by means of this reasonable sum which will be so deemed by all governments.

If you wish to pursue the negotiation, & communicate to me your Sentiments, you can make use of the same method as before — In concert with Sidi Mohammed DGhies & M^r OBrien whose debarkation I shall obtain, I shall exert myself in persuading the B. to content himself with the already mentioned sum Your first attack had intimidated him a little, but the second encouraged him against the Efforts of your forces, the importance of which I have disclosed to him.

Accept the homage of my high consideration

(Signed) BEAUSSIER

[LC. EPP, Vol. 12, June–August 1804.]

Extract from journal of U. S. Brig *Argus*, Master Commandant Isaac Hull, U. S. Navy, commanding, Friday, 10 August 1804

This day begins with light breezes and Pleasant Weather At $\frac{1}{2}$ past 1 PM, Consul OBrien went to Tripoli with a flag of truce at 2 wore and stood for the town at $\frac{1}{2}$ past 2 Consul OBrien returned wore and made Sail off the land at 4 backed the main topsail Commod^e Preble Consul OBrien Cap^t Hull and Cap^t Smith went on board the *Constitution* M^r Cha^s Morris Came on board as 3rd Lieu^t At midnight wore to the N^o & Eastw^o At 3 AM wore to the Southw^o and Westw^o at 6 the Commod^e hoisted our Distinguishing flag made Sail for him at 7 he hoisted the White flag which followed by the Squadron At $\frac{1}{2}$ past 7 Cap^t Hull went on board the Commod^e and ret^d at $\frac{1}{2}$ past 9 hoisted out the launch and sent her on board the *John Adams* At Meridⁿ Mod^e & pleasant W^t

[NDA photostat.]

Extract from journal kept on board the U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, by Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, Friday, 10 August 1804

Wind N N E to E N E at Anchor 2 Leagues N N E from Tripoly. — all the squadron at Anchor excepting the *Argus* & *Vixen* as Guard ships. — at $\frac{1}{2}$ past 12 Noon observ'd the French Flag with a white flag under it hoisted at the staff on Top of the French Consuls House in Tripoly, I ordered the *Argus* & *Vixen* to answer the signal by hoisting similar flags, I then sent a Boat into the Harbour with flag of truce. M^r Obrian went in as Officer of the Boat, at 3 P M the Boat return'd and Brought me a letter from the french Consul, advising me to offer the Bashaw 150 thousand dollars for ransome of the Prisoners & make Peace, this I did not think proper to do presuming that our Government might not be satisfied with the terms, altho it is my opinion that we shall not be able to obtain them for a less sum, moderate all night, all the squadron Employd in preparing for a third attack at 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ AM. the French Consul hoisted the french & white flags, sent a Boat into the Harbour with a flag of truce, and a letter, authorising the F. Consul to offer the Bashaw 100,000 Doll^s for Ransome of the Prisoners, 10,000 as a Consular Present, nothing for Peace and no tribute, these terms were rejected. —

[LC. EPP, Vol. 12, June-August 1804.]

Extract from log book kept by Sailing Master Nathaniel Haraden, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Friday, 10 August 1804

Moderate breezes from E N E.

At Single Anchor 5 or 6 Miles N N E from Tripoly — The Squadron except the *Argus* & *Vixen* which are standing off & on in company.

At 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ Noon we observed on the walls of Tripoly the French National flag with a white Flag under it.

The *Argus* & *Vixen* shewed the same flags — Soon after the *Argus* sent a boat into Tripoly with Consul OBrien — She went & returned under flag of truce At 4 P. M. the Commodore rejoined the *Constitution* and Visited some of the Squadron —

Towards evening fresh breezes from E S E — Veered to 90 fath^s — From 8 P. M. till day light moderate breezes from E S E. A little after Sunrise we observed several Flags displayed round the walls of Tripoly, and two on the Bashaw's castle — We have never before

this morning seen more than one flag on the Bashaws castle, and it was the General opinion of the Officers of the *Constitution* that one of these two was a white flag — The Squadron hoisted immediately a white flag at the fore.

The *Vixen* was ordered to stand in, and examine the flag: At 8 A. M. she returned & reported the Flag to be yellow & white — The Squadron immediately hauled down the white Flag.

Employed all forenoon in sending powder & shot to the Gun boats & shells to the Bombards —

The Squadron employed making the necessary arrangements for a third attack upon Tripoly —

At 11½ A. M. we observed the French National Flag with a white one under it flying on the Walls of Tripoly Made the *Argus* & *Vixen* signals to come within hail Noon Moderate breezes from ESE with pleasant Weather

[LC. EPP, Log *Constitution*, 1803–1804.]

Extract from journal kept by Purser John Darby, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. S. *John Adams*, Master Commandant Isaac Chauncey, U. S. Navy, commanding, Friday, 10 August 1804

This morning Commodore Prible. sent the Schooner and brig in again under the White flag. to know whether the Bashaw woud. accceed to the terms which he had offered before and it is said that the Commadore has offered a larger sum for peace and the ransom of our Prisoners, as he is still more anxious. to conclude the peace before the arrival of Com^e Barron. the Brig & Schooner has just returned and haled down the White flag again. which is a signal to us that there is nothing done. and it was expected that another attack would be made this evening on the Town, but it seems nothing in that way is to be done to night. We are still discharging our ship and preparing for to Join in the action. our Captain has frequent communications with the com^r but we know not what is going on or what is to be the final result. —

[NDA original. Miss Camilla S. McConnell.]

Extract from journal of Midshipman F. Cornelius deKrafft, U. S. Navy, in U. S. Brig *Siren* of 18 guns, Master Commandant Charles Stewart, U. S. Navy, commanding, Friday, 10 August 1804

Lying at Anchor

Light breezes & pleasant, the *Argus* & *Vixen* Lying too off[f] the harbour, At 1 the Comm: sent a boat from the *Argus* on shore At 3 the boat return'd, the *Argus* join'd the fleet with the *Vixen* Tripoli bore S W by S. 6 miles. —

Midnight light breezes & pleasant At 7 the Comm: hoisted the white flag & made the signal to speak the *Argus*. the *Vixen* stood in for the Town with a flag of truce. At ½ past 7 she fir'd a gun to leeward & stood close in under the batteries ½ past 7 the flag not being answer'd the *Vixen* wore round & stood for the fleet. At 9 the flag on board the Comm: was haul'd down. At ½ past 11 the *Scourge* hove up —

Meridian light breezes & pleas^t

[NDA.]

To Mrs. William Bainbridge, Perth Amboy, N. J., from Secretary of the Navy
NAV. DEP Aug¹ 11. 1804

As a small supply of money may probably be acceptable to you in the absence of your Husband Capⁿ Bainbridge, I have directed George Harrison Esq^r to honor your Drafts on him for 150 or 200 Dollars — If you please you may draw on him at Sight for this Sum

[NDA. GLB, Vol. 7, 1803-1805.]

[11 August 1804]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from P. d' Karpow, Russian Chargé d' Affaires,
The Two Sicilies

[Translation]

COMMODORE A Sickness which has confined me to my bed during more than two months has prevented me from acknowledging (before now) the reception of the obliging letter which you have done me the honor to write under date of 7th June last, announcing to me your wise determination to release the Russian Ship [*Madona Catapoliana*] which one of your armed Vessels had taken some miles distant from the Port of Tripoly.

I, assuredly, will not fail to inform my court of your equitable procedure, and it will learn, certainly with much pleasure the care which you have [taken], to avoid all that, which can bring the least injury upon the good harmony which exists between my august Sovereign and your Government.

I likewise beg you Sir to accept the assurance of the distinguished consideration with which I have the honor to be, Sir

Naples. 30th Juillet 11th August

[LC. EPP, Vol. 12, June-August 1804.]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from William Higgins, U. S. Navy Agent,
Malta

MALTA the 11 August 1804

DEAR SIR. I dispatch this boat to inform you that Count Galligni has loaded a Sponnara with powder, Muskets, Gun flints &c^s for the Bey of Tripoly she is cleared out for Jerba, and the powder I learn, for better deception, is packed into Rum Puncheons; the patron of the Boat which carries this is well acquainted with the rout, the Count's Vessel means to take and will conduct any of your Squadron into a situation so as to be sure to meet with her, and cut her off; he may also be otherways useful in bringing you live stock from the Shore —

The Vessel with the water &c^s will sail to morrow morning Completely loaded with about two hundred Puncheons of Water, Onions, Sheep, fowls &c^s as p^r bill of Lading that will go with her; I have taken her by the Month, and for three Months certain; and she is to be entirely under your Orders —

I have not been able to get the quantity of Potatoes you want, all that I could procure will go in company with this letter with a parcel of Melons —

I sincerely hope you will be able to lay hold of the Counts Ammunition, which it is important should not reach the Bey, as he, it is reputed, is much in want; at any rate I thought it my duty to give

you this information without thinking of the additional Expence it will occasion — I give the Speronara 240. Dollars certain, and a present of 100 Dollars more if the powder is met with; ended I should tell you that the first information I got of this business was from the Bearer to whom the freight was offered, but they could not agree about the price.

I wrote you by the *John Adam's* fregate which I hope long ere this has Joined you, and a fregate is now passing the Island at a distance sterring with a Crowd of sail your way that I hope will prove to be the *Essex* —

[LC. EPP, Vol. 12, June–August 1804.]

To Monsieur Beaussier, French Chargé d'Affaires and Commissary General, Tripoli, from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

Constitution — Off TRIPOLY
August 11th 1804

SIR I am honored with your letter of yesterday: in answer to which I have to observe that the expectations of the Bashaw cannot be complied with. Perhaps after the next attack he may be willing to accede to mine. The last attack would have been a very serious one for Tripoly, had not a frigate appeared in the offing the moment there was sufficient wind to enable me to approach the town — The appearance of that Frigate and supposing that the other four were near her, induced me to make a signal to withdraw from the attack in order to make a more effectual one, which will take place the moment they arrive. In the mean time the Bombardment and cannonading of the town will be carried on, and no more time can be lost in attempting to negotiate —

My Government expected to ransom our Prisoners for forty thousand dollars: I had however discretionary power to go as far as Eighty thousand, besides a present in cash; this present I will give the Bashaw amounting to twenty thousand dollars to make up the sum of one hundred thousand for the Ransom of the prisoners, which shall be paid in forty days. I hope the Bashaw will accept of these Generous terms, beyond which my Government will not approve of my going as it is my utmost limits. Be assured Sir, when the whole Squadron arrives, no such offer will ever again be made — It will be a glorious affair for you Sir to negotiate the liberation of these Prisoners and prevent the farther effusion of blood — I am convinced by what I have already seen, that we can reduce Tripoly to a heap of Ruins: the destruction of Derna & Bengaza will follow, and the blockade be constantly cont[in]ued, unless the present terms are accepted — For this sum now offered all the Prisoners are to be immediately released & the former treaty of Peace renewed & ratified: A Consular present of ten thousand dollars in cash shall be given on the arrival of a Consul, but no annuities or other presents — All the Tripoline Prisoners which I have on board shall be landed here on the restoration of our's; and all those at Syracuse shall be immediately sent for and brought to the Bashaw — I presume you will have no hesitation in becoming the Guarantee for the payment of the money, and be assured if the terms are accepted, it shall be brought from Malta as much sooner than the forty days as possible —

If the terms now offered are accepted of, I wish you to hoist the white flag under the french flag at your Staff by 5 O'Clock this Evening & come off, and I will send a boat to the Rocks to receive you. & M^r OBrien will go on shore with you to make the necessary arrangements —

[LC. EPP, Vol. 12, June-August 1804.]

To Monsieur Beaussier, French Chargé d'Affaires and Commissary General, Tripoli, from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

*Constitution Off TRIPOLY
August 11th. 1804*

SIR As I know it is customary to distribute presents among the officers of the Bashaw on the renewal of a treaty of Peace; You are at Liberty in addition to the one hundred thousand dollars offered this day to the Bashaw for the Ransom of the Americans in Tripoly, to distribute ten thousand dollars to the Prime minister and other officers for their interest in influencing the Bashaw to accept of the only terms I have it in my power to propose, which sum shall be delivered to you for that purpose in forty days. The presents are to be privately given —

If on the arrival of our whole force, peace is not established, one of our Frigates is ordered by the president of the United States to proceed to Alexandria to assist the Bashaw's brother. M^r Eaton our late Consul at Tunis comes out in the Frigate for that purpose, and brings out arms and ammunition, artillery and cash to enable him to regain the Throne of Tripoly — I can assure you, this is a fact, and I have no objection to your acquainting the minister —

[LC. EPP, Vol. 12, June-August 1804.]

Daily Report of Prisoners of War

Constitutions daily report of Prisoners of War August 11th 1804

Well	Thirty Seven
Wounded	Five
Total	Forty two

JOHN BUSHARD M. A. [JOHN BURCHARD, *Master at Arms*]

[Maine HS. NDA photostat.]

Cargo of U. S. Ketch *Intrepid*

Manifest of the Cargo Shipped on board the American Ketch *Intrepid* for the U. S. of America's Squadron Off Tripoly by George Dyson — Syracuse August 11th 1804

4 Bullocks	62 Sheep
1 Calf	30 butts Water
20 cant ^s Wood	3 casks old Hock
4 Baskets Eggs — 900	42 Fowls
100 Melons	500 W ^t Onions & 50 Pumpions
2 Baskets Peas	40 Gall ^s Oil
230 Melincani	3 C ^w ^t Hay, Corn &c
13 Pigs	5 Cw ^t Onions
1 Cask Marine cloathing for U. S. Brig <i>Syren</i>	

[LC. EPP, Order Book, May 1803-June 1805.]

Course of U. S. Frigate *Congress*, one of Commodore Samuel Barron's Squadron, from Cape Henry, 5 July, to Gibraltar, 11 August 1804

Date	Latitude N.	Longitude W.	Distance per Log
July 5	36. 58	74. 53	43 Miles
" 6	36. 50	71. 43	154 "
" 7	36. 30	68. 47	144 "
" 8	36. 08	65. 02	184 "
" 9	35. 36	60. 28	224 "
" 10	35. 46	57. 43	137 "
" 11	36. 54	54. 43	182 "
" 12	36. 44	50. 03	227 "
" 13	36. 49	45. 47	194 "
" 14	36. 24	42. 10	175 "
" 15	36. 33	39. 14	142 "
" 16	36. 31	36. 38	128 "
" 17	36. 44	34. 39	96 "
" 18	36. 44	33. 08	97 "
" 19	36. 27	31. 11	96 "
" 20	35. 27	28. 54	144 "
" 21	37. 17	27. 46	132 "
" 22	37. 14	27. 57	136 "
" 23	35. 45	26. 16	123 "
" 24	34. 43	24. 22	114 "
" 25	34. 44	22. 51	87 "
" 26	33. 44	21. 10	87 "
" 27	32. 46	19. 13	114 "
" 28	32. 20	17. 44	91 "
" 29	32. 25	17. 05	23 "
" 30	31. 59	16. 02	96 "
" 31	31. 55	14. 51	89 "
Aug. 1	31. 39	13. 07	91 "
" 2	32. 05	12. 45	104 "
" 3	32. 09	10. 55	101 "
" 4	31. 51	10. 57	58 "
" 5	32. 11	10. 04	98 "
" 6	32. 39	11. 00	83 "
" 7	33. 02	10. 13	51 "
" 8	33. 16	11. 11	59 "
" 9	34. 02	9. 20	104 "
" 10	34. 43	8. 06	76 "
" 11			123 "

[USNA. Log of *Congress & Constitution*, Nov. 1804-Sept. 1805.]

Extract from journal of U. S. Brig *Argus*, Master Commandant Isaac Hull, U. S. Navy, commanding, Saturday, 11 August 1804

This day begins with mod^e and pleas^t Weather at Meridⁿ the Commod^o hoisted our Distinguishing flag bore away for him at ½ past Commod^o Preble and Consul OBrien came on board made Sail & stood in for the town at ½ past 1 fired a Gun and hoisted the White flag at the Fore T.G. mast head and a french Ensign at the main which was followed by the Squadron Consul OBrien went on Shore with a flag of Truce in the barge Commod^o Preble Cap^{tn} Hull and Smith went on board the *Vixen* at ½ past 2 Consul OBrien returned on board the *Vixen* made Sail for the *Constitution* at ½ past 8 hoisted in the launch at 9 Cap^{tn} Hull returned at 2 AM wore Ship to the S^d & Westw^d at 9 AM Cap^{tn} Hull went on board the Commod^o at ¼ past he ret^d with Consul

O'Brien made Sail and Stood for the town at 10 fired a Gun and hoisted the french flag at the M.T.G. mast head and a White at the fore at ½ past Consul O'Brien went in the barge for Tripoli with a flag of Truce at Meridⁿ he returned made Sail & Stood for the Commodore

[NDA photostat.]

Extract from journal of Midshipman Charles Morris, Jr., U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Brig *Argus*, Master Commandant Isaac Hull, U. S. Navy, commanding, Saturday, 11 August 1804

P. M. Pleasant, the Commodore hoisted our distinguishing flag bore up for him

1. The Commodore and M^r O'Brien came on board. made sail for the Town in Company with the *Vixen*

1½ fired a Gun and hoisted the White flag forward and the French Ensign at the Main. The rest of the Squadron hoisting a White flag at the fore. M^r O'Brien went on shore with a flag of Truce the Commodore, Capt Hull, and Capt Smith went on board the *Vixen*

2½ M^r O'Brien returned to the *Vixen* made sail off shore

6 Took the Gun Boats in tow. 9 Capt Hull returned

A. M. 9½ M^r O'Brien came on board Stood in shore and hoisted the signal as above. 10½ M^r O'Brien went on shore with a flag of Truce

Noon M^r O'Brien returned stood off shore —

[Mrs. C. E. Fox original. NDA photostat.]

Extract from Memorandum Book of Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, 11 August 1804

Sent a flag on shore to endeavor to exchange prisoners.

[LC original.]

Extract from journal kept on board the U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, by Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, Saturday, 11 August 1804

Wind E b N light Breezes, held communication with the french Consul in Tripoly by means of flag of truce, but without any effect, the Bashaw's demands are too extravagant to be complied with. Rec^d on board sundry stores from the *John Adams*. —

[LC. EPP. Vol. 12. June-August 1804.]

Extract from log book kept by Sailing Master Nathaniel Haraden, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Saturday, 11 August 1804

Moderate breezes from E b N — At 12¼ the Commodore went on board the *Argus* & made sail in for Tripoly Consul O'Brien went on Shore in the *Argus*' Boat with a White Flag under the French Flag. We hoisted a white Flag during the time the Boat was on shore — We had strong breezes from E S E. the greater part of the Afternoon, & are employed in sending different stores to the Gun boats & Bom-bards —

Towards evening the Commodore came on board.

The *Argus* & *Vixen* joined the Squadron — They were Ordered p^r Signal to continue under way during the Night—

All the Captains of the Squadron waited on the Commodore —

The E S E wind continued strong till day light, when we had moderate breezes — At 6 A. M. calm

At 8 A. M. supplied the *Enterprize* with 16 gang casks of water — 1024 Gallons —

At 9 A.M. the White under the French Flag was hoisted in Tripoly — The *Argus* & *Vixen* p^r Signal came within hail — Consul OBrien went on board the *Argus* with the Commodores dispatches —

The *Argus* ran in with the town and sent a boat on on shore.

At 10½ made Signal for all the Squadron except the *John Adams* & *Scourge* to weigh.

We weighed & ran down for Tripoly — At Noon brought to, with the Main topsail to the Mast 4 Miles North of Tripoly in order to join company with the *Argus* & *Vixen* then in with the town waiting the return of Consul OBrien in the Boat.

Rec'd from the *John Adams* the following stores Viz

One Coil	4½ Inch rope	-----	120	fath ^s
Two	4	-----	440	d ^e
One	5	-----	120	d ^e
Eleven	1½	-----	1320	d ^e
Ten	3	-----	1200	d ^e
Fourteen	12 thread Ratline	-----	1680	d ^e
Eight	9 thread d ^e	-----	1200.	d ^e

Rec'd also from the *John Adams* three boxes Marine Cloathing

[LC. EPP, Log *Constitution*, 1803-1804.]

Extract from journal kept by Purser John Darby, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. S. *John Adams*, Master Commandant Isaac Chauncey, U. S. Navy, commanding, Saturday, 11 August 1804

We still continue at Anchor of[f] the Town of Tripoli distance about 3 or 4 Leagues. The Comm^o Prible renewed again to day his ovetures for Peace and went in near the Town and hoisted the White Flag under the French Flag. had some communications with the Bashaw. but all to no effect. as it seems. that he has encreased his demand i[n]stead of reducing of them. the cause of which is attributed to various circumstance: one the arrival of this ship and and offers of peace being made by him the day after our arrival. the Bashaw supposing that we have come out with Possitive orders for a peace from our Government. and that. the other Squadron which has been so long talked of is not coming. another. the gun boats. having been ordered off in the last attack without destroying or taking any of the Bashaws. Boats, we now understand that Commodore is determined to make no further offers to the Bashaw for Peace but to attack the Town to night. — the Squadron got under way with an intention to attack the town but the Wind & Weather not being favourable it was given over after the Squadron had stood in near the town —

[NDA original. Miss Camilla S. McConnell.]

Extract from journal of Midshipman F. Cornelius deKrafft, U. S. Navy, in U. S. Brig *Siren* of 18 guns, Master Commandant Charles Stewart, U. S. Navy, commanding, Saturday, 11 August 1804

Lying at anchor until 10 P. M.

Gentle breezes & pleas^t ½ past meridian the *Argus* & *Vixen* stood in for the town. the *Argus* fir'd a gun to leeward & hoisted the white flag at the fore & a french jack at the main, same time the white flag was hoisted at the fore by all the Squadron. At 3 the squadron haul'd down their flags the *Argus* & *Vixen* stood off shore —

402 NAVAL OPERATIONS, APRIL-SEPTEMBER 6, 1804

Midnight light winds & pleas^t At daylight perceiv'd the galley's & gun boats &c. hauling out of the Mole At 9 hoisted out the barge & in cutter to repair. At $\frac{1}{2}$ past 9 the *Argus* & *Vixen* made sail & stood in for the town. At $\frac{1}{4}$ past the *Argus* fir'd a gun & hoisted a white flag at the fore & the french jack at the main. $\frac{1}{2}$ past 10 a signal from the Comm^e to get under way. At 11 made sail & stood for the town. —

Meridian light winds & pleas^t weather. —

[NDA.]

[12 August 1804]

Stores and Provisions shipped on board the Ship *Conception*

Shipped by the Grace of God in good Order & well conditioned by William Higgins Naval Agent to the United States in and upon the good ship called the *Conception* whereof is Master under God for this present Voyage — Antonio Grima, and no[w] riding at anchor in the Harbour of Malta and by God's Grace bound for the American Squadron Off Tripoly under the command of Commodore Preble being supplies for the Use thereof, and the Property of the United States as particularized on the other side being marked & numbered as in the Margin, and are to be delivered in like good Order & well conditioned to the Aforesaid Squadron — (the Act of God, the Kings Enemies Fire, & all & every other dangers & Accidents of the Seas Rivers & Navigation, of whatever nature & kind soever excepted) Unto Commodore Preble or to his Assigns, he or they paying freight for the said Goods, as per charter Party — with Primage & Average Accustomed — In Witness whereof the Master or Purser of the said ship hath affirmed to three Bills of lading, all of this tenor & date: the one of which bills being accomplished the other two to Stand Void — And So God send the good Ship to her desired Port in Safety — Amen — Dated in Malta the 12th August 1804

Signed ANTONIO GRIMA

Endoresed on the Back as follows

- 195 Iron bound Water casks full of Fresh Water
- Thirty sheep
- 10 Dozⁿ Fowls
- 50 Cantars Onions
- 8 Sacks Barley
- 50 Pesati Wood or about 258 English Cw^t
- 1 cantar Melons
- 112 Bundles Hay
- 350 cabbages —

[LC. EPP, Order Book, May 1803-June 1805.]

To Secretary of the Navy from Captain John Rodgers, U. S. Navy

N^o 1 — (Duplicate forwarded) U. STATES FRIGATE *Congress*
Gibraltar Bay Aug^t 12th 1804

SIR, I have the honor to acquaint you that the *Congress* has arrived after a tedious passage of 38 days — The *Constellation* is in Sight & I expect to see the *President* & *Essex* every minute, as we only parted company five days ago. —

The last 25 days of our passage the Winds were directly ahead, and to facilitate our arrival the Commodore thought proper on the 7th Ins^t to separate the Squadron and direct each Ship to make the best of her way to this place. —

The arrival of the Squadron *at this moment* has again rendered an unexpected Service to the U'States, as the Emperor of Morocco has begun to be unreasonable; He wishes to send one of his Ships of War to Tripoli, with a Cargo of Wheat, and has Importuned our Consul much on the Subject —

The Day the Squadron parted company, it boarded (about 70 Leagues to the S. W. of Larache) the Emperors Frigate *Maimona*, from Mogadore bound to Larache, at which place he is collecting all his force and it is thought very probable to cruise against the U'States, in case of Consul Simpsons refusing a passport to the before mentioned Ship: however the arrival of this Squadron will no doubt change the Emperors plans —

Tunis is refractory and has made many threats, but I expect Prebles Vigilance has caused the Bey to be cautious; Indeed from what I learn here, nothing dangerous is to be expected from that quarter, his Commerce is considerable and he will not risque it for an uncertainty — I am afraid the business of Tripoli will be finished before we arrive, as it appears by Letters from Cap^t Preble to Consul Gavino, dated Saragosa June 19th that he was then nearly ready to Sail for Tripoli with Six Gun Boats & two Bombards in addition to the Squadron —

It is believed here, by the most knowing, that Spain intends to quarrel with us, and I think from a letter I saw from M^r Pinckney to Consul Gavino, that it is not Improbable, as that Government has refused to ratify the Louisiana Treaty —

[LC. JRP, Letters & Orders, Book A, 1804-1805.]

[12 August 1804]

Passport issued to the Spanish vessel *La Marianna*

To the Commodore or Commanding Officer of the Ships of War of the United States of America before Tripoly —

GREETING

WHEREAS HIS Excellency Hamouda Bashaw Bey of Tunis, has caused application to be made to me as the Consular Agent of the United States of America for this Regency, that a Safe Conduct should be granted to Sidi Mohamed Meten Aga Ambassador of the Grand Signior, and his Suite consisting of twelve Persons, charged with Dispatches from the Ottoman Porte to His Excellency the Bashaw of Tripoly, and now embarked on board the Spanish Pinck *La Marianna* Captain Joseph Bianchi, and navigated by nine Seamen the said Captain included — I have therefore granted a Passport to said Vessel, to proceed off Tripoly, and there to receive the approbation of the Commodore, or Commanding Officer of the American forces, to enter said Port. — It is therefore requested of the Commanders of the Vessels of war of the United States, to permit said Vessel to pass on her destined Voyage without hindrance or molestation; — provided she embarks no kind of Merchandize or takes on board no Passengers, other than those above mentioned. — It is further required on the

part of His Excellency the Bey, that said Vessel be permitted to leave the Port of Tripoly, without any molestation; provided she comes out with the same number of Passengers &c. &c. — There is shipped on board (with my consent,) one Trunk, containing wearing apparel, and one small box of Sugar and Coffee the property of M^r Beaussier Commissary General of the French Republic at Tripoly. — I have delivered to the Captain four Packages of letters, and one for the Commodore or Commanding Officer of the American forces off Tripoly —

(SEAL) In witness whereof I have hereunto Set my name and affixed the Public Seal of Office in the Chancery — Office of the United States of America at Tunis this twelvth day of August one thousand eight hundred and four —

GEORGE DAVIS

A Tunisien Pilot is embarked on board, by order of the Bey — and will return to Tunis by land GEORGE DAVIS

[LC. EPP, Vol. 12, June-August 1804.]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from William Higgins, U. S. Navy Agent,
Malta

MALTA the 12 August 1804

MY DEAR SIR The enclosed is Copy of what I did myself the honor to address you yesterday and I sincerely hope it will enable you to get hold of the Count's Ammunition-boat She is not yet sailed but I understand departs to morrow — The Patron of the speronara is well acquainted with the Coast and if you want him is willing to remain in the Service as long as you choose to keep him —

I have now the pleasure to hand You bill of lading for sundry Supplies of Water &c. shipped in conformity with your orders for the use of the Squadron under your Command — I trust you will be satisfied at the expedition I have used in fulfilling Your Commands, indeed I should have got the Vessel away a day sooner, had it not been for an intervening holiday on which the Maltese could not be persuaded to work. I feel myself under considerable obligation to Captⁿ Schomberg, and M^r Wilkie in so promptly furnishing me with the Casks which had been Just coopered for the use of the fleet, without this assistance it would have been impossible for me to have found others I enclose you a letter from Captⁿ Schomberg — I could not get the quantity of Potatoes you wanted, all to be procured have gone to you by the speronara with a basket of Apples, some Onions & Melons —

The terms of the Charter are as follows — The Vessel is taken for three Months *certain* or longer at *your* Option at 750 sendi p^r Month but she is not to be considered as discharged until the expiration of her Quarantine — She is of course to be absolutely under your direction to send wherever you may think proper at the *Vessels* risk tho' I have partly promised to the Captain that if he went to Sicily you would put him under American Colours to avoid the great danger of Privateers — this is no obligation however

I got the Store Ship *San Guiseppe* Prattic the day after her arrival —

I am happy to tell you M^r Lenard is quite recovered and to compleat his reestablishment I have insisted on his taking up his Quarters at my house to which he will remove to morrow or next day —

If it should be your intention for the *John Adams* to unload here, I will be obliged your letting me know that I may be prepared to meet her —

We have no News, a great talk of 9000 Russians being expected at Naples. —

[LC. EPP, Vol. 12, June–August 1804.]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from Master Commandant Charles Stewart,
U. S. Navy

Siren off TRIPOLI 12th Aug^t 1804

SIR A Negligence on the part of Lieu^t Maxwell this morning, has made it necessary I should suspend his functions, untill your pleasure is known — He unfortunately forgot himself and his responsibility in his morning watch and fell asleep he is very sorry for it, and duely sensible of his error, however it being an Offence of so high a nature that I feel the obligation of referring the decision to you; but Sir, as a public investigation, would very much injure the young man in his profession, I hope from your Compassionate disposition, you will be pleased to adopt some method that will spare him, and prevent the like in future

[LC. EPP, Vol. 12, June–August 1804.]

To Master Commandant Charles Stewart, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. Brig *Siren*,
from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

Constitution — Off TRIPOLY
August 12th 1804.

SIR I am honored with your letter of this date containing a charge against Lieut^t Maxwell for neglect of duty in Sleeping on his Watch — It is a charge of a serious nature at any time, or in any situation, but in our present one, cruizing on an Enemy's Coast, the Navigation of which is even with the best lookout attended with danger, such neglect is almost unpardonable; — I would have M^t Maxwell reflect if any accident should happen in consequence of his neglect he would involve many besides himself in the consequences attendant on such neglect, and his character as an Officer might be ruined — However, this being the first complaint of the same nature against M^t Maxwell, I will, in consequence of your friendly solicitation spare him from a public investigation of his conduct, and consent and direct that you permit him to return to his duty — I hope a second complaint of the same nature against M^t Maxwell will never be exhibited — You will have this letter read on the Quarter deck —

[LC. EPP, LB, April–Nov. 1804.]

Extract from journal of U. S. Brig *Argus*, Master Commandant Isaac Hull, U. S. Navy, commanding, Sunday, 12 August 1804

This day Commences with mod^e breezes and pleasant at ½ past 12 Consul OBrien and Cap^t Hull went on board the Commod^e at ½ past 2 the Commod^e made Sig^t N^e 1260 at 4 he hoisted our Distinguishing flag made Sail and stood for him backed the main topsail Cap^t Hull came on board filled away wore Ship and Stood for Tripoli at 5 T, K^d to the N^d & E^d at ½ past T, K^d to the S^d & W^d at 6 the Commod^e

hoisted our Distinguish^e flag T, K^d and Stood for him at ½ past 6 he made Sig^l N^e 995 Cap^t Hull went on board of him at 8 T, K^d to N^d & W^d at 10 Cap^t Hull came on board took 2 Gunboats in tow wore Ship to the Eastw^d and backed the main topsail — Emp^d as Necessary —

[NDA photostat.]

Extract from journal of Midshipman Charles Morris, Jr., U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Brig *Argus*, Master Commandant Isaac Hull, U. S. Navy, commanding, Sunday 12 August 1804

P. M. Moderate

1. Capt. Hull and M^r OBrien went on board the Commodore
- The Commodore made signal 1260
4. Capt. Hull came on board Made sail towards Tripoli
6. The Commodore hoisted the *Argus* flag stood for him
- A. M. 6½ he made N^e 995 Capt. Hull went on board
10. Capt Hull came on board took our gun boats in tow.
- 11 Wore —

[Mrs. C. E. Fox original. NDA photostat.]

Extract from journal kept on board the U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, by Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, Sunday, 12 August 1804

Moderate Breezes E b N Lying to 3 or 4 miles to the N N E of Tripoly, the *John Adams* at Anchor 2 Leagues out to prevent the Tripolines from discovering that she has but a few guns, Every thing is in order throughout the Squadron for an attack on Tripoly this night, The Enemy has two Galleys a schooner of 10 guns and 16 Gun Boats moored in the Harbour in a line abreast from East to West Heads to the Northward to defend it. a swell heaving on shore prevents our attempting any thing at present. anchor'd in 26 fath^s Water Tripoly bearing South 3 miles from day light to 7 A M Calm, at 8 a Breeze from N b E the swell increasing, ordered all the Squadron under way to stand off from the land. —

[LC. EPP, Vol. 12, June-August 1804.]

Extract from log book kept by Sailing Master Nathaniel Haraden, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Sunday, 12 August 1804

Moderate breezes from E b N. Lying to, 3 or 4 Miles N N E from Tripoly. Squadron in sight.

The *John Adams* & *Scourge* continue at anchor 4 or 5 Miles to the Eastward. At 1½ P. M. the *Argus's* boat with Consul Consul O'Brien returned —

We stood off & on Tripoly all the Afternoon

Towards evening the *John Adams* & *Scourge* joined company — In the close of the evening we tacked to the Northward and came to, in 26 fath^s hard bottom Tripoly South by compass 3 Miles — The Squadron in company continues under Way — The captains of the Squadron p^r Signal waited on the Commodore Every preparation has been made for attacking Tripoly this night — The Enemy display 16 Sail of Gun boats, One Schooner, and a three masted Galley They are under cover of Grape from the Batteries & within the reef of rocks —

By 9 P. M. the wind Veered to N E b E, which heaves in a swell & prevents the execution of the Commodore's plans this night — By 12 Midnight we had fresh breezes from N E b N — By 2 A. M. it became more moderate.

From day light till 7 A. M. calm with a current setting to E S E —

At 7½ A. M. sent two boats to assist in towing the *John Adams* clear of the *Constitution* — Veered 20 fath^s in order to keep clear of her.

At 8 A. M. a light breeze sprang up from N b E which continued all forenoon with a swell setting in shore —

Last Sunday & this day saw the English, french, Russian, Dutch, Spanish, Swedish, Danish, and Imperial Consular flags flying in Tripoly.

The Squadron all under way. We continue at Anchor with the two Bombards a'stern —

Noon light breezes from N b E with a swell from N E. Surgeons report 5 sick & 3 convalescent.

Friday last M^r J. Davis Midshipman rejoined the *Constitution* from the *Scourge*

Noon made Signal for the Squadron to approach no nearer the land —

[LC. EPP, Log *Constitution*, 1803-1804.]

Extract from journal of William Eaton, U. S. Navy Agent for the Barbary Regencies,
12 August 1804

[On board U. S. Frigate *President*] 12. Monday. Made cape Spartel — Entered Gibraltar bay — The *Congress* and *Constellation* had entered the same morning

[H. E. Huntington L&AG, EA 206.]

Extract from journal of William Eaton, U. S. Navy Agent for the Barbary Regencies,
Sunday, 12 August 1804

[On board U. S. Frigate *President*] At 9, A. M. Made cape Spartel, bearing S. E. six leagues. It is remarkable that from leaving cape Henry, July 5th, till making the Western Islands, on the 21st, the winds were constantly strong and fair from the south west; and from this date till making Cape Spartel on the 12th August, they were as constantly strong and contrary, from the East, varying a few points northerly and southerly. That the first 15 days we considered our passage more than two thirds made; but that the other third was gained with difficulty in 22 days. During the whole passage the weather was extremely fine: not a day but a ship's barge would have lived at sea without danger.

[NR&L. No. 9217, Bm^t E 14.]

Extract from journal kept by Purser John Darby, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. S. *John Adams*, Master Commandant Isaac Chauncey, U. S. Navy, commanding, Sunday, 12 August 1804

We are now under way tacking on and off [f] the Town of Tripoli quite uncertain what the Commodore intends to do. at Meridian the town bore S. by W., the Commodore made Several Signals in the

course of the day and about 11 Oclock at night Capt Chauncey went on board of the Commodore and returned about 12. Midnight. we came to Anchor the Town bore [space] nothing particular Occured this day —

[NDA original. Miss Camilla S. McConnell.]

Extract from journal of Midshipman F. Cornelius deKrafft, U. S. Navy, in U. S. Brig *Siren* of 18 guns, Master Commandant Charles Stewart, U. S. Navy, commanding, Sunday, 12 August 1804

Lying at anchor [Tripoli].

Commences with light airs & pleasant. the squadron haul'd down the white flag $\frac{3}{4}$ past 2 the Commodore made signal to wear wore to the S. E^d back'd the main top sail & spoke the *Vixen* At 8 wore to the N. W^d the *Argus* tack'd & stood for the Town, the Comm: made signal for all Commander's to repair on board his ship — $\frac{1}{2}$ past 8 L^t Stewart went on board the Comm: TK^d in succession with the fleet. $\frac{1}{2}$ past 10 L^t Stewart return'd on board, hoisted out the cutter & hoisted in the barge. At 11 came too with the Stream & furl'd all sail —

Midnight Calm. At 4 Franciso Rogers (one of the [men], that was wounded on the 7th instant in the gun boat that blew up) died. At 9 committed his body to the deep with the usual ceremony. At 11 the signal was made for that part of the squadron which were under way to approach no nearer the land. —

Meridian light airs & pleasant

[NDA.]

To A. Vail, United States Commercial Agent, L'Orient, from Secretary of the Navy

NAVY DEP^t 13 August 1804 —

I have rec^d your letter of the 23^d Feb^y 1804.

The owners of the Schooner *Citizen* have exhibited a claim against the Department for 55 day's demurrage, grounded upon a Certificate from you stating that she had been detained at L'Orient "firstly by quarantine and nextly by the sailing of a Squadron of Ships of War", from L'Orient. M^r Thom who went out in the Schooner stated to us on his return to this place, certain objections to this claim which are mentioned in a letter from him to me dated 5th Aug^t 1804, a copy of which follows,

"We arrived on the evening of the 17th Decr 1803, at the Port of L'Orient and were visited by the Health Officer who informed us that we must perform a quarantine of 10 days. I wrote immediately to M^r Vail and informed him of the Dispatches that were on board and enclosed him the Charter Party to let him see the necessity of immediately dispatching the Schooner to her place of destination; and in answer thereto received a letter informing us we had permission to depart, and that an order for that purpose was likewise lodged on board the Guard Ship *la Reina*. I shewed this letter immediately on its reception to Cap^t Lawson and pressed him to embrace the opportunity to depart, as the Consul had hinted that there was a probability of our being detained by the French Admiral which was accordingly done the next day. I therefore do declare that Cap^t Lawson made no attempt to get under weigh when he had permission, and consequently is only entitled to \$40 demurrage, and cannot possibly clear his conscience and demand any more." —

With this information before us we have not felt ourselves justifiable in admitting the claim for demurrage exhibited by the owners of the Schooner *Citizen*. We have deemed it advisable, however, to

write to you on the subject. I therefore request that you will be pleased to state to me all the Circumstances in your possession tending either to corroborate or invalidate this claim.

[NDA. Barbary Powers, LB, 1803-1808.]

To Joseph Yznardi, U. S. Consul, Cadiz, Spain, from William Jarvis, U. S. Consul, Lisbon, Portugal

LISBON 13th Aug^s 1804

SIR I was hon^d with your favor of the 27th Ult^o concerning the forgery for £4000 Sterling in the name of Commodore Preble on Mess^{rs} Glennie & Mackenzie — The Bills in question, were made payable to, and endorsed by Laurent Roberts, who forwarded them the 4th of last October from Cadiz to Mess^{rs} Mayne & Brown of this place to be negotiated. In the course of November & December, Roberts drew for the amount of the Bills in favor of Charles Borney,

[LC. EPP, LB, April-Nov. 1804.]

To Secretary of State from James Simpson, U. S. Consul, Tangier, Morocco
N^o 80. —

TANGIER 13th August 1804. —

SIR Original of N^o 79 was forwarded by the Schooner *Jane* sailed from this Bay the 10th last Month for Boston. —

I have now the honour to acknowledge receipt of the Letter you addressed me on the 6th June, accompanying the Act for not only establishing the Mediterranean Fund but making an immediate appropriation for its purposes of a Million of dollars. — Nothing can more strongly than this measure testify to the Barbary Powers the determination of the Government of the United States to compel them to a strict observance of the existing Treaties. — Yesterday Commodore Barron entered the Straits and passed on the Gibraltar. The respectable reinforcement he brings to the Squadron already in these Seas I hope will be found to every purpose it is intended for. —

I will beg leave to add that I trust after Peace with Tripoly shall have been happily established, part of this force will continue to be stationed in this part of the World. —

I have to entreat you will pardon my very great neglect in not having earlier noticed in my reports to you the subject of the change of Mediterranean Passes. —

M^r Lear did deliver to me the New Pass with thirty Cuts and I ought to have acquainted you thereof. — The period when the change was to take place was however too distant to make any representation to the Emperour on the subject at that time, without runing a great hazard of its being forgot before the time came round for his Cruizers putting to Sea. — It has not however been omitted and in my last I should have told you the Commanders of the Emperours three Ships then mentioned had been duely made acquainted with the intended change, and that each had been furnished with an old and a new Cut, tacked together under the lesser Seal of this Office, that they might not be seperated. —

The Captains were directed to allow American Vessels to pass freely with either of the Passes during their present Cruize.

This I considered the safest method, as their Passports are renewed every time they are fitted out. — The period fixed for the old Passes to be no longer of avail being the first of July 1805 it is highly probable I shall have to issue the new Cuts only to the Emperours Cruizers at their next outfit, for they seldom go to Sea at an earlier day than that. —

It is true the Captain and Crew of the *Meshouda* whilst in Gibraltar made the declarations Captain Rodgers states, but when they got their liberty they told a different story.

I have never heard any thing more from this Government on the subject — as I see Captain Rodgers comes out in the reinforcement, we shall now have a fair opportunity of investigating the busyness. — I have felt myself restrained from making the report I had intended to Government on this subject, not considering the allegations of these people so lamely supported sufficient authority for me to particularize names of Officers on such an occasion. — As no injury has been done to the Public Service by the delay, I trust my caution will not be disaproved of. — The two Galleys of Tetuan arrived here on Wednesday last and for the first time have made a Cruize of a few hours in the Straits this morning. — Their Commanders have been provided with the two Cuts and instructed on the use of them. —

When I issued my Passports for the Emperours three Frigates, finding by every information that they were intended for some Service in the Mediterranean, I put an exception to their entering Ports blockaded by Ships of War of the United States. —

His Majesty had ordered one thousand Fanegues (1600 Bushels) Wheat being laden on the *Mirboha* as a gift to the poor of Tripoly, part of which was actually shipt but relanded and orders at same time issued for all the three to rendezvous at Salle and from thence proceed on a Cruize on the Coast of Portugal. —

The Emperour I am well informed expressed great concern at not being able to send this Wheat to Tripoly. — Alcajde Hashash on the first Ins^t wrote me a Letter requesting in His Majestys name a Passport for it, which I told him it was impossible for me to grant. — A correspondence has been maintained on the subject, but not of such moment as to merit troubling you with copy of. — Some reports had reached me tending to insinuate that the change of destination of the three Ships from a Voyage to the Mediterranean to a Cruise in the Ocean had nothing favourable to His Majestys late engagements to maintain Peace with the United States. — When the Galleys arrived here I saw they were getting them ready for immediate Service — knowing these vessels were under the orders of Alcajde Hashash I wrote him Friday last on subject of the reports I had heard & desired an explicit answer, this morning I have received it, in which amongst other arguments against those rumours he says

“if you find any person who shall say any thing against your Nation regarding our Peace, my Lieu^t Governour will cut off their head, for we will always maintain the confirmation of the Peace with your Republic.” —

I have besides received a Letter dated 6th this Month at Mequinez from one of His Majestys confidential Servants written in very Friendly terms. — From these circumstances I persuade myself the reports were unfounded, on all which I have given ample information to Commodore Barron. —

By latest advices the Frigate went to Mogadore had not yet got back to Salle. — I have the honour to be with sentiments of high respect

[NA. SDA. CL, Tangier, Vol. 2, Jan. 1803–Oct. 1810.]

To James Simpson, U. S. Consul, Tangier, Morocco, from Captain Samuel Barron,
U. S. Navy

U. STATES SHIP *President*

Gibraltar Bay Aug^t 13. 1804

SIR Last evening I read your several letters of the 30th June, 19 & 21 Ulto, & 1st, 7th & 10th Ins^t together with Copies of those address'd to you on the 1st and 5th by Hadge Aberham Hashas. The assurances that minister gives of the friendly dispositions of His Majesty the Emperor of Morocco towards the U States are extremely agreeable, and it is with great pleasure I reciprocate those assurances on the part and in behalf of our Government.

It would indeed add to the pleasure I feel on this occasion (were it in my power consistently with the Interests of the U' States) and the nature of my command, to gratify the wish the Minister express'd to you of permitting a Ship laden with provisions to enter the port of Tripoli — But I have too exalted and I believe too just an opinion of his Majestys correct understanding, not to be persuaded that on impartially considering the tendency of such a concession, he will see the impossibility of my agreeing to it: for it would in effect be furnishing provisions to an Enemy, wherein it is incumbent on me to endeavour, by all the prohibitions of War, to reduce to seasonable terms of pacification — If these prohibitions do in any degree, effect the Interest of his Imperial Majesty, or of his subjects, it is a matter of regret to our Government, but in which they have no violation (these prohibitions being the result of necessity) and not of choice, unavoidable consequences of a War into which they have been very reluctantly compell'd, and which we hope may be speedily brought to an honorable termination; But until such an event arrives the ports of Tripoli will be closely blockaded by the Squadron of the United States, according to the strict and impartial usages of War —

I spoke the Emperors Ship of War *Maimona* on the 8th Ins^t eight days from Mogadore having your passport which was duly respected — The Frigates *President*, *Congress* and *Constellation* arrived here yesterday, the *Essex* is expected in momentarily — I shall make such dispositions to meet the aspect of affairs with Morocco as circumstances shall suggest; of which you will be duly informed & shall proceed aloft in a few days —

[LC. JRP, Letters & Orders, 1804–1805.]

Extract from journal of Midshipman Charles Morris, Jr., U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Brig *Argus*, Master Commandant Isaac Hull, U. S. Navy, commanding, Monday, 13 August 1804

Moderate breezes and pleasant Weather made & shortened sail Tacked and Wore occasionally to keep Company with the Squadron 6. P M The Commodore made Signal N^o 304. general.

[Mrs. C. E. Fox original. NDA photostat.]

412 NAVAL OPERATIONS, APRIL-SEPTEMBER 6, 1804

Extract from journal of U. S. Frigate *Congress*, Captain John Rodgers, U. S. Navy, commanding, Monday, 13 August 1804

P M light breezes and pleasant weather. Standing into the bay Gibraltar the *Constellation* In company

At $\frac{1}{2}$ past 3 shortened sail & came too With the Starb^d bower anchor in the Bay of Gibraltar, in 13 fathoms Water European point bearing S $\frac{1}{2}$ E, the town of S^t Rogue N b E $\frac{1}{2}$ E, Cabretta point N W b W. Algesires W B N. at 7 the commod^o Entered the bay & came to anchor—

At Midnight D^o Wind & Weather.

At $\frac{1}{2}$ past 11 the *Essex* entered the bay & came to anchor

	F.	I.
Ships draught water aft.	20	8
Forward	19	—
By the stern	1	8

[USNA.]

Extract from journal kept on board the U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, Monday, 13 August 1804

Wind N E a heavy swell setting on shore, hauld off[f] to the N N W with the squadron, at 6 PM signal to close to prevent separation, at 10 the wind veered to the E S E hauld up to the N E and stood off all night under easy sail, at 4 AM, wore ship & stood for the land at day light Tripoly in sight bearing S b W 5 Leagues dis^t we are now waiting for a favorable night to attack Tripoly the Wind must be to the Southward of East & sea perfectly smooth to enable us to attack with any prospect of success, — at Noon Tripoly bears S b W 5 Miles, Wind E N E and a considerable swell setting on shore —

[LC. EPP, Vol. 12, June-August 1804.]

Extract from log book kept by Sailing Master Nathaniel Haraden, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Monday, 13 August 1804

Moderate breezes from N b E — At Single Anchor 3 Miles north from Tripoly, Squadron in company.

At 1 P. M. the *Syren* & *Scourge* came to: the rest of the Squadron continued under way.

At 4 P. M. the wind Veered to N E. with a swell setting from that Quarter. Made the *Syren* & *Scourge* Signal to Weigh — At 4 P. M. We weighed & made Sail to the N N W in order to obtain an Offing — At Sun Set made Signal for the Squadron to close.

Tripoly at this time S b E $\frac{1}{4}$ E 7 or 8 Miles.

By 10 P. M. the wind had shifted by degrees to E S E. From this time till day light Moderate & pleasant. Continued standing to the N E under easy sail until 12 Midnight when we brought to with the Main topsail to the Mast, & remained in this situation till 4 A. M. when we wore to the South^d At day light saw Tripoly bearing S b W nearly 5 or 6 leagues

Morning, Moderate & pleasant — ships company washing & scrubbing their cloathes.

Stood in for Tripoly all forenoon with moderate breezes from the Eastward.

At 9 A. M. made the *John Adams* Signal to come within hail —

It is now two days since we have been in complete readiness for a third attack upon Tripoly, which is intended to be made in the night — Either a Northerly wind or a swell setting in shore has prevented the Commodores plan being put into Execution —

We have now remaining on board 61 Leagurs and 19 Butts containing 21.800 Gall^s Water

Noon Tripoly bears S b W $\frac{1}{2}$ W 5 Miles —

Surgeons report 7 sick & 2 convalescent —

[LC. EPP, Log *Constitution*, 1803-1804.]

Extract from journal of William Eaton, U. S. Navy Agent for the Barbary Regencies, 13 to 15 August 1804

Aug. 13. 14. 15. At Gibraltar — received intelligence of hostile intentions against the U States on the part of the Emperor of Morocco — His Imperial Majesty had required our Consuls passports for certain of his ships of war to carry wheat to Tripoli: refusal was assigned as his reason for breaking with us —

[H. E. Huntington L&AG, EA 206.]

Extract from journal kept by Purser John Darby, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. S. *John Adams*, Master Commandant Isaac Chauncey, U. S. Navy, commanding, Monday, 13 August, 1804

We are this morning under way the fleet in sight the Commodore made a signal to speak us. We bore up to speak him. & Capt Chauncey went on board about 10 Oclock. and returned ab^t 11 at 12 we came to anchor the town of Tripoli bore S. S. W. at $\frac{3}{4}$ past Meridian signal made for all Capts. to repair onboard the Com^{rs} At 1. Capt. C went onboard the Com^{rs} Capt Chauncey returned in the Evening and [at] 6. called all hands to muster & Capt Chauncey made Choice of such Officers & men as he might think proper & who chose to Volenteer. to go on board the *Constitution* & gun boats. in the attack on the Town of Tripoli at $\frac{1}{4}$ past 6. the Commo^{rs} made the signals for the gun boats to prepare for action at $\frac{1}{2}$ past 6 the Commodore made the signal for the squadron to prepare for Battle the *Constitutions* cutter came along side for some of our men & soon went off] with them at 8 the Barge & Black Cutter left the ship soone after Capt Chauncey left the ship in the Gig and went on board the *Constitution* we gave them all three Cheers & drank a Glass Wine with the Capt in the Cabin before he started — at $\frac{1}{2}$ past 9 the *Constitution* came to anchor at 10 the boats returned to the ship with the men, at Midnight fresh Breezes. Nothing was done in this attempt. on acct of the wind blowing too fresh —

[NDA original. Miss Camilla S. McConnell.]

Extract from journal of Midshipman F. Cornelius deKrafft, U. S. Navy, in U. S. Brig *Siren* of 18 guns, Master Commandant Charles Stewart, U. S. Navy, commanding, Monday, 13 August 1804

(Standing off & on shore with the squadron.)

Light airs & pleasant all the squadron in sight At $\frac{1}{4}$ past 2 the *Scourge* got under way. $\frac{1}{4}$ past 4 the Comm: made the signal to weigh. $\frac{1}{2}$ past 4 weigh'd & stood to the Eastw^d under all sail. At 6 Tripoli bore S. by E. 4 leagues $\frac{1}{2}$ past 7 shorten'd sail. —

Latt: Obs: 33°10' N.

[NDA.]

414 NAVAL OPERATIONS, APRIL-SEPTEMBER 6, 1804

To Captain John Rodgers, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. Frigate *Congress*, from
Captain Samuel Barron, U. S. Navy

Duplicate forwarded

U. STATES SHIP *President*
Gibraltar Bay Aug¹ 14th 1804.

SIR, You will perceive by the several letters written by M^r Simpson, our Consul at Tangier (& which for your information accompany's this) that our affairs in Morrocco, have assumed (at least a doubtfull) I think rather a Serious Aspect. The circumstances of his preparing for Sea Cruizing his largest Ships not long since, evidently destined for some port in the Mediteranean & his drawing to Tangier his Gallies from other ports, certainly indicate hostility against some commercial nation, as there seems to exist but little apprehension by other nations having Consuls at Tangiers, it is possible that the Commerce of the U'States is his object — To check any such intention, it is necessary to leave in his neighbourhood a force sufficient for this purpose. The *Congress* & *Essex* are (it is judged) adequate to this service, you will be pleased therefore with those two Ships to remain in this neighbourhood, until it is ascertained whether his measures are hostile, or Friendly towards the U'States; In the event of Hestility it is left entirely to your discretion, as to the disposition of the Ships under your command & your Operations generally, if after remaining some time on this station, you should concieve that he is amicably disposed & there no longer exists a necessity for a Ship here, you will proceed aloft to join the Squadron there either at Tripoli or Malta —

You will be pleased to Keep the Secretary of the Navy informed by all oppertunitys, of the Measures you mean to pursue, with your opinion on the affairs of MOROCCO &c —

[LC. JRP, Letters & Orders, 1804-1805.]

Extract from journal of U. S. Brig *Argus*, Master Commandant Isaac Hull, U. S. Navy, commanding, Tuesday, 14 August 1804

[Standing off and on Tripoli]

This day Commences with fresh breezes and Clear W^r at ½ past Meridian the Commodore Made Sig^l N^o 1260 wore and stood off the land backed the main topsail at 1 PM the Commod^e made Sig^l N^o 995 Cap^l Hull went on board of him at ½ past 1 wore & stood for the *John Adams* received Boatswains Stores from her at ½ past 5 Commod^e made Sig^l N^o 1134 and a few Minutes after 1139 Tacked in Comp^y with the Squadron At 6 the Commod^e made Sig^l N^o 69 to the Gunboats at 10 the Commod^e made Night Sig^l N^o 10 to the Gunboats at 11 Came too in 40 f^m Water At 9 AM hoisted in the launch and barge Emp^d Occas^y

[NDA photostat.]

Extract from journal of Midshipman Charles Morris, Jr., U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Brig *Argus*, Master Commandant Isaac Hull, U. S. Navy, commanding, Tuesday, 14 August 1804

P. M Pleasant. The Commodore made a general signal N^o 1260 Wore

1. The Commodore made signal N^o 995. General. Capt Hull went on board

5½ The Com^e made signal 1134 and a few minutes after 1139.
Tacked

6 The Commodore made signal N^o 69 to the Gun Boats. and at 10. made night Signal N^o 10.

Came to in 40 fathoms water
A. M. 9. Hoisted in the Boats
Noon rough sea

[Mrs. C. E. Fox original. NDA photostat.]

Extract from journal of U. S. Frigate *Congress*, Captain John Rodgers, U. S. Navy, commanding, Tuesday, 14 August 1804

[Gibraltar Bay] At 3 rec^d 172 Gang casks water. 3 Men attempted To swim from the ship one of them was Caught. the other two made their escape

[USNA.]

Extract from journal kept on board the U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, by Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, Tuesday, 14 August 1804

Wind E b S. standing off and on 4 or 5 miles from Tripoly, at 6 P M all the squadron were in close order ready to push in after dark the *John Adams* manouvered several deceptions p^r Signal, for weighing and standing in with the Squadron but as soon as dark she was ordered to hand sails & remain at anchor, Cap^t Chauncey, with several of his Officers & 50 Seamen & Marines came on board as Volunteers for the attack. at 9 P M the Wind freshened from E b N and increased the sea so much as to make an attempt imprudent. I accordingly stood off shore and anchored in 37 fath^s Water. Cap^t Chauncey with his Officers & men returned to the *John Adams* two of our Gun Boats carried away their latteen Yards supplied them with new ones. we had strong Breezes, all night and until Noon. — Lat^d Obs^d 33° 2' N. —

[LC. EPP, Vol. 12, June–August 1804.]

Extract from log book kept by Sailing Master Nathaniel Haraden, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Tuesday, 14 August 1804

Moderate breezes from E b S — Standing off & on Tripoly — Squadron in company. At 1 P. M. the *John Adams* came to 4 or 5 miles to the North of the Town. Towards evening the Captains of the Squadron waited on the Commodore — At Sunset all the Squadron was assembled three or 4 miles from the Harbour ready to push in after dark — In the close of the Evening the *John Adams* manœuvered several deceptions (P^r Signal) for weighing, & standing in with the Squadron. After dark we received on board the *Constitution* Cap^t Chauncey & 50 Seamen from the *John Adams* — By this time it was 8 P. M. when we had strong breezes from E b N. We answered the Signal of distress from Gun boat N^o 6 which had carried away her latteen yard — From 7 till 9 P. M. every effort was used to collect the Squadron in order to stand in & attack the batteries; but the wind continuing to increase, it was utterly impossible —

At 9 P. M. another Gun boat carried away her lateen yard. We Wore off shore and came to in 37 fath^s hard bottom. Veered to 110 fath^s before the ship brought up — The two Bombards were very

much exposed by being nearly athwart our hawse. All the Squadron (*Vixen* excepted) anchored. The *Siren* parted from her anchor — At 11 P. M. after we came to, Cap^t Chauncey with his men & two boats assisted by our large cutter rejoined the *John Adams* — The Wind continued strong during the night veering between E b S & S E b E. with a rough sharp sea. At day light the Squadron all in sight and (except the *Vixen* under way in shore) at Anchor. Tripoly S b W $\frac{1}{2}$ W. 4 or 5 Miles — On our leaving Messina we had 4 spare lateen yards for the Gun boats — Two lateen yards lost in action, and two carried away last night expend the whole — As they are 74 feet long, we have no spar that will make one. The East Wind continued strong all the forenoon with a rough sea which has prevented any communication in the Squadron by boats — These 24 hours the following signals were made Viz^t

At 12 $\frac{1}{4}$ Noon. for Squadron to wear & haul on a wind to the N N E.

At 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ Noon. All Captains to repair on board the Commodore.

At 3 P. M. Squadron to wear & haul on a wind, inshore.

At 5 $\frac{1}{4}$ Squadron to tack to N N E.

At 6 P. M. *Vixen* & *Scourge* to come within hail

At 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ P. M. Squadron (*John Adams* & *Scourge* excepted) to clear for Action

At 9 P. M. the night Signal. Prepare to anchor.

Noon strong breezes from E b S —

Surgeons report 6 sick & 3 convalescent

Latitude Observed 33° 2' North

[LC. EPP, Log *Constitution*, 1803-1804.]

Extract from journal kept by Purser John Darby, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. S. *John Adams*, Master Commandant Isaac Chauncey, U. S. Navy, commanding, Tuesday, 14 August 1804

Commenced With fresh breezes We are laying at Anchor off the Town engaged in clearing out our hole. that we may make room on our gun deck. to work what guns we can, and discharging part of our cargo. in distributing it on board of the different Vessels of the squadron. We took gun boats N^o 8. & 6 in tow.

[NDA original. Miss Camilla S. McConnell.]

Extract from journal of Midshipman F. Cornelius deKrafft, U. S. Navy, in U. S. Brig *Siren* of 18 guns, Master Commandant Charles Stewart, U. S. Navy, commanding, Tuesday, 14 August 1804

(Following the Commodores motions)

Light breezes & pleasant, all the squadron lying too; the *Adams* at anchor. $\frac{1}{2}$ past Mer: a signal from the Comm: for all Commanders to repair on board his ship. At 11 Cap^t Stewart went on board the Comm. At 3 wore to the E N E p^t signal. at $\frac{1}{2}$ past 5 a signal to stand off the land. At 6 Tripoli bore S by W 8 miles, a signal from the Comm: to prepare for battle. $\frac{1}{2}$ past 6 Cap^t Stewart return'd, back'd the main top sail, hoisted out the barge & fill'd away. At 8 tack'd & stood in for the land, set top gall^t sails. $\frac{1}{2}$ past 8 back'd the M^o topsail, took in top gall^t sails. At $\frac{1}{2}$ past 9 came too with the stream in 35 fathoms p^t signal.

Midnight fresh gales & clear parted the stream Cable, lost the Anchor with 80 fathoms. $\frac{1}{4}$ past Mid: let go the larboard bower. —

Meridian fresh gales & clear supplied gun boat N^o 5 with provisions & water. —

[NDA.]

To William Higgins, U. S. Navy Agent, Malta, from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

Constitution — AUGUST 15th 1804

DEAR SIR I have received your favor of the 1st Ins^t and am gratified, that my recommendation succeeded in obtaining your appointment — All my nominations to the Government have met with the same success — You will have Observed that Comm^{re} Barron supercedes me in the Command in the Mediterranean — I hope to finish the War with Tripoly first, and then the sooner he arrives the better as I am anxious to return home — My conduct has received the Approbation of my country, and the President has transmitted me his thanks through the Secretary of the Navy —

The 3^d Ins^t I made a general Attack on Tripoly — Our six Gun boats opposed to their twenty one, and this ship with the Brigs & Schooners to their Batteries — The Action lasted two hours: That with the gun boats was in the Harbour of Tripoly and within pistol shot of their Batteries — The Enemy were handsomely beaten Many shells were thrown into the town, and we drove them several times from their Batteries with this ship — A steeple of one of their Mosques was shot away and much damage done in Town — Our Gun boats boarded and brought out three of their largest new Gun boats, each mounting a brass cannon 11½ feet long carrying a ball of 26 lb, and two brass howitzers — they had on board 96 Men, 47 of which were killed and 49 made prisoners, 26 of which were badly wounded — One of their boats was sunk in the Action, & many of them lost nearly all their men, and were much Shattered —

We had another action with the Batteries the 7th in which the Enemy has suffered considerably — I have to regret the loss of some brave men — We have lost killed —

Two Lieutenants
 1 Midshipman
 1 Quarter Gunner
 1 Quarter Master
 1 Boatswains Mate
 1 Searjeant of Marines
 6 Seamen —

Total killed..... 13 —

Wounded 1 Lieutenant with 11 Saber & Pike Wounds
 15 Seamen & Marines —

16 Total Wounded —

The Officers killed are

L^t J^r DECATUR
 L^t CALDWELL
 M^t DORSEY Midshipman —

Lieutenant Tripp[c] Wounded Very badly.

We have been waiting several days for favorable Weather for another attack — Our Water is nearly exhausted I conjure you to charter two or three Vessels for fear of a miscarriage of one, and load them with water immediately, & send me 300 puncheons at least, as, soon as possible — If one is not here in 8 days we shall be ruined, as I have only 14 days water for the Squadron — Let no price stop you from chartering — Send us some fresh stock, Vegetables, Apples, Melons &^e — I am looking out for a vessel from you which I expect every moment to heave in sight — As I wrote you by the Neapolitan Store Ship to send us Water some time since — If you cannot hire you must borrow or purchase casks —

With Esteem Yours in haste

(Signed) EDWARD PREBLE

P. S. Hire as many boats & men as can work to load the Vessels & for God's Sake dispatch a Vessel in 24 hours, & let the rest follow Send me letters if you have any for me — a case of good cyder will be acceptable — Our Main Mast is shot nearly through by a 24 lb shot. One of our guns on the Quarter deck disabled — Top Gall^t Royal yard shot away & our rigging considerably cut — They are bad Gunners, or they must have cut us up — We engaged within 3 cables length of the Batteries —

[LC. EPP, LB, April-Nov. 1804.]

Extract from journal of Midshipman Charles Morris, Jr., U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Brig *Argus*, Master Commandant Isaac Hull, U. S. Navy, commanding, Wednesday, 15 August 1804

Fresh breezes. 12½ the Commodore made signal N^o 1196 with preparatory pendant.

1. he made signal 1196 — Sent down Royal and Top Gall^t Yards 7 A M. sent up Top Gall^t Yards by signal from Commodore Noon at Anchor the Town of Tripoli S ½ W. 5 Miles distant

[Mrs. C. E. Fox original. NDA photostat.]

Extract from journal of U. S. Frigate *Congress* Captain John Rodgers, U. S. Navy, commanding, Wednesday, 15 August 1804

[Gibraltar Bay] At Meridian light breezes from the Eastw^d Hove up & made sail the *Essex* in comp^y

[USNA.]

Extract from journal kept on board the U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, by Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, Wednesday, 15 August 1804

Strong Breezes from E S E, At Anchor 6 miles to the North of Tripoly ordered the *Vixen* to cast off her Gun Boats & Look out to the Eastward & the *Jn^o Adams* to take her Boats in tow at 4 PM down Royal & Top Gall^t Yards, fresh Breezes through the night. at 10 AM wind E b N & a rough sea.

Lat^d Obs^d 33° 2' N.

[LC. EPP, Vol. 12, June-August 1804.]

Extract from log book kept by Sailing Master Nathaniel Haraden, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Wednesday, 15 August 1804

Strong breezes from E S E.

At Single Anchor 5 or 6 miles N b E $\frac{1}{2}$ E from Tripoly. Squadron in company —

The two gun boats towed by the *Vixen* were this afternoon rode by the *John Adams*.

The *Vixen* was ordered p^r Signal to look out in shore — At 4 P. M. down royal and top gall^t Yards Towards evening the weather became more moderate Cap^t Chauncey waited on the Commodore.

Strong breezes from E b S during the Night.

Morning Moderate.

From 6 till 10 A. M. employed supplying the Squadron as follows — Viz — The *Syren* with 9 Gang cask of water = 576 Gallons. The two bombards with 256 Gall^s each *Scourge* with 100 Gall^s rum, 182 lb Suet, 54 Gall^s of Molasses, 30 Gall^s Vinegar, 131 lb cheese & 182 lb of Butter — The Gun boats N^os 1 & 6 with a lateen Yard Each — These are the two boats that carried away their yards on Tuesday Night —

At 8 A. M. made Signal "Up top gall^t Yards.

At 9 $\frac{1}{4}$ The *John Adams* Signal for a boat — also the *Scourge* Signal for a purser —

At 10 A. M. the wind began to freshen from E b N & by noon we had strong breezes —

Noon the *Vixen* came within hail —

Surgeons report 7 sick & 2 convalescent.

Latitude Observed at anchor 33° 2' North

[L.C. EPP, Log *Constitution*, 1803-1804.]

Extract from journal kept by Purser John Darby, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. S. *John Adams*, Master Commandant Isaac Chauncey, U. S. Navy, commanding, Wednesday, 15 August 1804

We are laying at Anchor discharging Provisions. nothing particular occurring quite uncertain what the Commodore intends to do. Some think that he will make a peace others that he will not. but attack the town again the first opportunity or in other words the first Wind that suits — Our squadron has not yet arrived and hav[e] not heard any thing of them.

[NDA original. Miss Camilla S. McConnell.]

Extract from journal of Midshipman F. Cornelius deKrafft, U. S. Navy, in U. S. Brig *Siren* of 18 guns, Master Commandant Charles Stewart, U. S. Navy, commanding, Wednesday, 15 August 1804

Lying at Anchor [Tripoli].

Fresh breezes & pleas^t $\frac{1}{2}$ past 1 sent down top gall^t yards p^r signal At 2 sea & wind increasing, wore away more cable. $\frac{1}{2}$ past 3 the cutter went to drag for the stream cable, At 5 return'd without success. At 7 Tripoli bore South 3 leagues. At 10 freshen'd Hawse.

Midnight fresh gales & pleas^t At 4 sent the boats to drag for the stream anchor. At 8 return'd without success, sent up top gall^t yards p^r signal. At 9 sent on board the Comm: for water. —

Meridian light winds & pleas^t. sent provisions on board gun boat N^o 5.

Latt: Obs: 33° 3' N.

[NDA.]

To Secretary of the Navy from Master Commandant Charles Stewart, U. S. Navy

Siren off TRIPOLI 16th August, 1804

SIR I have been honor'd with yours of 29th May, and the accompanying Master Commandant's Commission —

Please return my thanks to the President of the United States; for the manner it has pleased him to evince a continuation of his confidence

[NDA. MC LB, 1804-5.]

Extract from journal of Midshipman Charles Morris, Jr., U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Brig *Argus*, Master Commandant Isaac Hull, U. S. Navy, commanding, Thursday, 16 August 1804

Off Tripoli

P. M. Fresh breezes.

2. Capt Hull went on board the Commodore

5 The Cap^t Returned

5 A M. sent the launch to the *Jn^o Adams* for Stores

[Mrs. C. E. Fox original. NDA photostat.]

Extract from journal of U. S. Brig *Argus*, Master Commandant Isaac Hull, U. S. Navy, commanding, Thursday, 16 August 1804

[Standing off and on Tripoli.]

These 24 hours Commence with fresh breezes from the Eastward at $\frac{1}{2}$ past 2 P, M, hoisted out the barge Cap^t Hull went on board the Commodore at 5 he returned on board hoisted in the Barge —

Moderate and Clear through the night AM at 5 hoisted out the barge and launch sent the Launch on board the *John Adams* for Stores

[NDA photostat.]

Extract from journal kept on board the U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, by Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, Thursday, 16 August 1804

fresh Breezes from E b N at anchor N b E $\frac{1}{2}$ E from Tripoly all the Squadron at Anchor except the *Vixen*, on the Lookout to the Eastward — at 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ P M the *Enterprise* sailed for Malta under command of L^t Lawrence, with letters for M^t Higgins directing him to send transports with Water & Vegetables, the Scurvy has made its appearance among the men on board of some of the Vessels of the Squadron, and our fresh Water is getting short. Surgeons report. 6 sick 4 Convalescent —

[LC. EPP, Vol. 12, June-August 1804.]

Extract from log book kept by Sailing Master Nathaniel Haraden, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Thursday, 16 August 1804

Fresh breezes from E b N.

At Single Anchor 5 or 6 Miles N b E $\frac{1}{2}$ E, from Tripoly The Squadron all at anchor except the *Vixen* which looks out to the Westward —

Supplied the *Syren* this afternoon with 9 Gang Casks of water = 576 Gallons —

At 2 P. M. made the *Vixen* signal to come within hail, & supplied her with five Sweeps & a number of Musket cartridges —

At 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ P. M. the *Enterprise* parted company, being ordered to Malta under the command of Lieut^t Lawrence — Cap^t Decatur remains in the Squadron with his Gun boat.

From Noon till 7 P. M. fresh breezes from E b N. & from 7 P. M. till Midnight from E S E — From 12 Midnight till 10 A. M. moderate breezes from S E b E with a small swell from E N E.

Supplied the *Syren* this forenoon with 6 Gang Casks of Water = 384 —

From 10 A. M. till noon moderate breezes from E b N.

Bombard N^o 2 was this day employed in Exercising her Oars & Sails The 160 shells which were stowed between decks were this forenoon stowed in the Hold —

These four days past we have had strong breezes which have prevented the Squadron from coming to action The Captains of the Squadron this forenoon waited on the Commodore.

Noon Moderate breezes from E b N.

Surgeons report 6 sick & four convalescent —

[LC. EPP, Log *Constitution*, 1803-1804.]

Extract from journal of William Eaton, U. S. Navy Agent for the Barbary Regencies, 16 August 1804

August 16. The *President* & *Constellation* got under way for Tripoli — Captains Rodgers & Barron with the *Congress* and *Essex* ordered to the Morocco coast to watch the motions of the emperor of Morocco —

[H. E. Huntington L&AG, EA 206.]

Extract from journal kept by Purser John Darby, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. S. *John Adams*, Master Commandant Isaac Chauncey, U. S. Navy, commanding, Thursday, 16 August 1804

We are laying at Anchor employed striking out Provisions and sending them on board the different Vessels. clear and pleasant Breezes. the climate is excessively hot. when there is little or no wind and dews are very heavy at night. — and it is astonishing to me the squadron are not more unhealthy than they are as I am told there are but a few sick — Our ship is very healthy — at $\frac{1}{2}$ past 12 a signal was made from the Commodore to prepare to weigh at $\frac{3}{4}$ past 12. all the squadron got underway except the *John Adams* & *Scourge*. at 5 a signal for Battle the *Constitutions* Launch came along side for all our Volunteers, Capt Chauncey went on board the *Constitution* at midnight light air from the Eastward —

[NDA original. Miss Camilla S. McConnell.]

Extract from journal of Midshipman F. Cornelius deKrafft, U. S. Navy, in U. S. Brig *Siren*, of 18 guns, Master Commandant Charles Stewart, U. S. Navy, commanding, Thursday, 16 August 1804

(Lying at Anchor off Tripoli)

Fresh breezes & pleasant. At 2 supplied with provisions gun boat N^o 4 — At 3 hoisted in the barge rec^d a supply of water from the Comm: Cap^t Chancy of the *John Adams* came on board. At 7 Capt^t Chancy went on board his ship

Midnight light airs & pleas^t —

Meridian gentle breezes & a smooth sea, sent on board gun boat N^o 4 a supply of Provisions — rec^d from the Commodore water & a quantity of arms. —

Latt: Obs: 33^o 5' N.

[NDA.]

422 NAVAL OPERATIONS, APRIL-SEPTEMBER 6, 1804

To Samuel Brown, Navy Agent and Superintendent of Navy Yard, Boston, Mass.
from Secretary of the Navy

NAV. DEP. 17th Aug: 1804

I have received your letter of the 8th instant. — Although the terms demanded of you for building a Gun-boat are not quite so reasonable as we could wish yet they are not so high as the terms asked at either Charleston, Baltimore, Philadelphia or New York. — You will therefore, if you should not be able to get the work done on better terms, close with the offer made to you of building at 30\$ P^r ton. —

[NDA. Off. Comg. Gunboats, 1803-1808.]

To Secretary of the Navy from Captain John Rodgers, U. S. Navy

Duplicate forwarded N^o 2.

U. STATES FRIGATE *Congress*

Tangier Bay Aug^t 17. 1804

SIR In consequence of the accounts, rec'd from M^r Simpson our Consul, Commodore Barron was Induced to send the *Congress* & *Essex* on this coast for Purposes such as you will discover in his orders to me which I enclose you—I saild from Gibraltar with the two above mention'd Ships on the 15 Ins^t and arrived here yesterday altho too late to have communication with the Shore, until this morning, when M^r Simpson came on Board — M^r Simpson is not without suspicions that the Intentions of the Emperor are unfriendly towards the U. States, in consequence of the late movements of his Cruizers, after being denied a passport for one of his Ships of War to proceed to Tripoli; and the Language of his Governor at Tangier, a Statement of which Commo. Barron has forwarded you; However I must confess that, *to me*, the Emperors Conduct does not bear such a construction. — His Cruizers are in motion, as is the case every Summer, but neither (that I can learn) their proceedings or his Language Indicates hostility towards our Commerce; altho I am now bound to Salle, to inform myself of the movements of the three Frigates, supposed to be at that place, whether any danger to our Commerce is to be apprehended from them, and to protect it in case of any—While the *Congress* is on this Service, I shall leave the *Essex* at the Entrance of the Straights to watch the movements of Two Gallys now in Tangier Bay & to protect our Trade in case of necessity — A small force is I conceive always necessary to secure a Protection to our Commerce on this Coast. — I therefore shall leave the *Essex* for that purpose, and on my return proceed Immediately to Tripoli, provided their is nothing more than present appearances indicate to detain me; —

I shall loose no time in getting to Salle, as I consider the services of so large a Ship as the *Congress* (in the Intended operations against Tripoli) of Importance, neither would Commodore Barron (I am satisfied) have left so considerable a part of his Force as Two Ships, had it not been for the Earnest request of M^r Simpson — A desire to take an advantage of the present fair Wind, prevents my writing you more fully, however as Cap^t Barrons Station will afford him opportunities of Communicating; I have desired him to do so by every opportunity. —

Enclosed I forward you Copy of my orders to Cap^t [James] Barron

[LC. JRP, Letters & Orders, Book A, 1804-1805.]

Circular letter to certain U. S. Consuls

(Circular) B

U. STATES F. Congress
Tangier Bay Aug^t 17. 1804

SIR In consequence of the late movements of the Emperor of Morrocco's Cruizers, the United States Frigates *Congress* & *Essex* are cruizing on the Moorish Coast; However I now begin to concieve that our suspicions are without that foundation which was first concieved — I shall be in Gibraltar in a few Days & would be glad to be inform'd by you, whether any of the American Vessels lately arrived in your Port, have been Boarded by Moorish Cruizers and what has been their conduct in order that I may know how to direct the proceedings of the U'States Ships now on this coast.

To *William Kirkpatrick* Consul at Malaga
" *William Irwin* — " at
" *Joseph Yznardi* — " at [Cadiz]

[A note by Christopher Columbus Baldwin, first Librarian of the American Antiquarian Society reads, "This and the following were written by Com. Samuel Barron, and has never been published."]

[Am. Antiquarian Soc. NDA photostat.]

To James Simpson, U. S. Consul, Tangier, Morocco, from Captain John Rodgers, U. S. Navy

U. STATES FRIGATE *Congress*
Tangier Bay Aug^t 17th 1804

SIR, Enclosed you will receive Commodore Barrons Letter in answer to Several Letters on the subject of (his Imperial Majestys) the Emperor of Morocco's Ship of War, carrying a Cargo of Wheat to Tripoli, which prevents the necessity of my saying any thing on the subject — The Two Frigates you now see in this Bay are the *Congress* & *Essex*, which are ready for service — I wish to see you and will send a Boat on Shore for that purpose —

[Am. Antiquarian Soc. NDA photostat.]

To Captain John Rodgers, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. Frigate *Congress*, from James Simpson, U. S. Consul, Tangier, Morocco

TANGIER Aug^t 17. 1804

DEAR SIR M^t Johnston has delivered me three Letters, which shall be carefully forwarded. —

In my communications to Commo. Barron you will have seen I told him a certain quantity of Copper & salt Petre to be shipt at Mogadore on the Emperors ship *Maimona*, was destined for Algiers & purchased for account of that regency. — Since I saw you I have rec'd a Letter from my Agent at Mogadore dated 6th Ins^t, in which is the following Paragraph correcting his former advices. —

"It was from misinformation that I wrote you, that the Emperors Ship here was to load the Copper & Salt Petre for the Algerines, as she came here to load them for his Majestys account, and is to go when the Wind will permit to Salle.

The Algerine is yet here, waiting for a Vessel of his Nation, to load his, who is to bring Cash to pay for it, as I understand he is short of that necessary article." —

By this it appears there was two parcels of the mentioned articles, provided at Mogadore — The one by the Algerine Messenger & the other by order of the Emperor, to be taken on his Ship; I have not a doubt the latter had the same destination as the Wheat, but I expect it will be equally retarded, so that the intended assistance will have been perfectly defeated. —

What farther I may be able to learn on the subject shall be imparted to you — Whilst we must regret that there should be such apparent grounds for suspecting that Muley Soliman had intended to give aid to our Enemy; it is satisfactory to know he has been made sensible, he could not carry it into effect, & I trust that this will be an additional stimula with him, to avoid cautiously giving cause for a rupture with the U'States; and it is equally our Duty not to provoke him to it.

The English Brig left Cadiz last night, the Cap^t writes his Consul, that a Letter from Paris states, that Russia, Denmark & Sweeden had entered into an offensive & Defensive alliance with England. —

[Am. Antiquarian Soc. NDA photostat.]

To Captain John Rodgers, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. Frigate *Congress*, from James Simpson, U. S. Consul, Tangier, Morocco

TANGIER August 17. 1804

DEAR SIR, When you made the Signal Yesterday, a Boat could not be got to send to you — now the Cap^t of one of the Galleys has done me the favour to allow his to go. —

I know no reason why you should not anchor and communicate with the Shore as before. —

[Am. Antiquarian Soc. NDA photostat.]

To Captain James Barron, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. Frigate *Essex*, from Captain John Rodgers, U. S. Navy

U. STATES FRIGATE *Congress*

Tangier Bay Aug^t 17. 1804

SIR, In consequence of the orders of Commodore Barron joined with the opinion of M^r Simpson our Consul, I have thought it advisable & Intend proceeding to Salle, to make myself acquainted with the movements of three Moorish Ships of War, as also to, Endeavour to inform myself whether their Intentions are hostile towards the U'States — You will remain in the Neighbourhood of Tangiers, to Watch the movements of the two Gally's now in that Bay, and to protect our Commerce in case of Hostility on the part of Morocco, until I join you again.

[Am. Antiquarian Soc. NDA photostat.]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from William Higgins, U. S. Navy Agent, Malta

Duplicate

MALTA the 17th August 1804

DEAR SIR You have enclosed the Copy of my last respects under the 12th August and likewise a Second bill of lading for Sundry Water and other Stores sent you by the English Pollacca called the *Conception* Captⁿ Antonio Gruna which I hope will have reached you ere now —

I wrote you on the 11th Inst^y by a Speronara dispatched to inform you that Count Galligni had loaded a Speronara with Ammunition for the Basha of Tripoly, and that you might by this timely intelligence find means to cut her off — Whether however he got scent of my having taken this measure, or whether he has, as too hazardous, relinquished the Expedition, I dont know, but he has landed the powder, tho' I am told the Muskets &c^s are still on board; Perhaps his intention is to blind us and in a week or two hence to expedite it, if you therefore can spare a Vessel you would still do well, I think to be upon the look out; but I must request you will not advance a sixpence to the Patron of the Speronara I dispatched to you, he has already got from me One hundred Dollars on advance, and has not behaved in the way he ought to have done, for instead of going direct to you as I expected, he carried his boat into one of the lower Ports of the Island, where he loitered away a couple of days, and came over to Vallette upon some business of his own —

No appearance of the Fregates, nor have I any news to impart to you; I send you the American Papers brought by the *Commodore Barry* which were inadvertently left out of the Packet of the English Ones sent you, they will however, I conclude, contain no news, that you have not already learnt from the *John Adams* —

I wait anxiously to hear from you, the Weather latterly has been favorable, and I trust Mons^r the Bashaw will by this time have got a *Quantum sufficit* of shot & shell —

I forward you some letters from Tunis and also others addressed to the Prisoners at Tripoly you may have an opportunity of putting them on shore, there is no sort of Probability that I shall have any other means of expediting them.

[LC. EPP, Vol. 12, June–August 1804.]

Extract from journal of U. S. Brig *Argus*, Master Commandant Isaac Hull, U. S. Navy, commanding, Friday, 17 August 1804

This day Commences with moderate Breezes and Clear Weather at $\frac{1}{2}$ past meridian Cap^t Hull went on board the *John Adams* at 1 P M the Commod^e made Sig^l N^o 879 at $\frac{1}{2}$ past Sig^l N^o 1206 at 2 Sig^l N^o 1205 at $\frac{1}{2}$ past 3 got under way at $\frac{1}{2}$ past 4 Cap^t Hull returned on board at 5 the Commod^e made Sig^l N^o 179 with the preparative flag at $\frac{1}{2}$ past 8 the Commod^e made Sig^l N^o 1 at 9 made Sig^l to the Gunboats 1 Rocket & 3 lanterns being near in Shore the Batteries fired Several Shot at us at $\frac{1}{2}$ past 12 the Commod^e made Sig^l N^o 10 at 1 AM came to with the Squadron * * * Tripoli bearing S $\frac{1}{2}$ W Dist 4 miles At meridian the Commodore made Sig^l N^o 995 Cap^t Hull went on board of him —

[NDA photostat.]

Extract from journal of Midshipman Charles Morris, Jr., U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Brig *Argus*, Master Commandant Isaac Hull, U. S. Navy, commanding, Friday, 17 August 1804

P. M. Moderate breezes and pleasant —
 1 The Commodore made Signal N^o 879.
 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ N^o 1206 at 2 N^o 1205.
 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ got under way.

426 NAVAL OPERATIONS, APRIL-SEPTEMBER 6, 1804

5 The Commodore made signal N^o 179 with preparatory pendent
8½ N^o 1. night signal 9 to the Gun boats 1 rocket and three lights
near in to the shore the Batteries fired several shot at us
12½ the Commodore made signal N^o 10
1 Came to in Company with the squadron in 25 fathoms water
Tripoli S ½ W. 4 miles. distant
Noon Commodore made signal N^o 995. Capt Hull went on board —
[Mrs. C. E. Fox original NDA photostat.]

Extract from journal of U. S. Frigate *Congress*, Captain John Rodgers, U. S. Navy,
commanding, Friday, 17 August 1804

[Standing off & on in the Bay of Tangier] P M commences light
breezes & pleasant weather At ¼ past 5 beating into the bay Of Tangier
hoisted an american Jack at The fore & fired a gun —

At Sunset shortened Sail & cleared ship for action

Light airs & variable. tacked ship as occasion Required during the
night at 4 tacked ship & stood in for tangier bay. at 7 a boat came
along Side, at ½ past 8 sent the gig on shore at ¾ past 9 the gig
returned with the Consul M^r Simpson

Meredian the town of Tangier bore W S W. Cape spartel W B N ½ N.

[USNA.]

Extract from journal kept on board the U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, by Captain Edward
Preble, U. S. Navy, Friday, 17 August 1804

Moderate Breezes from E N E & pleasant Weather — At Anchor
5 miles to the N b W of Tripoly — At 3 P M out all Boats and armed
them for an attack. at 5 P M all the Squadron excepting the *John
Adams* and *Scourge* were under way standing for Tripoly, by this time
the wind had Veered to N E b E and the current setting strong to the
Westward. in the Evening Cap^t Chauncey with several Officers &
50 Seamen from the *John Adams* came on board Volunteers for the
intended attack at 7 P M we were 4 miles from the Town; Tacking
and manœvering the squadron waiting for the Wind to come from the
E S E from 8 to 9 P M we stood in for the Batteries with a light
Breeze from E b N. at 9¾ almost Calm, the Town bearing S b W. the
Batteries fired 11 shot at us which fell short, the current setting to the
S W pressing us down on the Western Batteries & the Wind very light
I thought prudent to haul off. at 11 P M Wore ship and stood in
again for the Town in hopes the wind might increase, the Enemy fired
14 shot at us from their Batteries which fell short, it being by this
time past midnight and almost calm hauld off and at 1 Made the signal
to anchor & came to in 25 fath^s Tripoly S b W 3 Miles dis^t

[LC. EPP, Vol. 12, June-August 1804.]

Extract from log book kept by Sailing Master Nathaniel Haraden, U. S. Navy, on
board U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Friday, 17 August 1804

Moderate breezes from E b N, with pleasant weather.

At Single anchor 5 or 6 Miles from Tripoly. Squadron in company.
At 3 P. M. out all boats, and armed them. They are to accompany
the Gun boats & Bombards — Between 4 & 5 P. M. all the Squadron
except the *John Adams* & *Scourge* were under way standing in for
Tripoly.

By this time the wind had Veered to N E b E — We had a strong current setting to S. W. This is the only one we have observed since the 8th Inst: Towards evening Cap^t Chauncey of the *John Adams* with several Officers and fifty Seamen, (all Volunteers) joined the *Constitution* — Cap^t Chauncey & part of his Seamen remain with the Commodore The others were sent to different Gun boats — At the close of the Evening we were four Miles N N E from Tripoly, tacking occasionally manœuvring & exercising the Squadron till the Wind should veere to E S E — The *John Adams* altho armed *en flute* appears at some distance to be a complete frigate — She manœuvred (p^r Signal) several deceptions in imitation of Weighing & standing in with the Squadron —

From the close of the Evening till 9½ P. M. we stood in for the Batteries with light breezes veering between E N E & E b S — At 9½ nearly calm. The Town was now in sight bearing S b W ¼ W — The Batteries gave us Eleven shot which fell short of us —

Situated as the Squadron [is] a S W & W S W current presses home to the Batteries & affords but a hazardous retreat in a calm —

Between 10 & 11 P. M. we made a short board to N N E: Between 11 and 12 we made a short board in for the batteries which immediately gave us 14 Guns More — In the close of the Evening the Enemy's gun boats a Galley & a Schooner, in all seventeen were moored in a line of defence within the reefs and under cover of Grape shot from the Batteries — from the Boats we saw no fire — The 25 Guns fired at the Squadron were from the Grand Battery & from Fort English —

Between 12 Midnight & 1 A. M. light Airs from S E b E — Made the signal for the Squadron to anchor — Came to in 25 fath^s hard bottom. From this time till morning light airs from S E. or calms —

Departed this life John Pyles Seaman. At 1 A. M. his body was committed to the deep —

From daylight till noon light breezes & Variable between N E b E & East. Continue all clear at Quarters — Supplied the *Syren* with 9 Gang Casks of Water = 576 Gall.^s

Noon light airs from E b N — Tripoly distant nearly 3 Miles S b W by compass

These 24 hours the following Signals were made Viz.

At 1 P. M. Squadron to prepare to Weigh with the *J. Adams*' annulling Signal

1½ P. M. *Syren* to Weigh.

3½ P. M. Weigh, the *Argus* & *Nautilus*

4½ P. M. *Vixen*, to take in tow the Gun boats which had been riding by the *J. Adams*

6 P. M. Squadron prepare for action

6¼ P. M. Come within Hail, the *Syren*

9¼ P. M. Tack, the Squadron.

9½ P. M. Come within Hail, the Squadron

10½ P. M. Tack the Squadron

11½ P. M. Tack d^o

1 A. M. Anchor the Squadron

[LC. EPP, Log *Constitution*, 1803-1804.]

Extract from journal kept by Purser John Darby, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. S. *John Adams*, Master Commandant Isaac Chauncey, U. S. Navy, commanding, Friday, 17 August 1804

At half past Midnight the Commodore made signal for to Anchor the Whole Fleet Anchored. at 12 Meridian the Comm^r made signal for all Capt to repair on board the *Constitution* — the Weather excessively warm with light breezes. at $\frac{1}{2}$ past one the Captain returned onboard in the Gigg & M^d Sⁿ Booke [Midshipman Brooke] in the Black Cutter at $\frac{1}{2}$ past 2 the Capt. went on board the *Constitution*. at $\frac{1}{2}$ past 3 P M M^r Brook left the ship in the Black Cutter with the Armour. at 5 the Commodore made the Signal for the fleet to get under way at $\frac{1}{2}$ past 5 they got under way and the Captain returned on board.—

[NDA original. Miss Camilla S. McConnell.]

Extract from journal of Midshipman F. Cornelius deKrafft, U. S. Navy, in U. S. Brig *Siren* of 18 guns, Master Commandant Charles Stewart, U. S. Navy, commanding, Friday, 17 August 1804

(Following the Commodores Motion)

Light winds & pleas^t At 1 a signal from the Comm: to weigh. $\frac{1}{2}$ past 2 hove up & made sail. At 3 the Comm: *Argus* & *Nautilus* got under way & stood for the land. At 5 back'd the M^p top sail. $\frac{1}{2}$ past 5 wore & stood off shore. At 6 wore in shore. At 7 wore & stood off. At $\frac{1}{2}$ past 8 stood in shore.—

Midnight moderate breezes & pleas^t standing off & on shore. At 1 the signal for the squadron to come too. $\frac{1}{2}$ past 1 came too with the larb^d bower in 25 fathoms furl'd all sail. —

Meridian light airs & pleas^t the Comm: made signal for all Commanders to repair on board his ship, rec^d a supply of water from the Comm^o sent provisions & water on board gun boat N^o 4. —

Latt: Obs: 33° 2' N.

[NDA.]

To Midshipman James T. Leonard, U. S. Navy, New York, N. Y., from Secretary of the Navy

NAV. DEP. 18th Aug: 1804.

M^r Beekman Navy Agent at New York has been directed to make the necessary Contracts for building 2 Gun-boats agreeably to a draft which has been transmitted to him.— Your services as a professional Gentleman, may, it is conceived, be usefully directed to this object. You will therefore attend in person and superintend the execution of the work, and see that it is faithfully performed.

You will communicate with M^r Beekman when ever it may be necessary. He will put you in possession of the particular directions which have been transmitted to him, by me, on the subject of dimensions and materials, by which you will be enabled to form a correct judgment of the work, as the contractor progresses in its execution.

[NDA. Off. Comg. Gunboats, 1803-1808.]

Extract from journal of U. S. Brig *Argus*, Master Commandant Isaac Hull, U. S. Navy, commanding, Saturday, 18 August 1804

at Anchor off Tripoli at 7 P M. Cap^t Hull returned on board —

Light breezes through the night at 5 AM the Commodore made Sig^l N^o 1205 weighed with the whole Squadron and stood to the NE

at 8 AM Tripoli bore SWbS — At meridian fresh breezes and Cloudy shortened sail and hove to under the Commodores lee Variously Emp^d

[NDA photostat.]

Extract from journal of Midshipman Charles Morris, Jr., U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Brig *Argus*, Master Commandant Isaac Hull, U. S. Navy, commanding, Saturday, 18 August 1804

Off Tripoli

Moderate

5. A M. The Commodore made Signal N^o 1205 Weighed in Company with the Squadron.

Fresh Breezes.

[Mrs. C. E. Fox original. NDA photostat.]

Extract from journal of U. S. Frigate *Congress*, Captain John Rodgers, U. S. Navy, commanding, Saturday, 18 August 1804

[Tangier Bay] At 1 [P M.] the Consul went on Shore at $\frac{3}{4}$ past 3 spoke the British brig of war *Haggard*.

At 4 Cape Spartel bore W B N $\frac{1}{2}$ N distance 4 miles Tangier S W distance $\frac{3}{4}$ mile At 7 rec^d on board stock & fruits for the Use of the ships company. at $\frac{3}{4}$ past 9 The current having drifted the *Essex* Close in shore she made the signal N^o 24 Sent the boats to assist in towing her off]. at $\frac{1}{2}$ past 11 a light breeze sprung up from the Eastw^d the boats returnd Hoisted them in —

At midnight light breezes & clear bore up & made sail standing out of the gut. $\frac{1}{4}$ past 1 Cape Spartel bore East distance 4 miles A M made and took in sail as occasion req^d Meredian the town of Arzella bore E B N $\frac{1}{2}$ N. distance 4 leagues —

[USNA.]

Extract from journal kept on board the U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, by Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, Saturday, 18 August 1804

Wind N E we are at Anchor 3 miles N b E from the Town of Tripoly, we have our guns all clear Boats all out and armed, and every thing prepared for an attack the moment the wind & sea are favorable. At 8 P M, I sent Cap^t Decatur & Cap^t Chauncey, in two small Boats to reconnoitre the Harbour and examine the situation of their Gun Boats. at Midnight they returnd and reported that they rowed to the Western rock within musket shot of the Enemies centinels and that all the Gun-Boats were in the Mole, moored in a line abreast with Heads to the Eastward. by 1 A M the wind had shifted to the S E (which blows out of the Harbour) the sea was smooth but the current strong to the Westward, which concludes us to defer an attack until some better opportunity as the Boats would not be able to reach their stations before day light. — At day light the Wind suddenly shifted to the N N W which immediately brought a heavy swell on shore the sky was clouded and appearances of a gale, made the signal for the fleet to weigh & gain an offing. — at 7 A M Weigh'd and made sail to work off shore. At 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ AM double Reef'd the Topsails fresh Breezes and a rough sea, at noon Tripoly S b E 3 Leagues dis^t —

[LC. EPP, Vol. 12, June-August 1804.]

430 NAVAL OPERATIONS, APRIL-SEPTEMBER 6, 1804

Extract from log book kept by Sailing Master Nathaniel Haraden, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Saturday, 18 August 1804

Light breezes from N E. with a Swell beginning to set in from E N E. We are 3 Miles N b E $\frac{1}{2}$ E from Tripoly — All the Squadron in company except the *Scourge* and *John Adams* which are at anchor two or three miles without us —

Supplied the *Syren* this Afternoon with 9 casks of Water or 576 Gall^s which added to what the *Syren* has had within these two days makes 2668 Gallons.

There are now remaining on board the *Constitution* 33 leagurs & 16 Butts=14,000 Gallons —

We expend daily (adding the Water supplied the two Bombards) 600 gall^s

All, this afternoon we have had moderate breezes Veering between N E & E N E. with a swell setting from the Eastward.

At 8 P. M. the Commodore sent two small boats to reconnoitre the Enemy's gun boats — At 12 Midnight they returned and reported that the Gun boats were transported from their Moorings close under the Bashaws castle — Our boats were so near that they could see the Centinels on the Walls of the castle.

By this time the wind had shifted by degrees to E S E. and continued so with light airs till day light when it shifted to N N W — At 6 A. M. We had light airs from N W b N with a swell setting in shore with cloudy overcast Weather — The Squadron weighed p^r Signal & stood off shore —

At 7 A. M. Weighed & made all plain Sail in Order to Work off Shore — At 9 A. M. stowed the light sails & tacked to WSW. — At 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ A. M. double reefed the Topsails and brought to for the Squadron to join company The *John Adams* continues at anchor. When we got under way this morning, the weather had the appearance of strong breezes from the Northward All forenoon from 8 A. M we had moderate breezes from N W with overcast weather.

Noon — Laying by, 3 Leagues North from Tripoly. The Squadron in company.

[LC. EPP, Log *Constitution*, 1803-1804.]

Extract from journal kept by Purser John Darby, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. S' *John Adams*, Master Commandant Isaac Chauncey, U. S. Navy, commanding Saturday, 18 August 1804

At half past 12 the Commodore made a signal for us to get under way but a number of our hands being on board the *Constitution* we made the signal of Inability to comply at 2 O'clock hove up and got under way at 6 O'clock this evening the town of Tripoli bore S W by W. distance 7 Leagues. —

[NDA original. Miss Camilla S. McConnell.]

Extract from journal of Midshipman F. Cornelius deKrafft, U. S. Navy, in U. S. Brig *Siren* of 18 guns, Master Commandant Charles Stewart, U. S. Navy, commanding, Saturday, 18 August 1804

(Standing off [f] shore with the squadron & part of the time at anchor.)

Light winds & pleas^t $\frac{1}{2}$ past 4 rec^d a supply of Water from the Comm:

Midnight gentle breezes & pleas^d the Comm^e made signal to get under way, hove up made sail & stood to the N. E. At 5 set stay sails At 7 set royals & flying jib. At 10 tack'd to the S W took in royals. — $\frac{1}{2}$ past 11 tack'd to the NE^d with the squadron. —

Latt: Obs: 33° 9' N.

[NDA.]

[19 August 1804]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from Surgeon James Wells, U. S. Navy

SIR. Lieut Charles Gordon from an Affection of his breast, suffered serious inconveniences from the frequent changes of weather to which an Officer is exposed, in the Mediterranean Sea during the winter months.

From a particular attention to his health the winter past, I attribute the preservation of his life; if attached to a Ship the ensuing season, an apprehensive our efforts to save him will be ineffectual.

Would recommend his return to the United States, or some Port, congenial to his health.

US. SHIP *Constitution* AUGUST 19th 1804.

[LC. EPP, Vol. 12, June–August 1804.]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from William Higgins, U. S. Navy Agent,
Malta

MALTA the 19 August 1804

DEAR SIR I have the honor to reply to your valued letter of the 15 Ins^t — I sincerely congratulate you upon the favorable result of your first attack upon the Barbarians and I trust that your exertions will be finally Crowned with every Success, at the same time I participate in the regret you must naturally feel for the loss of so many valuable lives, tho' we must confess they are but few in number when we come to consider the unequal and desperate Contest they were engaged in — I felicitate you My Dear Sir on *your* escape (a very narrow one I am told) and I have no doubt when you return to America but the thanks of the President will be followed by the universal and heartfelt approbation of Your Countrymen —

Your pressing wants for water will have been relieved I hope ere this by the safe arrival of the Cargo I sent to you and which left this on the 12 Ins^t another supply went to you by the Store Ship *Intripid* on the 17 — The *Enterprise* will sail this morning as full as she can load, and to morrow I shall dispatch you the Bombard *Eliza*, with about 120 Puncheons more — I do not mean to stop here; to avoid the possibility of disappointment I intend taking up another Vessel and if I can get Casks from my good friend M^r Wilkie she shall also go to you in the course of the Week — We have however run pretty hard upon the Public Stores and I cannot answer for the Success of a fresh application — The *Enterprise* carries 40 puncheons from the Dock Yard —

I have no letters for you, those that lay with me went by the *Intripid* I send you some fruit and Vegetables & if I can get you a case of Cyder you shall have that also

[LC. EPP, Vol. 12, June–August 1804.]

[19 August 1804]

To Midshipman Charles Goodwin Ridgely, U. S. Navy, from Captain Edward Preble,
U. S. Navy

SIR You are hereby appointed Lieutenant of the U. S. Schooner the *Nautilus* you will therefore repair on board the Said Schooner, and take upon yourself the charge and duty of Lieutenant agreeable to the regulations of the Service for which this shall be your Authority

Given under my hand on board
the U. S. Ship *Constitution* this
19th day of August 1804

Signed EDWARD PREBLE

M^r CHARLES L RIDGELY

Hereby appointed Licut^t &^{cs}

[LC. EPP, Order Book, May 1803-June 1805.]

Extract from journal of U. S. Brig *Argus*, Master Commandant Isaac Hull, U. S. Navy,
commanding, Sunday, 19 August 1804

At Meridⁿ the Commodore made Sig^l N^o 1018 at 1 P M Tacked ship to the N^d & E^d hoisted in the boats at $\frac{1}{2}$ past 2 the Commodore made Sig^l 1036 at 5 took in T. G. sails at half past 5 the Commodore made Sig^l N^o 314 took a reef in the top sails at $\frac{1}{2}$ past 6 up Courses down main T. M. Staysail and backed the main Topsail sent water to Gunboat N^o 3 $\frac{3}{4}$ past hoisted in the boat and filled away — At midnight moderate breezes with a heavy Swell from the Northw^d wore Ship —

[NDA photostat.]

Extract from journal of Midshipman Charles Morris, Jr., U. S. Navy, on board
U. S. Brig *Argus*, Master Commandant Isaac Hull, U. S. Navy, commanding,
Sunday, 19 August 1804

Fresh breezes and pleasant

1 the Commodore made signal N^o 1018. Tacked.

2 Signal N^o 1036.

$5\frac{1}{2}$ N^o 314

A. M. Moderate & pleasant.

Lat. Obs^d 33° 14' N.

[Mrs. C. E. Fox original. NDA photostat.]

Extract from journal of U. S. Frigate *Congress*, Captain John Rodgers, U. S. Navy,
commanding, Sunday, 19 August 1804

At 1 [P. M.] the town of Larash bore S $\frac{1}{2}$ W. At $\frac{1}{2}$ past 1 Discovered a strange [sail] on the Starb^d beam. Departed this Life Lawrence Vallance O. S. At $\frac{3}{4}$ past 1 the town of Larash bore S E B E. Distance 5 miles discoverd in the harbour. The ship *Masuda* — with lower Yards & top masts struck — at 2 sounded in 25 fathoms water. Committed the body of the diseased to the deep —

Latitude Observed 34° 23' N.

[USNA.]

Extract from journal kept on board the U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, by Captain Edward
Preble, U. S. Navy, Sunday, 19 August 1804

Wind N W. at 1 P M wore to the N E & brought to for the squadron. Cap^t Chauncey with his officers & crew rejoined the

John Adams, Hoisted in all our Boats, and made signal for all Boats to Join their respective ships. at 5 P M the wind North stood to the E N E with the fleet — at Midnight Wore to the W N W, signal was made for the Squadron to do the same — fresh Breezes & a rough sea, at 6 AM sounded 75 fath^r Water sandy bottom, we have now an Offing of 8 or 10 Leagues from Tripoly. — Moderate Breezes all the fore noon with an Ugly swell setting towards the coast, Tripoly at Noon bore S b W $\frac{1}{2}$ W 9 Leagues dis^t — The Clouds are dispersing and the Weather appears favorable for a change of wind.

Lat^d Obs^d 33° 19' N^o

[LC. EPP, Vol. 12, June–August 1804.]

Extract from log book kept by Sailing Master Nathaniel Haraden, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Sunday, 19 August 1804

Moderate breezes from N W. Waiting for the Squadron to close — At 1 P. M wore to N E & brought to —

Cap^t Chauncey with his Officers and Seamen rejoined the *John Adams* —

At 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ P. M. In all boats which we have had out two days in readiness to assist the Bombards & Gun boats At 2 P. M. filled to the E N E. Squadron in company By this time the wind had Veered to North — Out second reef from the Topsails —

At 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ P. M. Tripoly bore S W b S $\frac{1}{2}$ S. 14 Miles.

Towards evening the N wind began to freshen — double reefed the Topsails & down Royal Yards —

At Sunset the land was not in Sight. Squadron all in sight, but considerably scattered —

Continued standing to E N E till 12 Midnight when we wore and came to the wind to W N W, with the night signal for the Squadron to follow.

Pleasant weather during the night with a rough sea.

At 6 A. M. sounded — 75 f^m Hard bottom —

The Garfan Mountains bore S W.

We have now an Offing of 9 or 10 leagues from the coast —

At 1 A. M. out second reef from the Topsails — Moderate breezes from N. all the forenoon with a swell setting from N N W —

Noon. Squadron in company. Standing to W N W The Hills a little inland of Tripoly in sight bearing by compass S W b S — The town of Tripoly (var: cor:) bears S W b W $\frac{1}{2}$ W. 27 Miles —

The clouds to the N. are in some measure dispersed and have the appearance of a change to the Eastward

Surgeons report 7 sick, 4 conv^o & 3 wounded prisoners — Water now remaining 36 Leagurs & 16 butts = 13,440 Gall^r

The foll[ow]ing signals have been Made the 24 hours past —

At 1 P. M. *John Adams* to Weigh — Answered her signal N^o 634.

1 $\frac{1}{2}$ P. M. All boats to return to their own ships —

1 $\frac{1}{2}$ P. M. General Signal — Make more sail

2 P. M. Answered the *Nautilus* signal to speak the Commodore

5 $\frac{1}{2}$ P. M. Squadron to close

12 Midnight. Squadron to wear —

Latitude Observed 33° 19' N.

[LC. EPP, Log *Constitution*, 1803–1804.]

Extract from journal of William Eaton, U. S. Navy Agent for the Barbary Regencies,
19 August 1804

19. Monday. 8. a. m. within a league and $\frac{1}{2}$ of the Island of Alboran

[H. E. Huntington L&AG, EA 206.]

Extract from journal kept by Purser John Darby, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. S. *John Adams*, Master Commandant Isaac Chauncey, U. S. Navy, commanding, Sunday, 19 August 1804

We continued underway all last night & are now cruising off the coast of Tripoli land not in sight. at Meridian the squadron in sight. to Leward light breezes. at half past 12. discovered a sail on our Weather beam and made a signal signifying the same to the Commodore he made the signal for the squadron to wear & at 1 O'clock he made the signal for the *Argus* to chace the strange sail. We continued under sail all night in company with the Squadron —

[NDA original. Miss Camilla S. McConnell.]

Extract from journal of Midshipman F. Cornelius deKrafft, U. S. Navy, in U. S. Brig *Siren* of 18 guns, Master Commandant Charles Stewart, U. S. Navy, commanding, Sunday, 19 August 1804

(Standing off the land with all the squadron)

Fresh breezes & pleas^t weather $\frac{1}{2}$ past Mer: tack'd to the W^d took in stay sails & flying jib At 1 back'd the M^t topsail & sent the launch on board the *John Adams* for provisions & rum At 2 hoisted in the barge. At 3 the launch return'd with provisions & rum the *John Adams* weigh'd & stood for the fleet. At 5 Tripoli bore S W by S 5 leagues. — Midnight clear & pleas^t inclining to calm, with a heavy sea. $\frac{1}{2}$ past 12 wore to the N W^d p^t signal. —

Latt: Obs: 33° 14' N.

[NDA.]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from R. W. Meade, Cadiz, Spain

CADIZ August 20th 1804

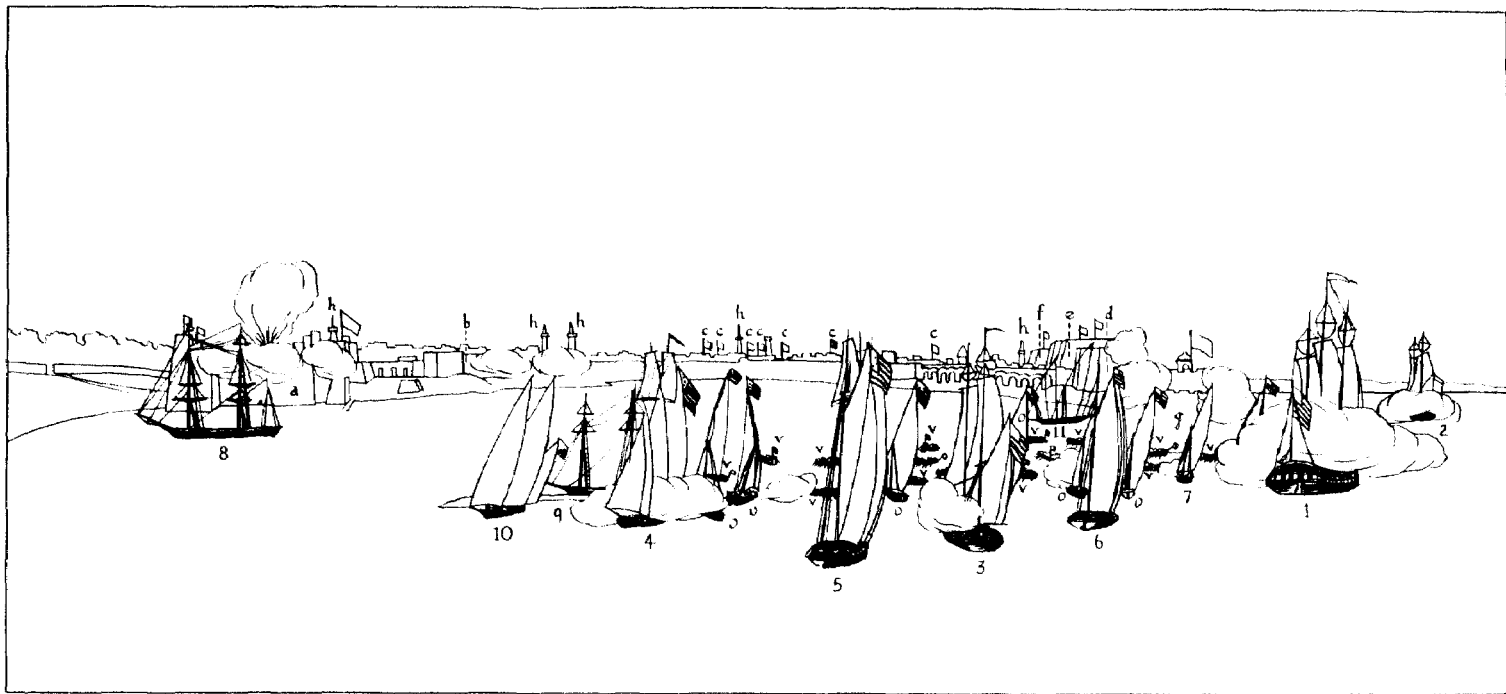
DEAR SIR, Enclosed you will find sundry papers relative to the forgery practised by one Charles Borny in your name on Mackenzie & Glennie the Navy Agents of the United States at London.

The papers explain so very fully the whole business, that it is only necessary for me to refer you to them. I send you also two of the original letters, one from Charles Borny to Mess^{rs} Gonne Harrison & Lupton of Lisbon, & one from Laurent Roberts to Mayne & Brown of same place.

No doubt remains in my mind but that Borny & Roberts are one and the same person, and that he has assumed one or both the names, and varied the writing merely to accomplish his purposes. No such person as Laurent Roberts being to be traced here, whereas Charles Borny, or the person by that name is well known here.

It is probable you may be able from the information now sent you, and from seeing the handwriting, to trace who M^r Borny is, & where he may now be.

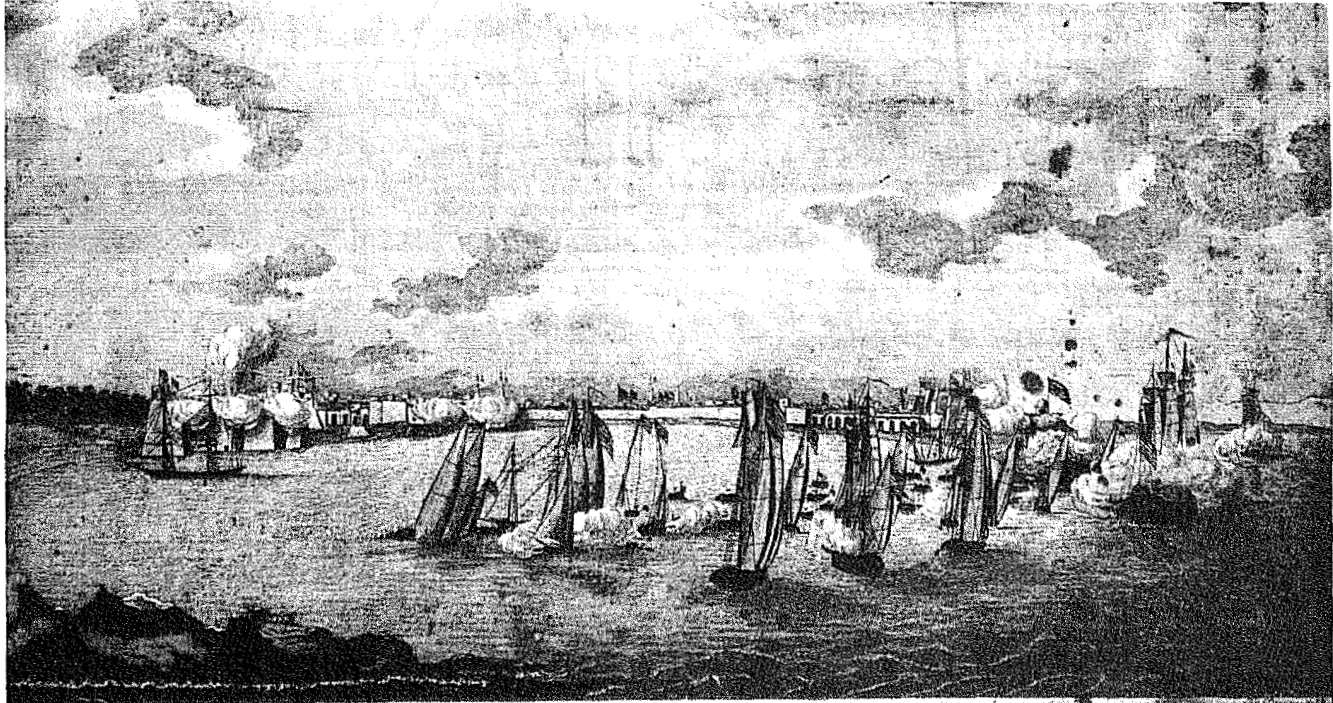
He is certainly a most perfect adept in the line he has selected for the exertion of his talents; & has through the whole of his operations



1. FRIGATE "CONSTITUTION," COMMODORE PREBLE
2. BRIG "SYREN," CAPTAIN STEWART
3. BRIG "ARGUS," CAPTAIN HULL
4. SCHOONER "VIXEN," CAPTAIN SMITH
5. SCHOONER "ENTERPRISE," CAPTAIN DECATUR
6. SCHOONER "NAUTILUS," CAPTAIN SOMERS
7. TWO BOMBS

8. A TRIPOLITAN BRIG
9. SCHOONER
10. ROW-GALLEY
11. A FRENCH PRIVATEER
- a. THE BASHAW'S CASTLE
- b. FORT BUCHAMEINE
- c. CONSULAR FLAGS

- d. FORT SPANISH
- e. FORT TURK
- f. FORT JEWISH
- g. FORT REDONDO, OR THE ADMIRAL'S FORT
- h. MOSQUES
- o. SIX GUN-BOATS
- v. GUN-BOATS



A View of Commodore Preble's Squadron about engaging the Gun-boats and Boats of Tripoli on the 3d of August 1804 when they captured three of the Tripolitan Gun-boats & greatly damaged the Barbadoes & Constitution.

ATTACK ON TRIPOLI. 3 AUGUST 1804.

which were even extended far more than necessary, made use of the most respectable & cautious houses both here, and at Lisbon; and by that means prevented the least possibility of suspicion in Mess^{rs} Mackenzie & Glennie I think it would be well to write Mess^{rs} [space] at Milan. you may possibly hear something concerning him from them which may lead to a discovery of his present place of abode.

I shall be happy to hear from you, and if I can be of any service in this, or any other business in this city, I pray you to command me, believing me to be

(Signed) R. W MEADE

[LC. EPP, LB, April-Nov. 1804.]

To John Gavino, U. S. Consul, Gibraltar, from R. W. Meade, Cadiz, Spain

(Copy)

CADIZ August 20th 1804

DEAR SIR — I enclose several papers a list of which is annexed, relative to the forgery committed on Mess^{rs} Mackenzie & Glennie of London, by a young man under the name of Charles Borny. This business was put under my charge by C Pinckney Esq^r our Minister at Madrid with instructions to trace the same if possible, and discover the residence of M^r Borny.

I have not however been able to discover any thing further than that, M^r Borny was here about the period of the bills being drawn & paid; and that he introduced himself to Mess^{rs} Grippi & Caleagui, a very respectable house of this city, thro' whom he transacted his operations. By the information rec^d from this house, I find that this young man presented himself at their Counting House on the 27th December last, with a request that they would undertake the collection of several bills for him on Lisbon Seville, Madrid, &c^t Upon being questioned to know by whom he had been recommended, he informed them, that he had been captured on his passage from Italy by the English, carried into Gibraltar, and had been unfortunate enough to lose nearly all his papers & effects. He however produced a long letter of instructions from [space] of Milan, containing among others the following paragraph. "All business that you may have to transact, either on your own, or our a/c at Cadiz, you will place in the hands of Mess^{rs} Grippi & Caleagui our particular friends there, & on mentioning our name, they will do every thing in their power to serve you". This letter M^r Borny left for several days at the office of Grippi & Caleagui, who were well acquainted and formerly in correspondence with the House; and on comparing the signature with another in their possession, and finding them to agree exactly. They undertook and managed the business for him. Mess^{rs} Grippi & Caleagui appear however to have retained some suspicions about the young man, and acted with great caution, giving him no money but as they collected the bills deposited with them. The Bills being all very regularly paid, on the 25th January, they paid him \$6811 Dollars, being the balance of his account; and about the same period Borny called on Don Cayetano Farrugia a Maltese Shop Keeper in this City, who procured Gold for him for about 15,000 Dollars. Since that period he has not been seen here. The person with whom he lodged being absent at present from the city, I have not been able to obtain the date he left this. I will however see the person on his return, and let you know of any thing

new that may occur. Charles Borny is a young man of about 26 or 27 years old, of a middling stature regular features, good address, and a great deal to say for himself. He speaks fluently and correctly the French, English, Spanish and Italian languages. He told the Maltese that he was a Neapolitan Navy Officer, but the Maltese rather took him for a Spaniard or Portuguese.

I have not been able to trace which rout he has taken I rather think however, he has gone to Italy, and I would advise your immediately writing to the house in Milan with a statement of facts, and it may possibly happen that they may discover him.

No doubt whatsoever exists but that Borny & Roberts are one and the same person, as no such person as Laurent Roberts ever made his appearance here; whereas Borny, or the person by that name is well known.

He must have been some person either in your confidence or that of Commodore Preble, or he could not have been so well acquainted with the particulars of the Letter of credit, and the time it was forwarded. You'll observe that the Bills he drew, and which were sent forward by Mayne & Brown of Lisbon, reached London by the same post as the letter of Credit. I think it would be well if the letter of credit was put into the Post Office by you at Gibraltar, to enquire whether a person of that description may not have been employed in the Post Office I send you part only of Borny & Roberts' letters, and will retain the others in case any thing should turn up here One of the original Bills on MacKenzie & Glennie is in my possession, but as it is the only one in Europe, I shall retain it until required.

I send enclosed a letter for Commodore Preble, which please forward. It contains a copy of the letters, and two letters of Borny & Roberts, that he may know the writing.

I shall be glad to hear from you, and to be informed should anything occur.

Having fixed my residence here for some time, I take the liberty of offering you my services & remain D^r Sir,

Your Very D^r Serv^t

(Signed) R W MEADE

N. B Mess^{rs} Grippi & Caleagui having mislaid the letter from the House in Milan, I am unable by this post to send you the firm of the House, as they do not remember it. I shall send it however, as soon as I can obtain it.

22nd August 1804 You will please give notice to the commanding officer of the American Ships, that there has this day entered this port two Moorish cruisers of 4 Guns each and 55 Men —

[LC. EPP, LB, April-Nov. 1804.]

To Secretary of State from George Davis, U. S. Chargé d'Affaires, Tunis

Copy

TUNIS August the 20th 1804 —

SIR, I have the honor to inform You, that a Courier has this moment arrived from Sphax, which gives me the pleasing intelligence of our Squadron's having made a Powerful and Successful attack on the Town and Harbour of Tripoli; and profit of this early occasion for Malta to forward You a Copy of the Dispatch received from Commodore Preble. The affair has not yet been made known to the Bey; but shall avail myself of the first occasion to apprise His Excel-

lency of our effective operations against the enemy; and doubt not but his own deductions will be more favourable to the conservation of our Peace, and have more weight in a happy and honourable arrangement of our Affairs here, than any comments which prouidence would authorize me to make.

Every avenue between this and Algiers, is perfectly blocked up by the Sherif, before mentioned; and the fears of that Regency seem not yet to have been awakened as much as this Government. — The Marabout's Army daily increases; his continued inactivity augurs rather an unfavourable issue: there is, however, so much reason for disaffection, in the different Regencies, and such real misery throughout all this, that we are menaced with a scene of Famine, desolation, and civil comotion — the price of grain increases: but as this is the Season of fruit, the People still find the means of subsistence: it is the winter that we are to dread.

Naples, inspired by our daring acts, continues to annoy this Coast — I learn, (and the intelligence may be relied on, tho' we cannot give the detail) that the Tunisien Squadron, has been separated and attacked in different Situations by their Enemy — three T. Gallies, on board of which were nearly Seven hundred Men, made an attack, on a Neapolitan Frigate — one it is said was sunk, and the other two Captured: part of the Action was seen from Mount Ras Jebel, (near Porto farino) and a number of dead bodies have since floated on shore — We have also accounts of four other Corsairs being Captured by the Neapolitans: a frigate, is Cruising between Portofarino, and Cape Bona — Everything, however, is kept in profound Secrecy, and even enquiries are dangerous. —

His Catholic Majesty's regalia, arrived on the 18th Instant, (to wit) two Xebecs, mounting thirty pieces of Cannon each — Seventy thousand Dollars in Cash, a regalia for the Sapatapa, with the usual Consular Present. I have received no letters from Tripoli, since the 14th ult.; but daily expect a Courier —

[LC. EPP, Vol. 12, June–August 1804.]

To Captain Schomberg, R. N., commanding H. B. M. S. *Madras*, from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

Constitution At Anchor Off TRIPOLY
August 20th 1804

DEAR SIR I am honored with your letter by the *John Adams* and beg you to accept my thanks for your prompt & obliging attention to our Wants in the cask way —

The *John Adams* would have been a pleasing sight, if she had not have left her Gun Carriages on board the Squadron in Hampton Roads — More of this hereafter —

I am to be superseded in the command of the American Squadron in these seas — Believe me, my dear sir I have too high a re[s]pect for those gentlemen who have honored me with their attention in Malta, to conceal from them the Reasons assigned by my Government for this Measure — I have therefore enclosed to Sir Alexander Ball, a copy of a letter from the Secretary of the Navy to me on the subject —

I beg leave to refer you to M^r OBrien for information respecting our Operations in this Quarter — Our Gun boats want much nursing, & create a vast deal of uneasiness for their Safety in rough Weather —

[LC. EPP, LB, April–Nov. 1804.]

[20 August 1804]

To Midshipman Joseph Israel, U. S. Navy, from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

SIR You are hereby appointed Lieutenant of the U. S. Ship *Constitution* — You will therefore repair on board Said Ship, and take upon yourself the charge and duty of Lieutenant agreeable to the regulations of the Service for which this shall be your authority

Given under my hand on board
the U. S. Ship *Constitution* this
20th day of August 1804

Signed EDWARD PREBLE

[LC. EPP, Order Book, May 1803-June 1805.]

[About 20 August 1804]

To the Commanding Officer of each U. S. Ship of War in the Mediterranean Squadron from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

SIR, The Good of the Service requires that you put the whole of your ship's company on allowance of two Quarts & a pint of water for 24 hours including Peas, Rice, & Grog Water. You will therefore give Orders to commence the issuing such allowance & continue untill farther Orders —

Signed E: PREBLE

Note — One of the above was sent to each Cap^t of the Squadron

[LC. EPP, Order Book, May 1803-June 1805.]

Extract from journal of U. S. Brig *Argus*, Master Commandant Isaac Hull, U. S. Navy, commanding, Monday, 20 August 1804

at $\frac{1}{2}$ past Meridian saw a Strange Sail off our Weather bow the Commodore hoisted our Distinguish^d flag at 1 PM he made Sig^t N^o 274 and N^o 356 Cast off the Gunboats at $\frac{1}{2}$ past 4 brought the Chace too she proved to be the American Ketch *Intrrepid* 8 days from Syracuse with Water and fresh provisions for the Squadron took her in tow and made Sail for the Commodore at 6 hove too Cap^t Hull went on board of him —

[NDA photostat.]

Extract from journal of U. S. Frigate *Congress*, Captain John Rodgers, U. S. Navy, commanding, Monday, 20 August 1804

At $\frac{1}{2}$ past 6 [AM] discovered 2 strange Sail on the Weather bow — anchored with the Kedge anchor In 67 fathoms water — At 8 fired a gun & Run up our colours Tryd the current & found It setting S W B W 1 mile p^t hour — at 10 weighd & made sail the town of Sallee bearing S E distance 3 miles. Saw three Moorish ships of war & a gally laying in the harbour

[USNA.]

Extract from journal kept on board the U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, by Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, Monday, 20 August 1804

Moderate Breezes from the N E with a heavy swell setting to the N N W, standing to the N N W with the fleet. Tripoly bearing S S E 9 or 10 Leagues at 1 PM a strange sail was discovered from the

John Adams in the E N E. Made the *Argus's* signal to cast off her Gun Boats & chase. made the *John Adams's* signal to Tow the *Argus's* Boats at 4 PM the *Argus* brought the chase to. made the signal to bring her down to me. at 6 the *Argus* & chase joined company she proved to be the U S Ketch *Intrepid* from Syracuse with Water & fresh stock for the Squadron, she Brought me letters from M^r Dyson & M^r Higgins the latter informs me that an English Vessel left Malta the 12th Ins^l with 190 Butts of Water, & some live stock for the Squadron. We are in great want of the Water but I fear some accident has happened to her to prevent her arrival as the Wind has been constantly fair for several days past. at 12 Midnight the Wind E b S. Steered to the S b E at 2½ AM the Wind SSE wore Ship to the East at 5½ AM Wind S E wore to the S S W at 8 AM all sail sett for the Land, at 9 AM ordered the *Argus* to the Eastward to look out for the store ship Expected from Malta, sent the *Vixen* to the Westward on the same errand Ordered all the fleet on allowance of Water 2 Quarts p^r Day cooking & grog Water included. — The prisoners at 1 Quart p^r day which is more than an equal proportion as they are not exposed to the Sun and have no work to do. At noon we were about 5 Leagues from the coast. Tripoly bearing S E b S

Lat^d 33° 4' N. —

[LC. EPP, Vol. 12, June–August 1804.]

Extract from log book kept by Sailing Master Nathaniel Haraden, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Monday, 20 August 1804

Moderate breezes from N E with a swell setting in to the N W^t Standing to N W — 9 or 10 Leagues to the N N E of Tripoly — Squadron in company. At 1 P. M. answered the *J. Adam's* Signal for a strange sail to the E — The *Argus* was ordered p. Signal in chase, leaving the two gun boats towed by her, in charge of the *John Adams* — Made sail as necessary to lead the Squadron & keep the *Argus* in sight. At 4 P. M. the *Argus* brought to the chase — Made signal to bring the chase to the Commodore —

At 6 P. M. joined company the U. S. Ketch *Intrepid* from Saragosa with supplies for the Squadron — Her supplies consist of 30 Butts of Water, some Bullocks, sheep & Vegetables —

By 8 P. M. the wind had Veered to E b S — We continued with the main topsail to the mast till 12 midnight when we wore & filled to the Southward —

By 2½ A. M. the wind had veered to S S E. Wore ship to the Eastward — At 5½ A. M. Wore to S S W — Moderate breezes from E S E & S E all the forenoon with pleasant weather & a smooth sea. At 8 A. M. made all plain sail in for the land — At 9 A. M. the *Argus* was ordered to look out to the Eastward in order to fall in with a store ship which had sailed from Malta 5 or 6 days ago with supplies for the Squadron — The *Vixen* was ordered to look out for her to the Westward.

Punished Daniel Veddenburgh & Samuel Greaves seamen with 12 lashes each for neglect of duty —

This forenoon the ships company was ordered on allowance of Water, two quarts per day, exclusive of the water for Peas Rice & Grog. The prisoners are allowed One Quart p^r day each — Noon Moderate breezes from S E — We are 4 or 5 leagues from the coast

which which bears from S E to S W b W — Tripoly we suppose to bear S S E, 14 Miles — The Squadron all in company except the *Argus* & *Vixen* which are in sight on the look out — Water now remaining 33 Leaguers & 14 Butts.

The following Signals have been made these 24 hours —

At 1 P. M. — Squadron to wear — The *Argus* to cast off boats — & the *John Adams* to take them in tow

At 2 — Squadron to wear

At 5 — *Argus* — bring down the chase

At 12 Midnight — Squadron to wear

At 2 A. M. — Squadron to wear

At 5½ A. M. *John Adams* come within hail.

At 6 A. M. — *Vixen* d° d°

At 8¼ A. M. Squadron make more Sail.

Latitude Observed 33° 4' North

[LC. EPP, Log *Constitution*, 1803-1804.]

Extract from journal of William Eaton, U. S. Navy Agent for the Barbary Regencies, Monday, 20 August 1804

Off Cape De Gat, becalmed. Sunk a queen's ware plate over the stern, suspended to a bog line, which was seen at the depth of one hundred and forty eight feet.

[NR&L. No. 9217, Bm¹ E 14.]

Extract from journal kept by Purser John Darby, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. S. *John Adams*. Master Commandant Isaac Chauncey, U. S. Navy, commanding, Monday, 20 August 1804

At half past 5 this morning the Commodore made the signal that he wanted to speak us. We bore up for him and soon after spoke him he Ordered us to take 2 Gun boats in tow —

Capt Chauncey went on board the Commodore at half past Meridian discovered land ahead & at 1. the Town of Tripoli bore S E by E ½ E. at half past 5 discovered a sail on our starb^d bow. standing to the East^d — which proved to be a bark with water &c for the fleet —

[NDA original. Miss Camilla S. McConnell.]

Extract from journal of Midshipman F. Cornelius deKraft, U. S. Navy, in U. S. Brig *Siren* of 18 guns, Master Commandant Charles Stewart, U. S. Navy, commanding, Monday, 20 August 1804

Plying to windward with the fleet in sight of the town [Tripoli]

Light breezes & pleasant weather with a heavy sea from the N E At ½ past a signal for the fleet to wear, turn'd the reefs out of the top-sails & wore ship. At ¾ past 2 discover'd a strange sail to windward. signal from the Commodore for the *Argus* to give chase. At ½ past 2 wore p^r signal of the Commodore, & made sail. ¾ past 4 shortened sail, the *Argus* spoke the chase, Proved to be the Ketch *Intrepid*, with Provisions &c. for the fleet. ¾ past 5 back'd the main top sail. ¾ past 6 reef'd the topsails.

Midnight light breezes & pleasant wore to the S W p^r signal. At 3 wore to the E^d p^r signal, made sail, ½ past 5 wore to the S W p^r signal. ¾ past 7 back'd the main top sail, sent the launch on board the *J. Adams* for Provisions. At 8 fill'd away —

Meridian light airs & clear, rec^d from the *John Adams* a quantity of Provisions. Supplied gun boat N^o 4 with water & provisions. —

[NDA.]

To Sir Alexander John Ball, Governor of Malta, from Captain Edward Preble,
U. S. Navy

Constitution — Off TRIPOLY, at Anchor

August 21st 1804

SIR You will e're this probably have heard that I am to be superseded in the command of the American Squadron in these Seas — I value too highly the Friendly sentiments with which you have honored me, to neglect making you acquainted with the reasons assigned by my Government, for this (to me) unexpected measure — I therefore take the liberty to enclose you a copy of a letter from the Secretary of the Navy on the Subject —

I beg leave to refer you to M^r OBrien for information respecting our Operations in this Quarter —

[LC. EPP, LB, April-Nov. 1804.]

To Secretary of State from John Gavino, U. S. Consul, Gibraltar

N^o 158

GIBRALTAR 21st August 1804

SIR

* * * * *

On the Evening of the 12th Instant arrived Commodor Barron and his Squadron, when I gave him all the Occurrencys of the times, they imediately Waterd and took in such Provisions &c^t as they stood in need of & could stow. On the 15th the Commodor in Company with the *Constellation* proceeded for off Tripoly; the *Congress* & *Essex* went said day for Tanger and to shew themselves on the Western Coast of Barbary as the Emperours Cruisers were at Sea; I herewith inclose you one from Consul Simpson, who lately wrote me had received from the Emperour assurances of friendship towards the U. S. —

I now anex you abstract of a Letter from Madrid from which it seems our Situation with Spain is Critical, I wrote M^r Pinckney on the arrival of the *John Adams* advising him of the approach of our Squadron, and also informed him since of its arrival, but have no answer to either which makes me apprehend the Letters are stopd, yet I last Post wrote him a new under cover to a friend. — The *Congress* & *Essex* I expect in every moment, when it is most probable will proceed to join the Squadron above. — After Comodor Barron saild I was informed M^r Randolf had come out in the *President* and proceeded with her, which surprized me much that neither Commodor Barron, any of the Captains or Consul Eaton who all Dined with me & frequented the house should have mentiond it, if they had I most undoubtedly would (busy as I was dispatching the Squadron) have found him out and shewn him that attention & Civilitys he is so justly intitled to; it was from General Trigg I heard of his having been here, after he left the Garrison, as he had been with him to deliver some Letters he brought of Recommendation, indeed the short stay of the Ships, & the hurry they were in might have Occasiond the Gent^l of the Squadron not mentioning it which mortified me much, & I understood was one day on shore —

At Malaga they have a Malignant fever which has carried off 15 out of 20 that were taken with it, but they say the Number of Deaths are now reduced to 5 out of 20, a strict Quaranteen of forty days is laid here in Consequence on all Vessels from thence. —

I have no late Accounts from Comodor Prible. —

[NA. SDA. CL, Gibraltar, Vol. 2, 1796-1804.]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from George Davis, U. S. Chargé d'Affaires, Tunis

TUNIS August the 21st 1804.

SIR, The letter You did me the honor to write on the 7th Inst. giving the pleasing intelligence of our daring and Successful attack on the Town and Harbour of Tripoli; was not received untill yesterday. — It renovated those flattering hopes I once so fondly cherished — that it should ultimately be the honourable task of America to check the insupportable Insolence of these States, and revenge the Cruel outrages so long committed on every Christian Power. — You have laid the foundation for a National Character; and on so solid a Basis, that Tripoli at least, will learn to respect, even its ruins; and in doing which, You have in a great degree removed the degrading opinion, they had entertained of Our Nation — Your example, will stimulate all the Secondary Nations; and I trust, finally destroy the false Policy of Europe — May equal Success crown all Your future operations; and a Generous Government, appreciate the real worth of Your Gallant Officers. — Everything is in confusion with this Regency; tho' all is silent as the grave — for Your full information, I have the honor to enclose you a Copy of my present to the Secretary of State.

I wish M^r Russel, Consul for this Regency, to announce to me Officially, his appointment, and arrival in these Seas, before he sails for Tunis, in order, that the same may be communicated to the Bey, and all difficulties removed for his happy reception.

I most sincerely rejoice, at being relieved from so unpleasant a Post; it is not, however, a favourable moment for making a removal — My Sentiments of honor and discipline, are too refined, ever to question the propriety of any change on the part of Government; or permit personal views to damp my Zeal for the Service of my Country.

I beg You to accept the assurances of the high Consideration and distinguished Respect, with which,

P.S: I enclose you a line for Cap^t OBrien — if you have any news papers will you favour me, with a few, by the first occasion

[LC. EPP, Vol. 12, June-August 1804.]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from Master Commandant John Smith, U. S. Navy

U. S. S. *Vixen* Off TRIPOLI Aug^t 21st 1804

SIR, It having become requisite that thir shortly should be furnished for the U. S. Schooner *Vixen* under my command; a complete suite of running Riggins & Sails, together with some alteration in the position of her Masts, for the purpose of facilitating he[r] working, those circumstances together, with the particular construction of the Vessel, has induced me to inform you, that was she altered from her

present rigg into that of a Brig, the change would materially deminish the expence under which she is employed, & will considerably add to her properties as a Vessel of War.

The standing riggin & spars, she has at present are sufficient to effect the change, the quantity of Riggin & Canvass will I conceive be less than that which is requisite in her present state.

[LC. EPP, Vol. 12, June-August 1804.]

To William Higgins, U. S. Navy Agent, Malta, from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

Constitution — At Anchor Off TRIPOLY

August 21st 1804

DEAR SIR Your favors by the *Conception* & *Intrepid*, I have received. — The Water, Live Stock & Vegetables arrived very opportunely as the whole Squadron were nearly destitute — The *Enterprize* has this moment arrived & brings me yours of the 19th Ins^t — The *Eliza* with the 120 puncheons will be sufficient water until some part of the Squadron returns to Port which will be in ten or twelve days, as the Weather is so precarious, and our Gun boats require so much Nursing that it will not be prudent to let them remain out longer — We have not been able to make an attack since the 7th on account of unfavorable Winds & Weather; but are now waiting with great anxiety for an opportunity — I enclose you a copy of the letter which announces that I am to be superseded by Commodore Barron presuming that it may afford you satisfaction to be acquainted with the reasons which are assigned by Government —

I refer you to M^r OBrien for our present situation here — I wish you to get clear of the *Conception* as soon as possible, & on the best terms in your power —

[LC. EPP, LB, April-Nov. 1804.]

[21 August 1804]

Statement of Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, regarding Ship *Conception*

I certify that the Ship *Conception*, Antonio Grima Master, came along side this ship this day, and discharged a cargo of Water & Provisions & was dismissed at 6 O'Clock in the Evening, not having had communication with the Shore, or with any other Vessel: And that we are all in good health.

Given on board the U. S. Ship
Constitution At Anchor off
Tripoly — August 21st: 1804
Signed EDWARD PREBLE

To all whom it may concern —

[LC. EPP, Order Book, May 1803-June 1805.]

To Richard O'Brien from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

Constitution — At Anchor

Off Tripoly August 21st 1804

SIR You will proceed to Malta in the Polacca Ship *Conception* prize to the U. S. Squadron Off Tripoly — the *Conception* has been

detained in consequence of attempting to enter Tripoly in Violation of a strict Naval Blockade by the U. S. Squadron under my command —

EDWARD PREBLE

RICHARD OBRIEN Esq^t
An Officer of the U. S. of America

[LC. EPP, Order Book, May 1803-June 1805.]

Extract from journal of Midshipman Charles Morris, Jr., U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Brig *Argus*, Master Commandant Isaac Hull, U. S. Navy, commanding, Tuesday, 21 August 1804

Standing off and on the Town of Tripoli

[Mrs. C. E. Fox original. NDA photostat.]

Extract from journal kept on board the U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, by Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, Tuesday, 21 August 1804

Moderate Breezes from E S E & pleasant weather. — Standing in for the coast of Tripoly, all the squadron in comp^y excepting the *Argus* on the look out to the Eastward, at 1 P M the Town of Tripoly in sight bearing by compass S E b S 4 Leagues, an unexpected Westerly Current has carried the squadron 4 or 5 Leagues farther to leward than we expected carrying a press of sail all night to gain our station off the Town, Wind Variable in the night by 7 A M the Wind had shifted from E S E to South Tripoly bearing S W b S 5 Leagues. at 9 AM saw a strange sail in the S E quarter, gave chase mad[e] signal for the *Argus* & *Vixen* to chase — the other Vessels of the squadron repeating. At 11½ A M they bore up to comply with the signal —

[LC. EPP, Vol. 12, June-August 1804.]

Extract from log book kept by Sailing Master Nathaniel Haraden, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Tuesday, 21 August 1804

Moderate breezes from E S E with pleasant Weather — Standing on for the coast of Tripoly — Squadron all in company except the *Argus* & *Vixen* which are on the look out within communication p^t Signal.

At 1 P. M. saw the Town of Tripoly bearing by compass S E b S nearly 4 Leagues — We unexpectedly made the town on these bearings owing to a strong Westerly current. We stood in shore till 3 P. M. when we tacked to the N E At 4½ P. M. tacked to the Southward — At 5 P. M. tacked to the N E & at 6 P. M. tacked to the S —

On the close of the Evening Tripoly bore by compass S S E nearly 4 leagues — At 8 P. M. tacked to N E — Continued standing to the E. during the Night under Easy sail — Winds Veering between E S E. & S S E.

At day light tacked to the S W — Squadron in sight & within signal distance, Except the *Vixen*, in sight to W S W — By 7 A. M. the wind had veered to S b E — Tacked to the East^d Tripoly bearing by compass S W b S, nearly 6 Leagues — Light breezes Veering between S S W & W S W, with pleasant weather all forenoon — At 9 A. M. saw a strange sail bearing S E b S — continued nearing her till 11 A. M. when she altered her course — At this time the *Argus* was

about 5 Miles N E of us — The *J. Adams* between the *Argus* & *Constitution* — *Vixen* in sight to the S W nearly 6 Miles — At 11½ A. M. hoisted the Signal to chase with the *Argus's* distinguishing flag at the Mizzen & the *Vixen's* at the Main — On their not answering the signal, we fired 4 guns — The *J. Adams* repeated the *Argus* signal with three guns, On which she bore up in chase.

At 11¾ we also bore up in chase in order to prevent the *Argus's* chase getting in shore —

Noon moderate breezes from W S W —

Tripoly in sight bearing S W b W, 4 leagues. Squadron all in sight.

The following Signals have been Made,

At 5½ P. M. answered the *Argus* Signal for a strange sail E S E. & made her signal to chase.

8 P. M — Night signal for Squadron to tack to N E.

5½ A. M — Answered the *J. Adams's* signal for a strange sail to W S W —

7 A. M — Shewed the *Argus's* distinguishing flag to speak her —

10¾ A. M — Answered the *J. Adams's* signal for a strange sail South —

11½ A. M — *Argus's* signal to chase E S E & *Vixen*, come within hail, & *Argus* to cast off her gun boats & the *Scourge* tow the *Argus's* boats

Latitude Observed 33° 5' N.

[LC. EPP, Log *Constitution*, 1803-1804.]

Extract from journal of William Eaton, U. S. Navy Agent for the Barbary Regencies, Tuesday, 21 August 1804

Delivered my opinion to Commodore Barran concerning the apparent advantages of cooperating with Hamet Bashaw against Tripoli: and the probable disadvantages of acting without his cooperation.

If this plan succeeds (which will certainly have the full coincidence of the Commodore) and a treaty should follow, insert some clause favorable to the Danes and Swedes; because the Consul of the former nation has befriended our captives in Tripoli; and because the latter have been disappointed in the reliance they placed in our alliance with them in this war; and because neither the one nor the other is our rival in the commerce of the Mediterranean.

[NR&L. No. 9217, Bm¹ E 14.]

Extract from journal kept by Purser John Darby, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. S. *John Adams*, Master Commandant Isaac Chauncey, U. S. Navy, commanding, Tuesday, 21 August 1804

We still continue under way cruising off the co[a]st of Tripoli at 11 Oclock A M discover^d a sail two points on the lee bow made a signal to the commodore signifying the same at half past 11 the Commodore made the signal to the *Argus* & *Scourge* to Chase. We repeated one to the *Argus* and fired three guns & at 12 repeated and fired at Meridian pleasant Weather & light breezes at half past 12 the Commodore made the signal for the *Vixen* to chase E S E. at 1 the Town of Tripoli bore S W. distance 6 or 7 miles. at ¼ past 4 the Capt went on board the *Vixen*. at 8 Oclock we came to anchor in 31 fathom Water.

[NDA original. Miss Camilla S. McConnell.]

446 NAVAL OPERATIONS, APRIL-SEPTEMBER 6, 1804

Extract from journal of Midshipman F. Cornelius deKraft, U. S. Navy, in U. S. Brig *Siren* of 18 guns, Master Commandant Charles Stewart, U. S. Navy, commanding, Tuesday, 21 August 1804

Standing off & on shore with the Squadron [Tripoli]. —

Light winds & pleasant weather $\frac{1}{2}$ past 3 tack'd ship. At 5 the *Argus* made signal discovering a strange sail to the E S E, the Commodore made signal for the *Argus* to give chase. $\frac{1}{2}$ past 5 back'd the Main topsail. At 6 fill'd away, $\overline{\text{K}}^{\text{d}}$ to the S. W. $\frac{1}{4}$ past 7 furl'd top gall' sails. $\frac{1}{2}$ past 8 wore to N. E. —

Midnight fine breezes & clear weather wore ship. At 6 saw a sail off the lee bow Prov'd to be the *Vixen*. At 7 wore ship. At 8 turn'd the reefs out of the topsails & made all sail.

Meridian light winds & pleasant the Commodore made signal for the *Vixen* to chase to the S S E. — Supplied gun boat N^o 5 with provisions. —

Latt: Obs: 33° 12' N —

[NDA.]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from Richard O'Brien

AUGUST The 22^d 1804 —

SIR As I am informed. That with The expected reinforcement of frigates, That Co^l Lear and M^r Eaton is Expected to Join the fleet at present. before tripoli as negotiators &^s—

Under this Consideration with others relative to The Present. Sickly Situation of my family at Malta. I solicit your permission to return to Malta — Particularly as at present. my Services Can be dispensed with.

I am Sir much obliged to you. for your Kind attention and Confidence. dureing The time I have been in The *Constitution* — Under your Orders —

[LC. EPP, Vol. 13, August-December 1804.]

[22 August 1804]

To Midshipman Joseph Israel, U. S. Navy, from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

SIR You are hereby appointed to command the Ketch *Intrepid* of [space] Guns & swivels in the service of the U. S. of America. You will therefore obey and follow such Instructions as you may from time to time receive from me, or any other your Superior Officer, agreeable to the Regulations of the Naval Service, as established by the President of the U. States —

Given on board the U. S. Ship
Constitution at Sea the 22^d day
of August 1804

Signed E: PREBLE

[A duplicate copy of this letter is dated 24 August 1804.]

[LC. EPP, Order Book, May 1803-June 1805.]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from William Higgins, U. S. Navy Agent,
Malta

MALTA the 22 August 1804

MY DEAR SIR The purchase of the Bombard *Eliza* mentioned in my public letter is merely nominal — I will tell you why I have

adopted this measure — Sir A Ball sent for me yesterday and told me that he would prefer the supplies I sent you from hence should go by Neutrals or Vessels sailing under American colours, as he was afraid in the event of your making peace with the Bashaw that he would take umbrage at *English Vessels* being allowed to carry you water and other Necessaries whereby, he would perhaps alledge, and with some degree of truth, you were enabled to maintain your Station before his Town — I readily consented to his wishes and therefore think our Transports should be all put under Our Colours, this may be easily done by a Document from you declaring the Vessel to be American property and putting a Sailing Master on board each I do not now intend to affreight any other Vessel as the first I sent you is I presume by this time on her return with Empty Casks, the *Intrepid* also must have reached you quickly and this Joined to the *Enterprise* and my present supply will be nearly a Months provision I do not find Schembri has embarked his powder again, I have mentioned the business to the Governor who has promised me to prevent his making any such expedition, I would Council you however to be upon the look out for you know the Count is a cunning hand & a d — — d rascal —

I had difficulty in finding a flag for the Bombard and was obliged to apply to Pulis for an old ragged one I heard he had in his possession, which I got upon a promise to pay for it, I dare say it came cheap enough to him out of some of the M of W — this Gentleman has chosen to take in high dudgeon my appointment to the Agency which he says is a manifest injustice done him by the Government, brought about by your representations — I on the other hand hope you will not stop here, but that your good Offices will soon free me from a Coleague useless to Government and vexatious to me —

Enclosed a letter from the Governor —

[LC. EPP, Vol. 13, August-December 1804.]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from William Higgins, U. S. Navy Agent,
Malta

MALTA the 22 August 1804

DEAR SIR I had the pleasure of paying You my respects on the 19 Ins^t by the Schooner *Enterprise* — This will be presented you by Captain Fran^o Giglio whom I have engaged to command the Storeship *Eliza* a Bombard bought by me for the service of the United States for the sum of 4000 Maltese sendi — I have done this as the cheapest mode of furnishing you with supplies and to avoid the inconvenience of their being subject to detention which they would be perhaps if shipped on English bottoms —

At foot you will find a Note of my present Shipment as also in the bill of lading enclosed —

You will of course furnish Capt^o Giglio with a Declaration; under your Seal and Signature of the *Eliza* being American property and purchased for the service of the Squadron under Your Command and I have the honor to subscribe myself with great respect

* * * * *

[LC. EPP, Vol. 13, August-December 1804.]

448 NAVAL OPERATIONS, APRIL-SEPTEMBER 6, 1804

Extract from journal of U. S. Brig *Argus*, Master Commandant Isaac Hull, U. S. Navy, commanding, Wednesday, 22 August 1804

at Merid^o saw a strange sail to the N^d & E^d made sail in chase with the Commod^o and *Vixen* at 3 came up with the Chace she proved to be a Polacre Ship 8 days from Malta with water and fresh stock for the Squadron at $\frac{1}{2}$ past 3 the Commodore made Sig^l N^o 1188 took her in tow hauled our wind and stood off the land at 5 Tacked to the N^d & W^o set & took in sail as Necessary received water from the Ketch *Intriped* and store ship

[NDA photostat.]

Extract from journal of Midshipman Charles Morris, Jr., U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Brig *Argus*, Master Commandant Isaac Hull, U. S. Navy, commanding, Wednesday, 22 August 1804

Off Tripoli

3 P M. boarded a Poleacre ship 8 Days from Malta with fresh stock and water for the Squadron took her in tow —

Received from the Vessels. 1700 Gallons Water

11 Came to in 35 fathoms Water

8 A M Cast off the Store ship

[Mrs. C. E. Fox original. NDA photostat.]

Extract from journal kept on board the U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, by Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, Wednesday, 22 August 1804

Wind W N W Light Breezes, in chase to the S E — Made the Signal for the *Jn^o Adams* to act discretionary at 3 P M brought to the chase, a Maltese ship from Malta with a supply of Water Live stock & Vegetables, at 5 P M Wind shifted to the S E, the *Argus* was ordered to tow the store ship. — at 7 PM we were 4 Leagues from Tripoly; standing for the *Jn^o Adams*, *Syren*, *Scourge* & *Nautilus*, at Anchor

[LC. EPP, Vol. 12, June-August 1804.]

Extract from log book kept by Sailing Master Nathaniel Haraden, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Wednesday, 22 August 1804

Moderate breezes from W N W — We are in chase to the E S E — *Argus* & *Vixen* in company. The rest of the Squadron are to the Westward — Standing in for Tripoly — At 2 P. M. fired a shot at the chase — At 3 P. M. brought to, & boarded her — She is a Maltese ship under English colours from Malta with supplies for the Squadron consisting of Water, Wood, Sheep & some Vegetables — Variable winds from the N & E. ward, from 5 P. M till 8 P. M. at which time it shifted to the S E —

At Sun Set we were three leagues from the coast & nearly four leagues to the Eastward of Tripoly —

The Squadron was all in sight off Tripoly, bearing from N W b W, to W N W — We were at this time under all plain Sail in Order to join the Squadron —

Between 10 & 11 P. M we fired several guns as signals to the Squadron, which were answered to the W N W —

At 11 P. M. we came to in 33 fath^s hard bottom — Tripoly bearing S b W $\frac{1}{2}$ W, nearly 2 leagues — Squadron in company — From 10 P. M. till day light Moderate breezes from S E. At 7 A. M. out large

cutter & Barge & ran out a Warp of 840 fath^s by which we warped the store ship along side, She had been riding with the *Argus* —

We have been employed all the forenoon in discharging the store ship — The Boats of the Squadron are all employed in watering from the store ship —

Pleasant weather with moderate breezes veering between N W & N N E, all the forenoon —

At 8 A. M. saw a strange sail to the Eastward — The *Scourge* was ordered p^r signal to chase — At 11 A. M. observed the strange sail to be the *Enterprize* which parted company on Thursday Evening last.

Noon Moderate breezes from N N E. —

These 24 Hours the following Signals have been made

P. M. At 1¼ — *John Adams* — Act in this case at your own discretion.

Noon — 12½ — *Vixen*, chase E S E — Not answered

P. M — 3¼ — *Argus* — tow the store ship.

P. M — 9¼ — Prepare to Anchor

A. M — 6 — General Signal for all boats.

A. M — 9¼ — Answered the *Argus's* Signal for a Strange Sail E N E.

A. M — 9¼ — Answered the *J. Adams* d^o for d^o E S E.

A. M — 11¼ — *Scourge* made a signal not distinct —

Noon — Made *Scourge's* Signal that her signal is not understood, & shewed her distinguishing flag to speak her —

[LC. EPP, Log *Constitution*, 1803-1804.]

Extract from journal kept by Purser John Darby, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. S. *John Adams*, Master Commandant Isaac Chauncey, U. S. Navy, commanding, Wednesday, 22 August 1804

We were employed this morning in discharging provisions and distributing them to the dif^t Ships of the Squadron. at Meridian light breezes and pleasant weather. at 7 P M. the commodore made the signal for to prepare for Battle the *Constitutions* launch came for the Volenteers. sent the barge & Black cutter maned and armed. —

Nothing was done this evening on acct of the Night not proving favorable. —

[NDA original. Miss Camilla S. McConnell.]

Extract from journal of Midshipman F. Cornelius deKrafft, U. S. Navy, in U. S. Brig *Siren* of 18 guns, Master Commandant Charles Stewart, U. S. Navy, commanding, Wednesday, 22 August 1804

Lying at anchor [Tripoli].

Light breezes & fine weather. took in sail & back'd the main topsail. ½ past Meridian the Commodore gave chase to leeward. At 1 fill'd away. At 6 overhaul'd a range of the Larboard cable. At 7 sounded in 35 fathoms. At 8 furl'd all sail & came too in 30 fathoms with the larboard bower. ½ past 11 the Commodore came too astern of us with the *Argus*, *Vixen* & strange sail, Which prov'd to be a store ship for the Squadron —

Meridian fresh gales & fine weather ½ past 4 sent the launch on board the *John Adams* for Provisions. — At 6 sent the cutter on board the Comm: (p^r signal) —

Midnight moderate breezes & warm, rec'd a quantity of rum & provisions from the *J. Adams*

[NDA.]

450 NAVAL OPERATIONS, APRIL-SEPTEMBER 6, 1804

To Robert E. Livingston, U. S. Minister to Paris, France, from Thomas Appleton,
U. S. Consul, Leghorn

Copy.

LEGHORN 23^d august 1804.

SIR, I have duly rec^d the letter you did me the honor to write in date of the 28th of July, but as you have not mentioned the receipt of my several respects of the 6th of July — 26 May 10th of May & 13th of April, I am apprehensive they may not have reached your hands.

I have been favored this day with an extract of a letter from M^r Beaussier Commercial Agent for the french Republic near the Bashaw of Tripoli dated the 16 July and addressed to M^r Lorckner formerly consul from Denmark during thirty years near that regency, but now established in this city, you have here inclosed Sir, this extract which will at once shew you the little advantage likely to be drawn from what was so well cal[c]ulated by you to facilitate our negociations, and to bring [to] an honorable issue a war so injurious to the commerce and interests of the United States — In a letter which I rec^d from Com^e Preble dated Messina June the 29th says — “the mediation of France thro’ their consul at Tripoli will be of no service but rather a disadvantage to us as he is altogether in the Bashaws interest for my own part, I am far from thinking this to be the case, for from all hands I am informed he is a person of much discernment and solid understanding, it ought not to be infered if M^r Beaussier has judiciously concealed his predilection for us, that of course he was unfavorable to our pretensions for it is impossible to conceive that a man of his superior Judgment can sincerely prefer the interests of the Bashaw of Tripoli to those of a country united by every tie of amity with the Government he represents.

It may be necessary to mention that M^r Beaussier is the same person who on a former occasion was given up by the Bey of Tripoli to a British Admiral, & it is for this reason that the Bey now shews him particular marks of attention, in order to do away the remembrance of the injuries he has thereby sustained — But it requires a singular confusion of ideas to imagine that M^r Beaussier should from this circumstance prefer the interests of the Bey to the possitive instructions of his Sovereign — however the case may be, one thing is evident that the correspondence which has been carried on between Com^e Preble & M^r Beaussier has totally destroy^d the hopes you and every one had so Justly entertained of the friendly mediation of the Emperor. There is a peculiar fatality which seems attendant on all our affairs with Tripoli, for this very M^r O.Brien who made the offer of 50,000 dollars is a person for whom the Bey has an uncommon dislike, as many years since when our Treaty was negotiating with that Regency he led the Bey (I am credibly informed) to believe he would receive a much larger present than was afterwards realized — I have no direct intelligence whatsoever from Com^e Preble since my last respects to you and reports which are not official I never write — With regard to the Squadron under the Com^e Barron we have no advice of its arrival in the Mediterranean, but we learn that it remained in Hampton roads on the latter end of June We may therefore reasonably presume that it cannot arrive in these seas & put together the timber they have for the gun boats much before the beginning of October, a season when these boats can scarcely be hazarded on the coast of Tripoli, I have much trespassed on your time, but I hope the importance of the

subject will justify the length my letter is drawn out to — Accept Sir, the assurances of the respect and esteem of

[NA. SDA. Disp., France, Vol. 9, 1803-1805.]

Extract from journal of U. S. Brig *Argus*, Master Commandant Isaac Hull, U. S. Navy, commanding, Thursday, 23 August 1804

This day Commences with mod^r breezes and Clear W^r at 3 P M. the Commodore made Sig^l N^o 225 sent the barge on board of him At 4 P M, the town of Tripoli bore SSW at $\frac{1}{2}$ past 6 the Commodore made Sig^l N^o 995 Captⁿ Hull went on board of him at 8 he returned on board At 9 the Squadron got under way and stood into 18 f^m Water —

At midnight the Commodore came too set and took in Sail as Necessary

At Meridian light winds and Pleasant Weather the town of Tripoli bore SW $\frac{1}{2}$ S Emp^d as Necessary

[NDA photostat.]

Extract from journal of Midshipman Charles Morris, Jr., U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Brig *Argus*, Master Commandant Isaac Hull, U. S. Navy, commanding, Thursday, 23 August 1804

Off Tripoli

3 The Com^r made Signal N^o 225

6 $\frac{1}{2}$ P M. 995

9 the Squadron got under way and Stood into 18 fath^s Water

[Mrs. C. E. Fox original. NDA photostat.]

Extract from log book kept by Sailing Master Nathaniel Haraden, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Thursday, 23 August 1804

Moderate breezes from N N W, with pleasant weather. At Single Anchor 5 or 6 miles N b E $\frac{1}{2}$ from Tripoly. Squadron in company. Employed clearing the store ship & ballasting her with Salt Water — At 8 P. M. the *Enterprize* joined company — At Sunset had cleared the store ship — By this store ship the Squadron was supplied with 168 puncheons of water — nearly equal to 14000 gall^s — We also received 30 sheep, a large Quantity of Onions & nearly 12 coard of Wood — We received by the *Intrepid* 60 sheep, 30 Butts of Water, equal nearly to 3,600 gall^s & some Onions — Out of both Vessels we received on board the *Constitution* 135 puncheons of water, 2 Bullocks 30 Sheep, 40 Bushels of Onions, & 9 or ten coard of Wood —

At 7 in the Evening the store ship parted company for Malta. Consul O'Brien took passage in her —

We have now on board the following casks of water Viz^t 51 Leagurs, 45 Butts & Twenty seven gang casks — or 23,198 Gallons.

At 7 in the Evening every necessary arrangement was made p^r Signal for an attack upon Tripoly — The Boats of the Squadron were hoisted out, armed & sent to the gun boats & Bombards — At 8 P. M. we weighed with the squadron & ran in for the Harbour — Between 8 & 9 in the Evening we had fresh breezes from E S E. with cloudy Overcast weather. We are standing in for the Town which bears S S W, 4 or 5 Miles. Between 10 & 11 P. M. Light breezes Veering between E b S & E b N —

Continued standing in with the Squadron till $\frac{1}{2}$ past 11 P. M. when it fell nearly calm — At this time we were within gun shot of

Fort English & nearly two miles from the Town — The Squadron all clear for Action — We were now in 19 fath^s water & entering on the Western Bank — We had a strong current setting to the Eastward At $\frac{1}{4}$ before 12 Midnight we let go the Small bower under foot — We were in the Act of casting off the Bombards & gun boats, when a breeze sprung up from the N E, which is nearly direct on shore — The Town now bore S W b S nearly two miles — We continued in this situation with our Topsails a'trip till 2 A. M. waiting a change of Wind more favorable for weighing & standing in to attack the Batteries — From 12 Midnight till 2 A. M. the weather was overcast with an uncommon scud from E N E —

At $\frac{1}{2}$ past 2 A. M. we weighed & stood off till $\frac{1}{2}$ past 3 A. M. when we came to, in 30 fath^s The Town bearing S W b S, 4 or 5 Miles — Part of the Squadron anchored p^t Signal & part continued under way. —

At 9 in the morning the Bashaw Saluted 44 Guns —

From the time of Our Anchoring till noon, Variable Winds from the Eastward with sultry, Overcast Weather —

Noon light airs from E N E with a strong current running to E S E. The Following Signals have been made these 24 hours

At 3 P. M. — All boats repair to the *Constitution*

6 $\frac{1}{4}$ P. M — All captains repair on board the Commodore

7 P. M — Gun boats & bombards Prepare for battle —

[LC. EPP, Log *Constitution*, 1803-1804.]

Extract from journal of William Eaton, U. S. Navy Agent for the Barbary Regencies, Thursday, 23 August 1804

Half past 3, P. M. latitude N. 36 degrees 30 minutes longitude W. 2 degrees 41 minutes 15 seconds, 17 miles W. off cape De Gat, felt a violent shock of an earthquake, which lasted about 30 seconds. It had the exact resemblance of the ship's keel grazing hard upon a rock. We were at dinner in the cabin. The shock was general through the ship: it was supposed she was aground — Consternation seized the board — all ran on deck — the ship kept her way and no appearance of rocks or shoals could be discovered. The *Constellation*, whose Captain dined aboard of us, we being becalmed, soon made signal to speak the Commodore: and coming up, reported she had struck a rock. On enquiry, we found she felt the shock at the same instant it was felt in the *President*. A Spanish merchantman being at that time about one league on the Commodore's landboard bow, a breeze sprung up: we bore down and spoke her: she had felt the shock, and said it was very violent. About 5 o'clock we experienced another emotion in the ship, less violent, but more tremulous, than the first.

[NR&L. No. 9217, Bm^t E 14.]

Extract from journal kept by Purser John Darby, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. S. *John Adams*, Master Commandant Isaac Chauncey, U. S. Navy, commanding, Thursday, 23 August 1804

At $\frac{1}{2}$ past 4 this morning our men returned on board. at Meridian light breezes and pleasant weather. at 5 P. M. the Commodore made the signal to prepare for Battle. soon after the *Constitutions* launch came for the Volenteers sent them and our Barge & Black Cutter

maned and Armed: at Midnight light breezes from the S E by E. no attack was made to night on account of the wind not proving favorable —

[NDA original. Miss Camilla S. McConnell.]

Extract from journal of Midshipman F. Cornelius deKraft, U. S. Navy, in U. S. Brig *Siren* of 18 guns, Master Commandant Charles Stewart, U. S. Navy, commanding, Thursday, 23 August 1804

Lying at Anchor Standing off & on shore [Tripoli]

Light breezes & pleasant. $\frac{1}{2}$ past Mer: the *Argus* got under way At 2 sent the launch on board the *J. Adams* for water &c: At 10 hove up made sail & stood in for the land. All the Squadron under way $\frac{1}{2}$ past 11 back'd the main topsail. —

Midnight spoke the Commodore, cast off [f] the boats, $\frac{1}{2}$ past 2 back'd the main topsail & took our gun boats in tow fill'd away At 4 came too with the larboard bower, furl'd all sail. At 9 sent the launch on board the *Enterprize* for water. —

Meridian light airs & pleasant, rec^d from the *J. Adams* & *Enterprize* a quantity of Provisions & water. Supplied gun boats N^o 4 & N^o 5 with Provisions &c.

[NDA.]

[24 August 1804]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from John Broadbent, U. S. Navy Agent, Messina

On the 24th day of August in the Year of our Lord 1804 in the Lazarette of Messina, personally appeared before John Broadbent Naval Agent of the U. S. Of america —

William Egery, Master of the American Brig *Patty* of Rochester, and deposes that he sailed from the Port of Leghorn on the 11th day of this month, his destination being for this Port; and that on the evening of the same day, he fell in off the Island of Elbe with a Tunisian Galley rowing 22 or 24 Oars & mounting two brass guns, the commander of which boarded him: Obliged him to quit his vessel and to go on board the said Galley where he was detained all night & till about 10 O'clock in the morning, during which time he menaced & insulted him & spit in his face, saying that his passports did not agree with that produced by the said commander, who declared that for the same reason he had sent an American ship mounting 4 guns & laden with wine, to Tunis — He also deposed that the commander of the said corsair robbed him of 110 dollars in Specie, two quadrants & a spying glass, & forced him to give him an acknowledgement in writing that he had taken nothing from him: Obliging the captain of a Spanish vessel who happened to be in company to write underneath the Said acknowledgement something to the same effect: And the said William Egery is of Opinion that his vessel would also have been detained had it not been for the representation of the said Spanish captain, who told the commander of the Privateer that it would not be a good Prize. He further deposed that the said commander produced a certificate signed by George Davis, American Consul at Tunis dated the 2^d July last, & numbered 34. and that the said commander had lost his right hand taken off near the wrist, and also part of one or more of his fingers of the left hand, and that the said Galley,

on parting company went into the Island of Tournique where she makes her rendezvous —

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand & seal the day & year above written —

[LC. EPP, LB, April-Nov. 1804.]

[24 August 1804]

To Midshipman* Joseph Israel, U. S. Navy, from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

SIR You are to proceed to Malta in case of Separation from the Squadron, and there wait my farther Orders —

Given On board the United States Ship *Constitution* — At Sea; the 24th day of August 1804.

EDWARD PREBLE

M^r JOSEPH IZRAEL

Lieu^t in the U S. Navy —

Commanding the U. S. Ketch *Intrepid*

[*Appointed Lieutenant by Commodore Preble.]

[LC. EPP, Vol. 13, August-December 1804.]

To Captain James Barron, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. Frigate *Essex*, from James Simpson, U. S. Consul, Tangier, Morocco

N^o 3

TANGIER MOUNT WASHINGTON

August 24th 1804

DEAR SIR I have not a Syllable of Novelty to communicate, not having heard any thing from the Emperor, nor any Person in authority under him, since I saw you —

M^r Gavino in his Letter of the 20th desires me to communicate to you the following paragraph of a Letter from a private Gentleman dated Madrid August 7th —

“M^r Pinckney is preparing to go to Cadiz, & will leave this in 15 or 20 Days — I am well convinced from what M^r Pinckney has told me concerning “his Instructions from the U^sStates, that our Government will be highly “enraged at the refusal of H. C. M. to ratify the Convention, and you may “rely upon it, that if this Government has not sent out the ratification to “the U^sStates, Letters of Marque will be Immediately granted.”—

I do not know who this Letter is from, but it appears strange that M^r Pinckney should not know whether the ratification be sent to America or not.

A malignant Fever has again broke out at Malaga, as far as Fifty three Persons had Died of a Day: M^r Gavino writes me on the 20th that he had then just received a Letter from M^r Kirkpatrick, saying it was abating — I hope it may, but it is seldom a disorder of that Nature is of so short a duration. — When you were in the Bay on Tuesday afternoon I went to Town, but could not get a Boat to send off, which induced me to put up the Colours in a Wiff, in hopes you would have sent one on shore. —

[Am. Antiquarian Soc. NDA photostat.]

Extract from journal of U. S. Brig *Argus*, Master Commandant Isaac Hull, U. S. Navy, commanding, Friday, 24 August 1804

standing on and off the town the Commodore and Squadron at Anchor at $\frac{1}{2}$ past 4 the Commodore made sig^l N^o 69 to the Gunboats

set and took in Sail Occasionally and T, K^d ship when Necessary at 6 the town of Tripoli bore SWbS at 8 Cast off the Gunboats Cap^t Hull went on board the Commodore at 9 took the Gunboats in tow Cap^t Hull returned at $\frac{1}{2}$ past took one of the Bombards in tow made Sail and stood in for the Town at $\frac{1}{2}$ past 5 AM took the Gunboats in tow again At 8 the Town of Tripoli bore SSW —

[NDA photostat.]

Extract from journal of Midshipman Charles Morris, Jr., U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Brig *Argus*, Master Commandant Isaac Hull, U. S. Navy, commanding, Friday, 24 August 1804

Off Tripoli

Moderate Weather

4 $\frac{1}{2}$ the Commodore made signal N^o 69 to the Gun boats

5 a Signal was made to prepare for Battle

8 Cast off the Gun boats (9 took them in tow again with one of the Bombards. Made sail and stood for the Town AM.

2 Cast off the Bombard & Boats

3 the Bombards commenced throwing Shells and 15 or 20 at the Town

5 A M. Took the Gunboats in tow again and stood off shore No guns fired from shore

[Mrs. C. E. Fox original. NDA photostat.]

Extract from log book kept by Sailing Master Nathaniel Haraden, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Friday, 24 August 1804

Moderate breezes from N E. At Single Anchor 5 Miles N E b N, from Tripoly. Squadron in company — We received this afternoon a large Quantity of lemons, One cask Sweet Oil & two small casks of Wine —

Towards evening we weighed with the Squadron & stood in for Tripoly — At 8 P. M. came to in 20 fath^s 2 Miles from Fort English & about 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ Miles from the Batteries —

At this time we had fresh breezes from E b S — The Squadron (p^r Signal) within hail — At 9 P. M. we put slip buoys on the cable & had every thing in readiness for Action —

At 10 P. M. cast off the Bombards which were taken in tow by the *Argus* & *Syren* with directions to work in shore & wait the signal for Attacking the Batteries —

Towards Midnight light airs inclining to a calm — Capt^s Decatur & Stewart waited on the Commodore —

At 1 A. M. a dead calm. The Boats of the Squadron which had been Armed before night for assisting the Gun boats & Bombards, were ordered to assist in Towing them in — At 2 A. M. the Bombards began to heave shells into Tripoly, and continued doing so till day light, when they were Ordered p^r Signal to join company — Our Gun did not fire — The Batteries did not fire a gun during the night. From day light till 7 A. M. light airs from S S W which is the bearing of Tripoly from our Anchorage —

At 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ A. M. the Enemys Gun boats hauled out from the Mole, and took their old stations in a line of defence within the reefs, and under

cover of Grape from all the Batteries. At 6 A. M. Weighed and took an Offing of 3 or 4 Miles N N E. from the Batteries — Came to in 30 fath^s hard bottom cloudy, sultry weather all forenoon with light & variable winds from N^e & East^e — Cap^t Chauncey with part of his Officers & Seamen came Volunteers to the *Constitution* — His Officers & men are principally sent in the Gun boats & boats of the Squadron —

Noon light airs from N E. — We are anchored near 4 Miles N N E from the Bashaws castle, which has a breach of apparently, nearly 40 feet occasioned by our Bombards. During the Bombardment not a light was seen in the Town or Batteries.

At 9 A. M. Cap^t Chauncey with his Officers & Seamen rejoined the *John Adams* —

The following Signals have been made these 24 hours

At 4½ P. M — Gun boats & Bombards prepare for Action

4¼ A. M — Discontinue the Action & retire out of gun Shot, to be taken in Tow by the Vessel to which you are attached —

[LC. EPP, Log *Constitution*, 1803-1804.]

Extract from journal kept by Purser John Darby, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. S. *John Adams*, Master Commandant Isaac Chauncey, U. S. Navy, commanding, Friday, 24 August 1804

At 8 O'clock this morning our men returned to the ship. fresh breezes from the Eastw^d at Meridian fresh breezes. at 6. O'clock discov^d the ship to drag veered away 20 fathom cable finding that not to bring her up supposing the Anchor to be foul, up anchor and got under way and stood in shore at 10 tacked ship —

[NDA original. Miss Camilla S. McConnell.]

Extract from journal of Midshipman F. Cornelius deKrafft, U. S. Navy, in U. S. Brig *Siren* of 18 guns, Master Commandant Charles Stewart, U. S. Navy, commanding, Friday, 24 August 1804

THIRD ENGAGEMENT ON TRIPOLI

Following the Motions of the Commodore. —

Light breezes & pleasant. At 5 got under way p^r signal At 7 set top gall^t sails At 8 K^d to the N E^d At 9 stood in shore. ¼ past 9 mann^d the launch & barge. — At 10 took one of the bombards in tow. —

Midnight light airs & clear. At 1 cast off the gun boats & stood in for the town — At 2 the bombards commenced a heavy fire on the town. At ½ past 4 the Comm: made signal for the gun boats bombards &c. to retire from action. the gun boats &c come off after doing considerable damage by sinking 2 of the enemies gun boats & 1 of their galliotts. At 6 took our gun boats in tow. At 7 the Comm: came too. ½ past 7 back^d the main top sail — Meridian fresh gales & hazy, wore in shore, supplied the gun boats astern. rec^d a quantity of Vegetables & fruit from the store Ketch. (*Intrepid*) —

[NDA.]

To Colonel John Stricker, Navy Agent, Baltimore, Md., from Secretary of the Navy

NAV. DEP. 25 Aug: 1804.

I yesterday received your letter of the 22 inst.

G^o Harrison Esq^r by letter of the same date, received this morning has informed me that the carpenters work of the Gun-boat to be built at Philadelphia, is contracted for and will cost 2500\$ — that the probable cost of the boat, including the carpenters, blacksmith's, joiners, plumbers, painters, riggers, blockmakers, mastmakers, sail-makers, tanners, chaundlers, boatbuilders and coopers bills, the cost of copper nails, bolts & spikes and flannel, will be 5838\$.

An offer has been made to Sam^l Brown Esq^r Boston, to do the carpenters work of a boat at 30\$ P^r Ton. —

[NDA. Off. Comg. Gunboats, 1803-1808.]

To Henry S. Langdon, Portsmouth, N. H., from Secretary of the Navy

NAV. DEP. 25th Aug: 1804

I have received your letter of the 15th inst. wherein you inform me that the very infirm state of your fathers health will not permit him to attend to the building of the Gun-boat. — We mean therefore, for the present, to abandon the Idea of building at Portsmouth. Be pleased to communicate this determination to your father.

[NDA. Off. Comg. Gunboats, 1803-1808.]

To Daniel Bedinger, Navy Agent, Norfolk, Va., from Secretary of the Navy

NAVY DEP^t

25 Aug^t 1804.

I have rec^d your letter of the 21st instant, wherein you inform me that you have engaged the Ship *W^m & Mary*, Cap^t Erasmus Tipling, to carry to Algiers the cargo of Timber which by my letter of 20 June last you were directed to procure.

As it will be a convenience to the owners of the *W^m & Mary* to receive a part of the freight prior to the Sailing of the Vessel, it being perfectly immaterial to the public, provided they are well secured, you may engage to pay $\frac{1}{3}$ of the freight when the vessel shall have rec^d her cargo and be in all respects ready for sea — the remaining $\frac{2}{3}$ you will engage to pay on the receipt of the Consul at Algiers being produced to you, stating the delivery of the Cargo to him in good order. You will transmit the Consul at Algiers, Col^o Lear, an Invoice & Bill of Lading of the Cargo. You will also make the like transmittal to this Department, and to the Auditor of the Treasury.

I have directed you a remittance of \$2,000 out of the "Appropriation for Barbary Negotiations" to enable you to pay the advance herein authorized on account of the freight of the *W^m & Mary*. You will be careful that the public do not suffer by this Stipulation.

Insure this Cargo on the best terms in your power and let me know the rate of Insurance.

The foreign Ministers being absent from the Seat of Government, the procuring passports for the *W^m & Mary* may probably detain her for a day or two. However you will not relax in your exertions to have her prepared for Sea. We shall send the Passports as soon as we can procure them.

Should the powder ordered from Balt^o to be shipped in the *Alfred* not arrive till the *Alfred* shall have sailed, send it out in the *W^m & Mary* if she can safely and conveniently receive it, with directions to Cap^t Tipling to deliver it to J Gavino Esq^t at Gibraltar to whom you will write advising of the shipment and that it is intended for the use of our Squadron.

Deliver the enclosed Letter to Cap^t Tipling & let him experience no unnecessary detention.

[NDA. Barbary Powers, LB, 1803-1808.]

[Enclosure]

To Captain Erasmus Tipling, of the American Ship *William and Mary*, from Secretary of the Navy

NAVY DEP^t
25 Aug^t [1804]

Cap^t ERASMUS TIPLING of the *W^m & Mary*
Enclosed to D^t. BEDINGER Esq^t
Norfolk. V^a

As soon as you are in all respects ready for sea you will weigh anchor and proceed with all practicable expedition to Algiers. On your arrival there you will hand to Col^o Lear, the Consul General at that place, such letters as you may have for him, and take his directions relatively to the delivery of your Cargo.

If D^t Bedinger esq^t should put on board of the *W^m & Mary* a quantity of powder, and direct you to stop at Gibraltar to deliver it, you will act according to his directions.

R^t SMITH. —

(Sailed 29 Sep^t 1804)

[NDA. Barbary Powers LB, 1803-1808.]

To Robert Montgomery, U. S. Consul, Alicante, from Tobias Lear, U. S. Consul General, Algiers

ALGIERS August 25th 1804

DEAR SIR I have this day drawn upon your House for Six thousands Six hundred Spanish Dollars, at 30 days Sight, in favor of David Coën Bacri, to obtain the sum of six Thousand dollars for M^r Foley at Oran, agreeable to his letter to me, a Copy of which is enclosed, I regret that I had not the money to ad[v]ance, which I sh^d most readily have done without any premium. Before I obtained the money I consulted with Sidi Mahomet, mentioned in M^r Foley's letter, to know if his objects were such as w^d make it proper to draw a bill at this loss of ten per Cent, which was the only terms on which the Money could be obtained, and he at once decided that M^r F. must have the money; I therefore did not hesitate to procure it. I enclose also one of the Rec^{ts} of Sidi Mahomet, of which I have taken three

Your acceptable favor of the 30th of July with the Gazetts came to hand on the 10th Ins^t

As I am ordered by my Gov^t to hold myself on readiness to proceed to Tripoli to negotiate a peace, in case the Bashaw sh^d be disposed to conclude it on proper terms, I may be absent on the arrival of a Vessel from Alicant, so that if you should send money for M^r Foley's

use, it w^d be well to provide for this event, that M^r Foley may not experience any disappointment

[Stephen Decatur Col. NDA photostat, Book A.]

To Thomas Foley, Oran, from Tobias Lear, U. S. Consul General, Algiers

ALGIERS August 25: 1805 [1804].

SIR, I have been honored with your respe[c]tive favour of the 4th of July & of the 5th & 13th of the present Month I feel much Obligated for the letters forwarded with your's of the 4th of July. as well as for your Cordial Offers of Service. — The Courier by which I intended to have written to you soon after the rec^t of your first letter left Algiers a day sooner than I had been informed he would go; and since that I have known of no opportunity 'till the present. As I reside altogether in the Country, and seldom visit the City, I am not in the way of knowing all the opportunities which may offer by land, for the Coast.

I enclose you an extract of my letter to our mutual friend Rob^t Montgomery Esq^r, after I had rec^d your's of the 4th of July, and also of his answer thereto, which came to my hands on the 10th ins^t

You will see by my letter to M^r Montgomery that I had so many unexpected demands for Cash, that it w^d not be in my power to Supply you that article, excepting by a draft on him. — I was in hopes that he w^d have sent money from Alicant to be ready for your use before you should send for it, to save the Very heavy loss on Exchange, which is ten per Cent between this place & Alicant; and is the only way by which Cash can be obtained here at present. —

I now send you, by Sidi Mahomet, agreeably to your request six thousand Dollars in Algerine Gold, that is three thousand Zequins, and have taken triplicate rec^t therefore, two of which will be forwarded to M^r Montgomery with the draft upon him, and one I shall reserve for myself. —

I would not undertake to procure to money on this draft untill I had communicated with Sidi Mahomet on the Subject; and stated to him the heavy loss which w^d be sustained by the usance of 10 per Cent. and as you observe that he a man of your Confidence, I presumed he w^d know if your Objects were such as w^d make this agreeable, rather than be disappointed of the money. He at once decided that you w^d expect the money; and I therefore did not hesitate to procure it. — and have drawn a bill at 30 days sight on M^r Montgomery, in favor of David Coën Bacri, for Six thousand Six hundred dollars, which covers the ten per Cent. —

I am very sorry that it was not in my power to furnish the money by other means; as I should feel more desirous of Shewing my regard for M^r Montgomery's recommendation, than if I had any pecuniary interest in the business

With respect to English affairs here, I refer you to the extract from my letter to M^r Montgomery. Since the date of that we have heard nothing more respecting them. It is generally believed that a new Consul will be sent & every thing accomodated; but I think it will much depend on the Continuance of the War between G. B. & France.

Your letter in favor of M^r Domingo Roman came enclosed in one from him, I can only say to him that it is the General Policy of our Governm^t not to have Agents, but in places where our commerce, or other circumstances may make it necessary; and tho' I am not

restrained from making such appointments yet delicacy w^d forbid my doing it unless called upon by some particular motive, and in that case the recommendation of M^r Montgomery w^d have weight with me. —

I have rec^d orders from my Gov^t to hold myself in readiness to proceed to Tripoli to negotiate a peace if the Bashaw sh^d be disposed to make it in proper terms; and it is therefore possible I may be absent when M^r Montgomery sends Cash; if he sh^d forward any for your use; but in that case I will leave it at your command and advise you thereof.

I am much obliged by your polite offer of services; and shall not fail to improve it, if occasion requires. In the mean time, you will oblige me, if, when at leisure, you will draw up a short history of the Country where you are, touch^t all the important points & actual state of affairs, which your knowledge or information may enable you to do. — The Climate, Soil, face [?] of the Country, productions, manufactures, if any, towns Number of Inhabitants &^o &^o — You must not consider this as a matter to be done farther than your entire inclination & leisure may prompt. — And I pray you to command my Services when they can be useful to you.

[Stephen Decatur Col. NDA photostat, Book A.]

Extract from journal of U. S. Brig *Argus*, Master Commandant Isaac Hull, U. S. Navy, commanding, Saturday, 25 August 1804

These 24 hours Commences with fresh Breezes and Cloudy Weather Tacked and wore Ship when Necessary made and Shortened Sail Occasionally at 6 the town of Tripoli bore SWbS distant 3 leagues at 7 hoisted in the boat —

At midnight moderate Breezes & Clear at $\frac{1}{2}$ past 7 Captain Hull went on board the Commodore & returned at 8 at $\frac{1}{2}$ past 9 the Commodore made Sig^l N^o 886 and Sig^l N^o 68 to the Gunboats at $\frac{1}{2}$ past hoisted out the Launch We were all ready to Commence an Attack but the wind Increasing and the Sea running high found it Impossible —

[NDA photostat.]

Extract from log book kept by Sailing Master Nathaniel Haraden, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Saturday, 25 August 1804

Moderate breezes from E b S —

At Single Anchor 4 Miles N N E. from the Bashaw's Castle Squadron in company and all under way except the *John Adams* & Ketch *Intrepid* — At 3 P. M. fresh breezes — We supplied the *Vixen* with 2 coards of wood & some fresh stock — The wind continued to increase till sun set when we had strong breezes from E S E — Hoisted in the Barge & Pinnance & Veered away to a cable — The *John Adams* at this time was driving — She weighed p^r Signal — the wind continued fresh through the night; At day light the Squadron were all in sight to the N N E & E N E. —

Morning, pleasant; with moderate breezes from E b S —

The Stock & Vegetables received by the store ship & *Intrepid* are all expended — They have been proportionably divided among the Squadron. —

At 7 A. M. (p^r Signal) all captains were ordered on board the Commodore —

At 8 A. M. supplied the Bombards with shells & provisions — At 10 A. M. Weighed & stood in shore under double reefed topsails & courses — From this time till noon strong breezes from the Eastward.

Gun boats N^os 1 & 6 carried away their lateen Yards — This forenoon, arrangements were made for a general attack upon Tripoly. Strong breezes from E & E b N prevent the Squadron from coming into action.

Cap^t Chauncey with a part of his Officers & crew, came on board the *Constitution* — They are distributed among the Squadron as before —

From the time of our weighing till noon, we wore and tacked as necessary to keep to Windward of Tripoly

Noon, All the Squadron in company, under way except the *John Adams* & *Intrepid*

Surgeons report 7 Sick & 5 convalescent —

Noon strong breezes from E b N with a rough Sea — Tripoly S W b S nearly 2 leagues —

The following Signals were made the 24 hours past —

A. M. At 7. All captains repair on board the Commodore

8 — *Enterprize* come within hail

10 — Squadron, prepare for Action

10½ — Gun boats & Bombard^s prepare for d^o

11¼ — *Enterprize* come within hail —

[LC. EPP, Log *Constitution*, 1803–1804.]

Extract from journal of Midshipman Charles Morris, Jr., U. S. Navy, 25 August to 1 November 1804

From this date on board the Gun boats, and a Greek Ship prize to the U S Brig *Argus*, until the first Day of November. 30 Days of which was Quarantined in Malta —

[Mrs. C. E. Fox original. NDA photostat.]

Extract from journal kept by Purser John Darby, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. S. *John Adams*, Master Commandant Isaac Chauncey, U. S. Navy, commanding, Saturday, 25 August 1804

At 7 OClock this morning the Commodore made the signal for all Captains to repair on board. the *Constitution*. We backed our Main Top sail & the Captain went on board the commodore at 9 the Captain returned & at ¼ past 9 we came to Anchor in 31. Fathom Water. at 10 the commodore made the signal to prepare for battle. sent all the Volenteers on board the *Constitution*: At Meridian fresh breezes from E S E. at half pas 12 fresh breezes from S E. b E. at half past 2 the *Constitutions* boat came along side to inform us that we must take a gun boat in tow but the wind blowing so hard we were not able to effect it soon after the Capt came on board in the green Cutter & the Black cutter returned with the men the wind blowing so hard nothing was done to day

[NDA original. Miss Camilla S. McConnell.]

462 NAVAL OPERATIONS, APRIL-SEPTEMBER 6, 1804

Extract from journal of Midshipman F. Cornelius deKrafft, U. S. Navy, in U. S. Brig *Siren* of 18 guns, Master Commandant Charles Stewart, U. S. Navy, commanding, Saturday, 25 August 1804

Fresh breezes & pleas^t At 2 the *Enterprise* got under way p^r signal. Lying off & on shore & taking in & making sail occasionally. $\frac{1}{2}$ past 7 hoisted in the barge —

Midnight fresh breezes & pleas^t standing off & on shore. $\frac{1}{2}$ past 7 a signal from the Comm: for all Capt^{ns} to repair on board his ship standing off & on shore. —

Latt Obs: 33° 8' N.

[NDA.]

[26 August 1804]

To Master Commandant Isaac Chauncey, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. Ship *John Adams*, from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

SIR, A dispute having arisen between M^r John Darby purser, & M^r J. Ord. Creighton, Masters Mate of the U. S. Ship *John Adams* under your command on the 26th Ins^t respecting the Pursers duty, in which the most intemperate, reproachful & ungentleman like language was uttered & made use of towards each other, in direct violation of the Articles of war, and regulations of the Service, and tending to the contravention of all discipline, I do in consequence thereof Order you to arrest them both to take their trail by Court Martial, which shall be assembled by me as soon as the service will conveniently admit of it— You will furnish M^r Darby & M^r Creighton with a copy of this Order with the Order of Arrest.

[LC. EPP, Order Book, May 1803-June 1805.]

To Master Commandant Isaac Chauncey, U. S. Navy, from Purser John Darby, U. S. Navy

FRIGATE *John Adams* MEDITERRANEAN SEA
off Tripoli August 26th 1804

SIR In compliance with your request, I now lay before you a statement of the affair between M^r John Orde Creighton (Masters Mate) and myself — The ships steward came to me in the Wardroom, and informed me that the officers and men which had been detached from the ship yesterday had returned and wished to know whether he was to serve them out their full allowance of grog and provisions, it being a little after the grog had been served out for the day, I directed him to give them their full allowance of grog & provisions he said they wanted beef and that he had none open^d as the Barrel which was opened last night — and which was delivered to me by M^r Dove the master for beef proved to be pork — I told him he must give them pork in lieu of Beef; and in every instance here after, when he had not one thing, to give them the Value in another, as I would not keep an account for every trifling part of a ration at the whim & caprice of every man onboard, as one wanted one thing and another wanted pay for his &C — as I was informed by several of the Pursers out here that. that was their mode of doing the business (to Wit, they gave them one thing in place of another when they had not the article necessary for the day — M^r Creighton who was sitting in his apartment on the oposite side of the ship replied (without being addressed or

spoken to by me) that they had a right to stop or refuse what they pleased and to demand and receive pay for it and that it was nothing more than what was customary, and that all the rest of the Pursers did it (this he spoke out in the hearing of nearly the whole of the Officers who were below, and a number of the men) I replied that they did not all do it, he asserted again that they did. I replied, that they did not — he then said it was false for they did I told him he had asserted the falsity first, for they did not, he then said I was a damned liar and rascal, I then lost all command of myself and replied to him in the same language, he returned the same to me with some additional abuse, and threatened me with the consequence of the ships protecting me, and came across to our apartment in the Wardroom and shook his fist in my face I stepped up to him and drew back my fist and told him that he knew very well that the situation in which we were then placed was what alone protected him, one of the Officers (I believe M^r Bennett,) spoke to us, threats was passed from each other on our meeting on shore, and I supposed for a moment that the business was to rest there; but M^r Creighton on his returning to his own apartment observed in a some what lower voice that he had long since discovered what I was, and that I was not an honest man, I was not positive what it was he did say having walked in the Wardroom and my back towards him, I immediately turned round and asked him what it was he did say, he replied that he had long since discovered what I was, Yes says I and I have long since discovered the same of you but I thought you had said something else, yes says he I did say you were not an honest man I then told him he was a damned liar and a rascal and that I wou'd make him prove it, I understood him to say he cou'd. I told him that he certainly shou'd for I had lived too long in this life under a fair character to be charged with any thing even unGentlemanly by such a puppy as him, which was much less than that of a dishonest man

At that moment you Sir came down the after ladder and went into your Cabin — I immediately followed you and made to you a Verbal statement, with requ[e]sting you would take such notice of it as to make M^r Creighton prove his charges against me or convict himself of a falsity you immediately sent for M^r Creighton & our statements differing you directed us to represent each of our statements in Writing to you, and that you would lay it before the Commodore, this I have done to the best of my recollection, the proof of which must rest upon the officers who were present —

Having Sir, finished my statement I have now to solicit you in the most pressing manner that you will do me the favor to have it layed before the Commodore and to use your interest with him to have a Public investigation of the base and criminal charges exhibited against me by M^r Creighton, (as soon as possible) that I may either stand convicted or acquitted, in the opinion of my Country & friends, the former of which I do not fear for I put him and all his nefarious accusations at defiance — yet I must confess. that the charge is the most unpleasant that my feelings have ever experienced — For as that great man of feelings Shackespear, says, He that steals my Purse Steals trash, it was mine tis his and has been a slave to thousands, but he that filches from me my good name, takes from me that which enriches him not, but makes *me, poore indeed*

I am sorry that I have been compeled to be so very prolix in this statement but the faithful narative required it. —

I will now conclude with the fulist conviction on my mind that you will have speedy and ample Justice done me —

[LC. EPP, Vol. 13, August-December 1804.]

To Captain John Rodgers, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. Frigate *Congress*, from James Simpson, U. S. Consul, Tangier, Morocco

N^o 5

TANGIER August 26, 1804

DEAR SIR I have now to acquaint you that I have rec'd an answer to the Letter I told you I had written Sidy Muhammed Selawy, it is dated at Salle 21st this month, he complains as [does] Alcayde Hashash, of my having put in the Passports for the Emperors Frigates an exception to their entering Ports blockaded by the Ships of War of the U States, and adds, —

“If our master whom God assist, — should send any Vessel there [to Tripoli], dont you hinder her, for it is the Country of Moors our Brothers by Religion, you should not forbid it, if you do we will make War upon you, but at present our Master desires nothing from those parts. —

“You are good & without fault, as well as your Nation, continuing as you have been all well, which please God you shall keep & preserve.” —

From this it does not appear to me, that there is any Immediate intention on the part of the Emperor, to Act against us, but I am fully satisfied not only that they are exceedingly displeased, at having been prevented from sending their ships to Tripoli, but also whilst War continues with that state, nothing less will do here, than awing Muley Soliman from giving them assistance in the manner he may think he can do it most effectually — I have no tidings on the movements of the Frigates, nor have we heard anything of the Gall'ys, since they left Tangier Bay this Day Week. — Unless you know more than I have now told you, it may perhaps appear to you no longer necessary for the *Congress* to remain on this Station, but if you should retire & follow the Commo. I would by all means recommend its being done, in such a manner as it shall not be known, either here or at Gibraltar. —

I think the *Essex* should remain in & about the Straights, until such Vessel as Commo. Barron may have sent down reaches us. —

MONDAY MORNING.

Nothing further new, I have come to Town, but am so unwell with a Violent Cold, I must not venture to go off.

[Am. Antiquarian Soc. NDA photostat.]

Extract from journal of U. S. Brig *Argus*, Master Commandant Isaac Hull, U. S. Navy, commanding, Sunday, 26 August 1804

This day Commences with a heavy sea from the Eastw^d Standing off and on in Company with the Commodore and Squadron the *John Adams* and *Scourge* at Anchor off the Town at 4 the Town of Tripoli bore SSW got our men from the Gunboats and hoisted in the launch set and took in sail as Necessary — At midnight mod^e Breezes and a heavy sea a Ketch in Sight to the Eastw^d under American Colours at 6 AM the Commodore N^o 1134 —

At Meridian bore Up to WNW the Squadron in Sight bearing WSW At 12 the Town of Tripoli bore SSW dist^t 4 or 5 miles —

[NDA photostat.]

Extract from journal of U. S. Frigate *Congress*, Captain John Rodgers, U. S. Navy, commanding, Sunday, 26 August 1804

at $\frac{1}{2}$ past 2 [P. M.] fired a gun And brought too the strange sail At $\frac{1}{2}$ past 2 spoke a rusian ship from Leghorn bound to St Thomas. Shortened Sail & the captⁿ came on board at $\frac{1}{2}$ past 3 he returned on board his own Ship. filld & made sail. at Sunset Cape Spartel bore E $\frac{1}{2}$ S distance 6 leagues.

A. M. at $\frac{1}{2}$ past 4 Discovered 5 sail. at $\frac{1}{2}$ past 7 spoke the *Essex*.
[USNA.]

Extract from log book kept by Sailing Master Nathaniel Haraden, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Sunday, 26 August 1804

Strong breezes from E b S — We are standing off & on Tripoly with the Squadron in company. All clear for action & waiting for moderate weather in Order to attack the Batteries — At 4 P. M. we brought to, a cables length to leeward of the *J. Adams* which was at Anchor — Cap^t Chauncey rejoined her — Our large cutter was Ordered to the *J. Adams* with her Officers & seamen & returned in the close of the Evening without being able to reach —

At Sunset we parted from the Bombards & it was 9 P. M. before we got them in tow again — Between 7 & 9 P. M. we close reefed the Topsails & split the Jib & mainsail — Unbent them & bent others — Our Evening bearing of Tripoly was S b W $\frac{1}{2}$ W, 5 or 6 Miles — The Squadron to the E S E, 5 or 6 Miles — The cause of our being to leeward of the Squadron was, our being employed in securing the Bombards & taking up our cutter which had attempted to reach the *J. Adams* —

At 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ P. M. We filled to E N E, Wind S E, under close reefed top-sails & foresail, & continued standing on this course through the night with a rough Sea — At different times during the night made Signals to the Squadron by Rockets & firing Guns —

At day light the S E Wind became moderate — Squadron all in sight except the *John Adams* — Out all reefs except one in each topsail — & set Top Gall^t sails — A Ketch from Malta with water & stock for the Squadron joined company —

At 9 A. M. tacked to the S S W & made all plain Sail in for Tripoly, not in sight, but supposed to bear nearly S W b S, 30 miles.

Forenoon, moderate with pleasant breezes from S E —

At 11 A. M. made the land bearing from S W to S S E — The *J. Adams* under way to S W —

Noon, Moderate breezes from S E. The Squadron in sight but much scattered — Tripoly in sight bearing S W, nearly 4 leagues.

Surgeons report 8 sick & 4 convalescent.

The following Signals have been made these 24 hours

- P. M. At 4, repair all boats to their own ships
5, *J. Adams* & *Scourge*, get under way.
8, Burn't two rockets.
- A. M. At 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ — One Gun
1 — d^o
1 $\frac{1}{2}$ — d^o
2 — d^o
6 — *Syren* & *Scourge* make more sail.
7 — *Syren* & *Vizen* make more sail

Latitude Observed 33° 9' North

[LC. EPP, Log *Constitution*, 1803-1804.]

466 NAVAL OPERATIONS, APRIL-SEPTEMBER 6, 1804

Extract from journal kept by Purser John Darby, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. S. *John Adams*, Master Commandant Isaac Chauncey, U. S. Navy, commanding, Sunday, 26 August 1804

The Wind blowing so very hard last evening prevented an attack being made on the Town of Tripoli the fleet which had got under way for the purpose of attacking the Town was compeled to stand to the Westw^d and our men not being on board & the wind blowing so hard we were not able to weigh our anchor. —

this morning the Whole of the fleet was out of sight the breeze being very light. and discovering the Tripolitan Gun boats geting under way, we considered it dangerous to remain here any longer having but a few men and boys on board we all hands officers and all turned too and weighed Anchor & got under way and stood off] the land soon after discovered the fleet standing towards us. at 4. P M. the Commodore spoke us and ordered us to Anchor at ½ past 5 the fleet Anchored — in 32 fathom Water the town of Tripoli bore S S. W. distance 8 miles at ½ past 5 the Commodore made the signals for all Captains to repair on board his ship —

[NDA original. Miss Camilla S. McConnell.]

Extract from journal of Midshipman F. Cornelius deKrafft, U. S. Navy, in U. S. Brig *Siren* of 18 guns, Master Commandant Charles Stewart, U. S. Navy, commanding, Sunday, 26 August 1804

Standing off & on shore [Tripoli]

Midnight strong gales & clear. At 4 discov'd a Ketch to the N N E. ¼ past 5 a signal for the squadron to make sail made all sail. ¼ past 7 tack'd p^t signal. at 10 spoke the Comm: loos'd light sails to dry. —

Latt: Obs: 33° 10' N.

[NDA.]

To Master Commandant John Smith, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. Schooner *Vixen*, from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

Constitution Off TRIPOLY
August 27th 1804

SIR I have received your letter of the 25th Inst: requesting permission to alter the rig of the U. S. Schooner *Vixen* under your command to that of a Brig — & stating your reasons for the request — I conceive that your reasoning is correct & that on the principle of oconomy the alteration ought to take place — You therefore have my permission to make it as soon as the service will allow of your going into port — when that arrives it is Expected that you will effect this business in the shortest possible time & return to join the Squadron on this Station —

P. S. Your requisitions are to be made on the Agents at Syracuse & Malta.

You also have my permission to take from the *Scourge* John M^eFate as your Boatswain —

[LC. EPP, Order Book, May 1803-June 1805.]

To Nicholas C. Nissen, Danish Consul, Tripoli, from James Leander Cathcart, Leghorn

LEGHORN Aug^t 27th 1804

D^r SIR I have now determined to return to the United States and shall depart from this place in all October, but before I undertake this voyage I find it incumbent on me to return you my most sincere thanks for the services you have render'd the United States of America since the period you were empower'd by me to act in my absence and especially for the assistance & very humane treatment the Officers & crew of the Frigate *Philadelphia* and brig *Franklin* experienced from you during their captivity at Tripoli, and I request you to continue the same to those who remain whom in their letters to their friends (which have been publish'd) I assure you have done justice to your humanity in a very handsome manner —

As long ago as the 26th of last December, the Secretary of State inform'd me that M^r Lear at Algiers had receiv'd the Presidents orders to have prepared a gold snuff box ornamented with the arms of the United States set in brilliants & to present it to you with such expressions of the Presidents approbation as circumstances rendered expedient; as this took place before the loss of the *Philadelphia* was known at the seat of government your kind treatment of the prisoners since will inevitably increase the Presidents esteem for you, which on my arrival in the United States I will take every means to perpetuate. The articles which I left in the Consular house I request you to dispose of, (the Flags excepted which belongs to the United States) and remit what they are sold for either to M^r Angiolo D'Andreis of the house of Sallucci & C^o of Leghorn or to me at the City of Washington. On my arrival in the United States I will write to you & at all times I shall be happy to hear of your prosperity being with unfeign'd esteem

[NA. SDA. CL, Tripoli, Vol. 2, June 1801–Sept. 1805.]

To James Simpson, U. S. Consul, Tangier, Morocco, from Captain John Rodgers, U. S. Navy

U. S. FRIGATE *Congress*

Tangier Bay August 27. 1804

SIR, I have to acquaint you that agreeable to our determination at my leaving this place on the 17th Ins^t — I proceeded Immediately to Salle, and on my way there found the Tripoline Ship *Meshouda* & one Galley (both in a State of Ordinary) at Larache. — I arrived before Salle on the 19th Stretched close in with the Bar & found the Ships *Maimona* & *Marboka* (with one Gall'y in a State of Ordinary) apparently ready for sea having their sails Bent: however they were within the Bar. On stretching in as near as the Bar would admit, our Colours were hoisted & a Signal Indicative of Friendship & a wish to communicate was made, without any apparent disposition to that effect on their part. On the 21st after plying off & on before the Town for Two Days; The whole time never farther off than Seven or Eight & frequently not more than 2½ or 3 Miles, and using every means that a friendly demeanor could suggest, to bring about a communication, without any effect; I made sail again for this place, I should not have returned quite so soon, had I not concieved that

remaining longer before Salle, would occasion an alarm Injurious to a good understanding. — Whatever may have been the destination of these Ships, I am satisfied they *now* will not attempt anything unfavourable to our Commerce this Season — I shall now proceed to Gibraltar Immediately, & from thence so soon as I can procure a little Water to Tripoli; provided you are of opinion that the State of our affairs are such as to admit of my departure; However the *Essex* will after making some little repairs at Gibraltar be with you again. —

Before I leave this I wish to be perfectly sensible that your opinion agrees with my own, as it relates to the security of our Commerce, with the *Essex* left in your neighborhood. —

[Am. Antiquarian Soc. NDA photostat.]

To Captain John Rodgers, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. Frigate *Congress*, from James Simpson, U. S. Consul, Tangier, Morocco

N^o 6. —

TANGIER 27th Aug^t 1804

DEAR SIR M^r Johnston has delivered me your favour of this morning, and I am happy to find circumstances have conduced to enable you to form a proposal for your future operations, so perfectly consonant with the Ideas held forth to you in my Letter of Yesterday. The Person I sent with it told me there was no answer, indeed yours anticipates the answer you would have given — If you should leave Gibraltar before a letter of mine, for Commo. Barron, reaches you, I beg you will have the goodness to say to him with my respects, that I have not anything to add to my former communications, besides what you can acquaint him of. As the Wind is, I do not think well of asking M^r Johnston to wait for that Letter — The Lateen sail Vessels you saw at Larache & Salle, must have been trading Vessells, for the Emperor has not any Gall'ys at those Ports; Those of Tetuan were at Anchor in Cadiz Bay on the 24th Ins^t —

Whilst I have resided at Larache & Salle, I have never seen a Boat sent off to any Ship of War — They always send one towards the Bar, & if the Weather be such as to enable them to enter with safety, a Pilot goes out with a Signal of sometimes a Red & sometimes a White Flag which he waves to the one side or the other as circumstances requires, to guide the Boat to the Best Channel. — I will not doubt but just at this time they were not very desirous of a Visit from you at Salle, As the ships have pass'd to the inside the Bar, I do not think it likely they will come out again this season, unless it be to go to Lisbon for Vespers —

[Am. Antiquarian Soc. NDA photostat.]

To Master Commandant Isaac Chauncey, U. S. Navy, from Lieutenant* John Orde Creighton, U. S. Navy

U, S, FRIGATE *John Adams*

August th27 — 1804

SIR The dispute between M^r Darbey, and myself having reached Your ears — I was in hopes You would have decided it, Without Submitting it to the Commodore — But at Your request I give You a true Statement as it happened M^r Darbey having frequently interfered when in the discharge of my duty, and of Course as frequently Occasioned my displeasure I was Compell^d When I heard him inform

his Steward that he would not stop a ration, to say that Other Pursers in the Squadron did stop rations which he said was not so, I, replied that they did, he said I, told an Untruth, I reply^d what he said was false, having heaped abusive names upon me Unbecoming the Gentlemen & the Officers, I shook my fist in his face told him that he was a Dam^d Rascal, that I would ring his Nose, & Concluded that I had formed an opinion, of his not being an honest Man — this Sir You will Perceive to be a Candid Confession, Altho in repeating the Language I hope I have not lost Sight of the respect due You as my Commander But Sir Considering You as my friend I Submit every thing to Your decision — it is hard Sir if I, Cannot draw off a gallon of Rum or Serve a Pound of Beef Without being overlooked by the Purser which M^r Darbey has done, and declared that he would do as he had lost Considerable upon every Barrell of Beef that had been Served Out, & that he intended to Correct the error — this error Sir must be Centered in those who superintend serving the provissions — feeling myself injured by his conduct I leave every thing to Your Consideration, —

[*Acted as Master's Mate.]

[LC. EPP, Vol. 13, August–December 1804.]

Extract from journal of U. S. Brig *Argus*, Master Commandant Isaac Hull, U. S. Navy, commanding, Monday, 27 August 1804

Commences with moderate breezes & Clear Pleasant W^r made and Short^d sail as Necessary At $\frac{1}{4}$ past 4 Commodore made Sig^l N^o 877 At 5 Came too in 30 fathoms Water the town of Tripoli bearing SSW distant about 4 leagues $\frac{1}{4}$ past the Commod^e made Sig^l N^o 995 Cap^t Hull went on board of him at $\frac{1}{2}$ past 6 Cap^t Hull returned —

Moderate and Clear W^r through the night At 8 AM Tripoli bore SbW a heavy Swell from the Eastw^d People Employed as Necessary —

[NDA photostat.]

Extract from journal of U. S. Frigate *Congress*, Captain John Rodgers, U. S. Navy, commanding, Monday, 27 August 1804

[Standing off & on the town of Tangier] $\frac{1}{4}$ past 7 [AM] shortened sail & came in the bay of Tangier in 10 fathoms water. the town Bearing W $\frac{1}{4}$ N Cape Spartel N W B W $\frac{1}{2}$ W

[USNA.]

Extract from log book kept by Sailing Master Nathaniel Haraden, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Monday, 27 August 1804

Moderate Breezes from S E. We are 7 or 8 leagues to the N E b N off Tripoly & steering in for it with the Squadron all in sight —

At 4 P. M. came to in 32 fath^s 5 miles N E b N from Tripoly The Squadron all anchored per Signal except the *Enterprise*, *Scourge*, *Intrepid* & Store Ketch — The *Enterprise* was ordered to look out in shore during the night — We stayed the Topmasts and set up the Rigging — At $\frac{1}{2}$ past 4 P. M we made the necessary arrangements for warping the Store Ketch along side & clearing her — The increase of the E N E wind prevented it. —

The Captains & Commanders p^r Signal waited on the Commodore — Towards Evening fresh breezes from S E b E. — We had fresh

470 NAVAL OPERATIONS, APRIL-SEPTEMBER 6, 1804

breezes through the night with overcast weather, Winds Veering between S E & S S W —

At 6 A. M. We warped Bombard N^o 1 along side: She is reported leaky & unfit for actual Service We took out the Bomb & stowed it in the main Hatchway — It weighs nearly five Tons — We sent the Vessel in charge of the *John Adams*.

Cloudy Overcast weather all forenoon — Winds from N N W with a swell from the same Quarter — The captains of the Squadron waited on the Commodore — Supplied the *Nautilus* with 10 bbls Pork & 6 bbls beef

At 11 A. M. The Store Ketch was ordered along side of the *J. Adams*, to deliver her Cargo —

At 3¼ P. M. made the *Syrens* Signal, prepare for Anchor.

4 P. M. *Scourge* & *Enterprize* come within hail.

4½ “ “ All Captains —

[LC. EPP, Log *Constitution*, 1803-1804.]

Extract from journal kept by Purser John Darby, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. S. *John Adams*, Master Commandant Isaac Chauncey, U. S. Navy, commanding, Monday, 27 August 1804

We are this morning laying at Anchor off [f] the Town of Tripoli and have recevd orders from the commodore to hoist in the Guns from some of the Gun boats, from which we suppose that the attack with the gun boats is given over for this season as the Levant Winds is expected to set in soon — at Meridian light breezes from the east^d — the order for hoisting in the Guns from the Gun boats is countermanded by the commodore from which we suppose another attac is to be made on the town with the Gun boats. at ½ past 3. the commodore sent his launch along side for the Volenteers. at 4 he made the signal Gun boats prepare for battle at ½ past 4 the signal was made for the fleet to get under way, at the same time the Commodores Launch left us with the men also our Barge and Black Cutter and the Capt went in the Green Cutter on board the Commodore —

Our fleet stood in near the town of Tripoli and continued standing off [f] and on during the Nigh. we cou'd discover a number of faulse fires both from our ships and the shore and some times coud here several guns which we understood to be nothing more than Signals. I set up untill Midnight in momentary expectation of seeing the engagement. we lay near enough to discover the movements of our squ[a]dron by the assistance of the light of the Moon — at Midnight the breeze sprung up fresh for the East. and concluding that no attac woud be made I went to bed. —

[NDA original. Miss Camilla S. McConnell.]

Extract from journal of Midshipman F. Cornelius deKraft, U. S. Navy, in U. S. Brig *Siren* of 18 guns, Master Commandant Charles Stewart, U. S. Navy, commanding, Monday, 27 August 1804

Lying at Anchor [Tripoli]. Light airs inclining to calm. ½ past Mer: squard the yards At 4 came too with the larboard bower p^r signal, furl'd all sail At ½ past 4 a signal for all Capt^s to repair on board the Comm:

Latt: Obs: 33° 7' N.

[NDA.]

To Joshua Wingate, Jr., Hallowell, Maine, from Secretary of the Navy

NAVY DEP^t 28 August 1804.

Col^o Lear having effected a negotiation with the Dey of Algiers by which he has agreed to receive Cash in lieu of naval Stores and having accordingly settled our accounts with that regency up to the 25 March last, we shall not want the Timber which you have been requested to contract for, for a considerable period of time—probably not for 2 years. We wish you therefore to suspend making the contract if you should not have already made it. As far as you have contracted the Contractors may go on unless they should be perfectly willing to relinquish the Contracts which is not to be expected if they should have made even preparatory arrangements for their fulfilment.

You will decline chartering a Vessel. Be pleased to let me hear from you immediately.

[NDA. Barbary Powers, LB, 1803–1808.]

To John Beekman, Navy Agent, New York, N. Y., from Secretary of the Navy

NAV. DEP. 28 Aug: 1804.

Your letter of the 24th inst. I received this day. The Gun-boats are to be coppered and copper fastened. —

[NDA. Off. Comg. Gunboats, 1803–1808.]

To Captain William Bainbridge, U. S. Navy, from Tobias Lear, U. S. Consul General, Algiers

ALGIERS August 28th 1804

MY DEAR SIR I wrote to you on the 24 of March by M^r OBrien, and on the 30th of July (the only opportunities which have offered) acknowledging the rec^t of your acceptable favors of the 3^d 5th & 30th of April, and 20th of May. Since the last I have had the satisfaction to receive your letter of the 17th of June & 10th of July. — I am pleased to find you have rec^d a supply of Clothing &^o for our unfortunate Citizens; and rejoiced to learn that you & your fellow sufferers are in health, which I pray God to preserve to you. —

I feel gratefull for the attentions of Sidi Mohammed Dghies, His Excellency's prime Minister, and I trust that all those who have shewn you favors will be rewarded as well here, as by the God who rewards benevolent deeds.

I hope before this reaches you, that your situation will be alleviated; and I trust that His Excellency, the Bashaw of Tripoli will be convinced that it will be for his interest to be at peace with our Nation on honorable & permanent Grounds. It is not for us to seek war. Peace is our object; but we will never have it upon unjust terms, and I think that all the Barbary Powers, if they knew their own interest would cultivate our friendship; for we are a Nation different from all others, we are now powerfull, if we chuse to exert our strength; and we are rising rapidly to a great pitch of importance, while most other nations, which are known here, are at their full growth, or on the decline. — The misfortune of yourself & Our Citizens with you, has excited the Commiseration of our Countrymen, and your fortitude will be a Subject of their admiration, you will come out like gold tried in the fire, and I trust that Providence will

yet smile upon you and place you among the favorite Sons of America. —

The season has been very fine here hitherto, & we have been very healthy. — Mons^r Thainville the French Commissary Gen^l takes a Deep interest on your welfare. His wife & family sailed for France about six weeks ago. Consul Belle also feels much for you, and all your friends here are constant in their enquiries about you. M^{rs} Lear begs you to be assured of her best prayers & wishes for you & those with you, to which are most sincerely joined my dear Bainbridge those of

TOBIAS LEAR.

[Stephen Decatur Col. NDA photostat. Book A.]

Extract from journal of U. S. Frigate *Congress*, Captain John Rodgers, U. S. Navy, commanding, Tuesday, 28 August 1804

½ past 1 [PM] rec^d a supply of vegetables from Tangier. At 3 weigh^d & made sail standing Out of the bay of Tangier
In the Gut of Gibraltar

[USNA.]

Extract from Memorandum Book of Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, 28 August 1804

Attacked the town and harbour [of Tripoli] with the whole squadron.

[LC original.]

Extract from log book kept by Sailing Master Nathaniel Haraden, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Tuesday, 28 August 1804

Moderate breezes from N N E with cloudy Overcast weather. We are at Single Anchor 5 or 6 Miles N E b N from Tripoly; Squadron in company — At 3 P. M. We weighed & stood in for Tripoly. The Wind by this time had veered to E b N. At ½ past 5 P. M. we weighed & came to, in 17 fath⁹ hard bottom nearly 2 miles N b E ½ E. from Fort English & 2½ Miles N E b N ½ N, from the Bashaw's Castle — The Squadron was Ordered p^r Signal to continue under weigh — We were employed till 8 in the Evening making several arrangements for the fourth attack upon Tripoly — Cap^t Chauncey with several Officers & 64 Seamen from the *J. Adams* came on board as Volunteers on this expedition Cap^t Chauncey remains on board as an assistant to the Commodore; Part of his Officers & seamen substitute those whom we have sent away in the Gun & ship's boats The *J. Adams*, *Scourge* & two Ketches remain at anchor — The ships company of the *Scourge* (a few excepted) are distributed among the Vessels which are intended for the Attack — Cap^t Dent of the *Scourge* (who has all along commanded Bombard N^o 2) in consequence of the Bombard N^o 1 being found unserviceable, became a Volunteer as an assistant to the Commodore — Lieut^t Robinson was removed from Bombard N^o 1 to N^o 2 — By ½ past 8 in the Evening we had fresh breezes from E S E — The Squadron was Ordered p^r Signal to keep in sight to windward — We furled sails — By 12 Midnight the weather became more moderate —

The night station intended for the Bombards & Gun boats is at hand some point blunt [sic] shot from the Bashaw's Castle — At ¼ past 1 A. M. the Gun boats and Bombard were Ordered to their

Stations — The Bombard was taken in tow by the *Enterprize* — At $\frac{1}{4}$ past 1 A. M. Our Gun boats & Bombards bore up — At $\frac{1}{2}$ past 2, they came to, within pistol shot of the Western Rocks, and commenced a fire on the Batteries. The Bombard in proceeding to her Station sprang a leak, Occasioned by Towing. After Anchoring her without gun shot from the Batteries, Lieut^t Robinson with all the Americans went on board the *Enterprize*, leaving the Neapolitans to take care of her — In this Situation she could remain in safety — The *Enterprize* ran in, in order to protect our boats, should those of the Enemy come out. The *Siren*, *Argus* & *Nautilus* were exposed to the Fire from the Batteries; It was necessary that they should keep well in, in Order to be ready to Tow out disabled boats — At day light We weighed & ran in within 3 cables length of the Bashaw's Castle; the wind was E b S, which is favorable in standing either in, or out of the Harbour — In standing in we received the fire of 72 Guns, including those of Fort English, Bashaws Castle, the Square, Round, & half moon batteries — We did not fire a gun till $\frac{1}{4}$ past 6, when we commenced with round & Grape on 13 of the Enemy's Gun boats which were then in close action with our boats. We sunk one of the Enemies boats, while two more disabled ran on shore to avoid sinking — At this time the Grape from all the Batteries fell some ways without us — The Enemy's boats immediately retreated — We continued running in until we were within complete musket shot, when we brought to, & gave the Batteries nine Broad sides of round & Grape —

Although we were 54 minutes within musket shot of all their Batteries, only nineteen large shot struck the ship — We silenced the Bashaw's Castle & the half moon battery — On our firing the third broadside the Round Battery was deserted; On hauling off the Batteries recommenced the fire — Our Gun boats immediately hauled off per Signal when we received the Enemy's fire; the[y] cheered the *Constitution* as we passed them — The following Officers commanded the Gun boats. Viz^t Cap^t Decatur N^o 4, Cap^t Somers N^o 1 Lieut^t Gordon of the *Constitution* assisted by Lt^t Nicholson of the *J. Adams* commanded N^o 2, Lieut^t Lawrence of the *Enterprize* N^o 5, Lt^t Crane of the *Vixen* N^o 8, Lt^t Thorn of the *Enterprize* N^o 7, Lt^t Wadsworth of the *Constitution* N^o 6 M^t Brooks Master of the *Argus* N^o 3 — The Situation in which we saw our Gun boats in when we passed them was as follows, N^{os} 4, 1, 2 & 6 were entirely exposed & receiving showers of Grape from all the Batteries, while N^{os} 5, 8, 7, & 3 were without point blunt shot —

At the close of the Evening the Enemy displayed within the Reef 17 Gunboats, 2 Galleys, a schooner & a Brig — A Galliot & a ship without the Mole shew no colours — The Enemy's gun boats haul into the Mole in the night excepting two, which are kept outside as Guard Boats — It was 3 A. M. when our Gun boats opened their fire on the Batteries — Several shot were fired by our boats before they were returned from the Batteries — Our boats were in action two hours — Each boat fired more than 40 Rounds & some more than 50. We have fired this morning into the Enemy's batteries more than 600 round 24 lb shot & a proportionable quantity of Grape — At every Broadside we gave them, showers of stone & dust would completely cover their batteries — The Galliot without colors (mentioned before) & a three masted galley were sunk by our Gun

boats in the first of the action — Our damage is as follows — A great deal of the running rigging cut away by the Grape shot; A number of shot holes through the sails; The lanyard of the fore spring stay cut away; One of the Main shrouds; chains & Trusses of the Main Yard; Two top mast back stays; Two feet of the stock of the small bower cut completely off by a double head shot; The Stream cable & larboard fore lift cut off. One of the *J. Adams* cutters had four men killed & was afterwards sunk by the Batteries The Men were taken up by one of the gun boats — The *Argus* & *Siren* were stationed without our Gun boats to cover a retreat — The *Constitutions* barge under the command of M^r Lewis Midshipman was stationed with the Gunboats as a dispatch boat — Her rudder was shot away, but she received no other damage — We Officered & manned three other Boats which the roughness of the Sea prevented from proceeding in with the Gun boats — At 9 minutes after 7 A. M. we hauled off from the Batteries & till 11 A. M. were employed in taking in tow the gun boats & Bombards & working to windward — At 11¼ we came to in 34 fath^s hard bottom 4 miles N E b N from the Batteries, as did the Squadron — Cap^t Chauncey & his Seamen rejoined the *J. Adams*. At this time fresh breezes from E b N with a rough Sea. — The following Signals were made these 24 hours —

P. M. At 3¼ Squadron to weigh. 3½ Gun boats & Bombards prepare for Action 3½. All captains repair on board the *Constitution* — 4 Answ^d *Scourge* Signal N^o 634 — A. M. At 1¼ Night Signal, Bombards & Gun boats advance to attack. At 3¼ we repeated the signal — At 5¼ discontinue the Action the Boats & retire out of Gun shot — At 6 the general signal, Tow the Gun Boats. 6¼ Tow a boat to leeward — At 7¼ Squadron prepare for anchoring, leaving room for Veering & Weighing — At 11¼ all boats repair to their respective ships — At 11½ All captains repair on board the Commodore —

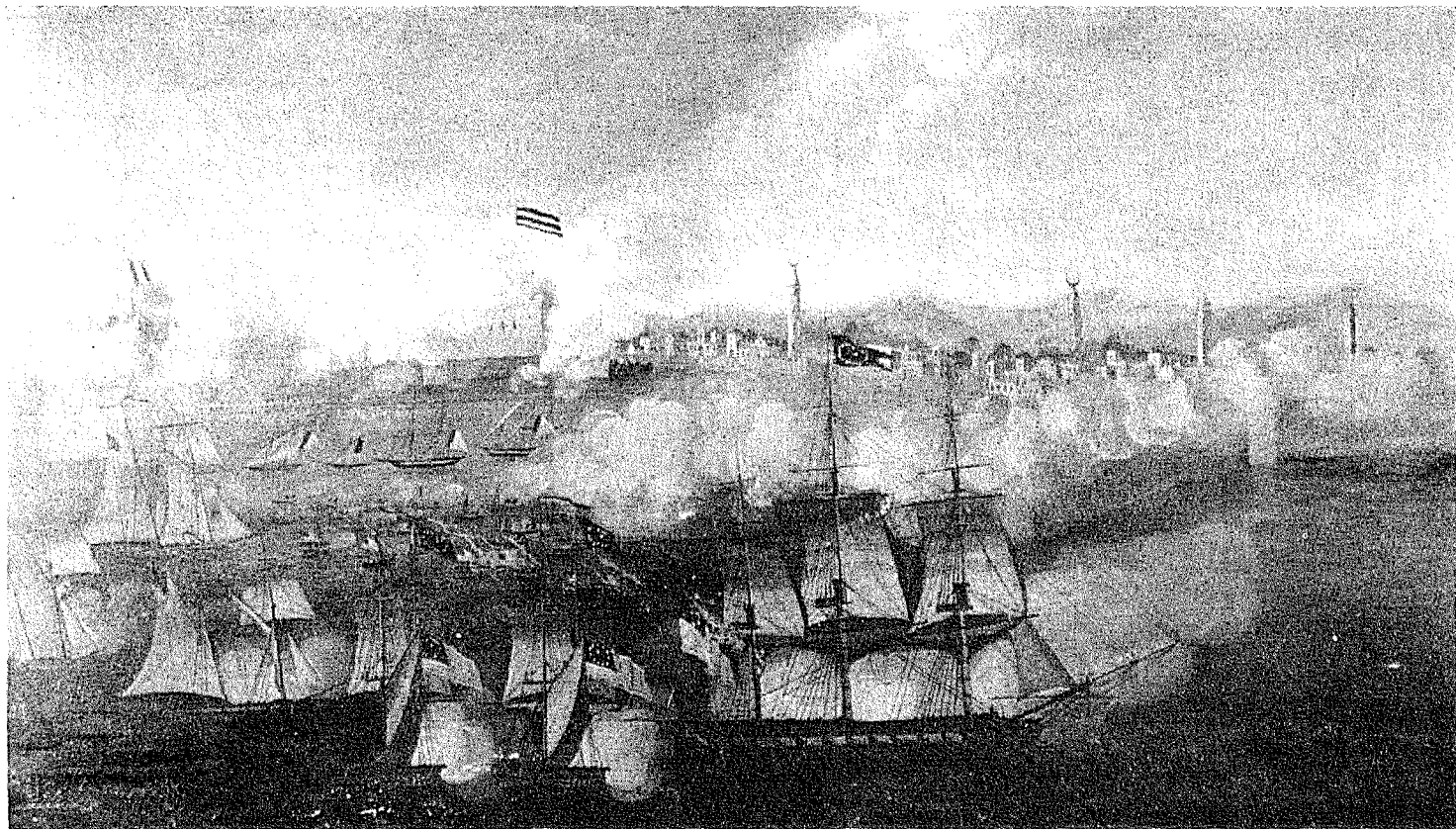
[LC. EPP, Log *Constitution*, 1803-1804.]

[28 August 1804]

To Sir Alexander John Ball, Governor of Malta, from Captain Edward Preble,
U. S. Navy

August [29] 1804

DEAR SIR I am honoured with your highly esteemed letter of the 21st Instant: and sent a boat in with a flag to deliver the letters which accompanied it — It cannot but be extremely gratefull to my feelings to have my exertions thought favourably of, by an Officer of your Excellency's talents & experience — I was in hopes ere this to have effected a peace in this quarter: but if the reinforcement of frigates does not arrive soon, I fear we shall not succeed in bringing about so desirable an event this year, as my ammunition is nearly expended and the season for such gun boats as ours to act will soon be over — In fact they are only fit for the defence of Harbours where they can at all times find protection from the weather: The stern of a frigate affords but a poor shelter for them; and they are not to be trusted alone; They have however rendered very essential service in our different attacks, although on their account we have each time been obliged to wait for a wind from the E S E or S E, to enable them to enter & retire with certainty — We must have Gun & Bomb Vessels that can protect themselves —



ATTACK ON TRIPOLI. 3 AUGUST 1804.

Yesterday I sent our eight gun boats to the rocks which form the entrance of the harbour two hours before day light, they anchored within 600 Yards of the Bashaw's castle, of two gallies & sixteen gun boats. A brisk fire was kept up until day light by our boats, & as warmly returned by the Enemy, when observing all their gun boats & gallies under way apparently with an intention to attack ours by boarding, I stood in within three cables length of the Batteries, leaving the Boats without us to retire, (as their ammunition was expended, but not without effect); and commenced a warm action with the Boats & Batteries which lasted $\frac{1}{4}$ of an hour: We sunk three of the Enemies gun boats and a large ketch, and did great execution among the other Boats & Shipping, and in the Town & Batteries — One of the ship's boat was sunk, 4 men killed & a few wounded which is all our loss in this affair — Our rigging, sails, cables &^r have been considerably cut by grape shot. Only 19 cannon shot struck this ship — The heavy swell almost constantly setting towards the coast prevents us from attacking as often as we wish to — I beg you to present me respectfully to Lady Ball —

[LC. EPP, Vol. 13, August–December 1804.]

[28 August 1804]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from Master Commandant Isaac Chauncey, U. S. Navy

U. S. SHIP *John Adams*
Off Tripoly — August 29th 1804

SIR, I have the Honor of enclosing you a list of the Volunteers from this ship employed on board the different vessels of the Squadron in the Attack upon the Enemy's Gun boats & Batteries on the 28th ins^t together with a list of the killed & wounded belonging to this Ship —

Return of Killed & Wounded belonging to the U. S. Ship *John Adams* in the attack upon the Enemies Gun boats & Batteries on the 28th August 1804 —

Tho ^s M ^d Donald — Seaman	} Killed
W ^m Fountain — — D ^o	
John Bartlett — — D ^o	
Asa Culver — — Seaman	— Wounded
Total — 3 Seamen Killed — & One Seaman Wounded	
Signed ISAAC CHAUNCEY	

[LC. EPP, Order Book, May 1803–June 1805.]

Extract from journal kept by Purser John Darby, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. S. *John Adams*, Master Commandant Isaac Chauncey, U. S. Navy, commanding, Tuesday, 28 August 1804

At 4 O'clock this morning our fleet commenced the attack on the Town of Tripoli and an incessant firing was kept up from our gun boats & brigs & Schooners. & the Bashaws Gun boats and the fort untill half past. 5 when the commodore went in with the *Constitution* to cover the retreat of our gun boats. they having expended nearly all their ammunition The commodores ship when standing in and during the engagement was the most elegant sight that I ever saw. she had her Tompions out matches lit and batteries lighted up all

hands at quarters standing right in under the fort. & receiv^d a heavy cannonading from their Battery. as soon as he got within pistol shot he commenced firing his bow guns. and immediately laid his star-board side parralel with their battery and gave them a broad side which silenced the Bashaws batterys for a minute or so the commodore gave them several other broadsides which did greate injury to their battery and the houses on shore. several of the commodores 24th Balls went through the Bashaws. Pallace. & one went through his bed in about 5 minutes after he had got out of it, he also sunk several of their gun Boats. he compleatly covered the retreat of our boats. with the loss. only of our Black Cutter & three men killed & one slightly wounded. he receid some trifling damage in his riging our gun boats did them great damage in the town and knocked down a part of the Bashaw's eastermost Battery and drove all the Tripolitan Gun boats behind the Rocks. & some of them run ashore and was deserted by their crew. there was only 8 of our Gun boats & 2 Bumbards & the Tripolitans had 16 Gun Boats & 2 Gallys. their Galleys contain[ing] from 150 to 200 men & our Gun boats & Bumbards contain[ing] not more than 25 to 30 men in any of them. & notwithstanding their great superiority of fource and the advantage of being under their own Battery they were compeled by our boats to retire within the Rocks. which makes out a little distance beyand the Bashaws Battery between which there is an inner channel and affords a compleat shelter for them. as their Huls are covered by the rock—the Commodore it is said receid above five hundred Balls between his fore and main Mast. but he had got so close in under their battery that they could no[t] depress their guns enough to hull him —

Our Fource off [f] this station are as follows

Frigate <i>Constitution</i> . Commodore Preble.....	44. Guns.
Brig <i>Syren</i> Capt Steward.....	18 Ditto.
Brig <i>Argus</i> Capt. Hull.....
Brig <i>Scourge</i> Capt Dent.....
Schooner <i>Vixon</i> Capt Smith.....
Schooner <i>Nautalus</i> Capt Summers.....
Schooner <i>Enterprize</i> Capt. Decator.....
2 Bumbards	
8 Gun boats.	

Frigate *John Adams* Capt Chauncey armed en Flute—

Neither the *John Adams* nor the *Scourge* were in the enagm^t the 28th August —

[NDA original. Miss Camilla S. McConnell.]

Extract from journal of U. S. Brig *Argus*, Master Commandant Isaac Hull, U. S. Navy, commanding, Tuesday, 28 August 1804

[Standing off and on Tripoli and attacking the batteries and gun-boats.]

The Commodore made Sig^l N^o 1205 got under way with the Squadron gunboats and bombards the Commodore made Sig^l N^o 69 to the Gunboats at 4 he made the Sig^l for Gunboats to Cast off at $\frac{1}{2}$ past they Commenced firing on the town wore Ship and Stood in shore at $\frac{1}{2}$ past 5 the Commodore made Sig^l for the Gunboats to retire and ranged his Ship alongside the Batteries and gave them several Broad-sides at 6 took the two Gunboats in tow At Meridian Anchored with all the Squadron in 30 fathoms water the Commodore made the Sig^l for all

Captains, Capt^r Hull went on board of him during the Action through our Larboard hause hole which cut cut off the bower Cable and Injured the lead —

[NDA photostat.]

Extract from journal of Midshipman F. Cornelius deKraft, U. S. Navy, in U. S. Brig *Stren* of 18 guns, Master Commandant Charles Stewart, U. S. Navy, commanding, Tuesday, 28 August 1804

(Following the Comm: motions Lying off [f] & on shore.)

Light winds & pleasant. At 4 a signal to the gun boats, prepare for battle hove up p^r signal of the Commodore & stood in for the land. At 5 mann'd & arm'd the Launch & barge. ½ past 5 the *J. Adams's* barge came along side arm'd & mann'd, ½ past 6 took in sail, standing off & on shore.

Midnight fresh breezes & pleasant, tacking occasionally. At 3 cast off the gun boats. At 4 they came too an anchor close in the harbour of Tripoli & commenc'd a heavy fire on the Town & shipping & which was return'd by the enemies batteries. ½ past 6 the Commodore made signal for the gun boats to retire from action, the Comm: & squadron run close in & fired several broadsides on the enemies batteries shipping &c. At 7 took our gun boats in tow, the launch return'd made sail & stood off shore. At 9 wore in shore. ½ past 10 overhaul'd a range of the larboard cable. At 11 came too with the larboard bower p^r signal. —

Meridian light winds & clear. all the Squadron at anchor. a signal from the Comm: for all Commanders to repair on board his ship. —

Latt: Obs: 33° 4' N.

[NDA.]

[28 August 1804]

Expenditure of Ammunition

Fired Aug^t 28 — [1804]

24 Pr ^e — 127 — Cartridges — 1016 lb Powder	Constitutions Return	
D ^e — 128 — Roun Shot		
D ^e — 35 — Grape		
D ^e — 2 — Canister		
D ^e — 3 — Double headed		
12 Pr ^e — 73 — Cartridges — 192 lb of Powder		
D ^e — 73 — Round Shot		
D ^e — 3 — Grape D ^e		
25 Pr ^e — 24 — Cartridges — 144 lb Powder		
D ^e — 24 — Round Shot		
D ^e — 1 — Grape D ^e		
266		69 — Paper Cartridges full Charg ^d
		107 — Flenell D ^e -----
		90 — D ^e D ^e Reduc ^d } 24 p ^d
126		58 — Paper Cartridges full Charg ^d
		11 — D ^e D ^e Reduc ^d
		12 — Flenell Cartridges full Charg ^d
		47 — D ^e D ^e Reduc ^d } 12 p ^d
67		16 — Perchmant Cartridges 6 lb Each
		27 — D ^e D ^e 5 D ^e
		24 — D ^e D ^e 4 D ^e } 25 p ^d
375		Perchmant Cartridges Came onboard
225		Shellune D ^e D ^e

478 NAVAL OPERATIONS, APRIL-SEPTEMBER 6, 1804

Ammunition Expended on board GUN BOAT N^o 1 August 28th 1804

520 ^{lb} of Cannon Powder.....	65 Cartridges
6 ^{lb} of Priming D ^o	
63 Round Shot.....	24 ^{lb}
33 Grape D ^o	
3 Match Rope.....	
63 Tubes for.....	24 ^{lb}
66 Wads for.....	D ^o —

RICH^d SOMERS

EDW^d PREBLE Esq^r

Expenditure of Ammunition in Action 28th Aug^t 1804 on board the GUN BOAT N^o 2 —

16 — 8 ^{lb} Cartrages
24 — 7 ^{lb} Ditto
44 — 24 ^{lb} Round Shot
2 — Bunches 24 ^{lb} Grape

CHA^r GORDON

RICH^d SOMERS Esq^r
 Master & Commandant
 U. S. Schooner *Nautilus*

Expended on board GUN BOAT N^o 3 Aug^t 27th 1804. —

11 Shot	} 50 fathom Cable 6 inch	
11 Cattridges		50 D ^o D ^o 4½
11 Wads		2 Anchors

SAM^t B BROOKE

Expended on Board GUN-BOAT N^o 4 August 28th 1804 —

45 — Fathoms 5 Inch Hauser
30 — Fathoms D ^o
25 — Fathoms 4 Inch D ^o
1 — Jibb Sheet
1 — Anchor W ^t 240 ^{lb}
1 — Anchor W ^t 120 ^{lb}
60 — 24lb Cartriges
65 — D ^o Round Shott
5 — D ^o Grape
60 — Wadds
60 — Tubes
½ ^{lb} Priming Powder

Expenditures on board N^o 6 GUN BOAT H. Wadsworth Commander on the Morning 28th August: 1804

Cattridges 24 p ^t	51
Round shot.....	51
Grape shot.....	15
Wads.....	102

60 fath. 5 in. hawser with the Grapnel.
 15 fath 3 in. rope ----- spring. -----
 3 lb. priming powder
 2 lb. match rope

300 Musket cartridges expended since the 7th August. preparing
 ing for Battle.

H WADSWORTH

Capt DECATUR. —

Expended on Board of GUN BOAT N^o 7 August 28th 1804

33 — 24 ^{lb} Round Shot
 33 — — Cartridges
 60 — — Wads
 34 — Tubes
 1 — ^{lb} — priming powder
 3 — Blunderbuss Cartridges
 25 — Musket ----- ditto } damaged
 30 — Pistol ----- ditto }
 1 Sweep —
 2 Swivel Cartridges ----- damaged

J THORN

Expenditures on board GUN BOAT N^o 8 W Crane commander
 Aug^t 28th 1804

32 — 24 ^{lb} cartridges
 29 — “ round shot
 3 — “ double head shot
 64 — Wads
 2 — ^{lb} priming powder
 2 — ^{lb} match rope
 2 — sweeps
 1 — anchor, kedje
 30 — fathoms 5½ Inch hawser
 15 — fathom^s 2 Inch rope, spring
 32 — Tubes.

WILLIAM CRANE

Cap^t S DECATUR

[LC. EPP, Vol. 13, August-December 1804.]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from Sailmaker Joseph Douglass and
 Carpenter William Godby, U. S. Navy, formerly in U. S. Frigate *Philadelphia*

TRIPOLA August 29 1804

SIR I having signed a Letter wrote in Attalion concerning the
 Malta Boat being bound to your Squadron with Brandy Wine poatoes
 &c I se her taken by one of the Gallys belong[ing] to this place and
 brought in this harbour the Bashaw sent Several of his Offissers down
 on board of the said Boat to take out the goods but he was
 stoped by the English Council and has been detained hear by the
 Bashaw untill this present date wich I am informed that she is to
 sail this evening or Tomorrow morning the Last attack you made

on the Town you have Injured a grate Many houses killed several Turcks & drove them entirely out of three of there Batrys the Capt and all the Offissers are well I heard from them this day the shells that was hove the last night all fell in the Water but verry few of shells that has been hove in Town has Bursted there is but a small Quantity of Powder in this place by the best information that I can get

JOSEPH DOUGLAS *S Maker*
WILLIAM GODBY

P S hopin we will all be soon out of this the usage is verry bad and the provisions very short

[LC. EPP, Vol. 13, August-December 1804.]

To William Higgins, U. S. Navy Agent, Malta, from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

Constitution AUGUST 29th 1804

DEAR SIR, I enclose you a receipt for what has been delivered from the Sparonaro you sent over some time since — The Patron alledges that he was carried into Tripoly by force: He will however tell you his Own Story — We made an attack yesterday on the Gun boats, town & Batteries — sunk three of their gun boats & a large Ketch, & did them much damage — We lost one of the ships boats sunk & 4 Men killed & some wounded our Rigging & sails considerably cut by Grape; Only 19 Cannon shot struck us — The weather has been unfavorable, but we have expended nearly all the Gun Boat ammunition — The Ketch with Water, live Stock &C which you sent over arrived safe & remains with us at present — I wish Comm^r Barron would arrive with the long expected reinforcement — Adieu!

[LC. EPP, LB, April-Nov. 1804.]

To Master Commandant Isaac Hull, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. Brig *Argus*, from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

Constitution AUGUST 29th 1804 Off TRIPOLY

Stand in for the Town; Hoist the white flag at the Fore, & French at the Main, & if answered by the French Consul send a boat with the letters directed to him & Sidi Mohammed DGHies and as soon as the Boat returns come into your Station —

[LC. EPP, Order Book, May 1803-June 1805.]

To Monsieur Beaussier, French Chargé d'Affaires and Commissary General, Tripoli, from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

U. S. SHIP *Constitution*. At Anchor
Off Tripoly — August 29th 1804.

SIR, I have now on board this ship forty two Tripoline Prisoners, thirty five of which were in the three gun boats captured by us on the 3^d Ins^t. I am desirous of establishing a Cartel for the exchange of Prisoners, & wish you to use your influence in bringing about this important object —

Humanity dictates the measure, and I have no doubt but on your application to his Highness the Bashaw, you will, by proper representations, be able to induce him to accede to a measure so generally adopted

by all nations — You will oblige me by communicating to me your Success in this business, and I think it very probable, if I could see you on board that such arrangements may be made as to effect the ransom of the whole of my countrymen — If you should think proper to oblige me with a visit, and the Bashaw should think proper to admit of your coming off, I will send a Boat under a flag of Truce tomorrow morning at 9 O'Clock to the Rocks to receive you or (if you should not incline to come off) to receive your answer if you answer the French & White flag as hoisted before —

If you come Off, The truce shall remain sacred untill you return on shore and the Flags are hauled down — You have it in your power to render an essential Service to the unfortunate, by making use of your interest in endeavouring to effect the humane object of this letter— I have the honor to subscribe myself with

P. S. M^r OBrien is no longer with me, He went to Malta some days since & returns to America with his family —

[LC. EPP, LB, April–Nov. 1804.]

To the Prime Minister to the Bashaw of Tripoli, from Captain Edward Preble,
U. S. Navy

U. S. SHIP *Constitution*
August 29th 1804

SIR I have made Overtures through the French Consul to your regency for an exchange of Prisoners — I hope this much desired event may take place; I am not induced to this measure merely because it is the usage of a great part of the World, but because I think it founded in reason & humanity —

I flatter my self that Monsieur Beaussier will be permitted to come on board the *Constitution*, in which case a mode of Ransom may be fixed upon, honorable to both Parties —

I enclose to your care dispatches to the English Consul at Tripoly which I received a few days since from Malta & which you will be kind enough to have delivered —

His Excellency SIDI MOHAMMED DGHIES
Prime Minister to the Pasha of Tripoly

[LC. EPP, LB, April–Nov. 1804.]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from Monsieur Beaussier, French Chargé
d'Affaires and Commissary General, Tripoli

Translation

TRIPOLI 29 August 1804 —

COMMODORE On the 12 Current after having myself read to the Bashaw your Letter of the day before and added what was suitable, I was about to reply in a manner which wou'd perhaps have been satisfactory to you, and to make a Signal for you to send on shore, when this Prince formally required me to suspend my Answer, until he had witnessed the effect of the third attack — This took place in the Night betwixt the 23 & 24 instant, and you Sir must be sensible that it was perfectly null —

Not a single Bomb was thrown beyond the Forts, and at day light a Bombarde was seen towing off by five boats — The attack between the 27 & 28 was more serious A 36 pound Shot struck the Castle and

passed through the apartment of the Prisoners — another through the Sailer's prison, & others struck a number of Houses, especially those of the Spanish, Swedish & Dutch Consuls out of the Town where a Camel was killed, and some Shot flew even into the Gardens — A Tunisian prize was sunk and a Spanish Vessel that had brought here a Messenger from the Grand Senior with a pass from M^r Davis your Consul at Tunis was hulled and a Corsair belonging to this Regency lost four men, killed by the Grape Shot from your Guns — At day break one of the Bombardes or a Gun-Boat was seen anchored at some distance off which gave rise to the conjecture that she was obliged to leave the action — The Bashaw seems to care little about the injury done to the Houses by the Shot, which is easily repaired; the Shells only, which he fears may burn and destroy his Town, give him some uneasiness and revive in him the desire for an Accommodation —

Menaces have no other effect than to inflame the mind of the Prince —

I have informed Sidi Achmet Dghie's of the plan of your Government with regard to Sidi Achmet the Bey's Brother — I have reason to believe that he has not made him acquainted with it, lest it might destroy in him every disposition to Peace —

In the actual State of things I think it best to leave the Bashaw to his own reflexions — He is naturally dark mysterious and unconfiding — Were I to manifest any eagerness for a Decision on his part, he would only become more immoveable; In the mean while I avail myself of a Sperronar which carries you some refreshments to inform you of what is passing — This Sperronar entered the harbor on the 20 ins^t, believing that you were Masters of it —

I had written thus far Commodore, when to my great astonishment & regret I heard that a Brig of your Squadron was advancing to parley — Whatever may be the motive I cannot but view this Step as most impolitic as well as detrimental to the Interests of your Country, because at this moment it must be construed to your disadvantage & tend to raise the pretensions of this Regency — It had been much better *at the beginning* to have threatened, and to have followed up your attacks with energy & effect, *without entering into any negotiations* —

This instant I receive your Letter of this Morning — I cannot see the Bashaw till Tomorrow as he is at his Summer Residence in the Country — I foresee that your proposal for a Cartel of Exchange will not be relished as it is a thing not usual and never practiced betwixt Mussulmen & Christians —

August 30 — I am just come from an Audience with the Bashaw —

What I apprehended has actually occurred — In spite of all my representations & observations he absolutely rejected the Cartel of Exchange, and to shew that he is by no means intimidated by your force (of which he pretends to calculate with nicety the extent and effect) even after the arrival of the four additional Ships, he demands as the price of ransom & peace, 400000 Spanish Dollars besides presents for himself and Ministers of the Regency, declaring at the same time that he confined himself to this Sum at present merely out of Regard & Respect for his good friend the French Emperor and that it must not be understood that he meant to keep to it in the sequel. He added that if the liberation of the Prisoners could not be agreed upon this year, it might during the next — I told him immediately that it was not in your power to subscribe to such terms & that it would

be useless for me to communicate them, Whatever arguments I could bring forward I was unable to prevail upon His Excellency to reduce his Demand. — You have therefore Monsieur the Commodore no alternative but to attack the Town & particularly the Castle without intermission, unless you feel yourself authorized to approach nearer to the conditions proposed — If you do not it will be superfluous to reply and you must persevere until the Pacha harassed at all points shall himself ask for a Parley —

When I was at the Castle, there were brought before the Bashaw, Guns, pistols and other arms taken on board a Chaloupe or Boat which went on Shore to the Westward of the Town, and in which a Man was found who had been killed by a Musket ball —

[Mrs. James S. Barron original.]

Extract from journal of U. S. Brig *Argus*, Master Commandant Isaac Hull, U. S. Navy, commanding, Wednesday, 29 August 1804

[At anchor off Tripoli.] This day Commences with fresh breezes At 1 PM James Jeffers, O. S. was badly wounded in the left hand by the accidental going off of a Pistol at 4 At Anchor Cap^t Hull went on board the Commodore Tripoli bore SSW at 5 Cap^t Hull returned hoisted in all boats fresh breezes thro, the night with a bad swell from the Eastward —

At 8 AM hoisted out all boats and took on board 1800 Gall^s of water from the Malta Ketch Watered N^o 3 & 7 Gunboats at ½ past 6 the Commodore made Gunboats Sig^t N^o 69 Ends light winds Squadron at Anchor Hands Variously Employed —

[NDA photostat.]

Extract from log book kept by Sailing Master Nathaniel Haraden, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Wednesday, 29 August 1804

Fresh breezes from E b S. At Single Anchor 4 or 5 Miles N E b N from Tripoly Squadron in company. Employed repairing damages & refitting the Gun boats for another attack.

Towards evening the weather became more moderate & continued so through the Night.

At 9 P. M. fired two guns & burnt two rockets to alarm the Batteries —

At 6 A. M. ran a Warp to the Store Ketch & Warped her along side — This is the ketch that joined the Squadron on Sunday morning last. No opportunity of discharging her has offered before now — She brough[t] 133 Puncheons of water equal to nearly 10,000 Gall^s

Employed all forenoon in clearing the Ketch & supplying the gun boats with Powder shot and other stores —

A heavy swell all forenoon from E N E — This forenoon the Ketch *Intrepid* was carried alongside the *Syren* — She is ordered to be fitted out as a fire ship or Infernal —

Noon light breezes from N E b E with a swell from E N E.

[LC. EPP, Log *Constitution*, 1803-1804.]

Extract from journal kept by Purser John Darby, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. S. *John Adams*, Master Commandant Isaac Chauncey, U. S. Navy, commanding, Wednesday, 29 August 1804

We are now laying at Anchor off the Town of Tripoli Pleasant Weather and light breezes from the Eastward — at 2 O'clock P. M. the Brig *Argus* and Schooner *Vixen* stood in towards the Town. hoist'd the White flag which was answered by the Bashaw on shore at 4 they stood out. We understand that they went in to carry some Dispatches for the consuls on shore and to take the advantage of it, in reconnoitring the Town and harbour and to know what damage we had done the town — in the last attack. and to hear from the french consul whether the Bashaw was better disposed to make a peace the French Consul informed us that we had done great damage to the town & that the Bashaw wished to know whether the commodores letter contained any propositions for peace. but we are informed they did not

[NDA original. Miss Camilla S. McConnell.]

Extract from journal of Midshipman F. Cornelius deKrafft, U. S. Navy, in U. S. Brig *Siren* of 18 guns, Master Commandant Charles Stewart, U. S. Navy, commanding, Wednesday, 29 August 1804

Lying at anchor [Tripoli]. Midnight light winds & pleasant with a heavy swell. At $\frac{1}{2}$ past 7 a signal from the Commodore for the gun boats to prepare for battle. —

Latt: Obs: 33° 00' N.

[NDA.]

To Secretary of State from James Simpson, U. S. Consul, Tangier, Morocco N^o 81. — duplicate —

TANGIER 30th August 1804. —

SIR My late correspondence with Sidy Muhammed Selawy on subject of His Imperial Majestys wish to send Wheat to Tripoly, having in some particulars become of rather an Interesting nature, I think well to hand you herewith translations of my Letter to him of the 9th Ins^t, his answer of the 20th and my reply of the 26th — I was enduced to send him the Letter from Alcajde Hashash referred to in that correspondence, because he says in it — “grant this Passport and Peace will subsist between us and you.” — Knowing how apt Alcajde Hashash is to hold such Language of himself without authority, I did not mention the circumstance to you, trusting at same time the Minister would have satisfied me he had taken his accustomed liberty on this occasion; but I am sorry to find Selawy speaks much in the same strain as Hashash. — It does not appear however that it is intended to press the matter for the present. — The arrival of Commodore Barrons Squadron, in my oppinion will prevent that; and enduce this Government to act more circumspectly than it perhaps might have done, had the American Commerce continued without protection on this Coast. —

In N^o 79 I mentioned that some Saltpetre & Copper were to be shipt at Mogadore on the Frigate *Maimona* for Algiers, when these Articles were brought in from the Mines it was so reported, but M^r Gwyn in his Letter to me of the first this Month corrects, — he says

“It was from misinformation that I wrote you the Emperours Ship here was “to load the Copper and Saltpetre for the Algerine, as she came here to load “them for H I M Account and is to go when the Wind will permit to Sallé. — “The Algerine is yet here waiting for a Vessel of his Nation to load his. —”

The fact is two different parcells of these Articles were brought to Mogadore — that belonging to the Emperour was laden on the *Maimona* and she has arrived at Sallé with them; but in place of proceeding to the Mediterranean, as was at first intended, we learn by Letters received yesterday from thence they have been transhipped to a Schooner belonging to the Emperour. — On the 14th Ins^t a Messenger arrived at Tangier from the Minister with a Letter for the Consuls, desiring Passports for this same Vessel to go from Sallé to Tunis with Pilgrims, but no mention was made of any Cargo; whether the resolution to put the Articles out of the Frigate to her was subsequent to that application I cannot say, but altho' the Vessel is no doubt bound to Tunis with about forty Pilgrims, it appears to me extremely probable, the ultimate destination of the Copper and Saltpetre is Tripoly. — That of the Emperours three Ships for the Mediterranean I also now perfectly believe was on some Scheme of giving assistance to Tripoly, for I am satisfied it is Muley Solimans wish to do so if he could, and I fear we shall henceforward find that he will only be restrained from it, by knowing a sufficient force is at hand to prevent it; we shall see what Sidy Muhammed Selawy will say in answer to my remarks on subject of the War with that State. —

The *Meshouda* lays at Larach notwithstanding these appearances, without ever having had any repair since she entered that River in October last. —

Whilst my duty compels me to hold forth to Government these powerful reasons for looking to the conduct of Muley Soliman with a Jealous Eye, still so long as no overt act of hostility is committed or the honour of the Flag assailed, I shall consider it incumbent on me for the benefit of Commerce to cherish Friendship with this Country; in fact this last consideration in such a charge as mine I believe should be the predominant object. —

The issue of the late Negotiation with the Batavian Consul was a demand of a yearly Tribute of Twenty thousand dollars, with an extra Present the first year of complete Cloathing for One thousand Soldiers and Stores for the equipment of two Cruizers.

These Conditions of Peace have been transmitted to Holland and if not accorded with the Consul has been told he must retire and his Nation to be considered as no longer in Peace with Muley Soliman. —

You will see Sidy Muhammed Selawy handed the Presidents Letter to the Emperour — no reply has been sent. — Commodore Barron left the Frigates *Congress* and *Essex* on this Station, and I am satisfied it was a wise determination. —

[NA. SDA. CL, Tangier, Vol. 2, Jan. 1803—Oct. 1810.]

To Captain Samuel Barron, U. S. Navy, Commodore, U. S. Squadron in the Mediterranean, from James Simpson, U. S. Consul, Tangier, Morocco

TANGIER 30th August 1804. —

SIR My last to you 14th this Month I find did not reach you at Gibraltar, but M^r Gavino will have forwarded it. —

My Communications to Captain Rodgers of the 26th & 27th Ins^t follow up the detail of what I have since had to impart on Service, which he will no doubt lay before you. —

On the 17th I received your favour of the 13th this Month, in which you state the strong reasons assist your determination respecting the

request of some Wheat being sent by the Emperour to Tripoly. — I have had as you will see an answer from Sidy Muhammed Selawy, who says it is not now desired. —

I know the Emperour is highly displeas'd on the occasion, and I have not a doubt but for the very opportune arrival of your Squadron he would have resented it. —

I have not failed to say every thing I could suggest to the Minister to divest their intentions from unfriendly measures, but I know they are disposed to give what assistance they can to Tripoly — untill Peace be obtained there we shall have no security here, but what they are awed into. —

By advice from Salle we are assured the Schooner mentioned to you in mine of the 14th takes Saltpetre & Copper as well as Pilgrims to Tunis, whose ultimate destination is Tripoly. —

On the 28th May I wrote Commodore Preble soliciting the release of a Moor of Tangier Mohamet Ben Ally Ben Seid, whom he had detained among some Tripolines. — I have not received an answer, but I hope the person has been set at Liberty as a subject of Muley Soliman. —

[Am. Antiquarian Soc. NDA photostat.]

To Captain James Barron, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. Frigate *Essex*, from Captain John Rodgers, U. S. Navy

U. STATES FRIGATE *Congress*
Gibraltar Bay Aug^t 30. 1804

SIR. Conceiving there is not the smallest necessity at present for the services of more than one Frigate on this Station, I have thought it advisable & have determined to leave you in the command here, and shall proceed with the *Congress* direct to Tripoli, in hopes of arriving in time to unite her services to the Expedition commanded by Commo: Barron, against that place. I therefore Enclose you my instructions from him for your Government. As Commo. Barrons Instructions are very Explicit, I feel it unnecessary in me to add any thing further than merely to observe that I think it advisable you should (in addition to a constant correspondence with M^r Simpson our Consul at Tangier) sail about the 8 or 9th of next month, & cruize a few Days between Cape Spartel and Salle, to inform yourself whether any or Either of the Ships at Salle, have put to Sea, and if they have what is their object.

[Am. Antiquarian Soc. NDA photostat.]

To Secretary of the Navy from Captain John Rodgers, U. S. Navy

N^o 3.

U. S. FRIGATE *Congress*
Gibraltar Bay Aug^t 30, 1804

SIR I have the honor to inform you that I have this Instant arrived here with the *Congress* & *Essex* direct from Tangier which place I saild from on the 27th Inst — our passage has been long owing to a severe Lavant Gale which lasted from the night of the 27th until the morning of the 29th and drove us through the Straights into the Atlantick. —

In my last communications dated Tangier Bay 17th Inst, I informed you of Commo. Barrons having sent the *Congress* & *Essex* on this

Coast, in consequence of advices rec'd from M^r Simpson our Consul at Tangier, of my Intentions to leave the *Essex* to Watch the Conduct of Two Gallies at that place & of my proceeding Immediately with the *Congress* to Salle, to inform myself of the movements (& if possible the Intentions) of the Emperors three Ships, mention'd in M^r Simpsons communications to Commo. Barron, Copys of which the latter Gentleman has forwarded you. I did so & arrived & anchor'd before Salle on the 20th (taking Arzilla, Mamora & Larache in my route) where I found the three Ships in question, and to all appearance nearly ready for Sea. — After laying three Hours at anchor within about 5 miles of the Town, with American Colours Flying & a Signal Indicative of Friendship & a wish to communicate with the Shore, without any apparent disposition of the like on their part; I weighd & stood within the range of a cannon Shot of the Ships, without any further success of bringing about a communication, altho every means which a friendly demeanor could suggest was used: However I have no reason to suppose that hostile intentions on their parts were the cause of my not succeeding, but that they either did not comprehend the meaning of the Signal, or were afraid to Venture off. On the 21st after repeating again in the same way as on the preceding Day, my wishes to Exchange Civilities, without any appearance of success; and fearing that a further attempt on the subject, might lead to suspicions unfavorable to a good understanding, I made Sail & Pursued my course back to Tangier, where I again on the 27th join'd the *Essex* — At Larache I found the Ship *Meshouda* (Ci de Vant Tripoline) in a State of *Ordinary*; but at Arzilla & Mamora there was not a Single Vessel of any description — On my return again to Tangier I made the usual Signal to communicate with our Consul, and in an Hour after had the pleasure of receiving advices from him corroborating my own opinion, "That whatever grounds their might have been for Suspicion, that they were so far removed as to admit of one of the Ships leaving the Coast". Two days after I left Tangier for Salle, the two Gall'ys which the *Essex* was left to watch, sail'd & one of them Boarded by her in sight of Tangier. This circumstance serves to prove that they had no orders to Capture American Vessels or they certainly would not have gone to Sea, while the *Essex* was in sight — These two Gall'ys with the three Ships at Salle, compose the greater part, if not the whole marine Force of Morocco — Since the Gall'ys sail'd I have heard of their being at Cadiz. The Ships are inside of Salle Bar & I have reason to believe there is but little probability of their going to Sea this Summer, as I am told there never has been an Instance of their large Cruizers, going to Sea, for the purpose of Cruizing after the 10th Sept^r; However it is not improbable that one of them will go to Lisbon to receive their Annual Donation, "The Marine repository at Lisbon being the Arsenal of Morocco", As it appears that without ceremony the Emporer sends *Generally* every year a Ship to that Port with an Inventory of the Stores wanting for his cruizers, and is furnished with the am^t without a murmur; —

I shall leave this the Instant I get Water on Board, Sufficient for Six or Seven weeks, which I am in hopes will not take longer than tomorrow morning and proceed direct to Tripoli; where I flatter myself (if Cap^t Prible has not made a previous attack) I shall yet

arrive in time to cooperate with Commodore Barron, For I should be greatly mortified, if the *Congress* did not share a part of the Credit to be derived, in the reduction of Tripoli by inscribing a lasting & Honorable remembrance of her name on its Walls. — I can now clearly perceive that our future situation with Morocco will greatly depend on the kind of Peace we make with Tripoli; As it appears they are more closely allied than any of the other Barbary Powers, in consequence of a Blood connection between the Emperor & Bashaw, and I think it not Improbable that the Emperor hearing of the Destination of the late Squadron, put his Cruizers in motion, & made the Vague demands, mentioned by our Consul to Commo. Barron, merely with an Intention to emply a part of it, until the Season should be so far advanced, as to render an attack against Tripoli Impracticable, or at least hazardous; By the operations of a Smaller Force than our Government had calculated. The *Essex* having light metal, added to her Hull being in a Very Imperfect state, her services cannot be Important in an attack off Tripoli, I have therefore left her on the Gibraltar Station, to check any unfriendly design the Emperor may feel towards our commerce.

The measures I have pursued during my command on this Station, will I hope, by their Tendancy, merit your approbation, & I certainly should not have resign'd, the Command of this Station, to place myself in a more subordinate station, did I conceive there was a necessity for the services of more than one ship here. — Altho it is full likely, that the Business of Tripoli, will be finish'd before I arrive there, yet I conceive the probability of their being a necessity for my remaining here, over balanced by the possibility that I may yet arrive before Tripoli in time to join the Services of the *Congress* in the Attack.

[LC. JRP, Letters & Orders, Book A, 1804-1805.]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from Sir Alexander John Ball, Governor of Malta

MALTA 30 August 1804

SIR I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's Letter of the 21st inst^l inclosing a copy of one from the Secretary of the Navy of the United States, informing you of the intention of the President to augment the Naval force in the Mediterranean which circumstance will put him under the necessity of sending two Captains Senior to you — The very flattering expressions He makes use of in observing that "*you have acquitted yourself in a manner honorable to yourself, useful to your Country, and in all respects perfectly satisfactory to us,*" must satisfy your mind, that nothing but imperious necessity could have caused your government to send an officer superior in rank to you. —

I have communicated this to all those I know. They join me in regretting that an officer whose Talents and professional abilities have been justly appreciated, and whose manners and conduct eminently fit him for so high a command should be removed from it —

I have now only to request that you will command me without reserve whenever I can be in any way useful to you

[LC. EPP, Vol. 13, August-December 1804.]

Extract from journal of U. S. Brig *Argus*, Master Commandant Isaac Hull, U. S. Navy, commanding, Thursday, 30 August 1804

The Commodore sent his boat on board got under way and stood in for the town at 3 PM fired a gun and hoisted the french Ensign at the main and White flag at the fore which was answered by the french Consul on Shore at $\frac{1}{2}$ past 4 Lieu^t Blake went in the barge with a flag of Truce TK^d and Wore Ship Occas^y at 6 Lieu^t Blake returned filled away and Stood for the Commodore at 9 hove too Cap^t Hull went on board the Commodore and returned at 11 filled away At 8 AM the Commodore hoisted our distinguishing flag Cap^t Hull went on board of him and returned at 9 filled away and stood for the town in C^o with the *Vixen* at $\frac{1}{2}$ past 9 fired a Gun and hoisted the french Ensign at the main and White flag at the fore which was observ'd by the *Vixen* at 12 the Commodore hoisted our distinguish^d flag & made Sig^l N^o 600 Stood for him.

[NDA photostat.]

Extract from journal of U. S. Frigate *Congress*, Captain John Rodgers, U. S. Navy, commanding, Thursday, 30 August 1804

At 2 [AM] took in top gallant Sails. light airs From the North^d & West^d $\frac{1}{2}$ past came too in the bay of Gibraltar In 18 fathoms water with the starb^d Bower anchor Veerd & Moord ship with $\frac{1}{2}$ capble each way. European point Bearing S B E $\frac{1}{4}$ E., S^t Rogue N $\frac{1}{2}$ E Algesiras W $\frac{1}{2}$ N.

[USNA.]

Extract from log book kept by Sailing Master Nathaniel Haraden, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Thursday, 30 August 1804

Moderate breezes from E N E with a swell from the same Quarter — At Single Anchor 4 Miles N E b N from Tripoly Squadron in company —

We are employed discharging the Store Ketch & supplying the Gun boats — We supplied N^o 2 & N^o 6 with a large Grapnel each, also with a fore Jeer, & a cat fall — These two boats were under the necessity of cutting in the late action.

By 5 P. M. we completed discharging the Ketch & filled 20 casks of salt water in her when she hauled Off & anchored —

This afternoon we received 18 Men from the U. S. Brig *Scourge* — These are part of the men supplied her by us when she was put in commission —

The *Argus* was supplied out of the Store Ketch with 24 Puncheons of water, and the *Scourge* with 5 — The *Constitution* took the remaining 95 puncheons, which added to the water this day on board makes 59 Leagurs, 65 Butts & 29 Gang casks, in Gallons 26,524 —

At 3 P. M. the *Argus* & *Vixen* weighed & stood in for Tripoly — They hoisted the French Jack & a white flag as a Signal to speak the French Consul — In the course of half an hour it was answered in the Town — The *Argus's* boat met one from the shore & delivered the dispatches —

Moderate through the night with a swell from E N E — This forenoon we supplied the *Vixen* with 720 Gall^l water & the *Nautilus* with 640 Gall^l —

At 9 A. M. the *Argus* & *Vixen* (which had joined company at 9 last evening) ran down to the Town. They hoisted the French Jack & the white flag, which not being answered agreeable to promise they were recalled p^t Signal; On their standing out to join the Commodore the signal was answered in the Town — The *Argus* then made the signal that communication with the shore was granted, and bore up in Order to speak a dispatch boat-stand^t out of the Harbour — At this time the Commodore was out of the ship, examining the Ketch which is fitting out as an infernal —

Surgeons report 6 sick 9 convalescent & 4 discharged

Noon Moderate breezes from E N E.

All our carpenters employed on board the *Intrepid*

[LC. EPP, *Log Constitution*, 1803-1804.]

Extract from journal kept by Purser John Darby, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. S. *John Adams*, Master Commandant Isaac Chauncey, U. S. Navy, commanding, Thursday, 30 August 1804

At 7 Oclock this morning the commodore made the signal. for Gun boats to prepare for battle at 8 the *Argus* and *Vixen* stood in again — at Meridian light breezes from N.E. at 5 P. M the Brig *Argus* & *Vixen* stood out with a Maltee boat in tow that had been driven in to Tripoli by Stress of Weather. they brought us some Potatoes & Onions from Malta. and informed us that the Tripolins were very much distressed on shore — this day ends with pleasant Weather —

[NDA original. Miss Camilla S. McConnell.]

Extract from journal of Midshipman F. Cornelius deKraft, U. S. Navy, in U. S. Brig *Siren* of 18 guns, Master Commandant Charles Stewart, U. S. Navy, commanding, Thursday, 30 August 1804

Lying at Anchor [Tripoli] Throughout those 24 hours light breezes & pleasant. ½ past 2 the *Argus* & *Vixen* got under way & stood for the Town. At ½ past 3 the *Argus* fired a gun & hoisted the White flag at her fore & french at her main royal mast heads.

Midnight cloudy the *Argus* & *Vixen* lying bye close in shore. At ½ past 10 the Comm: came on board. At 11 the Commodore left us for his own ship. —

Meridian crew employ'd hoisting in water stoing it &c. &c. — rec^d from the *J. Adams* a quantity of Provisions &c &c.

[NDA.]

To Daniel Bedinger, Navy Agent and Superintendent of Navy Yard, Norfolk, Va., from Charles W. Goldsborough, Chief Clerk, Navy Department

NAVY DEP^t 31 Aug^t 1804.

I now enclose to you a Passport from the President of the U. States for the *W^m & Mary*: Also Passports from the British, French, and Spanish Ministers.

These Passports are forwarded under the Impression that the *W^m & Mary* is an American Ship. Should not this be the case, the Passports are not to be delivered to Cap^t Tipling but you will return them to this office. —

[NDA. Barbary Powers, LB, 1803-1808.]

To Daniel Bedinger, Navy Agent and Superintendent of Navy Yard, Norfolk, Va.,
from Secretary of the Navy

NAV. DEP^t Aug 31. 1804

I this morning received your letter of the 26th ins^t enclosing M^r Higgins receipt for the Cargo of the *Woodrop Sims* [ex *Betsy Walk*] a letter from Captain Reddick to M^r Geo. M^cIntosh also a letter from M^r M^cIntosh to you — all which are herewith returned to you —

M^r Higgins certificate establishes the fact that a considerable part of the Cargo of the *Woodrop Sims* was damaged when delivered at Malta also that there was a deficiency in quantity in some of the articles — As you have not transmitted to me a Satisfactory account of the manner in which this damage was sustained and deficiency Occasioned, my Conduct must be Governed by the Charter Party and M^r Higgins Certificate the only official papers in my possession — I cannot therefore authorize any further payments to the Owners of the *Woodrop Sims* for the freight of her cargo —

I observe that M^r M^cIntosh states to you his conviction of the entire correctness of the Circumstances stated in Captain Reddicks note to him and grounds his conviction principally upon the Circumstance of the articles sent out by him on his Own account (consisting of Tierces of Coffee, of loaf and Clayed Sugars Pepper, Tobacco and Rum) being delivered in good Order — I mention this Circumstance not with a View to Examine Cap^t Reddicks evidence or M^r M^cIntoshs conviction, but to enquire how it came to pass that M^r M^cIntosh was Permitted to Send out in his Own Vessel Chartered exclusively for public purposes, any adventure of his Own — my letters to you of the 22^d Decem^r 1803 and 10th and 24th January 1804 are considered perfectly Explicit

By the letter of the 22^d Decem^r you were requested to procure a Vessel on Public account and the articles to be sent in her to the mediterranean were designated — By the Subsequent letters you were expressly directed to fill the Vessel with Public Stores The extreme impropriety of Suffering any private individual or any person or persons Whatever to Send out an adventure in a Vessel Chartered exclusively for public purposes must be apparent to you —

[NDA. GLB, Vol. 7, 1803-1805.]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from Joseph Yznardi, U. S. Consul, Cadiz,
Spain

AMERICAN CONSULATE

Cadiz 31st August 1804 —

DEAR SIR: Under date of the 27th ultimo I had the pleasure of inclosing you Copy of a Letter received from James Monroe Esq^r respecting the forgery Committed on the house of Mess^{rs} M^cKenzie & Glennie of London in your name; I have now that of remitting you Copy of a Letter just received from M^r William Jarvis our Consul at Lisbon, which will inform you of the whole transaction.

Notwithstanding the many enquiries made here & steps taken to discover either Roberts or Borny all has proved in vain, as no tidings of such People can be found.

I am happy to acquaint you that by reports all matters between this Court and the United States will be settled to mutual content, as

this Government it seems has sent orders to the Marquis d'Truso to adjust all pending affairs in the most satisfactory manner possible; therefore I believe M^r Pinckney has postponed his journey —

[LC. EPP, Vol. 13, August-December 1804.]

[31 August 1804]

To Lieutenant John H. Dent, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. Brig *Scourge*, from
Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

SIR, The good of the service requires that you put the whole of your Ships Company on allowance of two Quarts & a pint of Water for twenty four hours including peas, rice and grog Water — You will therefore give orders to commence the issuing such allowance this day and continue until farther Orders

I am Sir

Your most Ob^d Serv^t

Signed, EDWARD PREBLE
U. S. SHIP *Constitution*
Off Tripoly, August 31st 1804

Cap^t DENT
U. S. Brig *Scourge*

[NHF. Dent's LB.]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from Purser John Darby, U. S. Navy

U. S. FRIGATE *John Adams*
Off Tripoli August 31st 1804

SIR I have this morning appli'd to Cap^t Chauncey, to know when I might expect a public investigation of the faulse and malicious charges exhibited against me by M^r John. Orde. Creighton, Masters Mate, of this ship, he has informed me that he had layed the matter before you, and that he could not say when you wou'd see fit to act on it

I have now to request of you Sir that if the nature of our countrys service is such as not to admit of your attention to matters of less importance that you will be pleased, to order M^r Creighton to remain on board of this ship or some other ship which is not immediately engaged in any future attack which may be made on the Town of Tripoli, or to be placed in any situation which might afford a chance of endangoring his life. for if M^r Creighton should be, by accident, deprived of life, before the Public investigation of his charges — I shall for ever labour under the worst of all human afflictions that of a suspected and implicated character. — For however innocent a man may be there are enough in this world to be found to say (for there are few of us who have not our enemys) there goes the man, pointing to the accused, who has been charged by an officer who was Killed at such a place, of dishonesty, and in that case it will be for ever suspended in doubt, whether the accusation be true or faulse as my friends will believe one thing and my enemys another, That being the case and particularly as I am amongst strangers & in a strange country and where you alone Sir have Cognizance of all matters which relates to your country & the officers & men who belong to the Squadron under your Command

I have to repeat again that you will be pleased to grant my request—

For as Ceasar says by his wife a man shou'd not only be honest but unsu[s]pectedly so. —

[LC. EPP, Vol. 13, August-December 1804.]

Extract from journal of U. S. Brig *Argus*, Master Commandant Isaac Hull, U. S. Navy, commanding, Friday, 31 August 1804

at 1 PM observed a White flag hoisted on Shore made Sail and Stood for the town at 2 PM, a Maltase Sparranara Came off took her in tow at ½ past 2 Lieu^t Morris went in the barge with a flag of Truce at 4 Lieu^t Morris returned made sail & stood for the Commodore at 6 hove too Cap^t Hull and Smith went on board of him in our barge at 9 Cap^t Hull returned

[NDA photostat.]

Extract from log book kept by Sailing Master Nathaniel Haraden, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Friday, 31 August 1804

Moderate breezes from N E. At Single Anchor 4 Miles N E b N from Tripoly. Squadron in company, the *Vixen* & *Argus* excepted, who are in shore waiting for a boat which meets her half way —

A Maltese Sparanaro which sailed from Malta some days since from Malta with supplies for our Squadron, had been captured, on her arrival off here, by one of the Tripoline Gun Boats — She was permitted to leave Tripoly this afternoon, & joined the Squadron — We received by her a small quantity of Potatoes & onions.

In the Evening the *Argus* & *Vixen* joined company — They brought dispatches from Tripoly for the Commodore — At ½ past 3 P. M. the French & white flags were hauled down on both sides —

Towards evening we had fresh breezes from N E b E with a swell from E N E.

By 10 in the Evening it became Moderate & continued so throughout the Night —

A. M. Supplied the *Vixen* with 1158 Gall^s of water — In the afternoon of this days log we supplied the *Syren* with 9 Gang casks, which added to the water had in the forenoon & the water from the *Enterprize* completes her to 1900 Gall^s

The carpenters of the Squadron all on board the *Intrepid* fitting her out as an Infernal.

We sent this forenoon 100 shells & 50 grenades to the *Intrepid*. We sent also to the *Enterprize*, *Syren*, *Argus*, *J. Adams*, *Nautilus*, *Vixen* & *Scourge*, four Tripoline prisoners each — The others remain on board the *Constitution* —

Surgeons report 3 sick, 12 conv^{es}

The Potatoes & Onions received by the Sparonaro were divided among the Squadron.

Supplied the *Enterprize* with 4 bbls Pork

Condemned by survey & threw overboard 1200 pound of cheese, rotten, stinking & unfit for men to eat.

The Signals made the 24 hours past are as follows

A. M. 8¼ — *Syren* send your launch on board the *Constitution*
(She was employed watering the *Vixen*)

8½ Answered the *Syrens* Signal N^o 1212 — & repeated her signal for a launch —

10½ *Vixen*. Come within hail.

11 — All boats repair to the *Constitution*

11½ — Prepare for action, the gun boats

[LC. EPP, Log *Constitution*, 1803-1804.]

494 NAVAL OPERATIONS, APRIL-SEPTEMBER 6, 1804

Extract from journal of William Eaton, U. S. Navy Agent for the Barbary Regencies,
Friday, 31 August 1804

E. Wind, veered to the north; and we laid our course for Malta. It is remarkable that since the 21st July, the day we made Pico, a space of forty one days, the wind has been constantly and directly ahead; excepting about 12 hours in entering and leaving Gibraltar, during which time we have beat to windward a distance of four hundred and fifty leagues.

[NR&L. No. 9217, Bm¹ E 14.]

Extract from journal kept by Purser John Darby, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. S. *John Adams*, Master Commandant Isaac Chauncey, U. S. Navy, commanding, Friday, 31 August 1804

At Anchor off [f] the Town of Tripoli. at Meridian the Commodore made the signal to prepare for Battle. We received on board four Tripoleen Prisoners. at $\frac{1}{2}$ past 5 the Commodore made the Signal for the Schooner *Enterprize* to get under way at half past 9 A M. the commodore made the Signal to speak the *Enterprize* — Nothing further Particular ocured this day

[NDA original. Miss Camilla S. McConnell.]

Extract from journal of Midshipman F. Cornelius deKrafft, U. S. Navy, in U. S. Brig *Siren* of 18 guns, Master Commandant Charles Stewart, U. S. Navy, commanding, Friday, 31 August 1804

Lying at Anchor [Tripoli] Throughout these 24 hours gentle breezes & pleas^t sent the launch on board the Comm: the *Vizen* standing off shore with a large boat in tow the *Argus* lying too close under the batteries. At 9 the Commodores cutter came along side with 4 Turkish Prisoners & left them on board. At 10 hoisted out the barge, sent her on board the *Intrepid*, with articles to fit her out as an Infernal she to be sent into the harbour of tripoli & blown up — At $\frac{1}{2}$ past 11 a signal to the gun boats to prepare for battle.

Meridian sent the cutter along side the *Intrepid* — rec^d water from the Commodore

[NDA.]

To George Davis, U. S. Chargé d'Affaires, Tunis, from Tobias Lear, U. S. Consul General, Algiers

ALGIERS Sept^r 1st 1804

SIR, The foregoing under date of Aug^t 22^d was written with an expectation that the Vessel destined for Tunis, w^d have sailed the Day following its date; but she has been detained till this time; and no other conveyance could be found. We have had no arrivals here since the *John Adams*. Every thing of the Eatable kind is very high. no grain coming to market. Wheat @ 2 10/100\$ and Barley @ 75. Cents p^t Measure. Not a word respecting the English since the departure of M^r M^dDonough [Bryan W. M^dDonogh].

I forward a package of Am. News Papers, which may be later than any you have rec^d and have the honor to be with great regard & Esteem

[Stephen Decatur Col. NDA photostat, Book A.]

To George Davis, U. S. Chargé d'Affaires, Tunis, from Nicholas C. Nissen, Danish Consul, Tripoli

TRIPOLI in BARBARY

September 1st 1804.

DEAR SIR, I have to acknowledge the receipt of your favor of 6th ult., in consequence of which I shall make new applications to Sidi Mehenny for the payment of the bill drawn by Sidi Hamida, and endeavour to finish this affair.

The Packet which you had inclosed for Captain Bainbridge, has been delivered to His Excellency the Bashaw's Minister, who, I dont doubt will permit the letters to come to hand.

You are certainly informed Sir, of the operations of the U. S. Squadron off this Port, and news from Europe, we have not; I can therefore only have the honor to assure you Sir, of the consideration and respect wherewith I am,

(Signed) N C NISSEN

NB. I have not yet received any letters to forward in answer to them you sent.

Sympathetic ink — [Written in lime juice.]

D^r SIR, I have sent to our common friend M^r Holck, a Journal of the operations of the Amⁿ Squadron — I dont doubt but he will give you a translation, or the necessary information. — Poor Capt. B. was nearly killed at the cannonade, on the morning of the 28. — a 24 pound passed his head within a few inches while in bed, & covered him with mortar &ct. — In the whole the bombardement & canonade, have not had an effect sufficient to force the Bashaw, who, dont care much about his Town or his Subjects' life.

When you write to Col. Lear, please to inform him that Capt. B. did not receive the letter he sent & which you forwarded the 23^d June, I delivered it but it has been deta^d I mentioned it to you but than I did not know what letter it was.

The Bashaw intends to fire with red hot Shot, if he can, he certainly will blow up his gunners.

The Spanish Vessel came in without seeing the Squadron, it was a Gale the day before.

Commod^o P. is to have offered 120/mil. Dollars, for Peace, Consular Present ect. — The Bashaw has not made any determined demand yet, but I believe he will. They are now parlementing; before I close this letter I shall give you the informations I may be able to get. The parlementing has not been conducive to Peace, but the Bashaw is to have given his ultimate demands, which when I learn, I shall let you know. — they are augmented. — It appears to me, excuse the liberty, that Commod^o P. enters too often in parlementing — the Bashaw takes it as a necessity for peace & grows more obstinate. — After every attack, there has been next day a flag of truce — this is no good Policy towards an Enemy as Tripoli.

[NYHS. Geo. Davis LB, Vol. 1.]

To General William Allen from Midshipman William Henry Allen, U. S. Navy

U. S. FRIGATE the *Congress*

Gibraltar bay Sept 1st 1804

DEAR SIR I seize a moment to Inform you of our having arrived here all well the 13th of August the Commodore and *Constellation*

proceeded immediately to join the Squadron aloft we remaining to take a cruise off the South coast of Morrocco and was off the City of Sallee the 20th 21st and 22nd. ultimo found lying there three Ships of war the *Momona* [*Maimona*] of 32 the *Momona* [*Maimona*] of 39 & the *Maboukir* [*Mirboka*] of 22 guns the last is the Ship that was captured by the *Philadelphia* and given up at Tangeir the present situation of our affairs with Barbary is this (the appearance of the last Squadron has induced the Emperor of Morrocco to relinquish designs of a hostile nature, the decisive conduct of Commodore Preble has compelled the Bey of Tunis to be at Peace & Tripoli remains in the same State as formerly the last accounts from Commodore Preble, he had left Malta in the *Constitution* with the Brigs, Schooners, 2 bombs & 5 Gun boats bound off there we sail in the morning on a cruise I Imagine as far as Malta — Convey from me every sentiment of Respect & Esteem to all Freinds & receive for your Self, Mama, Sarah & Thomas the warmest affectiona[te] love I dare again request you to direct your letters to this Place a brig arrivd yesterday 30 days from Boston

(Postscript) we have heard of the death of *Hamilton* [July 12, 1804.]

[Huntington Library Quarterly.]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from Monsieur Beaussier, French Chargé d'Affaires and Commissary General, Tripoli

TRIPOLY — 1st Septem^r 1804.

COMMODORE, The Captain of the Spanish Vessel will have the Honor to deliver you this letter along with his own papers. You will find that agreeable to M^r Davis's Passport that he was to ask your permission to go to Tripoly; but that on his arrival off this place no American Man of war was in sight: You will likewise observe that on his departure from Tripoly, he is to embark but the same number of persons composing the suite of the Grand Segnior's Tchowish. He has so strictly conformed himself to this, that the Tchowish has even discharged a person in this place belonging to his suite — The Spanish Consul desired me to furnish him with a letter to you on this subject in order that you might not prevent him from proceeding on his Voyage.

I forgot to mention to you yesterday that the Pacha, astonished to find that the Frigate that arrived here the 7th of August, never came into action, is induced to believe that she is armed *en flûte* or that there is some misunderstanding between you & her Captain — I gave proper answers to these conjectures — The Prince firmly believes that in the second attack a gun boat was blown up, and in the other attacks that you have had a great number killed —

I am not astonished at your not answering to the demand preremptorily fixed by the Pacha for the ransom of your three hundred country men. If I could think it would be in your power to approach it in any manner I would say that, the Business might terminate for three hundred thousand dollars — Ah Commodore! if in the answer to my letter of the 10th of August, you had offered one hundred & fifty thousand instead of one hundred thousand, the Prisoners might have been at liberty — The little effect of the third attack & the little injury they received from the fourth has entirely changed the

State of things — The Pacha is determined to encounter all your forces in Order that Europe & Africa may conceive a favorable opinion of his strength & courage.

Perhaps you are afraid Commodore that in case of a rupture with Algiers & Tunis, these Regencies might carry their pretensions for a peace in ratio & proportion progressive with the sum you would have paid to this — But this is only a ransom, & the unfortunate accident which has assembled so great a number of prisoners will never happen again. — Peruse the last instructions you have received & perhaps you will then find means to cease running the Hazards of war, to put an end to your Expences & find hopes for the liberation of the Prisoners —

The Pacha not only permitted the Sparonaro to execute her commission, but permitted her to take in other provisions for you —

[LC. EPP, Vol. 13, August-December 1804.]

Extract from journal of U. S. Brig *Argus*, Master Commandant Isaac Hull, U. S. Navy, commanding, Saturday, 1 September 1804

[Off Tripoli] At 1 PM Cap^t Hull went on board the Commod^o at 3 Four tripolitan Prisoners came on board from the *Constitution*
[NDA photostat.]

Extract from log book kept by Sailing Master Nathaniel Haraden, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Saturday, 1 September 1804

Moderate breezes from E N E. We are at Single Anchor 4 Miles NE b N from Tripoly — Squadron in company.

The carpenters of the Squadron are employed on board the *Intrepid*, which is nearly ready for receiving her Powder —

Between 2 [12?] & 1 P. M. signal was made for the Squadron to weigh & prepare for action.

By 4 P. M. we had fresh breezes with a sharp rough sea which prevents any operation against Tripoly this Afternoon —

The Tripoline Prisoners distributed among the Squadron are Ordered to duty. Their Allowance is one pound of bread & a portion of water each, p^r day —

Towards evening we made several signals in Order to alarm the Enemy on shore — On the close of the Evening furled Sails —

After 12 Midnight the weather was pleasant with moderate breezes from S E & S S W —

At 9 A. M. we Towed Bombard N^o 1 alongside — The Mortar which we took out of her on the 27th August, was this forenoon put into her again — Supplied her with water & provisions — Calms or light breezes from N b W all forenoon. Squadron making arrangements for a fifth attack upon Tripoly —

The *Scourge* is not considered as a vessel of war The Men are all drafted (from her) where necessary in the Squadron — a few excepted. Cap^t Dent continues in command of her — The Officers are all removed except a Masters mate, a Midshipman & the Boatswain.

Noon light airs from N b E with a swell from N E.

Surgeons report 4 sick, 9 convalescent.

The following Signals have been made these 24 hours

498 NAVAL OPERATIONS, APRIL-SEPTEMBER 6, 1804

P. M. 5¼ Weigh the Squadron
5¼ *Enterprize* come within Hail
A. M. 5½ *Argus* — D^o
6 — *Scourge* — D^o
9 — *Vixen* — D^o
Noon 12 — *Argus* tow the Gun boats
[LC. EPP, Log *Constitution*, 1803-1804.]

Extract from journal kept by Purser John Darby, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. S. *John Adams*. Master Commandant Isaac Chauncey, U. S. Navy, commanding, Saturday, 1 September 1804

We are laying at Anchor off Tripoli and the Commodore is now preparing the Ketch *Intrepid* to send her into the Town of Tripoli with one hundred barrels of Powder in her & a number of Bum shels she is to be sent in in the night close under the Walls of the Town and to be blown up. she is what is caled an Infurnal it is supposed she will do great injury to the town and gun boats at Meridian light breezes from E N. E. at ½ past 12 the Commodore made the Signal for the fleet to get under way. at 1 the Commodore hoisted the *Enterprizes* distinguishing flag. at the same time the gun boats cast off from us and were taken in tow by the Brig *Argus*. at ½ past 1 the signal was made for all Captains to repair on board the Commodore at 4 the Commodores Launch came along side for all the Volenteers. at ½ past sent to the Ketch *Intrepid* 20 Barrels of Gun powder at 5 sent all the Volenteers on board the commodore at 6 the commodore & fleet got under way at ½ past 6 the commodore made the signal to follow his motions with or without Signals soon after the commodore Anchored in shore and all the fleet. At 8 the Ketch *Intrepid* got under way and stood down to the commodore

The Wind not proving favorable no attack was made to night —
[NDA original. Miss Camilla S. McConnell.]

Extract from journal of Midshipman F. Cornelius deKrafft, U. S. Navy, in U. S. Brig *Siren* of 18 guns. Master Commandant Charles Stewart, U. S. Navy, commanding, Saturday, 1 September 1804

(Lying at anchor) Fresh breezes & pleas^t At 7 hoisted in the barge. —

Midnight light winds & clear. At 5 the Comm: made signal to speak the *Argus* & *Scourge*. at 9 the signal for the *Enterprize* to come within hail At ½ past 9 the Commodore came on board. at 10 he return'd to his ship sent the launch on board the *Intrepid*.

Meridian a signal from the Comm: prepare to weigh —

[NDA.]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from Assistant Surgeon John W. Dorsey, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Brig *Argus*

SEPT^r 2nd 1804

SIR, I have been informed by Capt^r Hull this day, that you intend sending me to Syracuse, with the sick of the Squadron. As I have not enjoyed good health since at sea, the situation will be very pleasing to me:

You will be pleased to accept my gratitude for your favor, & remain with respect & esteem

[LC. EPP, Vol. 13, August-December 1804.]

write her to you a
name, ^{that} I could be
near the
foremast & continue
in a position.



THE KETCH "INTREPID."

From a sketch in a letter from Midshipman William Henry Allen, to General William Allen, 14 November 1804. Reproduced by courtesy of the Henry E. Huntington Library and Art Gallery.

To Assistant Surgeon (or Surgeon's Mate) John W. Dorsey, U. S. Navy, on board
U. S. Brig *Argus*, from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

Off TRIPOLY — *Septem^r 2^d 1804*

SIR You will join the Brig *Scourge* under command of L^t Comm^r
Dent, and attend to the Sick & hurt on board said Brig

[LC. EPP, Order Book, May 1803–June 1805.]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from Lieutenant James Sempill
Higinbotham, U. S. Navy

FRIGATE *John Adams* Off TRIPOLI

September 2^d 1804

SIR Having Information of our going shortly home I must request,
you will be good enough to permit me to join your Ship, or order me
on board one of the Squadron that will be stationed in these Seas, as
it has been my greatest Ambition from the earliest part of my Life
to continue in the Service; and an Opportunity now Offering by which
I may make myself acquainted with my Profession I shou'd think
myself unpardonable was I in this Instance to let this Opportunity
escape me. I must therefore beg as a favor you will grant my request,
and you may rest assured I shall endeavour by my assiduity and
Attention to my Duty to merit your Approbation — by complying
you will very much oblige your —

This Letter has been approved by Capt. Chauncey

[LC. EPP, Vol. 13, August–December 1804.]

Extract from journal of U. S. Frigate *Congress*, Captain John Rodgers, U. S. Navy,
commanding, Sunday, 2 September 1804

At 4 [A. M.] unmoord ship

At 9 weigh,d & stood out of the bay [of Gibraltar]

[USNA.]

Extract from log book kept by Sailing Master Nathaniel Haraden, U. S. Navy, on
board U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Sunday, 2 September 1804

Moderate breezes from N. E. We are at single anchor 5 Miles
from Tripoly. This afternoon the *Infernal* received her powder,
which with what she has received from the different vessels of the
Squadron, makes nearly 100 barrels or 5 Tons — At 4 P. M. out all
boats & armed them — Weighed & stood in for Tripoly Squadron in
company — At Sunset we came to in 19 [or 9?] fath^s 2½ Miles NE
from Tripoly, & 2 miles from Fort English — After dark the *In-*
fernal weighed and anchored in company with the *Constitution* —
The Squadron continued under way — On the close of the evening
the Enemy's Gun boats & Galleys hauled in under the *Bashaw's*
Castle — At 10½ P. M. Lieut^t Wadsworth, & M^r Israel midshipman,
six seamen from the *Constitution* & four from the *Nautilus* went on
board the *Intrepid* which is now completed as an *Infernal* — Cap^t
Somers also went on board to take command of her — Thirteen of
the Enemy's Boats, two Galleys, a Schooner & Brig ride every night
between the half moon Battery & the *Bashaw's* Castle, close along
side of each other with their heads out; At 11 P. M. Slipped &
steered in for the mole bearing S S W, 2½ Miles — The wind at this

time was E S E, which is two points off the land — The infernal is designed for the destruction of the Boats, Galleys, Bashaw's castle & mole head Battery — As she drew in shore & within musket shot of the place intended she was taken dead aback by the wind out of the Harbour and at 2 A. M. she rejoined the Squadron — From this time till 8 A. M. moderate Breezes between S E & E S E — Between day light & Sun rise the Enemy's boats hauled out & took their stations within the reef and under cover of Grape from the Batteries — At 8 A. M. a Spanish Polacre ship came out of Tripoly, & brought to, under our stem [or stern]. We sent an Officer on board her with Orders to anchor her — This ship had got into Tripoly during the North wind between the 19th & 22^d August last — She is without any cargo from Tripoly bound to Malta, and has a passenger on board who is reported to the Commodore by the French to be an Officer of high rank & a subject of the Grand Seigneur — From day light till 9 A. M. our Squadron was under all plain sail particu-

larly the Vessels to leeward, in order to come within hail: Light breezes & a lee current prevent them — The Spanish ship from Tripoly (after a full examination) was allowed to proceed on her Voyage — Pleasant weather all forenoon with light breezes veering between E S E & E b N — The Enemy this forenoon, display 12 boats, 1 Schooner, 2 Galleys & a brig — We are now making the necessary arrangements for attacking the Boats & Batteries — Noon moderate breezes from E b N. The Vessels intended for the attack are all under way, One mile to N b E —

The following Signals were made these 24 hours — Viz^t P. M. — 12½ Squadron, prepare to weigh — 12¼ *Enterprize* tack & haul your wind to the South^e — 1¼ All Captains repair on board the Commodore — 4¼ — Weigh the Squadron — 6 — Follow the Commodores motions — A. M. At 9 Tack, the Squadron & haul your wind to S. — Same time, *Enterprize* come within hail — At 8 *Nautilus* & *Vixen* wear; At 11½ Gun boats & Bombards prepare for Battle — At 11¼ Squadron make more sail —

[LC. EPP, Log *Constitution*, 1803-1804.]

Extract from journal of U. S. Brig *Argus*, Master Commandant Isaac Hull, U. S. Navy, commanding, Sunday, 2 September 1804

This day begins with mod^e and Pleasant W^t standing off and on the town Set and took in sail when Necessary Tk^d and wore Occas^y the Commod^e made Sig^l N^o 571 [or 371?] At 7 PM came to an Anchor in 20 f^{ms} water Soft bottom Tripoli bearing SbW dist^t about 5 miles —

At midnight got under way at 7 AM the Commodore made Sig^l N^o 1134 At 8 Tripoli bore SWbS dist^t 3 miles saw a Spanish barque Standing out from the town and came too under the Commod^{es} stern At meridian the Commod^e made Gunboats Sig^l N^o 69 and N^o 1036 to the Squadron to make more Sail Ends fair Pleasant Weather

[NDA photostat.]

Extract from journal kept by Purser John Darby, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. S. *John Adams*. Master Commandant Isaac Chauncey, U. S. Navy, commanding, Sunday, 2 September 1804

At day light this morning we discovered the whole fleet under way except the Commodore. at $\frac{1}{2}$ past the Commodore made the signal to Tack. the fleet and haul by the Wind at 8. we discovered a Polacca ship coming out of the Harbour of Tripoli under Spanish colours the Commodore sent his boat on board of her she Anchored immediately. at $\frac{1}{2}$ past 11 the commodore made the signal for gun boats to prepair for Battle at 2 P M the commodore got under way and also the Polacca ship. We are informed that the Polacca ship is a spanish botom from Constantinople bound to Tunis with an Embassador on board from the Grand Senior — & put into Tripoli with Dispatches. she went in in the night. when our squadron was out sight of land and having in the last attack which we made on the Town Receivd a Ball through her and seeing our motions she was afraid to remain there any longer and came out under nutral colours the commodore after examining of her suffered her to pass. — at half past 3 our Squadron engaged the Tripolitans. their gun boats came out and stood along shore close in under their Forts. our boats receid no injury and it is supposed we did the enemy but little damage as they as they were a very considerable distance from each other our squadron being afraid to Ventu[re] too near in on account of the Rocks. at 4. Oclock the commodore stood in for the Batteries and fired several board sides. and receid some damage in her sails and rigging and then stood out. At 5 the whole fleet stood off at Midnight the commodore anchored —

[NDA original. Miss Camilla S. McConnell.]

Extract from journal of Midshipman F. Cornelius deKrafft, U. S. Navy, in U. S. Brig *Siren* of 18 guns, Master Commandant Charles Stewart, U. S. Navy, commanding, Sunday, 2 September 1804

(Lying off[f] & on the town) Fresh breezes & pleasant At 5 hove up p^r signal & made sail $\frac{1}{2}$ past 6 came too with the larboard bower & furl'd all sail Tripoli bearing S. W $\frac{1}{2}$ W. 1 league distant At 11 the Ketch *Intrepid* stood in for the Town.

Midnight clear & pleasant. $\frac{1}{2}$ past Mid hove up made sail stood to the N E. $\frac{1}{2}$ past 6 a signal for the fleet to tack. At $\frac{1}{2}$ past 7 saw a ship standing out of the harbour of Tripoli wore to the N E. At 8 the above ship came too, the Comm: sent his boat on board of her. —

Meridian a signal to make sail

Latt Obs 33° 5' N.

[NDA.]

502 NAVAL OPERATIONS, APRIL-SEPTEMBER 6, 1804

[2 and 3 September 1804]

Expenditure of Ammunition

Sept^r 2nd 1804 fired Away at tripoli

108 — 24 Pr ^s — Powder	864 ^{lb}	} totle 1324 ^{lbs} of Powder
28 — 25 “ —————	224 “	
50 — 12 —————	236	
Round Shot {	24 Pr ^s ——— 111	
	25 D ^o ——— 28	
	12 D ^o ——— 59	
Grape Shot {	24 Pr ^s ——— 20	
	25 D ^o ——— 1	
Double hh ^d Shot {	24 ——— 11	
	25 ——— 3	

W^m SWEENEY

Expended 2nd Sep^r 1804 on board GUN BOAT N^o 1 —

- 53 — Round shot
- 456 ^{lb} Cannon powder
- 4 ^{lb} priming powder
- 60 — Tubes
- 2½ ^{lb} match rope
- remaining on Board N^o 1
- 13 — Cattridges of 24 pounder
- 20 — round shot. —

Wanted —

- 50 — 24 p^d Cartridges 8 ^{lb} Each
- 50 — 24 p^d Round Shot

Expenditure of Amunition on board of GUN BOAT N^o 2 in Action.
2nd Sept^r 1804

- 16 — Eight Pound Cartrages
- 26 — Seven Pound Cartrages
- 42 — Twenty-four Pound round Shot
- 1 — Bunch of Grape
- 36 — Tubes —

CHA^s GORDON

RICH^d SOMERS Esq^r

Master & Commander
U. S. Schooner *Nautilus*

Expended on board GUN BOAT N^o 3 Sept^r 2nd 1804.

- 22 — Cartridges of 8 ^{lb} Each.
- 22 — 24 ^{lb} Shot.
- 22 — Wads
- 22 — Tubes.
- One Fatho^m Match rope.
- One Sweep.
- One pound of priming powder.

CHARLES MORRIS J^r

Remaining on board N^o 3 Sept^r 3^d 1804.

- 19 — Cartridges of 8 ^{lb} Each
- 41 — Do. “ 7 ^{lb} Each.
- 65 — Round 24 ^{lb} Shot
- 20 — Grape Do.

CHARLES MORRIS, J^r

Expenditures on board GUN BOAT N^o 6 on the 2nd of Sept^r 1804

Sixty — 24 p^d Cartridges
 Sixty — Wads
 Sixty — 24 p^d Round Shot
 Two — pound priming Powder
 One — fathom Match Rope

JN^o TRIPPE

Expenditures on board GUN BOAT N^o 8 on the 2nd Sept^r 1804,

Thirty Two — 24 p^d Cartridges
 Thirty Two — 24 p^d Round Shot
 Thirty Two — Wads
 Two fathoms Match Rope
 Fifteen Tubes
 One & $\frac{1}{2}$ pounds priming Powder

W^m CRANE

Indent of Articles wanted for the use of the GUN BOAT N^o 8 Off Tripoli Sept^r 2nd 1804.

Thirty — 24 p^d Cartridges
 Thirty — 24 p^d Shot.

WILLIAM CRANE

[LC. EPP, Vol. 13, August–December 1804.]

Extract from Memorandum Book of Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, 3 September 1804

A general attack on the town and harbour [of Tripoli].

[LC original.]

Extract from log book kept by Sailing Master Nathaniel Haraden, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Monday, 3 September 1804

Moderate Breezes from E b N. At Single Anchor 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ Miles N N E from Tripoly. Squadron in company under way — Employed making some necessary preparations for attacking the Enemy's batteries & Gunboats — Fort English is situated nearly two miles to the Eastward of the Town — Ships of a heavy draft cannot approach it on account of a reef & bank nearly 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ Mile in the Offing — Within this reef and under cover of grape from this Fort, twelve of the Enemy's boats and two three masted gallies are at anchor. — Cap^t Chauncey, Several of his Officers and 54 Seamen are as usual volunteers in this attack — Cap^t Chauncey remains on board the *Constitution* as assistant to the Commodore — Bombard N^o 1 has been recommissioned and is again commanded by L^t Robinson who gives up N^o 2 to Cap^t Dent — At 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ P. M. Signal was made for the Bombards & Gun boats to cast off & soon after the signal for them to advance — They were at this time in close order two miles from Fort English & the Enemy's boats & Galleys — Fort English is situated very low — It has 11 heavy guns and is flanked by a seven & a three gun Battery — At 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ P. M. our Boats commenced firing on the Galleys & Gun boats — By this time the two Bombards had hove two or three shells each, in order to get their distance from the Town. We were now under way running down for Tripoly — Our Gun boats were followed by the *Syren*, *Argus*, *Vixen*, *Enterprise* & *Nautilus* as far as Safety would allow them to stand in on the Banks — In

Standing in, our boats received the fire of Fort English & the flanking batteries — As soon as our boats arrived within point blank shot, the Enemy's boats Gave way & took a new station close under the Beach under cover of the Fort — They were under cover of the Bashaw's castle & the mole head Battery At 3½ P. M. the two Bombards anchored — They were then within short range for Bombarding the Town — Bombard N^o 2 hove 19 shells, 15 of which fell into the Town — Bombard N^o 1 hove 22 shells, 18 of which fell into the Town The Bombards from their situation were exposed to the Random shot from Fort English & the flanking Batteries, Bashaws castle, Mole head, half moon, Square & round Batteries; We continued running in for the Town. And at 3¼ P. M. were exposed to the fire of more than 80 Guns, the spray of the shot from which wet our courses nearly to the lower yards; At 3½ P. M. we brought to within point blank shot of all the Batteries, and gave them 11 Broad-sides of round & Doublehead from our larboard Guns — We were 40 minutes in firing the 11 broadsides after which we hauled off in order to make a board to windward & repair our damage — Our main topsail was totally disabled, being cut by a shell by the Enemies Batteries, nearly from Leech to Leech, Two Topmast Backstays, Main Buntlines, Main Sheet fore Tack, fore top Bowline, head Earing of the foresail, Main top bowline & main reef Pendant were cut away — A shell went through the Fore topsail & a double head shot went through the Jib — We were not struck in the Hull The Batteries fire in a good direction, but without judgement in elevating or depressing the Guns — Our Gun boats were in action nearly an hour — They received no damage excepting shot through their sails — They did not engage within range of Grape & fired on an average 40 Rounds — Several of the Enemy's Gun boats were hulled. Bombard N^o 1, commanded by L^t Robinson was before hauling off much disabled; Her larboard rigging to a shroud carried away The Bed of the Bomb disabled by her own firing & two feet of water in the hold — The same Officers command the gun boats as on Teusday last; excepting N^{os} 5 & 6 — Lieut^t Tripp is appointed to N^o 6 in the room of L^t Wadsworth, who now is on board the Infernal N^o 3 is commanded by M^r Morris of the *Argus* in room of M^r Brooks who is removed to the *Argus* — From the time we hauled off which was at 10 minutes after 4 P. M. we were employed with the Squadron in taking in tow the Gun Boats & Bombards — After repairing the main topsail we made sail in order to work to Wind ward — At 11½ P. M. we came to in 40 fath^s hard bottom — Veered to 100 fath^s Squadron continue under way during the night — At day light Tripoly bore S S W — 3 leagues. At Sun rise, Signal was made for the Gun boats to prepare for Action. The carpenters of the *Constitution* were ordered at day light on board Bombard N^o 1 to repair the damages she received yesterday. Pleasant weather & light breezes from E. all forenoon — The Squadron Employed repairing damages & supplying the Gun boats with Powder & shot — Bombard N^o 2 was damaged in her sails & rigging in several places. Cap^{tn} Decatur & Somers as usual led into the Action & were closely followed by their respective divisions — The *Syren* — *Argus*, *Vixen*, *Enterprize* & *Nautilus* are considered as Vessels rather of show than force — They all Officer & mann Gun boats, and of course are not to be trusted under the Batteries, except to assist disabled boats —

The *J. Adams*, *Scourge* & the *Infernal* remain in the Offing at Anchor — The Ketch *Store Vessell* from Malta is still in the Squadron — Noon light breezes from N E. Squadron in company under way. —

The following signals have been made these 24 hours.

P. M. At 2 — Prepare to cast off Gun & Bomb Vessels

2½ — Cast off the Boats.

2½ — Advance & attack, the 1st division & soon after the same signal to the 2^d division

4½ — General Signal — Tow the Boats

8½ — Night Signal — Tack the Squadron —

A. M. At 6 — Prepare for action — Gun & Bomb Vessels —

[LC. EPP, Log *Constitution*, 1803–1804.]

Extract from journal of U. S. Brig *Argus*, Master Commandant Isaac Hull, U. S. Navy, commanding, Monday, 3 September 1804

the Commodore at Anchor off the town at ½ past 12 the Commodore made Sig^l N^o 583 at ½ past 1 he made Sig^l N^o 356 with the Preparative flag TK^q Occas^y at 2 the *Bashaws Castle* bore SW ½ W at ½ past the Commodore made Sig^l N^o 356 cast off the Gunboats who stood in and Engaged the Enemys Gunboats and a General Engagem^t took place at 5 PM the Gunboats were drawn off at ½ past took N^o 5 & 7 in tow At 6 stood off the land the town bore SSW dist^t 4 Miles — At 6 AM the Commodore made Sig^l N^o 69 at 7 Cap^t Decatur Came on board and returned Immediately

[NDA photostat.]

Extract from journal of Midshipman F. Cornelius deKraft, U. S. Navy, in U. S. Brig *Siren* of 18 guns, Master Commandant Charles Stewart, U. S. Navy, commanding, Monday, 3 September 1804

(Standing off & on shore under easy sail.)

Light breezes & pleasant ½ past Mer: a signal to gain the wind of the enemy. At 1 a signal to prepare to cast off the boats. At ½ past 2 cast off the boats. At 3 a signal for the 1st division to attack the enemies batteries & boats. ½ past 3 Our boats commenced a heavy fire on the enemies boats &c. the *Siren* & Schooners standing off [f] & on shore firing at the enemy. ½ past 5 discontinued the action took our boats in tow & stood off shore. —

Midnight light winds & clear. At 3 shorten'd sail. At 6 back'd the main top sail. At 9 the wind haul'd to the N E —

Meridian light winds & pleas^t —

[NDA.]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from Midshipman Henry Wadsworth, U. S. Navy

M^t Wadsworth informs the Commodore that he wishes to Volunteer his service on board the *Infernal* destined for the Harbour off Tripoly—
(Signed) H WADSWORTH

Comm^{re} PREBLE.

[LC. EPP, Order Book, May 1803–June 1805.]

Extract from journal kept by Purser John Darby, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. S. *John Adams*, Master Commandant Isaac Chauncey, U. S. Navy, commanding, Monday, 3 September 1804

This morning Capt Chauncey came on board and most of our Volenteers came on board — at Meridian light breezes from N E. at $\frac{1}{2}$ past 12 the commodore got under way and stood in shore at the same time, the commodore made the signal for all Captains to repair on board at $\frac{1}{2}$ past 1 the commodore Anchored again at 8 the Ketch *Intrepid* got under way and was sent into Tripoli as a fire ship. Commanded by Capt. Summers, — he had. Our Green Cutter to make their escape from her. at $\frac{3}{4}$ past 9 she blew up in which unfortunately perished Capt. Summers. M^r Wadsworth. M^r Israel, Midshipmen, & 10 Men it is supposed that she took fire in the Magazine sooner than was intended or that they were attempted to be boarded by the Tripolitans and blew her up sooner than suffer her & themselves to fall into the hands of the Tripoleens. as she had 100 bls powder on board and we are informed that they are nearly out of Powder — the loss of those brave Officers and men are much to be regreted by their country & friends Capt Summers was as brave & enterprising an Officer as ever stepped the Deck of a ship possessing every Virtue that the human hart is susceptable of. M^r Wadsworth & M^r Israel. I am told were very promising young men (midshipmen) who was hel'd high in the opinion of the commodore & bid fare to be an honor to their country in the line of their profession. the 10 men it is said was of Capt Decators brave Crew which boarded and burnt the Frigate *Philadelphia* — soon after the explosian the commodore fired several signal guns & threw up several Sky Rockets. no answer being returned we immediately concluded that they had all perished in the explosian as they were immediately after it, to have sent up several Sky Rockets, as signals of their escape —

[NDA original. Miss Camilla S. McConnell.]

Extract from log book kept by Sailing Master Nathaniel Haraden, U. S. Navy. on board U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Tuesday, 4 September 1804

Moderate Breezes from N E b E — We are at Single Anchor 3 Leagues N N E from Tripoly At $\frac{1}{2}$ past 12, Noon we weighed & ran 3 Miles in shore when we came to in 32 fath^s hard bottom — Tripoly S S W, nearly 6 Miles. Employed all the afternoon making some necessary arrangements in the Squadron — Towards Evening we supplied the *Vixen* with 12 Barrells Pork, 8 bbls Beef, One Tierce Rice, One tierce Peas containing 8 Bushels, 2 barrels flour & 50 Gall^s Vinegar — At 7 in the Evening we sent to the *Intrepid* part of a condemned fore Jeer & 27 fath^s of 6 Inch hawser We also sent a large Grapnel to her: At 8 In the Evening she slipped leaving our large cutter to weigh her anchor: She has nearly 100 Barrells Powder 100 of 13 Inch shells, & 50 of 9 Inch shells, with the necessary combustibles for an Infernal — At 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ P. M. she passed the *Constitution* with a leading breeze from the E b N. The Harbour of Tripoly for which she was designed bore S S W, nearly six Miles — She was convoyed in by the *Argus*, *Vixen* & *Nautilus* — The *Nautilus* followed her into 5 fath^s water — On the Infernal entering the Inner Harbour, two alarm Guns were fired from the Batterys, & in a few minutes after she blew up — Lieut^t Reid of the *Nautilus* was waiting close

in by the outer Rocks for the Return of the Adventurers — Night signals by Rockets had been agreed upon between the Commodore and Cap^t Somers — They not being made, soon induced the belief of their capture or destruction — The *Infernal* had two Boats chosen from the Squadron for their swiftness — The *Nautilus* waited sufficient time for their return, receiving at the same time several hazardous shot from the Batteries — At 10 in the Evening, which was 13 minutes after her blowing up we commenced firing Guns & burning rockets, which we repeated every 10 minutes till 9 A. M. when the *Nautilus* came within hail & confirmed the capture or destruction of the following Officers & Seamen — Viz Cap^t Rich^d Somers of the *Nautilus*, Lieut^t Henry Wadsworth, Joseph Israel, Lieutenant, William Harrison, Seaman, Rob^t Clark d^o Hugh M^cCormick d^o Jacob Williams d^o Peter Penner d^o & Isaac W Downs d^o, all belonging to the *Constitution* — There were also in the *Infernal* four Seamen from the *Nautilus* Viz^t — Ja^s Simms Thomas Tompline, Ja^s Harris & W^m Keith —

Moderate breezes & clear star light during the night — In the morning the *Vixen* & *Nautilus* stood in with Tripoly as Vessels of observation — Towards noon they returned and reported to the Commodore that they could not see that any material damage had been done, and that they saw at anchor, the usual number of the Enemy's Gun boats, excepting 3 Boats hauld up to repair, and one totally missing, & Gallies. Lieut^t Reid, the reconnoitre[ing] Officer in the *Nautilus* reported, that he saw the *infernal* two or three minutes before she blew up & that she then appeared to be in the very place intended, between the mole head & the Bashaws Castle — The *Nautilus* was at this time nearly $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile from the explosion — The 100 Shells were filled with powder with fuses of 15 Seconds — Many of them were seen to burst in the air nearly 300 feet up —

At 8 A. M. we brought alongside the two remaining Gun boats that were captured on the 3^d August last — In bad weather they are not equal to our other Gunboats They each carry a long brass 24 p^{dr} These we took out —

All forenoon cloudy overcast weather with moderate breezes from N E & a swell from E N E This forenoon the Captains of the Squadron waited on the Commodore — Noon Squadron in company under way except the *Constitution*, *J. Adams* & *Scourge* Surgeons report 4 sick & 7 conv^{er}^{se} —

The following signals have been made these 24 hours Viz^t

P. M. 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ *J. Adams* Signal for a Captain

A. M. 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ Come within hail, the *Nautilus*

7 $\frac{1}{2}$ *Nautilus* Join company soon as possible

9 Repeated d^o

11 *Argus* & *Vixen* — come within hail

[LC. EPP, Log *Constitution*, 1803–1804.]

[4 September 1804]

Blowing up of U. S. Ketch *Intrepid* described by Midshipman Charles G. Ridgely
U. S. Navy

In the year 1804, when Preble, as Commodore of the American squadron in the Mediterranean, was gaining glory, before Tripoli, alike for himself, his officers and crews, and for his country, Lieut.

Commdt. Richard Somers had command, under him, of the *Nautilus*, a schooner of 14 guns.

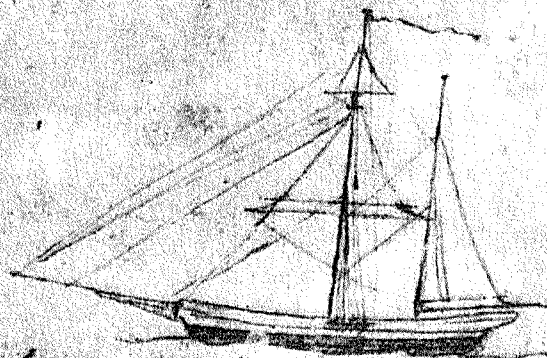
During the several fights which had previously occurred with the enemy, this officer had shown great bravery as commander of gun-boat No. 1; and, now, suggested to the Commodore, that a happy result might, possibly, be obtained, by converting the ketch, *Intrepid*, a captured craft of about 75 tons — the identical vessel with which the gallant Decatur had boarded, recaptured, and burned the frigate *Philadelphia* — into a fire-ship, and sending her into the harbor under the walls of the Bashaw's castle, in direct contact with the entire marine force of the Tripolitans.

This daring and highly dangerous enterprise being determined upon, Somers, with whom it had originated, received the orders — to which he was thus entitled — to conduct it; and the necessary preparations were promptly made by him. Fifteen thousand pounds of powder were first placed, loosely, in the hold of the ketch, and upon this, two hundred and fifty thirteen-inch, fuseed shells, with a train attached from the *cabin and forepeak*. Only one officer, the talented and lamented Lieut. Henry Wadsworth — brother of the present Com. Wadsworth — was to accompany him, and four volunteer seamen were to compose his crew.

All things were now in readiness, except the selection of the men — for it came to this, at last, every man on board the *Nautilus* having volunteered for the service. This done, it was determined, without delay, to attempt the enterprise — to succeed in it, or perish.

Two nights successively did the *Intrepid* move; but, owing to light and baffling winds, nothing could be accomplished. These failures, and an unusual movement in the harbor after dark on the third night, led Somers to believe that the suspicions of the enemy had been excited, and that they were on the look out. It was the general impression, that their powder was nearly exhausted; and as so large a quantity, as was on board the ketch, if captured, would greatly tend to protract the contest, before setting off, he addressed his crew upon the subject, telling them "that no man need accompany him, who had not come to the resolution to blow himself up, rather than be captured; and that such was fully his own determination!" Three cheers was the only reply. The gallant crew rose, as a single man, with the resolution of yielding up their lives, sooner than surrender to their enemies: while each stepped forth, and begged as a *favor*, that he might be permitted to *apply the match!* It was a glorious moment, and made an impression on the hearts of all witnessing it, never to be forgotten.

All then took leave of every officer, and of every man, in the most cheerful manner, with a shake of the hand, as if they already knew that their fate was doomed; and one and another, as they passed over the side to take their post on board the ketch, might be heard, in their own peculiar manner, to cry out, "I say, Sam Jones, I leave you my blue jacket and duck trowsers, stowed away in my bag;" and, "Bill Curtis, you may have the tarpaulin hat, and Geurnsey frock, and them petticoat trowsers, I got in Malta, — and mind, boys, when you get home, give a good account of us!" In like manner did each thus make his oral will, to which the writer was witness, and which "*last will and testament*" he caused to be executed to the very letter.



The Ketch Intrepid taken by the Constitution off Tripoli in Dec 1803.
was the vessel with which Capt Decatur burnt the Philadelphia
in Feby 1804. She served as a store vessel off Tripoli and
was at last turned into an Infernal in order to blow up
part of the Bashaw's castle. In this unfortunate attempt
she was blown up & all her crew perished. Capt Sommers,
Lieut. Wadsworth & Israel & 10 or 12 men. 4th Sept 1804.

U. S. KETCH INTREPID.

"The Ketch Intrepid taken by the Constitution off Tripoli in Dec 1803- was the vessel with which Capt Decatur burnt the Philadelphia in Feby 1804. She served as a store vessel off Tripoli and was at last turned into an Infernal in order to blow up part of the Bashaw's castle. In this unfortunate attempt she was blown up & all of her crew perished. Capt Sommers, Lieut Wadsworth & Israel & 10 or 12 men. 4th Sept 1804."

It was about nine o'clock on the night of the 4th of Sept., 1804, that this third and last attempt was made. The *Nautilus* had been ordered to follow the *Intrepid* closely in, to pick up and bring out her boat's crew, in case they should succeed in the exploit. Hence, though it was very dark, we never lost sight of her, as I had been directed, by the first Lieutenant — the late gallant Washington Reed — who commanded in the absence of Somers, to keep constant watch of her for this purpose, with a night glass.

At the end of an hour, about 10 o'clock, P. M., while I was engaged in this duty, the awful explosion took place. For a moment, the flash illumined the whole heavens around, while the terrific concussion shook every thing far and near. Then all was hushed again, and every object veiled in a darkness of double gloom. On board the *Nautilus*, the silence of death seemed to pervade the entire crew; but, quickly the din of kettle-drums, beating to arms, with the noise of confusion, and alarm, was heard from the inhabitants on shore. To aid in the escape of the boat, an order was now given by Reed, to "show a light" — upon the appearance of which, hundreds of shot, from an equal number of guns, of heavy calibre, from the batteries near, came rattling over and around us. But we heeded them not: one thought, and one feeling, alone, had possession of our souls — the preservation of Somers and his crew!

As moment after moment passed by, without bringing with it the preconceived signal from the boat, the anxiety on board became intense; and the men, with lighted lanterns, hung themselves over the sides of the vessel, till their heads almost touched the water — a position, in which an object, on its surface, can be seen farthest in a dark night — with the hope of discovering something which would give assurance of its safety. Still, no boat came, and no signal was given; and the unwelcome conclusion at last was forced upon us, that the fearful alternative — of blowing themselves up, rather than be captured — so bravely determined upon, at the outset of the enterprise, had been as bravely put in execution. The fact, that the *Intrepid*, at the time of the explosion, had not proceeded as far into the harbor, by several hundred yards, as it was the intention of Somers to carry her, before setting her on fire, confirmed us in this apprehension; still, we lingered on the spot till broad day-light — though we lingered in vain — in the hope that some one, at least, of the number, might yet be rescued, by us, from a floating plank or spar, to tell the tale of his companions' fate.

To our astonishment, we learned next day, that Lieut. Israel, a gallant youth, who had been sent with orders from Commodore Preble to Somers, after he was under way in the ketch, had accompanied him in the expedition, and had shared his destiny.

Such was the end of the noble fellows, who, a few days only before, on board their own gun-boat, No. 1, had beaten six of the enemy's fleet, of equal force with themselves, immediately under the guns, and within pistol shot of a shore battery: an achievement, accomplished only, in their peculiar position, by backing astern, and keeping up an incessant fire of canvass bags, filled with 1,000 musket balls each, till our gallant commodore, in the *Constitution*, stood in to take the fire of the battery, and thus enable us, under his cover, to obey the order, "to come out of action" — a signal which had already been

flying more than an hour, and which Somers, *at first, would not, and at last, (from the fierceness of the fight,) could not see.* R.

[Naval Magazine, Vol. 1, pp. 172-175.]

[4 September 1804]

Abstract of a journal kept by Midshipman Charles Morris, Jr., U. S. Navy, on board the U. S. Frigate *Constitution* and other ships of war

Joined the U S F *Constitution* — Edward Preble Esq: Commander, June 20th 1803 at Boston —

Soon after joining the ship she was hove down and coppered complete — Her equipments were made with all possible dispatch, and every exertion made to procure a crew. which however were not completed until near the middle of August —

On the 14th of August we sailed from Boston having Mr Lear, Consul General for the Barbary powers together with his lady on board.

After a passage of 23 days we made Cape St Vincent having been favored with remarkably pleasant weather and moderate winds from the Westward —

The Ship sailed remarkably well although very deep with stores of every description proper for a cruise in the mediterranean Sea —

Off Cape St Vincent's we fell in with a Moorish cruiser, but as she had all the requisite passports from our consul and as were ignorant of any difference existing with the government of Morocco she was suffered to pass — From Cape St Vincent's to Cape Spartel we had a rough passage of 6 days — On our arrival at Tangiers and making the customary signal for the Consul we were surprised to find it altogether disregarded — Suspecting a difference had taken place we hore away for Gibraltar where we arrived in the evening and learned that our Consul at Tangier had been confined, and orders issued by the Emperor to his cruisers authorising the capture of all American Vessels — We found the *Philadelphia* Capt. Bainbridge in the Bay of Gibraltar together with her prize a Moorish ship of 20 Guns, and an American Brig recaptured from the Moors — The next day the Frigate *John Adams* arrived from the Eastward with a prize of 20 Guns taken from the Tripolitans — The Frigate *New York* Comd^r Morris, and the Schooner's *Nautilus* and *Vixen* anchored in the Bay during the day —

Sept 17th Weighed and stood into Tangier Bay — The Commodore had an interview with our Consul Mr Simpson, but nothing was decided upon — Returned the next day to Gibraltar — The Ship's draught of Water was —

21. Feet. 6 inches forward

23. feet 3 inches Aft

Sept 25. Stood into Tangier Bay with a flag of Truce flying — had interview with the Consul, then bore up and cruised between Larache & Arzillai until the 30th when we bore up and came to an Anchor in Gibraltar Bay — Oct^r 5th came too in Tangier Bay, lay at Quarters during the night, had intercourse with the Shore and learnt that the Emperor of Morocco was expected at Tangier —

Oct^r 6 the Emperor came in sight of the City with an escort of 15,000 men — The Troops continued firing Salutes from their first appearance until they reached their encampment on the Hills near the City — The American flag was hoisted on the Consular house immediately after — and the ship saluted with 18 Guns — The salute was returned and the ship dressed — The *New York* and *John Adams* came too soon after and Mr Simpson our Consul came on board — Oct^r 8th The Emperor came upon the beach attended by his court to view the ship — We saluted him with 21 Guns, which was returned, and a present from the Emperor of 10 Bullocks, 20 Sheep and some fowls soon after sent on board to the Commodore —

We remained in the Bay until the 15th during which time a peace was concluded on the same terms as specified in the former treaty with that power — We saluted the Town on leaving the bay and bore away for Gibraltar where we came to an Anchor the same day — Here we remained until the 23rd during which time several instances occurred of desertion from our ships to those of his Britannic Majesty — which singular conduct can only be accounted for — by their unconquerable desire of Change, which they will frequently gratify though they may know, at the time that their change must be for the worse — A serious misunderstanding took place between the Commodore and the English officers in consequence of the desire which they evinced to encourage our men in a continuance of such conduct —

From Gibraltar we sailed for Cadiz where we arrived the next day and were quarantined for three days — Employed watering and overhauling the rigging during our stay in this place — The ship carries

93 Leaguers	—	29760 Gallons.
90 half leaguers	—	10800 D ^o
84 Gang casks	—	4620 D ^o

Making a Total of 45,180 Gallons —

Novr 6th Sailed from Cadiz in Company with the *Enterprise* going out of the harbour passed his most Catholic Majesty's Ship *Bon Aventura*. 74 Guns — Admiral Locoas de Payto — passed through the straits to Gibraltar then hauled our wind to the other side of the Bay and Anchored off Algeiras in 21 fathoms. The Town bearing W. S W. 2 Miles —

Novr 13 Weighed and stood to the Eastward. the Ships draught of water was

21. feet. 6 inches forward
23 feet 4 inches abaft

Standing to the Eastward without any material occurrence until Novr 20th when we came to Anchor in Algeirs Bay The City bearing W N W, Cape Caxine N $\frac{1}{2}$ W. Cape Malifora E $\frac{1}{2}$ North. — The City saluted with 21 Guns which was returned

Col^o Lear and family left the Ship — on the 21st at night the wind freshened to a gale from the Northward. We got under way with considerable difficulty and worked out of the bay — which is very dangerous with, northerly winds. — Stood in toward the Town on the 22nd and received on board a present from the Dey consisting of Bullocks, Sheep Vegetables and Fruit — Then bore away to the Eastward — On the morning of the 24th spoke His B Majesty's Ship *Amazon* who gave us the melancholy intelligence of the loss of the Frigate *Philadelphia* Capt Bainbridge upon a shoal near Tripoli, and that the Officers and crew had been made prisoners of War

Novr 27 off the harbor of Malta sent a boat on shore, with an officer who returned with a confirmation of the above unfortunate accident — Came to an Anchor on the 28th in Seracuse harbor — and saluted the Town — Novr 30th Our Purser M^r Deblois departed this life — his loss was sincerely regretted by his brother officers who paid him remains all the respect in their power —

(Decr 9th Ships draught of Water

23. Feet 2 inch aft
21. 1 inch forward)

Having concluded to make this Harbour a place of general rendezvous for our small squadron on account of its safety and its neutrality, we were employed in sending on shore to the Arsenal all spare spars and stores and making the necessary arrangements for cruising off Tripoli until Decr 18th when we weighed and stood over to Malta, where we remained one day off the harbour — communicating with our Consul. — From thence we made the best of our way off Tripoli, On the 23^d fell in with and captured a Ketch from Tripoli bound to Constantinople with an ambassador his suite, slaves and presents. — The Schooner *Enterprise* Capt Decatur in company

On the 30th Decr came too in Siracuse with the prize — The Ship remained in the harbor overhauling her rigging painting &c. While the Commodore went to Malta in the *Vixen* to make arrangements for the approaching summer — After an Absence of a fortnight the Commodore returned on the 25th Jany. 1804.

From Febr 1st to Febr 3^d the crew were employed in preparing combustibles and getting the prize Ketch ready for sea —

On board the U. S. Brig INTREPID

On the 3^d I went on board the Ketch, now called the *Inrepid* together with Mess^{rs} Izard, Laws, Davis & Rowe other Mid^o from the *Constitution* — We soon after sailed under the command of L^t Stephen Decatur, having 64 men and officers on board The U S. Brig *Siren* being in company — We had a moderate breeze until the 13th Febr at night when we arrived off the harbor of Tripoli and came to Anchor about one mile to the Westward of the Town — Owing to a heavy sea from the westward the pilot [Salvadore Catalano] was averse to taking us into the Harbor — To satisfy himself and ourselves of the practicability of entering he was dispatched in a boat to examine the entrance, I was ordered with him and was soon notified that all attempts to enter would at that time be imprudent if not impracticable and made my report accordingly — we immediately got

underway and stood off shore with the *Siren* — A severe gale of wind ensued which buffeted us for five days. and as we were in a very weak vessel and upon a lee shore our situation was by no means enviable — On the 17th [16] the wind having again moderated we made the town, and set all sail shewing an apparent wish to enter, while we placed drags over the stern that prevented our progressing more than [one] or two Knots — This mode of conduct effectually lulled all suspicion, of our Real character and enabled us to approach the Frigate *Philadelphia* in their harbour without exciting alarm

at 10 minutes before 11. the order was given to board which was almost instantly executed, and in 15 minutes she was completely enveloped in flames, the Ketch clear of her with all hands on board, having one prisoner and without having experienced the slightest loss on our part — The batteries commenced a heavy fire which they continued long after we were beyond their reach and which did us no injury — We remained in sight sufficiently long to ascertain that our enterprise had been completely successful — We then bore away for Siracuse where we arrived on the 19th and I returned on board the *Constitution* —

On board the U. S. Frigate CONSTITUTION

The next day the U. S. Schooner *Nautilus*, sent in a merchant Brig captured for an attempt to force the blockade of Tripoli —

March 21st: The U. S. Brig *Syren* sent in a brig of 24 Guns taken from the Tripolitans — On April 17th she was purchased from the Captors by the Commodore and commissioned — Lt Dent was promoted to the command of her — Mid^o Wadsworth & Izard were made her Lieut^s myself her Master —

On board the U. S. Brig SCOURGE

From April 17th to May 5 we were employed in equipping the Brig now called the *Scourge* for sea — our crew was composed of about 20 men, the refuse of the Squadron — our Brig though 27 years old was perfectly sound but slightly built — She sailed but moderately especially by the wind — We arrived off Tripoli on the 10th May and were employed cruising off the harbor until the arrival of the Commodore on July 25th accompanied by 6 gun boats & 2 Bombards procured from the King of Naples. As our Brig was not of sufficient force to act with any effect against the Batteries, the officers with the exception of M^r Izard were ordered on board the *Constitution*, On the 3^d of August having made all the arrangements thought to be necessary the Squadron Bore up and attacked the batteries of Tripoli — before which were placed 21 Gun boats & three Galleys. Our Six Gun boats advanced [word illegible] of the enemy and a sharp contest captured three and drove the rest into the harbor — The Bombards threw a number of Shells into the city — and the *Constitution* ranged along the batteries firing about 600 Shot into the city and Town — Lt [James] Decatur who was killed in the heat of the action was the only loss we sustained

On the 7th the Gunboats and Bombvessels advanced again to attack the Town, but a strong westerly current carried them so far to leeward that they were obliged to form a new line, in doing which much confusion ensued owing [to] the unmanageableness of the boats — The enemy availed himself of this opportunity and kept up a very heavy fire which blew up one of the prize boats commanded by Lt [Caldwell] who together with Mid^o Dorsey & eleven men were lost. A Breeze springing up soon after enabled our boats to extricate themselves after receiving considerable damage —

On board the U. S. Brig ARGUS

On the 8th August I was appointed Lieut of the U S Brig *Argus* and joined her on the same day — Boisterous weather and other circumstances prevented another attack until the 28th when at 4 in the morning the gunboats having gained a very favorable station near in shore commenced a well directed fire upon the Town, the vessels were engaged as opportunity offered until 8 oClock, when the Signal was made to haul off

This attack was well conducted and effected considerable injury to the enemy — on the 2^d Sept another attack was made but was attended with no particular circumstances and productive of no good effect. — During the intervals of the different attacks repeated attempts had been made to negotiate a treaty with the bashaw, but his demands were always such as the Commodore would not comply with — Feeling an inclination to view the harbor I obtained permission to go in one of the boats that carried the different dispatches under a flag of Truce — I was disappointed however in my object being ordered to remain quite in the outer part of the harbor, where I could make but very few observations. I however remarked the advantages of the Situation which was afterwards improved by the Gun boats on the 28th August —

Late in Sept the Ketch *Intrepid*, was loaded with 100 barrels of powder 80 Loaded shells for the purpose of exploding them in the harbour of Tripoli among the Gunboats, and near the castle — Lt Commandant Somer's was selected to command her and Lt Wadworth & Israel with 17 men were ordered to her. she weighed about 8 P M and stood in for the harbor — the *Enterprize* and *Vixen* following her at a convenient distance About 10 — three guns were fired apparently from the Castle and immediately after the Ketch exploded

A night of painful anxiety was spent by the officers of the Squadron, and the morning only arrived to realize their fears as no vestige of the Ketch was remaining and nothing to be seen of any part of the brave crew who conducted her in — No doubt existed of their having been destroyed by the explosion, but different opinions were entertained as to the manner in which the explosion took place. I was induced to believe that the enemy had discovered her approach, and made the attempt to board her, and that in the confusion naturally consequent upon such an action some sparks of fire were unfortunately communicated to the train which in a moment launched both the assailers and assailed into eternity — The loss of these brave officers was severely felt by our small squadron, being universally esteemed for their private virtues, and respected for their Professional Talents — The Season was now so far advanced, and our Ammunition so nearly expended that no further offensive operations were attempted — About the 1st of October Com^o Barron arrived in the *President*, having the *Constellation*, *Congress* and *Essex* under his command — After a short parade off the harbour for about 3 weeks during which nothing was attempted the Squadron went to Malta and *Siracuse* into Winter Quarters, — just before leaving the Station three Greek Ships were detained on suspicion of an attempt to break the blockade of Tripoli— in one of them I returned to Malta where I was quarantined for 30 days —

[Mrs. C. E. Fox original. NDA photostat.]

Extract from journal of U. S. Brig *Argus*, Master Commandant Isaac Hull, U. S. Navy, commanding, Tuesday, 4 September 1804

at $\frac{1}{2}$ past 1 P M the Commodore made Sig^l N^o 995 Cap^t Hull went on board the Commodore at 4 cast off the Gunboats — At 7 Cap^t Hull returned on board At 8 the Ketch fireship [*Intrepid*], *Vixen*, and *Nautilus*, got under way and Stood in for Tripoli the fireship stood in under the Batteries the *Argus*, *Vixen*, and *Nautilus*, standing after her at 9 hove too at 9 heard 2 Guns from the Batteries at 10 Minutes past observed the Explosion of the fire ship at 11 filled away and made Sail off & on the town At $\frac{1}{2}$ past 9 AM Cap^t Hull went on board the Commodore At 11 the Commodore hoisted the *Argus's* Distinguishing Sig^l made Sail and Stood for the Commodore at $\frac{1}{2}$ past 11 Cap^t Hull returned took Gunboat N^o 3 in Tow —

[NDA photostat.]

Extract from journal of Midshipman F. Cornelius deKraft, U. S. Navy, in U. S. Brig *Siren* of 18 guns, Master Commandant Charles Stewart, U. S. Navy, commanding, Tuesday, 4 September 1804

(Standing off & on shore under easy sail.) Throughout those 24 hours gentle breezes & clear pleas^t weath^r At $\frac{1}{2}$ past Meridian a signal for all Commanders to repair on board the Commodores ship. $\frac{1}{2}$ past 6 back'd the main top sail $\frac{1}{2}$ past 8 fill'd away. At 10 the Ketch *Intrepid* that was prepar'd as an Infernal, was taken into the harbour of Tripoli (by Lieu^t Comm Richard Summers of the *Nautilus*, Lt Wadsworth & M^r Israel, Midshipman, with 7 men) & was blown up. $\frac{1}{4}$ past 11 the Commodore making repeated signal for Cap^t Summers, which was not answer'd, back'd the main topsail —

Midnight fill'd away, the Commodore still making signals without being answer'd, day light saw the *Argus* & *Vixen*, (which had accompanied the Ketch near the harbour) standing off & on shore. At 7

back'd the main top sail, & was inform'd by the *Argus* that nothing had been heard or seen of Cap^t Summers & the Ketch's crew, after she had been blown up

Meridian fill'd away. —

[NDA.]

To Lieutenant George W. Reed, U. S. Navy, of U. S. Schooner *Nautilus*, from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

Constitution — Off TRIPOLY
Septem^r 4th 1804

SIR, You are immediately to cause an exact account to be taken of all the personal property belonging to Richard Somers Esquire (supposed to be deceased) late commander of the U. S. Schooner *Nautilus*, and transmit the same to me, Signed by yourself and two other officers, the Purser to be one — You will also send me his Journals and other papers, in the Order in which they now are with a General inventory of the Same —

[LC. EPP, Order Book, May 1803-June 1805.]

To Lieutenant John H. Dent, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. Brig *Scourge*, from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

Constitution off TRIPOLY
September 4th 1804

SIR, You will proceed to Syracuse with the Brig *Scourge*, and on your arrival there settle all your Accounts with the Agent and be ready to take Command of the *Nautilus*

I am Sir

Y^r Ob^t Serv^t

(Signed) EDWARD PREBLE

Lieut^t Comm^{dt} DENT
U. S. B. *Scourge*. —

[NHF. Dent's LB.]

[4 September 1804]

To Lieutenant John H. Dent, U. S. Navy, ordered to command U. S. Schooner *Nautilus*, from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

SIR You are hereby appointed to the Command of the United States Schooner *Nautilus*, you will therefore settle your Accounts for the Brig *Scourge* and transfer all the Stores &^{cs} to Lieut^t [Space] who is to take charge of her, you will then repair on board the *Nautilus* and assume the Command of s^d Vessel for which this shall be your sufficient authority. M^t Reid will be your first Lieut^t and you are to join the Squadron off here without loss of time — An exact Inventory of every Article on Board the *Nautilus* is to be taken at the time you assume the Command in presence of three Officers for which you have to receipt to me. —

Given on board the U. S. Ship *Constitution* off Tripoly the 4th day of Sept^r 1804

(Signed) EDWARD PEBLE

P. S. You may discharge from the *Scourge* all the Neapolitans and Sicilians that are not fit for our service and send all the Tripolines to Prison immediately after your arrival at Syracuse. —

[NHF. Dent's LB.]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from Lieutenant John H. Dent, U. S. Navy

4th SEPT. 1804

List of the Officers and Crew of the United States BRIG *SCOURGE*

John H. Dent.....	Comd.
John Green.....	Purser
John Rowe.....	Masters mate
Henry Casey.....	Midshipman
John M ^c Fate.....	Boatswain
Robert King.....	Gunner
William Wiley.....	Sail maker
Ezeheil Darling.....	Boy
Emanuel Schuilenberg.....	Seaman
Philip S Pearce.....	d ^e
John Delitia.....	Or ^y d ^e
Sam ^l Golden.....	d ^e
John Woolley.....	d ^e
James Barry.....	d ^e
William Kelly.....	d ^e
Archibald Frampton.....	d ^e
John Carson.....	d ^e
Adam Bastian.....	d ^e
John Smith.....	Cook
Philip Bricoa.....	Ord ^y Seaman
John Haslip.....	Boy
Joseph Ashiedo.....	d ^e
Jack Tripoli.....	d ^e
Henry Tripoli.....	d ^e
Frederich Tripoli.....	d ^e
Robert Barney.....	Ord ^y Seaman
John Akerman.....	d ^e
Henry Fleck.....	d ^e
James Roberts.....	d ^e
Samuel Blythe.....	d ^e
Anthony Fletcher.....	Ord ^y Seaman
Brown Laurance.....	Ord ^y Seaman
Francis Weaver.....	Boy
Henry Johnson.....	Ord ^y Seaman
James Gurmley.....	d ^e
Stephen Hurley.....	Carpenter
Benjamin Cuthbert.....	Sarg ^t Marines
Patrick Lynch.....	Marine
William Bonny.....	d ^e
Michael Dawley.....	d ^e
Patrick M ^c Graw.....	d ^e
John Baptist.....	} Neapolitans from the Ketch
Guiteano Valera.....	
Doming Sarcha.....	
Guiangeito Cambese.....	
Bartholemew Boscarun.....	
Vinzencio Parmasan.....	
Bassman.....	} Tripolitan Prisoners
Alley.....	
Mohamet.....	
Mahomet.....	

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Water Remaining 200 Gallons

SIR The above is a correct statement of the crew of the *Scourge* and the quantity of Water remaining —

JN^o H DENT

Sept^r 4th 1804.

[LC. EPP Vol. 13, August-December 1804.]

516 NAVAL OPERATIONS, APRIL-SEPTEMBER 6, 1804

Extract from journal kept by Purser John Darby, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. S. *John Adams*, Master Commandant Isaac Chauncey, U. S. Navy, commanding, Tuesday, 4 September 1804

We are this morning laying at Anchor off [f] the Town of Tripoli at half past 11 the commodore hoisted the Brig *Argus's* distinguishing flag. (the *Argus* was commanded by Capt. Summers) at 4 P M we got under way and in heaving up parted our cable we continued to stand off [f] and on the coast all night — at 7 the Town of Tripoli bore S S. W. Dist 5 Miles at $\frac{1}{2}$ past 7 the *Constitution* got under way —

[NDA original. Miss Camilla S. McConnell.]

To James Monroe, U. S. Minister to London, England, from Secretary of the Navy

NAV. DEP^t Septem 4th 1804

Congress by Resolution of 3^d February 1802 directed the President of the United States to present to Lieu^t Sterett a Sword Commemorative of his gallant Conduct in the Capture of a Tripolitan Corsair on the 1st August 1801 — Desirous that this resolution should be carried into Effect as early as was practicable I wrote in the year 1802 to Com^{re} Morris then in the mediterranean, directing him to procure a sword and present it to Lieu^t Sterett who was also in the mediterranean at that time — This order not having been complied with, the resolution of Congress remains unexecuted — I therefore take the liberty Sir to request that you will be pleased to purchase a suitable sword to be presented to Lieu^t Sterett and send it to me by the first opportunity that may offer Col John Stricker of Baltimore will make you a remittance for this purpose —

[NDA. GLB, Vol. 7, 1803-1805.]

To John Gavino, U. S. Consul, Gibraltar, from Richard O'Brien, Malta

(Duplicate Copy)

MALTA Sep^r 5th 1804

DEAR SIR 1st The American frigate Corsairs Gun Boats & Bombards attacked Tripoly Castles Corsairs & Gun Boats on the Evening of the 3^d of Aug^t & after a severe contest Captured 3 Tripolin Gun Boats whose Crews were 96 Men of the Number 46 were killd & 50 Made Prisoners, amongst the latter Number 18 were severely wounded. We lost Lieu^t Ja^s DeCature & 13 Men killd & wounded —

2^d the 7th of Aug^t the American force attacked Tripoly to the West of the City after a Great deal of Gun Boat firing & also of the 2 Bombards they silenced a 7 Gun Battery, & threw several shells into the Town, in these two attacks Tripoly must Certainly have lost 500 Men. We lost a small Gun Boat, & 12 Men amongst this Number is Lieu^t Caldwell & M^r Dorsey the Boat blew up by the fire of wads of another Boat —

3^d On the Morning of the 29th of Aug^t at 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ A. M. the American Gun boats &c^s 2 Bombards enterd the Harbour of Tripoly & within 600 feet of the Bashaws Castles Commenced the attack, they fired 120 rounds each Sunk 3 of the Enemys Gun Boats & a Merchant Polacra. — At Day light the *Constitution* laid in within Pistol shott of the chief of the Baterys fired 9 Broad sides — rec^d 12 Shott in the hull lost 4 Men Killd & 2 wounded in one of the Boats by shott — In Tripoly they have mounted on the City frunting the East North &

West 115 Guns, has 45 Th^d Arabs & the Inh^t to defend the Citty, had 19 sail of Gun Boats 2 schooners & 2 Galliotts and a Brig. The Americans had the *Constitution Argus Siren Vixen & Nautulus*, *Enterprize* 6 Gun Boats & 2 Bombards, the whole of the American Crews am^t to 890 Men & the Neopolitans 120 the latter behaved well. In the latter Action Capⁿ Chancy Officers & Crew of the *John Adams*, Volunteerd their services in the *Constitution* & Gun Boats. We have been Expecting to be Joind by Com^d Barron & frigates but he will be too late to end the affair this year as the Summer season is all but over for Gun Boats, & Tripoly in Winter can only be Blocaded by Corsairs at times off & on. This Extract will shew that our present forces is only adequate to Irritate Tripoly, but will not be adequate to reduce it to American terms & obtain our fellow Citizens. — N B. The Expected frigates joind with the present force will do it, or Drive the Bashaw & Divan: out of Tripoli —

12th SEP^r 1804

On the Evening of the 5th arrived here Com^d Barron & Capⁿ Campbell, the former saild on the Evening of the 7th & the latter for Tripoly on the Morning of the 8th no doubt but they arrived off Tripoly the 10th & of course all Joind will give Tripoli a Gen^l attack.

Since they sailing we have learn'd by the return of a Vessel here which carried Water to the fleet, that on the night of the 1st the americans sent in a Vessel prepaire wth 50 Barr^{ls} of Pow[der] & a Number of loaded shells that this Vessel had got close in to the Harbour of Tripoly amongst the Enemy's Gun Boats said Vessel was set fire to, by some accident or another the fire & ship blew up before that the Officer & Crew could get clear, & in consequence the Officer Midshipman & 12 Men were blown to attoms. I beleive it is Capⁿ Smith of the *Vixen*, the *Constitution* Gun Boats and Bombards led in & had a long severe action. I have not been able to obtain from the Maltees Crew any better acc^t on this subject as they have not brought any one letter, they were Convoyd by one of our Brigs of warr w^{ch} did not enter this Port but went for Syracuse. I have not been well. I left the fleet the night of the 22^d Ult^o & when the *John Adams* returns here and discharges I shall proceed wth my family in said ship for the U. S. — Will you please to forward a Copy of this letter to the Secretary of State.

MALTA Sep^r 14th 1804

D^r SIR I have to inform you that it is Capⁿ Somers w^{ch} Lieu^t Wadsworth & M^r Israel Midshipman & 10 Men that blew up by the Explotion of the fire ship on their entering amongst the Gun Boats of Tripoly Capⁿ Smith in the *Vixen* arrived here this day he left off Tripoly 3 days past, he says that Comodor Barron & Cap^t Campbell arrived there the 9th. That on the 7th the Gun Boats Bombards w^{ch} the *Syren Enterprize Scourge & John Adams* left the Coast of Tripoly for Syracuse. The *President Constitution Constelation & Argus* remains off Tripoly that it is Considered if the weather would be fav^{bl} that the 3 frigates would attack the place. I do not think that without the Gun boats & Bombards they will reduce Tripoly to American terms, or obtain the liberation of our fellow Citizens, the Season is too farr advanced for the Gun Boats and Bombards to remain with safety on the Coast of Tripoly —

518 NAVAL OPERATIONS, APRIL-SEPTEMBER 6, 1804

To Master Commandant Isaac Chauncey, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. *John Adams*, from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

Copy N^o 2

Constitution Off TRIPOLI
September 5th 1804

SIR You will proceed to Malta with the U States Ship *John Adams* under your Command, and on your arrival there deliver to W^m Higgins Esq^r U. S. Agent one half of the Provisions and Stores you have on board, with the remainder you will proceed to Syracuse, and deliver to George Dyson Esq^r U. S. Agent at that place — from thence Sail for the City of Washington, touching at Messina Naples, Leghorn, Marseilles, Barcelona, Alicant, Malaga and Gibraltar, to take the American Trade at those places under your Convoy: You are however not to touch, at any Port declared to be in a State of Blockade by any of the Belligerent powers: neither are you to remain, an unreasonable Time at any Place, considering the advanced Season of the Year — Four or Five Days is as long a time as it will be prudent for you to wait at any one place after you leave Syracuse — If M^r OBrien applies to you for a passage for himself and Family, I presume it will be agreeable to Government that you accommodate him, and equally so that you accommodate M^r Cathcart and Family from Leghorn — M^r OBrien will shew you a Letter from the Department of the Navy or the State Department which promises him a passage in some returning Frigate

I shall forward Dispatches to Syracuse for the Navy Department, which you will please to take particular Care of. I am happy in this Opportunity of acknowledging the high Opinion I have of your Talents as an Officer, Of expressing my entire approbation of your Conduct as a Volunteer on board this Ship in the Actions of the 27th Ult^o and 3^d Ins^t with the Tripoline Gun Boats & Batteries, and to request you to accept my thanks for the able Assistance I received from you on the Quarter Deck in the Absence of my Principal and a large Proportion of other Officers.

You will make requisitions for what may be found necessary for your Ship, upon the Agents of the United States in the Different Ports at which you may touch.

P. S. You will tow to Malta three Gun Boats and from thence to Syracuse — Order the Officer attached to each Boat, to take an exact Acc^t of every Article on board her, and sign a Receipt to be accountable for the same

[NDA. MC LB, 1804-5.]

[5 September 1804]

To Lieutenant* Thomas Robinson, Jr., U. S. Navy, from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

(L S)

By Edward Preble Esquire
Commander in Chief of the
U. S. Squadron Stationed in
the Mediterranean

To Lieutenant Thomas Robinson hereby appointed Lieutenant Commandant of the U. S. Schooner *Enterprize*

By Virtue of the power and Authority to me given, I do hereby constitute and appoint you Lieutenant Commandant of the U. S.

Schooner *Enterprise*; Willing & requiring you forthwith to go on board and take upon you the charge and command of Lieutenant Commandant in her accordingly: Strictly charging & commanding all the officers and company belonging to the said Schooner to behave themselves jointly and severally in their respective employments with all due respect and obedience unto you their said Lieutenant Commandant: And you likewise to observe and execute the general printed instructions and such orders and directions as you shall from time to time receive from me or any other your superior officer for the United States Service: Hereof, nor you nor any of you may fail as you will answer the contrary at your peril. And for so doing this shall be your warrant.

Given unde[r] my hand & seal the 5th day of September 1804 & 29th year of the Independence of the U. S. of America

(Signed) EDWARD PREBLE

U. S. Ship *Constitution*

[*On 10 September 1804 he was commissioned Master Commandant, U. S. Navy.]

[LC. EPP, Order Book, May 1803-June 1805.]

[5 September 1804]

To Lieutenant Thomas Robinson, Jr., U. S. Navy, from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

SIR You are hereby appointed Lieutenant commandant of the U. S. Schooner *Enterprise* — You will therefore repair on board said Schooner and proceed to Malta with Cap^t Decatur, who will deliver her over to you, after making the necessary arrangements for the crew; Her present crew being to be turned over to the *John Adams*, to be replaced by an Equal number from that ship — You will make your requisitions for provisions &^c on W^m Higgins Esq^t and join the Squadron off here as soon as possible, and without loss of time —

[LC. EPP, Order Book, May 1803-June 1805.]

Extract from journal of U. S. Brig *Argus*, Master Commandant Isaac Hull, U. S. Navy, commanding, Wednesday, 5 September 1804

[Off Tripoli] At 6 the Commod^o hoisted our distinguishing flag stood for him hove too to leward of him Cap^t Dent came on board and went on board the *Scourge* accompanied by Doct^r Dorsey

[NDA photostat.]

Extract from log book kept by Sailing Master Nathaniel Haraden, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Wednesday, 5 September 1804

Moderate breezes from N E. with Cloudy overcast weather — We are employed supplying the Gun boats & bombards with ammunition for the Sixth attack upon Tripoly — As the afternoon advanced the wind increased from the N E with a swell from the E N E & had the appearance of Strong breezes from N E. — The Gun boats were Ordered p^t signal to the vessels to which they were attached & at 4½ P. M. the Squadron was all under weigh — At Sun down we weighed & filled to the N N W — Winds N E By 9 P. M. light breezes, from which time till 2 P. M. we had calms or light airs from N N E, with

a swell setting in shore — At 2½ A. M. we came to in 30 fath^s in Order to prevent our drifting in with the land We kept our Topsails a trip in readiness for a breeze — At day light we saw Tripoly bearing S b E nearly 5 miles — Morning cloudy & overcast — The *John Adams* anchored p^r signal. The other Vessels of the Squadron continued under way with light airs from the North^d

At 7 a. m. we hauled up the two Bombards & took the Mortars out of them — Bombard N^o 1 has been several times reported to the Commodore to be unsafe & unserviceable owing to her leaky state occasioned by the 5 different actions she has been in, & is at present useless — Bombard N^o 2 is not reported leaky, but the Bed of the Mortar (from the different actions against Tripoly, is so split & shivered that she is totally unserviceable and is at present considered useless —

The Neapolitan Gun boats altho' nearly 30 Tons each, are (owing to their being flat bottom'd) but ill calculated to meet a gale of wind. This forenoon the Guns from N^{os} 4, 2 & 6 were taken on board the *John Adams* — N^{os} 3, 4 & 5 are towed by the *Syren* & *Argus* — they are not within communication by Signal —

By 10 A. M. the weather cleared away, from which time till noon light breezes from N E, with a swell setting in shore —

This forenoon in loosing one of the Staysails which has not been set since the action on Monday last a large Grape Shot fell down on deck & wounded a Seamen in the foot — During the three actions in which the *Constitution* has been under the Walls of Tripoly She has been struck in 41 places by large shot — Our second & third actions were within range of Grape, a number of which are now on board — Our loss in the different actions is One Cap^t 4 Lieutenants One Midshipman & 30 Seamen & Marines in the Squadron. This forenoon the *Scourge*, Cap^t Dent parted company for Syracuse. She convoys the Store Ship that arrived here on the 26th August last, & has been necessarily detained since —

Surgeons report 5 Sick & 7 conv^oct

Signals made as follows

P. M. at 3¼ *Vixen* Tow Your gun boat
3½ — *Nautilus* — Come w^p hail.

Lieut^t Gordon this forenoon rejoined the *Constitution* — His Gun boat has been unarmed —

Lieut^t Robinson who has always commanded a Bombard, has not been attached to them except when in action.

[LC. EPP, Log *Constitution*, 1803-1804.]

Extract from journal of William Eaton, U. S. Navy Agent for the Barbary Regencies, Wednesday, 5 September 1804

Arrived at Malta. Quarrantined: having spoke a Tunissian.

[NR&L. No. 9217, Bm¹ E 14.]

Extract from journal kept by Purser John Darby, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. S. *John Adams*, Master Commandant Isaac Chauncey, U. S. Navy, commanding, Wednesday, 5 September 1804

At. half past 5 the commodore came to Anchor at 6. we anchored in 30. Fathoms Water the town of Tripoli bore South. took in 3

Guns. 24 pounders. out of Gun boats No 1. 2. 6. — at Meridian light breezes & Pleasant. at 5 P M got underway and stood to the N & W. at 6 the commodore made the signal for the *Syren* & *Enterprise* to take the Gun boats in Tow. at sun set Tacked ship the Town of Tripoli bearing South distant 4 or 5 Miles at $\frac{3}{4}$ past 6 a signal was made from the commodore to close in sight to prevent seperation in the night — We continued under way all night.

[NDA original. Miss Camilla S. McConnell.]

To Daniel Bedinger, Navy Agent and Superintendent of Navy Yard, Norfolk, Va.,
from Secretary of the Navy

NAV. DEP^t 6 Septem^r 1804

It is very unfortunate that the bowsprit, powder, cannon shot and Spare Spars, have not been shipped by the *Alfred* — We had better have declined sending any other part of the Cargo than not to have sent these articles — The frigate *Constitution* is in great want of a bowsprit and Spare Spars — the Carronades shipped in the *Alfred* will be useless without the shot and the Squadron will in all probability soon be in want of powder — my principal object in sending the *Alfred* to Norfolk was that she might take on board the bowsprit and Spare Spars

If the *William and Mary* can receive the articles left behind by the *Alfred* you will put them on board of her with direction to deliver them to John Gavino Esq^r at Gibraltar to Whom you will write and enclose a Bill of lading — If I understand your letter of the 21st ult^o you have chartered the ship *William & Mary* for the Voyage — and if so the Owners cannot reasonably demand any freight for these additional articles — They may demand and you may consent to give them a reasonable compensation for any detention which the Vessel may experience in consequence of taking them on Board — all port charges which may be Occasioned by such addition to the Cargo you may also consent to pay — I entertain a hope that you will be able to send out in the *William & Mary* the articles which have been left behind by the *Alfred* — and if you should you will carefully note on the back of each of the passes that have been sent to you for the *William and Mary* each particular article stating that after the passes were Obtained, the Government of the United States found it Expedient to make Such addition to the Cargo of the *William & Mary*. that such additional articles belong to the United States of America and are intended to be delivered to John Gavino Esq^r American Consul at Gibraltar, for the use of the American Squadron in the Mediterranean Sea —

[NDA. GLB, Vol. 7, 1803-1805.]

To Master Commandant Isaac Chauncey, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. *John Adams*, from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

Constitution — Off TRIPOLY
Septem^r 6th 1804

SIR The Service will not permit me to direct a Court Martial to be assembled at present for trial of M^r John Darby & M^r J: Ord: Creighton; but on the arrival of the *John Adams* at Malta, you may inform them it shall take place if consistent with the good of the Service

[LC. EPP, Order Book, May 1803-June 1805.]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from Lieutenant (acting as Master's Mate)
John Orde Creighton, U. S. Navy

U S FRIGATE *John Adams*
Off Tripoli Sep^r, 6th 1804

SIR Trusting You Would Grant A, release from my Confinement Provided the Dispute between M^r Darby & Myself Could be Accommodated, in Consequence of which every exertion on my Part has been exercised — but Not being Able to effect My Object on terms honourable to Myself. I have to Solicit Your interference, in Calling a, Court Marshall, Or Your Indulgence in Granting me A, release that I may Again return to my duty. Apprehensive Sir that if the Ship Should Seperate from the Squadron, a, length of time May elapse before we meet during which I may be Confined, the Unpleasantness of which I am Already Sensible Of — Should You be so indulgent as to release Me, I trust My future Conduct Will be Such As to Merit Your Approbation.—

[LC. EPP, Vol. 13, August-December 1804.]

To Master Commandant Isaac Chauncey, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. *John Adams*, from Captain Samuel Barron, U. S. Navy

Copy

UNITED STATES SHIP *President*
Malta 6th Sept^r 1804

DEAR SIR The Bearer M^r Randolph was a Passenger in the *President*, from the U. States to this Place (by the Order of the Secretary of the Navy) who has directed me to cause him to be accommodated with a passage back in any Ship of the United States which may return at the Time he wishes to benefit by such an Opportunity.

In addition to the Secretary's Instructions on this Subject I beg leave to introduce M^r Randolph to you (individually) and assure you that any Attention you will please to bestow on M^r R— will be gratefully acknowledged by, Dear Sir

[NDA. MC LB, 1804-5.]

SAM^l BARRON

To Captain Stephen Decatur, Jr., U. S. Navy, from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

Constitution Off TRIPOLY
Septem^r 6th 1804

SIR You will proceed to Syracuse in the U. S. Schooner *Enterprize*, and as your present rank entitles you to a superior command, you will deliver up that of the *Enterprize* to Lieut^t Thomas Robinson who is appointed by me to succeed you: previous to which you will turn over to the U. S. Ship the *John Adams*, for the purpose of going home, all that part of the *Enterprizes* crew, who do not incline to re-enter for two years, and Cap^t Chauncey will re-place them with an equal number from the *John Adams* — Lieut^t Robinson will receipt to you for every article on board the *Enterprize* which you may cause to be delivered to his charge — If any of the *Enterprizes* crew wish to re-enter, the able seamen may receive 12, the Ordinary Seamen 8, & Boy's 6 dollars p^r month —

You will then proceed to Messina with the Bomb Vessels and all the Gun Boats, and formally deliver the Neapolitan Boats to General

Espluger — You may also make a requisition on M^r Broadbent for three thousand dollars, to be advanced to the Officers & crews of Gun Boats N^o 4 & 6 on account of their prize money — The Prize boat lost in the action of the 7th Ult^o: shall be paid for by the U. S. at the rate the others sell for — I have the honor to be

[LC. EPP, Order Book, May 1803–June 1805.]

To Sir John Acton, Prime Minister of State, The Two Sicilies (Palermo), from
Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

UNITED STATES SHIP *Constitution*

Off Tripoli 6th Sep^r 1804 —

SIR, I feel peculiar pleasure in announcing to you the success which has attended several attacks I have made on the Batteries and Marine force of Tripoli.

On the 3rd Ult^o our Six Gun Boats under cover of the Squadron, advanced into the Harbour of Tripoli, and engaged 22 of the Enemy's Gallies and Gun Boats, and after an obstinate engagement obtained a complete victory, after having boarded and carried three of their heavy Boats, sinking another, and driving the remainder under the Bashaw's Castle, in a shattered condition, and a great many men killed on board them. Since which, they have not dared to hazard an Action — We however on the 28th Ult^o attacked them at their Moorings under the Castle, and sunk their largest Galley, a Gun Boat, and a Merchant Ship — We have thrown a great number of shells into the Town, and have in several instances drove the Turks from their Batteries. It is impossible to ascertain how many of the Enemy have been killed in these several engagements, but I think I may safely say that these Barbarians never have suffered more from any Christian power.

I have to regret the loss of six brave Officers killed, and several wounded, and between 40 & 50 seamen & Marines killed and wounded; this loss is not so great as we had reason to expect, more especially as we have been exposed to the fire of at least 115 pieces of heavy Cannon from the different castles and Forts of Tripoli; besides two Gallies, a Brig of 10 Guns, two armed Schooners, and Nineteen Gun Boats.

For the very great advantages resulting to our Country from these efficient operations against a powerful Barbary State, we must in a very large degree be indebted to His Neapolitan Majesty for his generous loan of Gun Boats & Mortar Vessels, Ammunition &c^s &c^s and to you Sir, for the good will with which you seconded his intentions, and I feel it my duty so assure you, that my Gov^t will in due time manifest the very high sense with which they will receive such Hon^{ble} proofs of His Majesty's friendship.

I cannot in justice pass over the merits of Antonio Massene assigned me as Bombardier, and the Gunners attached to the diff^t Gun Boats & Bomb Vessels: — their intrepidity, and good conduct merits my warmest approbation, and I beg leave to recommend them to your notice.

The reinforcement of four frigates from the United-States have not yet arrived, but they have been anxiously expected from day to day these six weeks. Had they arrived before the season compelled me to send off the Gun & Mortar Vessels, we should have

forced a peace, or destroyed their Town & Cruisers: as it is, the Town is much injured, and I have no doubt that in case they arrive we shall command a Peace, but we cannot so effectually distress them after the boats have left us. I send them off this day by an officer who will deliver them up at Messina, together with an Inventory of every thing on board.

I hope e're long to have the pleasure of communicating personally the particulars of this Campaign. In the meantime, I have the honor to be,

[LC. EPP, LB, April-Nov. 1804.]

To George Dyson, U. S. Navy Agent, Syracuse, from Captain Edward Preble,
U. S. Navy

Constitution Off TRIPOLY Septem^r 6th 1804

DEAR SIR I refer you to Cap^t Decatur for information from this Quarter. Cap^t Chauncey of the *John Adams* is ordered to deliver to you one half, the cargo of that Ship, with the other he will sail for Malta.

I congratulate you on the confirmation of your appointment & hope yet to be able to do more to serve you.

P. S. Attend to Cap^t Chauncey — He is my friend, & I wish you to be acquainted —

[LC. EPP, LB, April-Nov. 1804.]

To John Broadbent, U. S. Navy Agent, Messina, from Captain Edward Preble,
U. S. Navy

Constitution Off TRIPOLY Septem^r 6th 1804

DEAR SIR In great haste I refer you to Cap^t Decatur for transactions in this Quarter, in which his Gallantry has shone greatly conspicuous —

The Neapolitans have behaved well: Our ammunition is expended, but not without effect — I wish the Neapolitans may be discharged & paid & that you may advance three thousand dollars to Cap^t Decatur on acc^t of Prize Money to be distributed —

[LC. EPP, LB, April-Nov. 1804.]

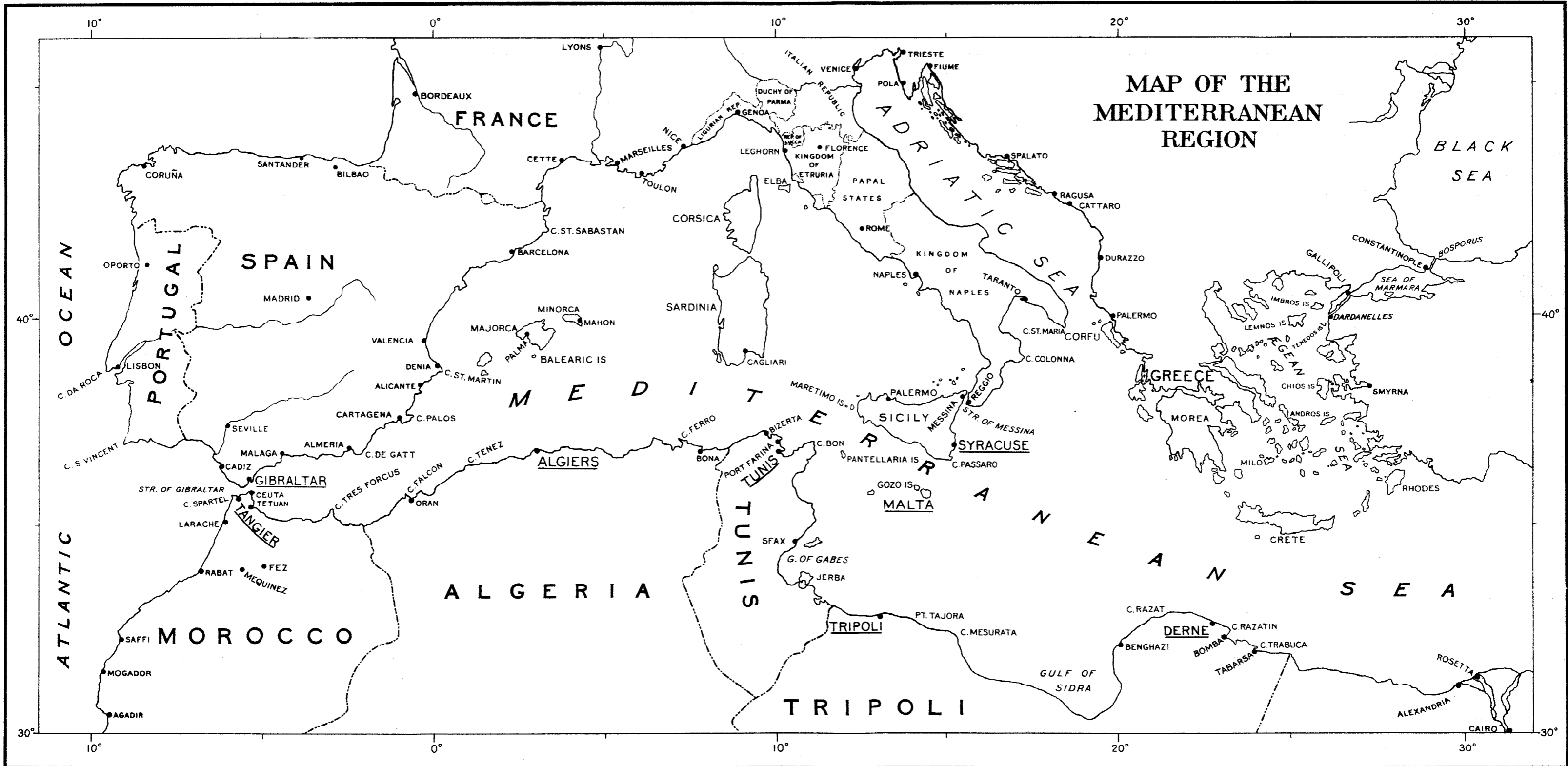
[6 September 1804]

To Midshipman Thomas Macdonough, U. S. Navy, from Captain Edward Preble,
U. S. Navy

SIR You are hereby appointed Lieutenant of the U. S. Schooner *Enterprize* — You will therefore repair on board Said Schooner, and take upon yourself the charge & duty of Lieut^t agreeable to the regulations of the Service, for which this shall be your Sufficient Authority —

Given under my hand on board
the U. S. Ship *Constitution*
off Tripoly the 6th day of Sept^r 1804
Signed EDW^d PREBLE

[LC. EPP, Order Book, May 1803-June 1805.]



To Midshipman Jonathan Thorn, U. S. Navy, to take charge of U. S. Brig *Scourge*,
from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

Constitution — *Septem^r 6th 1804.*

SIR You are to proceed to Syracuse in the *Nautilus* and on your arrival there take charge of the U. S. Brig *Scourge* until farther orders: It is expected that you will be very attentive to the Vessel, and that you do not sleep out of her.

You are to give L^t Comm^r Dent duplicate receipts for every article on board & deliver me a Copy of the Same.

[LC. EPP, Order Book, May 1803–June 1805.]

To Master Commandant Charles Stewart, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. Brig
Siren, from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

Constitution. Off TRIPOLY Septem^r 6th 1804

SIR You will proceed to Syracuse with three Gun boats in tow of the *Syren*, and on your arrival there, take in Six weeks provisions & water & return to join the Squadron on this Station without loss of time — You are permitted to remain four days at Syracuse, but no longer

Order some of your Officers to take an exact inventory of every thing on board the Gun boats and take the receipt of the Officer and principal gunner for the Same, to prevent Embezzlement

[LC. EPP, Order Book, May 1803–June 1805.]

To Secretary of the Navy from William Eaton, U. S. Navy Agent for the Barbary
Regencies

MALTA 6. Sep. 1804

SIR, Hamet Bashaw is at Alexandria in the friendship and protection of a Bey of Egypt; waiting as M^r Pulis informs me, for answers to his proposals offered to the Government of the United States.

The advantages calculated to result from a co-operation with him seem not to have diminished in prospect from any occurrences which have happened since those proposals were made — The reigning Bashaw persists in his demand of a ransom for our captives — But the distress which must be occasioned by the means he is obliged to use in support of these pretensions cannot but increase the discontentment of his subjects and ripen them for revolt. For, such of them as subsist, ordinarily, by commerce or cruising being barred those resources by a harassing blockade, and such as depend on labor for subsistence being compelled to serve for his defence without pay, will be very apt to sieze an opportunity of relieving themselves from that distress when it offers on principles so consistent with their proper allegiance and religion — Those subjects who were heretofore in the interest of the friendly Bashaw, are still so — Through these instruments, I firmly believe, the enemy may be taken from his sofa at the same instant that our fellow citizens are rescued from chains — The only obstacles which seem to oppose the success of this measure are want of supplies to put it into operation — These are not in the fleet — And the Commodore is not decided whether any construction of the Presidents instructions extends to a discretion of procuring and furnishing them: he will probably express himself on this subject after having fixed on his plan of operations.

It is, perhaps, unfortunate that the arrival of the squadron had not been more seasonable — It is the fault of the elements alone — After a flattering passage of fifteen days to the Western Islands we experienced forty one days successive head winds and calms, excepting about twelve hours —

[H. E. Huntington L&AG, EA 206.]

Extract from journal of William Eaton, U. S. Navy Agent for the Barbary Regencies, Thursday, 6 September 1804

Mr. O'Brien, under the stern, said he had been to Tripoli and Tunis, by authority. To the Bey of the latter he had offered an annual tribute of eight thousand dollars to compromise for a frigate by him demanded of the United States. To the former one hundred and ten thousand dollars for a peace and ransom of our captives. Terms rejected by both.

[NR&L, No. 9217, Bm¹ E 14.]

Extract from journal of U. S. Brig *Argus*, Master Commandant Isaac Hull, U. S. Navy, commanding, Thursday, 6 September 1804

[Off Tripoli] Light winds through the night the Commodore off our lee bow at $\frac{1}{2}$ past 8 the commodore made Sig¹ N^o 600 Tacked Ship and Stood for him at 9 Cap^t Hull went on board of him —

[NDA photostat.]

Extract from log book kept by Sailing Master Nathaniel Haraden, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Thursday, 6 September 1804

Moderate Breezes from N N E — We are at single anchor four miles N b W from Tripoly. The Squadron in sight & under way except the *John Adams* which is at anchor in company. As the weather was moderate, till 4 A. M. we were employed taking out the Powder from the gun boats & Bombards, except Gun boats N^o 3, 4 & 5 which although in sight are not within communication by signal —

By 5 P. M. we had fresh breezes from N E b N — We weighed & made sail to the N W b N — The wind continued freshening till sun set when Tripoly bore S b E $\frac{1}{2}$ E, 8 miles. The Squadron at this time was much scattered. They were Ordered to close p^t Signal — By 9 P. M. the Weather became moderate which continued during the night — We made & shortened sail as necessary to keep the Squadron in Company, in order to prevent any surprize from irregular Currents or the swell setting in shore. At 9 P. M. we sounded in 40 fath^s at 10 in 55 & at 12 Midnight in 80, Hard bottom —

At 6 in the morning we saw two sail to the N N W, which we supposed to be the *Scourge* & the Store Ketch which parted company yesterday for Malta and Syracuse —

At $\frac{1}{2}$ past 6 we wore with the Squadron to the E S E — At this time we had light breezes which continued all all forenoon veering between E N E & N N E — At 9 A. M. we brought to, with the signal out for the Squadron to come within hail — Out large cutter & pinnace —

We have been employed this forenoon in receiving the Muskets, Wads & Shot from all the Gun boats — The Seamen & Marines belonging to the *Constitution* were ordered out of the Gun boats — The Squadron has been employed all the forenoon in getting the

Gun boats & Bombards ready for returning to Port Saragosa — This forenoon we supplied Bombard N^o 1 with a large Grapnel — She was under the necessity of cutting in the last action — We also supplied the *Nautilus* with three gang casks of water.

This forenoon Lieut^r Robinson of the *Constitution* was discharged on promotion to the command of the U. S. Schooner *Enterprize* — M^r Ridgely Midshipman is also promoted to a Lieutenancy on board the U. S. Schooner *Nautilus* —

Noon light breezes from E b N. A heavy contracted horizon — The land in Sight from the Mast head bearing by compass S E b S which we suppose to be Tripoly.

Signals made as follows.

A. M. at 6 *Syren* tow two gun boats.
 6½ — Squadron to close
 9 — Squadron come within hail
 9¼ — All Captains

Latitude observed 33° 07' North

[LC. EPP, Log *Constitution*, 1803-1804.]

Extract from journal kept by Purser John Darby, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. S. *John Adams*, Master Commandant Isaac Chauncey, U. S. Navy, commanding, Thursday, 6 September 1804

At half past 8 this morning the commodore made the Signal to keep within Hail at ¾ past. 8 the commodore made the signal for all Captains to repair on board. at ½ past 10 the Captain went on board the *Constitution* at Meridian Moderate breezes — at ½ past 12 the captain returned from on board the commodore at ½ past 1 P. M. one of the Prize Gun boats came a long side with two Brass Twenty four Pounders. hoisted them in at 4 made the Signal to the commodore of being ready to proceed on service shortly after the commodore made the signal for all Captains to repair on board. at ½ past 4 P M Capt. Chauncey went on board the commodore. at 6. the Town of Tripoli bore S by E. distance 4 Leagues. at ½ past 6 the commodore made the signal for us to make the best of our way to our intended Port. We have in company the *Nautilus Syren Enterprize* with 8 Gun boats & 2 Bumbards. bound for Syracuse. —

[NDA original. Miss Camilla S. McConnell.]

Extract from journal of Midshipman F. Cornelius deKrafft, U. S. Navy, in U. S. Brig *Syren* of 18 guns, Master Commandant Charles Stewart, U. S. Navy, commanding, Thursday, 6 September 1804

(Standing off) & on shore with the Squadron. —)

Light breezes & pleasant. At ½ past Meridian furl'd flying jib — At ¾ past 4 back'd the main top sail & spoke the *Enterprize*. At ½ past 6 a signal from the Commodore, to close in the present order, to prevent separation at night. At 7 hoisted in the barge & launch. ½ past 7 fill'd away & made sail off shore —

Midnight light airs & cloudy. ½ past 4 made all sail. ½ past 8 a signal for all Commanders to repair on board the Commodores ship. — At 11 back'd the main top sail. —

Meridian light airs & pleasant —

Latt: Obs: 33° 17' N

[NDA.]

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