THE 1806-7 BRITISH EXPEDITION TO THE RIO DE LA PLATA ACCORDING TO THE DIARY OF LT. JOHN BENT

EDITED BY GABRIELA SONNTAG

Illustrations of military uniforms of the epoch by Cap. Jorge H. Fernández Rivas

LIBROS DE HISPANOAMERICA
1808  This journal was sent to me as a New Year's present from the Cove of Cork and received at Sanford

January 19th 1 George Bent

Nil desperandum est Deo duce & auspice. Adhuc filius meus vivit, ibo & videbo cum antequam moriar.

Hope thou in the Lord, for with Him nothing shall be impossible. My son is yet alive I will go and see him before I die

John Oxenham Bent

Grandson of the above George Bent.
PROLOGUE

The English Invasions of 1806-1807 to the Rio de la Plata area were much remembered by the Argentines during the Falklands/Malvinas War. The parallels that could be drawn between these encounters and the accuracy of these remembrances are not within our scope. Yet the diary of Lieutenant John Bent kept during the Second Invasion will help refresh memories, stir interest in further investigation and perhaps aid in clearing up some doubts which surround this historical event.

The first English Invasion consisted of Sir Home Popham’s fleet and 1500 veteran troops under the command of General William C. Beresford. Landing in Quilmes on June 25th, 1806 they marched the 10 miles to the city of Buenos Aires and captured it 48 hours later virtually without opposition.

When the news of the English victory in the Rio de la Plata reached London, a fleet and army were sent to reinforce Beresford and aid him in retaining possession of this important country. Another force was ordered to Lima to prevent the viceroy from sending assistance to Buenos Aires. Lieutenant John Bent was a member of these troops.

The Spanish reconquest of the city was led by French-born Captain Santiago Liniers. He organized an army of about 1300 men and trained a corps of volunteers to be led by Juan Martin de Pueyrredon. On the morning of August 12 they entered Buenos Aires and defeating the British recaptured the city. The prisoners were sent to Cordoba, Catamarca and Mendoza with the exception of General Beresford and Colonel Pack, commander of the famous 71st Regiment.

We know from Lieutenant Bent’s diary that news of the British failure to retain Buenos Aires reached them at sea. The two English forces were united, placed under the command of General John Whitelocke and met off the mouth of the Rio de la Plata. Organizing in British-held Montevideo they sailed up the river to disembark at Ensenada de Barragan, about 35 miles south of the city on June 29th, 1807. After an exhausting march vividly described in this diary, the troops entered Buenos Aires at dawn on July 5th. By July 12th the defeated British troops were on their way to Montevideo to await the return of prisoners and prepare for their departure to England beginning on Sept 9th. This event marked the end of British attempts at conquest of the Rio de la Plata viceroyalty.

As an officer of the Fifth Regiment or Royal Northumberland Fusiliers, Lieutenant John Bent wrote his diary during the second English Invasions to the Rio de la Plata. Thanks to T.L. Hewitson, Honorable Curator of the Regimental museum, we have obtained very interesting biographical information, a photograph taken at the age of 93, as well as some amusing anecdotes provided by his son and daughter. The museum houses a collection of relics and souvenirs among which we may see Major Bent’s wings and epaulettes.
John Bent was born on April 26th 1782 and joined the Fifth Foot as Ensign on the 13th October 1804. The Regiment had been in Canada since 1787 but returned to England nine years later to defend Europe from the French threat. A second battalion was raised and both were sent to Holland. The battalions of the Fifth saw action in Holland, Gibraltar, England and the Channel Islands but only the first battalion took part in the 1807 attack on Buenos Aires. They were reunited in action in Ireland on the even of the Peninsula War. Prior to the Buenos Aires campaign Bent was promoted to Lieutenant on October 1st, 1805 and to Captain on 31st August 1809, upon their return. He was to become a Major in 1831 when he retired with the medal with five clasps for Nive, Nivelle, Pyrenees, Orthez and Toulouse.

We know that John Bent was very proud of being with the Fifth. He was very successful in recruiting men for the Regiment as told by his son, John Oxenham Bent in the St. George’s Gazette of November 20th, 1896. “His strong appeals and spirited proclamations which are well known to the Regiment, were so successful that I believe some 200 recruits exchanged the Devon Militia for the Fifth Fusiliers, and the Colonel of the Militia was constrained to say, ‘John Bent, you shall come to dine whenever you like but you must never come here recruiting again, or you will empty my Barracks.’”

In that same article Mr. Bent tells us of an incident at the Battle of Orthez, “an incident of the very greatest moment to the whole family of Bents, and of interest to the Regiment of which my father was so proud. It was at the Battle of Orthez that he caught his foot in a tuft of heather, when he was advancing with the Regiment, and fell forward: a most fortunate stumble, for though he was on his feet again in a moment, that moment was enough to save him from a cannon ball which whizzed over him so closely that his life would, but for that timely accident, certainly have been lost.”

Mary G. Gower, Major Bent’s daughter describes him in an article appearing in the St. George’s Gazette of April 30th, 1897. She says, “My father’s character greatly impressed me, his fearlessness, his devotion to duty, his punctuality, his uprightness and his great kindness of heart. It was a sight to see this fine old soldier holding a sleeping dormouse in his hands, whispering his admiration of the ‘monstrous pretty little creature’ for fear of waking it.” And he was certainly a man with a sense of humor as we see in this anecdote also told by Mrs. Gower: “He was very proud on one occasion to be in command of the Grenadier company, all men were over six feet, he said, a splendid set of giants. As my father stepped out, a very dapper spruce officer though by no means six feet, he fancied he saw the giants smiling: this was not to be tolerated for a moment, so my father drew himself up, was smarter than ever, and shouting out words of command, he informed the astonished men in very severe tones that he was far from pleased with their appearance, and that he must have a great improvement for he could plainly see they had not dusted the tops of their caps that morning. Truly to see this, my father would have required a ladder!”
Despite his love for the military Major Bent was tempted to leave the service when he inherited Wexham Lodge and 120 acres from a cousin. Mrs. Gower tells us, "At first my father refused, it was impossible for him to think for a moment of leaving the glorious Regiment in which he had served so long; but the offer was pressed, a settled home for my mother and her four children seemed delightful, so my father with many regrets, laid down his sword, turned his attention to the plough-share, became the lucky owner of Wexham Lodge, and cheerfully took up the duties of a country gentleman, which he performed right well, as all his friends and neighbours would testify. He became a County Magistrate, and afterwards a Deputy Lieutenant; and was most zealous in attending to these duties. The wrench of leaving the Fifth must have been very severe, though my dear father did not speak much about it; he never was so happy, however, as when telling us about the Regiment and incidents of the Peninsular War. He always seemed ‘every inch a soldier,’ not knowing what fear was, scorning all personal comforts and luxuries, saying they were not for one who had so often been thankful for half a red herring for dinner, with a captain’s biscuit as a plate."

Lieutenant John Bent was not a sailor but his interest in the sea and his excellent descriptions, such as the crossing of the Equator, the problems on board ship, the leakages, lack of water, lack of good sailors, and the constant lookout for enemy sail, help to alleviate the tediousness of life on board during the crossing. He tells us something about each country where they felt touches land as well as a fairly detailed description of life in Spanish America. But without a doubt the importance of the diary lies in its account of the Second English Invasion. As Major Bent once told his children of the Peninsular War so now his diary tells us of the English in the Rio de la Plata. The text of the diary is reproduced in its entirety. Only slight modifications have been made to spelling and punctuation to render it easier to read. Explanatory notes have been added when necessary.

We would like the reader to note that the paging of the diary appears in the left hand margin. This is useful for two reasons. First because the author himself refers the reader to different pages in the text, but most important because Bent’s account of the march into Buenos Aires and the events following are told twice. Once within the chronological sequence of the diary beginning on diary page 66 and again in much greater detail beginning on page 245. The reader will no doubt want to read these separately and then perhaps re-read them refereeing back to the earlier pages.

The excellent narration is enhanced by the author’s illustrations and by the extraordinary drawings of military uniforms by Captain Jorge H. Fernandez-Rivas. We hope the reader enjoys the diary as much as we did working with it.

G.S.
Buenos Aires
Feb. 1987

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1 For fascinating insight into Major Bent’s arrangement at Wexham Lodge see http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~dutilliciel/ZWindsorEtonExpress/7thOctober1837B.html.
JOURNAL

Saturday 11th Oct. 1806 At Sandford. Received a letter from Lieutenant Colonel Davie directing me to join the First Battalion Fifth Regiment embarked at Falmouth. Went to Exeter to report the order to the Inspecting Field Officer of the Recruiting Service.

15th - Left Sandford, went to Exeter, took my place in the Falmouth Mail for tomorrow.

16th - Arrived at Falmouth at half past 6 in the evening and joined a party of my brother officers at dinner.

18th - Lieutenant General England came here from Plymouth, dined with him with some other officers of the Battalion.

24th - Went on board the Atlas Transport (no. 234) our Head Quarter ship.

Nov. 3 - Went on board the Atlas to remain, expect to sail the first fair wind.

5th - Wind fair, signal made to prepare for sailing at 2 P.M. ²

6th - Signal made for pilots on board the different ships of war. Wind fair, but towards evening the wind changed round to the southwest which is quite against our sailing.

11th - Went on shore with Ridge who was a member of a general Court Martial assembled for the trial of Captain Pain of the 45th Regiment. Purchased a boat full of provisions of different kinds for the general stock.

12th - Sailed from Falmouth. Got under weigh at daybreak, anchored again at 11 o'clock off Pendennis Castle. Sent a few lines to my father. At 2 P.M. the whole fleet stood out at sea, consisting of the following ships.

CONVOY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Guns</th>
<th>Commanding Officer</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Spencer</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>Honorable Capt. Stopford</td>
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<tr>
<td>Captain</td>
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<td>Coburn</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Theseus</td>
<td>74</td>
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<td>Corbett</td>
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<td>Paulina Sloop of War</td>
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<td>Honorable Captain Lumley</td>
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<td>Haughty Gun Brigantine</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jackdaw Schooner</td>
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<td>Crane Schooner</td>
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Sailed from Falmouth
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<th>Transports</th>
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<td>Campion</td>
<td>Royal Artillery</td>
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<td>Nile</td>
<td>5th</td>
<td>Major Pratt</td>
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<tr>
<td>Queen I T</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>Lieut. Patty</td>
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<td>Lord Nelson</td>
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<td>Major Ironmonger</td>
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<td>Duke of Bronte</td>
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<td>Major Butcher</td>
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<td>Elizabeth Anderson</td>
<td>5 &amp; 88</td>
<td>Captain Drury 5th</td>
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<td>Flora</td>
<td>6th Dragoon Guards</td>
<td>Lt. Col. Kington</td>
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<td>General Grenfield</td>
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<td>I. Boys Esq. P.M.G.</td>
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<td>6th Dragoon Guards</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alexander</td>
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<td>Major Travers</td>
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<td>Eliza</td>
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<td>Major Vendeleur</td>
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<td>Juliana</td>
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<td>Lt. Col. Burne</td>
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<td>Admiral Newland</td>
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<td>Lt. Col. Duff</td>
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<td>Bellona</td>
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<td>A. Tomson Esq. HR</td>
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<td>St. Andrew Mitchell</td>
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<td>Col. Mahon</td>
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<td>Apollo</td>
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<td>James &amp; Rebecca</td>
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<td>Lt. Col. Witherington</td>
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<td>Major Orde</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cas. Cardigan</td>
<td>Agents</td>
<td>Lt. Mc Cullock R.N.</td>
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The above transports, wood sheathed, sailed with the 9th Light Dragoons for Buenos Ayres from Port Praya 6th January 1807 - Under convoy of the Nereide frigate.

### Nature of Ordnance
- **24** pounders iron guns
- **12** pounder brass guns
- **6** pounder brass guns
- **3** pounder brass guns
- **4 1/2 inch Howitzer guns**
- **4 2/5 Howitzer guns**

### Number of Ordnance
- 4
- 3
- 6
- 3
- 4
- 1
And 37 sails of transports.
The troops under the command of Brigadier General Craufurd as follows:

Two companies of artillery, a party of engineers, two squadrons of the 6th Dragoon Guards, 1st Battalions of the 5th, 36th, 45th, and 88th Regiments of foot and five companies of the 95th or rifle corps.
The staff of Brigadier General Craufurd’s expedition:
Brigadier General Craufurd Commanding officer.
Captain Cambell M. B.
Captain Whittingham Acting M. Secretary
Lieutenant Colonel Holland Deputy quarter master general
Captain Whittingham Assistant Quarter Master General
Captain Douglas Assistant Quarter Master General
Lieutenant Colonel Stuart Deputy Adjutant General
Captain Way Assistant Adjutant General

State of the Forces under Brigadier General Craufurd:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>REGIMENTS</th>
<th>Comm. Officers</th>
<th>number of Officers</th>
<th>Non-commissioned Ser.</th>
<th>rank &amp; file corpl.</th>
<th>privates</th>
<th>totals</th>
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<tr>
<td>6th Dragoon</td>
<td>Lt. Kington</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>21</td>
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<td>50</td>
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<td>17</td>
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<tr>
<td>88th Foot</td>
<td>Lt. Duff</td>
<td>54</td>
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<td>24</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>9</td>
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<th>totals</th>
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<td>7</td>
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<td>Cap. Squire</td>
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<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>10</td>
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<td>TOTAL</td>
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<td>236</td>
<td>232</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>231</td>
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</table>

4305 rank and file
232 Ser.        
99 drum         
4306 total
One file occupies  1 foot 10 inches : 0 22
two            3     8 : 1 14
three          5     6 : 2 6

4,000 men 2 deep occupy 3666 feet, 8 inches, 1,466 paces and 20 inches
400 men 3 deep - 2,433 feet, 10 inches or 977 paces, 16 inches
allowing each file to occupy 22 inches. 1760 yards in a mile
2112 paces
5280 feet
63,360 inches

Provisions on board transports

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Days</th>
<th>Provisions</th>
<th>Water necessary</th>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>pork and pease</td>
<td>8 horse buckets</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>oatmeal, pease, butter</td>
<td>16 &quot; &quot; sugar, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>beef and pudding</td>
<td>- in salt water</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>pork and pease</td>
<td>8 1/2 - - salt water</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>oatmeal only</td>
<td>8 -</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>beef and pudding</td>
<td>none necessary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>oatmeal, pease, butter</td>
<td>- 16 --</td>
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</table>

PLACES          Latitude  Longitude  Arrival
D M            D M
London          51 32N       0  0E
Portsmouth      50 47       1   0
Falmouth        50 8        5   5
C. Ortegal      43 46       7  36W
C. Finisterre   42 52       9  14
O. Porto        41 20       8  21
Lisbon          38 42       9   7
C. St. Vincent  37 2        8  56
Cadiz           36 31       6   6
C. Trafalgar    36 10       5  56
Gibraltar       36 5        5  16
Porto Santo     32 58       16  20
Madeira E.P.    32 50       16  46
Madeira W.P.    32 30       17  26
Island of Palma 28 36       17  32
St. Iago N.P.   14 54       23  27
St. Iago S.P.   14 17       23  35
Bonavista       16 6        22  41
Laremburg N     30 41       19  15W
Cape of Good Hope 34 29S     18  20E
St. Holena      15 56S     5  42W
Trinidad        20 33S     29  17W
Monte Video     34 35S     58  31W
Buenos Ayres    34 35S     58  31W
November 12th - The 9th Light Dragoons are with us but part in a certain latitude for Buenos Ayres. Sealed orders have been delivered to the senior officer on board each transport for their guidance, in the event of parting convoy. Our destination a profound secret but the general wish and idea seem to point out Lima, or some part of Spanish South America, as the object of the expedition.  

13th - Land out of sight and very little wind, which made the ship roll and me very sick. The *Ganges* fired a gun shotted signal for the *Atlas* to tack.  

14th - A Midshipman of the *Spencer* came on board with orders.  

15th - Wind fair. Spoke the *Henry*. Morning and evening parades. Entered the Bay of Biscay.  

16th - Sunday - Read divine service to the men, who were formed in close order on the quarter deck. 7 Got leeward 8 of the fleet.  

17th - Made the fleet again, spoke the *Henry*. A court martial sat for the trial 9 of two privates of Captain Ridge’s company, of which I was a member. Made much leeway and lost sight of the fleet.  

18th - Saw the fleet at day break, much to windward 10. It came on to blow hard, with a thick mist, Wind S.W.  

19th - Wind S. W. blowing a gale of wind, sea very high, was very sick. The scene at breakfast and dinner was ridiculous enough. Cups, saucers, etc., etc., flying in all directions.  

20th - Strong winds with rain and frequent squalls. Towards night it blew with increased violence. The ropes of my cot which were passed several times through the rings were chafed asunder and down I came. Still very sick.  

21st - Stormy, wind fair at 8 in the morning, fresh breezes and frequent squalls which continued till 5 P.M. when the wind changed to S. W. The soldiers on board are divided into three watches and 2 subalterns in a watch including the Adjutant and Quarter Master which gives each four hours, of the four and twenty on duty, dog watches 11 excepted. The Captain of the day superintends the messes and economy of the day assisted by the officers on watch.  

22nd - More moderate, rain. Recovering from sickness. Counted 43 sail from the poop. The fleet kept well together. A great swell, owing to the late violent winds. At 3 p.m. the wind became fair. The ship missed stays, for the first time, for which she was scandalized.  

23rd - Read divine service. Latitude by observation 44° 21’, wind 12 N.N.W. course W.S.W. steering S.W. by S.  

26th - The *Henry* passed under our stern, spoke her.  

27th - The *Elizabeth Anderson* spoke us. At 10 P.M. the Commodore spoke us and ordered our cabin lights to be put out. Thick fog. The Commodore fired a gun every hour during the night.  

28th - Wind S.W. - course N. W. by N. Fleet and Commodore on our lee bow.
Ship fumigated. An inspection of arms and appointments. Latitude observed 43° 3'. At 1/2 past 5 P.M. the wind became fair N.N.W., made good our course S.W. Ship making three knots an hour through the water.

29th - At 12 at noon. Course S.W. Wind N. Latitude 42° 5'. The Captain fired a shot at us for being dilatory in tacking.

30th - Sunday. Divine service at the usual hour. Latitude by observation 41° 16'. Course S.W. Wind N. Ship making 6 knots an hour. Memorandum Luxurious feeding. New bread for breakfast. A goose with giblet pie and a plum pudding for dinner. Universally allowed to be excellent and well dressed. Spoke the Admiral Newland Headquarter ship of the 88th regiment and the Juliana Headquarter ship of the 36th regiment. The latter informed us of her having run foul of in the night of our leaving Falmouth by the Captain 74 with the loss of her mizen mast and her quarter gallery broke in.

December 1st - Spoke the Henry and Bellona transports. Latitude by observation 39° 7'. Ship making 6 knots an hour.

2nd - Latitude by observation 37° 1'. Warm and pleasant weather. An inspection of appointments at the morning parade. The ship guns were scaled.

3rd - Latitude by observation 35° 16'. Spoke the Nile, Major Pratt, who told us that he had spoke the Elizabeth Anderson (Captain Drury) who informed him, that when separated from the fleet he opened his sealed instructions n° 1 which staded Madeira to be our first rendezvous and which by the ship's reckoning is supposed to be distant 47 1/2 leagues.

4th - While on watch last night, a fine breeze from N.E. Ship making 7 knots an hour, under easy sail. Keeping ahead of the Commodore and fleet. The Atlas is a fast sailing ship (before the wind) and would, with this breeze, make 11 knots an hour, were all her sails set. There are some bad sailing ships in the fleet, which the men of war have assisted occasionally by taking them in tow. It will appear by the difference of latitude that we have for the last week been making our course very favorably with so large a fleet and made up in some measure for the contrary winds we experienced for the first fortnight. The sun has too much overcast to permit of taking an observation. At 1/2 past 1 P.M. the Commodore made signal of land in sight bearing W by N. The ship thoroughly cleaned between berths and fumigated. Porto Santo in sight over our starboard quarter.

Illustration of Porto Santo.

5th - Wind N.E. Course S.W. At 10 A.M. signal made for the Master to go on board the Agent. Bone went on board the Elizabeth Anderson to see the sick there. Lay too off Madeira distant 7 leagues bearing N by W. Towards the evening it blew hard and during the night a gale.

6th - Wind and course as yesterday, no observation. Lay too from 9 to 11, when the signal for making sail was made. A gale of wind, notwithstanding the violent motion of the ship, felt quite stout.

7th - Wind E. Course W.S.W. Latitude by observation 28° 50'. The island of Palma in sight, on larboard beam bearing S. distant 3 leagues. In consequence of a heavy sea, no prayers. Thick clouds obscured the island at our first view of it, but at noon it cleared up and we had a clear sight of it. The mountains which were of great height were covered with snow. The land
8th - Wind N.E. The trade winds. Course S.W. Latitude 26° 52’. The wind moderated and it became pleasant. Lime juice served out to the men and bathing commenced. Sun rose 51 minutes after 6.

9th - Wind N.N.E. Course S.W. by S. Latitude 24° 56’.

10th - Wind N.E. Course S.W. by S. Latitude 23° 0’.

11th - Latitude by observation 20° 47’. Saw several flying fish.

12th - Latitude 18° 11’. The Master caught a large dolphin. By the ship reckoning we are distant 62 miles from the Cape De Verd Isles.

13th - Course S.W. Wind N.E. Latitude 16° 1’. At 20 minutes past 9 A.M. the commodore made the signal of land in sight, bearing S.S.W. At 12 the isle of Bonsavista in sight on starboard quarter bearing S.W. distant 5 leagues. Lay too off the island.

14th - The island of St. Iago in sight. The softest breeze imaginable filled the sails of the fleet which followed the Commodore in a most regular manner and the whole came to anchor in the small harbour of Port Praya at 1/2 a.m. Exclusive of the imposing sight of a small fleet entering a narrow passage, there were many other circumstances united to render this moment extremely interesting and which the imagination did not fail to render more so. Divine service at the usual hour.

Porto Praya at the present season of the year affords an excellent anchorage, the wind almost constantly blowing from the N. East. The high land on the East side of the harbour affords a complete shelter for shipping. The distance between the two points forming the entrance is nearly two miles, bearing East and West of each other. The Bay of Praya is entirely free from shoals and capable of containing one hundred sail of merchantmen. The men of war anchor at the entrance. About the middle of the bay is a small island 21 near the western side, between it and the main a distance of 300 yards in many parts there is scarcely a depth of water of 6 feet. There are no batteries or works for its defense of any importance. On the highland to the East, almost half way between the entrance and the bottom of the bay, there is a battery of 5 guns, but so much elevated that their fire would produce very little effect. The shore is bold and the water deep to the East, to the West the coast is low and the water more shallow. The rise of ordinary tides is from 4 to 6 feet; if spring, tides from 9 to 11.

The town of Port Praya is situated at the bottom of the bay, upon an isolated height, having steep and craggy sides, but its upper surface level and regular. On either side of the town is a valley interspersed with the palm trees and small plantations of cotton. The town consists of a few rows of huts, built of dry masonry and sometimes cemented with mud. The roofs are for the most part formed of branches of the palm tree tho’ a few of the principal buildings are covered with tiles. There is a church on the west of the plateau.

The inhabitants amount to between 5 and 6,000 persons. On the edge of the southern precipice of the town there is a wall, 18 inches thick forming a sort of parapet with embrasures mounting 16 guns of different calibers. Tho’ not in a very serviceable condition, to the westward of them 10 other guns are mounted, also looking toward the sea.

In the valleys to the East and West, water is found in different situations. In the Western valley not far from the sea is a well of 10 feet diameter. It is
formed of masonry. The supply of water was most abundant and from whence the whole of our transports and men of war completed their watering in 16 days, without altering or sinking its level. A Tamarind tree, with its crooked branches, spread over the well, and afforded a great convenience for fixing the ropes and tackleings, for raising the water, as well as shade for the men employed. The beach bounding the valley towards the sea, consisted of a fine shelving sand, on which occasionally there was a great surf. The boats however for watering and other purposes, constantly landed here.

The beach of the valley towards the East side of the town, was a sort of black pebble and on account of the surf scarcely ever practicable for boats. At the East angle of the valley, however, were the precipice begins, there is a good landing place at the rocks.

Fish

The harbour of Port Praya abounds in a variety of fish tho' not of the best quality. The Bicada, a species of mullet, we found preferable to any other and which we caught in large quantities with hooks and lines from the shipping. The men of war having nets frequently caught sufficient for their crewmen for the day. Dolphins and sharks are also found here. In consequence of the latter, Brigadier General Craufurd gave it out in general orders, that the men should not be suffered to bathe. Several flying fish were taken more than 15 inches in length.

Trees

This land does not produce trees of any considerable growth. The largest and principal ones are the Nonada, the Tamarind, the fig tree, the palm and the Pinea Brunea. The fig tree differs greatly from that produced in Europe. The leaves smaller and of darker color. The Nonada is well clothed with foliage greatly resembling the orange but the leaf longer. The palm or Tamba as it is stated by the natives, has a beautiful appearance. The tamarind tree has a long trunk, with crooked and extending branches and a very small leaf.

During our stay at Port Praya, Brigadier General Craufurd showed the greatest anxiety for the health and comfort of the troops and took every means in his power to ensure this most important object. The sick were disembarked and orders repeatedly issued enjoining commanding officers of corps to pay the most unremitting attention to the cleanings of their ships. Scuttles for the admission of air were cut in the sides and decks of the different transports; the men bathed regularly in tubs placed on the fore castle, under the inspection of an officer and the General also ordered that one side of the quarter deck should be given up to men to allow them a greater space for exercise. During the month our army remained at St. Iago, the troops enjoyed excellent health and spirits. Only one man, a private of the 6th Dragoon Guards, died and his death was occasioned by a Coup de Soleil. The thermometer was generally at 74° in the shade. The nights sometimes hotter than the days. Tho' the depth of their winter, but to us hotter than the month of August in England.

Wild animals

The only wild animals we heard at Port Praya were cats and large monkees. Quails and Guinea fowls, abounded in the vallies and mountainous parts. The latter extremely difficult to kill.

Dec. 15th - Orders were given out for the fleet to take in fresh water, beginning with the 5th regiment. We furnished a Guard on shore consisting of one Captain, 2 sub, 2 Sergeants, 4 Corporals, and 20 privates to post sentries round the watering place. The Fort fired a salute on the landing of the General and again on his calling on the Governor.

16th - Orders were given out permitting the officers to go on shore. A second guard at the slaughtering place ordered. Fresh beef served out to the troops.
17th - The Queen of Portugal's birth day in honor of which the Fort fired a salute which was returned by the men of war. 6 French " line of battleships were reported in sight by the *Nereide* frigate. She was ordered to cruise a few leagues off the port.

18th - Went on shore.

19th - Some field pieces were disembarked, and mounted most advantageously at the East and West points of the Bay, in order to protect the fleet with the men of war, should there be occasion.

21st - Sunday. Divine service as usual.

22nd - Orders were issued for a certain number of troops to go on board the men of war if necessary. The 5th Regiment to go to the *Spencer 74*.

23rd - Went on shore with a marketing party, for the Regiment to purchase vegetables and fruits. The ships that touched at Madeira for wine rejoined.

24th - The *Argo 44*, Captain Digby, came into the bay.

27th - The Regiment was mustered. Necessary orders were given out for the disembarkation of the troops and their several posts appointed in case of an attack.

31st - The Fifth Regiment disembarked at half past 6 A.M. and had a field day.

January 1st. - The Battalion disembarked at day break and was reviewed by the Brigadier General.

Sailed from Port Praya

11th. - Went on guard at the watering place at day break. Signal for sailing made at 11 o'clock AM. The guard was recalled at 4 PM. The fleet under weigh.

12th - Latitude by observation 14° 12'. Course South. Wind Northeast. Christened Smith's child of the Light Company, born on board on the 30th December.

13th - Latitude 12° North. Wind and course as yesterday. Saw several flying fish and dolphins. The flying fish is about the size of a Herring, and their wings are long fins and serve them for flying no longer than they are wet. They sometimes fall upon our deck seeking refuge from the pursuit of the ravenous Bonitas and Dolphins.

14th - Ship cleaned and fumigated.

17th - Latitude by observation 3° 50', becalmed.

18th - Latitude 3° 15'. Showers. Ship fumigated. In consequence of the bad sailing of the *Campion* and her being leaky the troops were removed from her and distributed among the other ships of the fleet. It was imagined she would make one of the West India Islands. Sent a letter on board her for England.

19th - Captain Ridge shot a tropical bird that flew for some time over the vessel, lit on the sprit sail yard. Becalmed. Frequent and vivid flashes of
lightening during the night. Latitude 3° 20'.

21st - Latitude 3°. Light breezes from the North East. Caught a large shark which we beheld for some time following our vessel. In all his pomp and grandeur of majesty he was preceded by an escort of 3 pilot fish at regular intervals from his head (who point out his prey) 28 four Bonitas with a few other of the finny tribe brought up the rear. Upon his nearing the vessel a piece of pork about 3 1/2 pounds was fastened to a large shark hook and let down into the water toward which the pilot fish were conducting their chief. Having passed a number of smaller baits that were thrown over board from the stern (to engage him till the hook was prepared) which he seemed to regard as unworthy of his notice. His guides brought him close under the stern and he really looked majestically tremendous. He took the bait in a bold and undaunted manner and we were fortunate enough to hook him fast. His exertions to disengage himself were very vigorous and powerful and we were afraid he would break the rope to which the hook was fastened. The Master of the vessel threw his harpoon and hit him in the side. Colonel Davie wounded him twice with a rifle and it was a long time before he appeared in the least exhausted. We lowered the boat and towed him along side and by means of a tackle suspended from the yard arm we hoisted him on deck still alive.

22nd - Thermometer this day 78° in the shade. Constant showers wind variable. Heavy showers of rain with frequent and loud peals of thunder and vivid lightening. A most awful storm. Heat excessive during the day. Thermometer at 83° in the shade. At 12 at night the rain descended in torrents, constant lightening.

23rd - The Warre had a signal of distress flying. Her main mast was wounded by lightening. The whole of this day delightfully cool and pleasant.

26th - The Commodore gave chase to a strange sail. Latitude 1° 9’. Saw this day a number of beautiful fish called Nautilus or Portuguese men of war 30, floating upon the surface of the water. By observation this day in latitude 1° 8’ North. Longitude 20° 48’ West.

29th - Crossed the line West Longitude 20° 52’. Neptune came on board in all his pomp and performed the usual ceremonies of shaving, ducking, etc. dancing, cock-fighting, etc. allowed among the soldiers and sailors till 10 PM. See page 152. 31

30th - Latitude 23° South of the equator. Course South West. Wind calm.

31st - Latitude 50° South. A private of Ridge’s Company died. The births were washed and fumigated and fires made between decks.

February 4th - Ship fumigated. Latitude 5° 5’.

10th - No observation. A child died.

15th - By the Tropic of VS 32.

18th - Latitude 24° 49’.

27th - Latitude 31° 44’.

March 8th - Latitude 33° 26’. To leeward of the fleet.
10th - Latitude 32° 17'. Signal made for the Atlas to prepare for a tow rope. Taken in tow at 10 AM by the Spencer.  

11th - Latitude 32° 6'. Cast off the tow rope at 4 PM.  

19th - At 5 AM (on watch) land was in sight, bearing East Northeast. The sight of land as may well be imagined made us all very happy. Our sea stock had been exhausted for some time. At 11 PM dropped anchor in False Bay.  

20th - Got under weigh at day break and anchored again in Simons' Bay at 11 o'clock AM.  

21st - Went on shore and dined at the mess of the 83rd Regiment stationed there.  

22nd - Weighed at 8 o'clock AM to work round to Table Bay by order Rear Admiral Murray.  

23rd - Anchored at 10 PM in Table Bay. Blowing very fresh.  

24th - Changed our birth more in shore.  

25th - Wrote a letter to my father, to send by the Pauline sloop of war and enclosed the one (to my sister) I wrote at sea the 18th January and sent on board the Campion, she having arrived in the harbour four days before the fleet to our great surprise.  

26th - Went on shore, dined at the mess of the 24th Regiment with Captain Langworthy.  

27th Good Friday. The Regiment disembarked and had a field day. Wrote letters to go to England by the Spencer.  

28th - Went on shore with a marketing party.  

April 2nd - Went on shore at day break with the Quarter Master to attend the delivery of the fresh meat. A fire broke out in the town which completely burnt a large house to the ground. Breakfasted with Dobson at his lodgings. He is allowed to be on shore in consequence of sickness. Dined with a party of our officers at Morrison's Hotel.  

3rd - Went on shore, received my Bat and Forage allowance. Dined with Ridge and Pratt at the mess of the 24th Regiment.  

4th - Was subaltern of the day on board. At 3 PM was ordered on shore with a party of 2 Sergeants, 2 Corporals an 10 privates to see all hands belonging to the expedition off shore. A busy and confused scene. Returned with my party on board at 3 o'clock AM on the morning of the 5th.  

5th - The day on which it was intended we should sail from Table Bay, and were all embarked for that purpose when there came a most dreadful gale from the Southeast which prevented us. The China Fleet appeared off the Cape. Indeed some of the ships were already in the offing when the gale obliged them to put to sea and bear away for St. Helena. The Polyphe- mus, Admiral Murray's ship parted from her cables in the night and lost her anchors. At 11 PM our vessel parted from her anchor and we stood out
to the mouth of the harbour. The fleet otherwise sustained no injury and rode it out extremely well. It was a truly most awful scene. The atmosphere appeared affected without being overclouded, a white fleecy cloud alone seemed to hang on the summit of the Table Mountains, out of which gusts of wind rushed down the rocky cavities sweeping the town to the bay. The sea not being ruffled by the wind. The transports managed to ride it out but the contrary wind from the Northwest is destruction to a fleet laying at anchor in the bay and the season of their coming on fast approaching, hastened our departure from the Cape and we proceeded to St. Helena to complete our watering.

Sailed from Table Bay

6th - Lay too during the mid watch. At 3 AM made sail and stood in for the harbour. At 5 nearly a calm. With the assistance of the Harbour Master we got up our anchor. We regained our former birth, and were preparing to anchor at 8 when the Admiral made signal for the fleet to get under weigh. From our already prepared state we had only to loose top sails and took the lead of the fleet. The Cape Town delightfully situated at the foot of the Table Mountains. On the right are seen the summits of the Tiger and four other mountains, on the left the Isle of Penguins. Constance, False Bay and the lion mountain form the extremity of the table. The Town is neat and elegant. Houses and streets good and regular, intersected with canals and rows of trees, forming a delightful shade. The inhabitants appear a happy people, whom war has never yet made desolate. Climate extremely warm. The sun when nearly vertical and the rays collecting from the collateral rocks make the heat almost insupportable. A sandy gravel mixed with a white earth constitutes the soil of the Cape. The trees peculiar to the country are those of Gold and Silver. The wood of which is only fit to burn. There are forests in the interior, but in the neighbourhood of the Cape, the earth is covered with a variety of flowery and aromatic plants. Beef and mutton very plentiful. The offal which is thrown away attracts the wolves towards the town at night and they are heard howling, their size enormous. The fruits here are very good and cheap.

6th - At 12 o'clock salute fired by the Admiral. The report of which re-echo'd by the surrounding mountains produced a very grand effect. The salute was immediately returned by the saluting battery on shore. Wind westerly. Our convoy 42 consisted of Rear Admiral Murray in the Polyphemus (Captain Heywood) of 64 guns. The African 64, Captain Baynton, Nereide 36, Captain Corbett, Camel store ship, Captain Joyce, Saracen sloop of war, Captain Prevost, Haughty gun brig, Lieutenant Mitchell, Flying Fish schooner, Lieutenant Godwin and 32 sail of transports. The day was extremely beautiful, a gentle breeze from the Westward filled our sails and we bid adieu to the Cape of Good Hope, and its peaceful inhabitants where we had received from the garrison every mark of respect and attention.

7th - Land out of sight. Latitude by observation 32° 29' South. Longitude 17° 39' East. Signal made to steer Northwest during the night. Caught a large shark.

8th - The remainder of the fleet, which have been far astern, have in sight.

10th - Latitude 29° 51' South. Longitude 13° 11' East. Course North North West. Wind South east by South. At 5 PM signal made to steer North Northwest if wind should permit.

12th - Course North Northwest. Wind Southeast, light breezes with rain. During the night a great sea arose. Made 122 miles.
13th - Course North Northwest. Wind South Southeast, made 143 miles. At
day break small rain, heavy swell all day. Strong gale, cloudy weather. The
_Haughty_ gun brig ran foul of us and carried away our jib boom.

20th - Land of St. Helena seen at mast head at 8 AM. The _Haughty_ gun brig
spoke us and ordered us to anchor as close in shore as possible. The whole
fleet lay too for signal.

21st - Signal from the Admiral to fill and sail large. Came to anchor in
St. Helena Bay at 11. Salute fired at half past 11. Found the China Fleet
which had appeared off Table Mountain the day of the South Easter. Had
arrived three days before us under convoy of the _Sir Edward Hughes_. Learnt
from shore that 400 picked men had gone from the island with Sir Home
Popham and General Beresford. Are prisoners with 71st Regiment at
Buenos Ayres. Found it the beginning of winter at St. Helena. A Captains
guard mounted on shore, with orders to prevent any person belonging to
the fleet going into the town as the measles was raging and from 30 to 40
of the inhabitants had been buried of a day.

23rd - Subaltern of the day on board.

24th - Went on board the _Walmar Castle Chinaman_ and on shore.

25th - Went on shore to receive orders. Assisted at the Deputy Adjutant
General’s office to make out the returns of the forces to send to England.
Took all the public journals of the different transports of the Regiment
to the Brigadier General for his inspection.

26th - The General went on board the _Polyphemus_ at 2 PM when a salute
of 17 guns was fired from the saluting battery on shore. Fleet weighed at
half past 2. At half past 3 the Admiral fired a salute of 17 guns, on leaving
the Bay of James’ Town which produced a very fine effect from the surround-
ing mountains, similar to the report of a well conducted fire of musquetry.
Land visible at 11 at night.

27th - Extremely hot, steering West as per signal made the evening before.
Out of sight of land (St. Helena) which is situated as follows (viz) in the
Atlantic Ocean, is 20 miles in circumference and belongs to the Honorable
East India Company. It has several very high and barren mountains, the
loftiest of which is Diana’s Peak which is covered with wood to the summit.
The mountains in general bear strong marks of volcanic origin. The valley
in the interior and the smaller hills are covered with a rich verdure and in-
terspersed with rich gardens. The Governor’s house and plantation about
three miles from St. James’ Town is very deserving of notice and here the
bamboo and English Oak thrive by the side of each other. The pastures
which are numerous and rich are enclosed with stone, and are fed by a fine
breed of small cattle mixed occasionally with the English sheep. Fruits of
every description thrive extremely well. The number of inhabitants do not
exceed 2000 (including 500 soldiers and about the same number of slaves)
who are supplied with manufactures of all kinds by the company’s ships in
return for provisions, etc. etc. The town called James’ Town is small but
beautifully situated in a valley, at the head of a bay, on the south side of
the island, between two steep and craggy mountains, and is well defended
by forts and batteries.

28th - Wind East Northeast. Course West. Thermometer at noon 77°. Lat-
titude 16° 35’ South. Longitude 8° 16’.
May 1st - Latitude 18° 52'. At 10 AM the Saracen sloop of war was ordered to pass within hail of the Admiral. Her boat went long side, and immediately on its return she crowded sail, steering due West.

2nd - Latitude by observation 19° 21'. The Active transport was very near running foul of us, owing to inattention on her part. About 2 o'clock AM one of the wheel blocks got jamed and for a time the helm was useless which circumstance was near producing unpleasant consequences, as we were near running on board the British Queen.

3rd - The Haughty gun brig spoke us and gave orders from the General, for the recruits to fire both blank and ball cartridges for practice at a target if it could be managed.

8th - Off the island of Trinidad, a barren, rocky and uninhabited island, famous for turtle. Longitude 29° 17'. West. Latitude 20° 33' South. Fine clear settled weather. The fleet making upon an average two degrees a day. The fleet lay to off the island which is distant about 8 leagues — by the tropic of VS 45°.

9th - Ridge and the Colonel dined on board the Saracen.

13th - Latitude 25° 36'. A certain number of each watch were ordered to parade in future during the night with arms and appointments and the sentries were posted with 10 rounds of ammunition per man, in consequence of our receiving orders to defend ourselves against ships of the enemy. A certain number of men, were also appointed to the ship's guns.

15th - Latitude 28° 41'. Particular orders were received from the General directing the greatest attention to be paid to the health of the men, fires, etc. etc. to be made between decks daily, as we may now expect wet and bad weather.

16th - The ship was fumigated which has regularly taken place every Sunday and Thursday.

18th - Latitude 30° 17'. A leak was discovered and the ship ordered to be pumped every hour.

26th - Course West by South. Wind North East. Latitude 34° 59'. Land in sight at half past 8 o'clock AM bearing North West. Signal made to prepare to anchor. Thermometer 66° in cabin. The Haughty brig had sounding the whole of yesterday from 70 to 80 fathoms.46

Wednesday 27th - Wind East Northeast. Course West Northeast. Latitude 35° 0'. Longitude 55° 45'.

Soundings:
20 fathoms 11 AM
20 " at noon
22 foot sand and shell midnight
20 " " 1AM
16 " " 3 AM
16 " fine sand 4 AM

At day break this morning found ourselves in smooth water in the Rio de la Plata, whose breadth at the mouth is reckoned 160 miles. Anchored at 4 PM. The Medusa and Unicorn frigates joined us from the River.
28th - Weather extremely cold. The *Flying Fish* schooner sent to Monte Video supposed for pilots. At anchor in 16 fathoms water. We were informed that Lieutenant General Whitelock had arrived at Monte Video and taken the command of the forces, and that 1500 men were expected as a reinforcement from England under the command of Brigadier General Ackland.

Monday June 1st - Came on to blow extremely hard, with a high sea. Captains Armstrong, Drury and Dr. Boundien came on board from the *Spence*.

2nd - Experienced a sad night, pitching and rolling. A strong South Wester. The *Fame* transport (45th on board) at noon made signal of distress and wanting immediate assistance. Our friends from the *Spence* weather bound.

3rd - Weather moderated. Sea gone down. The *Spence*’s boat was lowered from the stern and Armstrong thought of returning to his ship, but the boat dropping astern to pick up some great coats that had fallen overboard, was unable to regain the ship, but brought up on board the *Nile*. Armstrong and a party, however, were put on board the *Spence*, in one of our boats. Captain Way came on board from the *Warre*.

4th - King’s birthday. Signal made to weigh at day break. Under sail at half past 9. Orders came on board from the Admiral. Wind and sea rose. (Lilly’s child died).

5th - Gale and sea continued, latter tremendously high. No sitting at table. Moderated towards night. Latitude 34° 57’.

6th - During the night the tiller got unshipped and occasioned a sensation like stricking. Sea extremely high. One ship only in sight. Shoals of immense porpoises playing round the ship which we shot at several times. Poor Brown (a seaman) died.

7th - Wind and sea had subsided considerably. At day light the *Polyphemus* Admiral Murray and about 20 of the fleet were already distinguished. At 8 AM tacked ship per signal. At noon church parade and divine service performed. Latitude by observation 35° 12’ South.

8th - Signal at 7 to bear down into the wake of the *Polyphemus*. Latitude 35° 25’ South.

9th - Course South West. Wind West by North. Latitude 36° 23’. Extreme cold weather. Nothing but the King’s own for dinner.

10th - Course South West. Wind West by North. Latitude 36° 54’. The fleet tacked by signal at half past 9 AM and stood North west. Still cold weather. Agreeably surprised at dinner by the entree of some giblet soup and a Yorkshire pudding. Towards night almost a calm.

11th - Strong breezes and clear weather. A great dampness in the air. At day break found ourselves in the center of the fleet. The *Flying Fish* schooner, Lieutenant Godwin Commanding, dropped astern close under our weather quarter. We were very near running foul of her. She afterwards hailed us and accused the Master of our vessel of repeated inattention towards him, and expressed his intention of reporting him to the Admiral. Had soundings this morning, 17 fathoms water. Latitude 36° 3’ South. At 3 PM the *Nereide*
frigate lay too and sent her boat on board with instructions to the Master
and left with him a chart of the River de la Plata and Maldonado Harbour. 
The transports were formed into divisions and directed to follow the orders
of particular ships of war, appointed to them. We were ordered to observe
and follow the motions of the *Nereide*. She bore down and took her station
to leeward of the fleet. We lost sight of her at 7 PM.

12th - At day break, a sail was seen from the mast head, over the weather
bow, and at 7 another sail was seen over our lee quarter. At half past 7 AM
on sounding found ourselves in 4 1/2 fathom water, on the English Bank,
immediately tacked ship, and steered East by South and continued on that
tack till we got into 7 fathom water. At noon in 10 fathom water. Latitude
by observation 35° 8' South. At 4 PM the Master reported to the comman-
ding officer that he saw from the mast head a ship on her beam ends, on the
English Bank. It was determined to bear down towards her, and give all
assistance in our power. Tacked ship, it was not till 10 PM that we got
within 4 miles of her. A light was hoisted at our fore yard arm, and two
guns as signals were fired, neither of which were answered. A breeze spring-
ing up from off shore, and a strong current setting on the bank. The Master
thought it imprudent to send his boat such a distance as her return would be
difficult and doubtful. So situated, it was thought best to stand off and on
(weather permitting) till morning in hopes then of being able to render
assistance.

13th - At 4 AM the wind increasing made sail and steered West. Wind North
Northwest. A very thick fog induced the Master to anchor, which we did
at half past 12 in 5 1/2 fathom water. At 6 PM heard a gun which we sup-
possed to be from the *Polyphemus*. We heard a second gun soon after in the
same direction. We fired an answering gun to apprise any ship that might
be near us of our situation and hoisted a light at the mizen boom. At 7 PM
the fog clearing up in some measure we descried a sail over our lee bow low-
ered a boat and the mate went to board her, but falling in with her boat
returned. She proved to be the *Pas* schooner 48 commanded by Lieutenant
who came on board and informed us of his leaving Buenos Ayres early in
the morning and that a complete victory had been gained by the British
troops under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Pack, 71st Regiment, over
the Spanish army at Colonia Sacramentum, a very superior force 49. The
loss of the enemy was 125 killed, 150 and several officers taken prisoners.
Our loss 4 killed and 15 wounded. He otherwise gave us particulars of the
preparations making by the enemy at Buenos Ayres and of the garrison and
fleet at Monte Video. He left us at half past 10 PM directing the Master to
weigh. After his departure the Master stated to the commanding officer his
objections to getting under weigh till day break and it was settled to suspend
operations till day break.

14th - Weighed at 7 AM. At 8 land in sight, straight ahead bearing North by
East. At 8 1/2 saw Admiral Stirling's 50 fleet at anchor, before Montevideo.
Drop anchor at half past 10 AM. Found the *Doris, Spence* and *Elizabath
Anderson*, and others of the fleet safe at anchor. It gave us all vast pleasure
for her safety, knowing her to be in a shaken and bad state. At half past 12
the *Polyphemus* and several of the fleet were seen bearing up before the
wind. Admiral Stirling saluted Admiral Murray's flag. At 2 PM a salute was
fired from the battery on shore which was immediately answered by the
*Polyphemus*. Towards night nearly the whole of our fleet were at anchor.

15th - The inspector of Hospitals came on board and took on shore with him
such of the sick as were not effective or unfit for active service. Every pre-
paration making to proceed up the River. The troops in garrison embarked and orders came on board to get under weigh, in the morning should the wind be fair.

16th - The Colonel and Captain Broke went on shore. The Colonel on his return gave me letters from England to my great joy. Good accounts.

17th - A division of the fleet got under weigh in the morning. Major Bird not being able to get on board the Doris passed the day with us. Dropt anchor at half past 4 PM. Wrote letters.

18th - Major Bird left us. Heavy fog, very common at this season of the year. Weighed too close to the Commodore at 10 PM.

19th - Quarter Master Irwin and Adjutant Leech came on board from the Nile transport where they had been since the 16th instant having been left on shore to purchase flannel for the troops. Weighed at 12 at noon, anchored again at half past 5 PM. At 7 the Lieutenant Commanding the Pas schooner 50, came on board with copies of signals.

20th - At 2AM it blew very fresh and continued so the greater part of the day. A shore bird flew on board. A fine dry wind such as we experienced in March in England. Towards evening the wind increased and it blew a gale. At 11 PM the wind moderated and it became almost calm.

21st - Weighed at half past 10 o'clock AM. Divine service at the usual hour and the band having practiced for some time, sung a Psalm, which they have done for the last four Sundays. Packing seems to be the order of the day and as orders have been given respective baggage allowing a field officer 224 pound weight, Captain 168 pound and 112 pound a subaltern 51. The state of expectation we are in, of leaving the ship, no time should be lost. Anchored at half past 4 PM astern of the Charwell sloop of war, stationed as a beacon.

22nd - Orders came on board to the commanding officer relative to the removal of the men on board the Elisabeth Anderson and Atlas, to the other ships of the 5th. 52 Weighed at 12 at noon. Received English newspapers up to the 9th March. An inspection of arms and appointments, all in excellent order. Dropt anchor again at half past 3, almost calm.

23rd - Weighed at 10 AM.

24th - Anchored off Colonia Sacramentum at 2 PM. Received orders to leave the Atlas and repair on board the Doris, Nile and Ariel. Went on board the Doris at 9 PM.

25th - To and from the Atlas several times, superintended the removal of the heavy baggage.

26th - Got under weigh at 9 AM and got farther in shore. Came to an anchor in the evening.

27th - Heavy rain at 4 AM, thunder and lightening. At 8 AM it became fair. The troops paraded with arms and appointments, in expectation of disembarking and we were much disappointed that no signal was made for that purpose.
Sunday 28th - Got under weigh at 6 AM and got more in shore. Dropt anchor at half past 7. Brigadier General Craufurd and some of his staff passed under our stern in the London packet. We gave him three cheers in passing. Signal immediately made for the boats to haul long side, and the troops to disembark. Signal made for the boats to push off for the shore at 8. The boats grounded a long way off shore and the men jumped out up to their middle in water. I carried the King's Color of the 5th which was the first landed and saluted by Sir Samuel Auchmuty and his staff. A creek was discovered at a little distance from the place where the troops commenced landing, where the remainder landed dry. The Light Brigade advanced about 12. The Army advanced in column at half past 12 and occupied the Fort of Ensenada de Barragan, and some small huts for the night.

29th - A long, wet and fatiguing day's march. Nine miles of which was through a swamp, at times up to our middle. Halted on some rising ground by some huts for the night.

30th - Meat served out to the troops, but by far the greater part of them threw it away on the march unable to carry it, finding their great coats, blankets, haversacks, canteens and ammunition too heavy without any other addition.

July 1st - Was subaltern of the rear guard and detached with 20 rank and file to the assistance of some riflemen and dragoons, who were endeavouring to catch some horses, when a body of Spanish cavalry were seen advancing upon them. But the appearance of my party, put the fellows to the route. We experienced some very difficult passes. A cart drawn by 3 mules and laden with things belonging to the Commander in chief was in a manner carried over bogs, etc. etc. by some of the guard. The troops threw away the greater part of their blankets, and in one place made a pass with them over a swamp. The General expressed himself highly satisfied with the conduct of the rear guard and expressed a hope of being able to supply the troops with bread and spirits for the day. The General's servant was wounded and soon afterwards died. Piled arms at 5.

2nd July 1807

General orders

The commander of the forces, relies on the zeal and spirit of the troops he has the honor to command, to enable them to bear like British soldiers the unavoidable privations attendant on the present service. Every measure has been taken to procure supply of bread and spirits from the shipping. The men must themselves be aware, from the difficulties they have encountered from the march of yesterday, how uncertain it must be whether this refreshment can be conveyed to them. The troops will this day, cook two days provisions to carry with them on the march tomorrow, and Commanding officers of Regiments are held responsible for the strict compliance of this order. The Army will march by its left flank tomorrow morning at 6 o'clock. This order to be read at the head of each company.

Signed J. Blake A.A.G.

2nd - Several dragoons of the enemy approached very near the rear of the column. One of them was killed by one of our rifleman.
3rd - Forded the Chielo 68 waist high and joined the Light Brigade. Found them in possession of a battery and within 3 miles of Buenos Ayres. Took many prisoners. The pickets kept up a constant fire. Bread and spirits served out.

4th - On fatigue to get beef for the Regiment. Met Major Trotter and Hill. Flags of truce to and fro. Skirmishes at the out posts. The Spaniards intend defending their town till the last extremity. The next day fixed upon for storming the town of Buenos Ayres, from which we were distant about 2 miles and a half. The following orders were issued previous to the attack:

General Orders

Buenos Ayres 4th July - at day break of the 5th to be put in execution, etc.

Sir Samuel Achmuty to detach the 38th Regiment to possess itself of the Place del Tauro, and the adjacent strong ground and there post itself. The 5th, 36th, 87th and 58th Regiments to be divided into wings and each wing is to penetrate into the street directly in front in a column of sections, right in front. The Light Battalion to penetrate by wings into the streets on the right of that leading up from Mr. White’s house 59 and the next to it, followed by the 95th. The left division of the 95th Regiment is to receive its orders from Lieutenant Colonel Pack, the right division from General Craufurd. Two three pounders 60 to follow these columns one each. The 45th Regiment to advance by wings left in front up the two next streets, beyond the Light Battalion. The Carabiniers to move up with and cover 2 6 pounders which will be advanced up the street from Mr. White’s and remain with them. 9th Light Dragoons to move to their left and take up the present ground of the Light Battalions at 11 o’clock 61, when they will receive further orders. Each officer commanding a division of the left wing (viz. from 88th to 87th exclusively) to take care that he does not incline to his right of the right wing, that is Light Brigade and 45th to the left. The cannonade in the center is to be the signal for the whole to march and each division to go if possible straight down the street before it till it arrives at the last square of houses (next to the River Plata - of which they are to possess themselves) and on the tops of which if they find that they suffer materially from any interior defense, they are to lodge themselves as far in advance as they can. Two Corporals with tools 62 to be attached to the head of each column. The whole to be unloaded and no firing to be permitted on any account whatever. When the business is over the utmost exertion must be used to keep the men collected and formed. The Regiments may leave their packs in their present [cortonments] 63 under a subaltern’s guard if they wish it. The cannonade will commence at 7 o’clock precisely 61. Parole advance - C sign success.

5th - Entered the town. Gained the post appointed for us. Got possession of a large church 64 and posted the men on the tops of houses and in the streets. At 11 Brigadier General Lumley ordered Lieutenant Colonel Davie to advance with 3 companies to the assistance of the 36th Regiment. Colonel Davie ordered me to find Sir Samuel Achmuty and report the circumstances. After parading about the town for some time, found Sir Samuel at the Place del Tauro. On my returning to our post 83 prisoners were given over to my charge and soon after my return to the church occupied by the 5th Regiment I was ordered to conduct all the prisoners in charge of the Regiment to the Place del Tauro where Sir Samuel’s brigade retreated to. Mounted picquet.
Returned of killed, wounded, and missing on the 5th July 1807 at Buenos Ayres.

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Killed, etc. from 28th June to 4th July 1807

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About 94 officers and 1300 men taken prisoners. I never saw a return of the prisoners.

6th - General Whitelocke joined the troops at the Place del Tauro with two field pieces. The gun boats opened their fire on the fort but soon ceased in consequence of a flag of truce. Came off picquet at 10 in the morning.

7th - General Liniers commander in chief of the Spanish troops had an interview with General Whitelocke.

General Orders

July 7th, 1807

The Commander of the forces animated by the conduct of the troops under his command, and at the same time feeling for the distress of those in the hands of the enemy, has entered into a convention with the Spanish General, agreeing that upon condition, of all British subjects taken before this period, as well as those upon this occasion being liberated, he will desist from further operations against this town of Buenos Ayres, a measure dictated by humanity and a policy which he trusts will prove beneficial to Great Britain.

The Commander of the forces is sorry to learn that many of the troops have been guilty of plundering and directs that officers will be exceedingly vigilant in putting a stop to irregularities so highly discreditable to the British nation. A chain of sentries will be formed beyond which if any soldier is found he will be severely punished.

8th - The Admiral came on shore and everything was settled for the evacuation of Spanish South America by the English. Dined with Harrison of the 38th Reg. at his out post.

9th - On the main guard the troops began to embark the sick and wounded first.

General orders

General Orders

9th July 1807
Volunteers Henry de Wall of the 38th Regiment, Husband of the 87th Regiment and N. Travers of the 95th Regiment are appointed Ensigns in their respective corps, till His Majesty's pleasure is known in consequence of their gallant behaviour on the morning of the 5th instant. Such regiments as have hitherto been under command of Brigadier General Sir Samuel Auchmuty will be attached until further orders to the Brigade under the command of Brigadier General Lumley. The commander of the forces cannot permit that officer to quit the Army unaccompanied by his assurances of his highest esteem. No officer has served his country with more zeal and gallantry and it will be fairly represented that there is no one on whom His Majesty's gracious favor would be placed more deservedly.

10th - The Saracen sailed for England.

12th - Embarked in the evening. Got on board the Doris about 9 o'clock. Cold and miserable. The troops waded up to their middle in water to gain the boats. The 5th Regiment was the last that embarked.

14th - Under weigh working down the River. The men on board paraded for an inspection of arms and etc.

15th - At anchor in Monte Video Harbour. Disembarked at half past 1 PM.

16th - Mounted the Mole Guard.

19th - Attended guard mounting, was subaltern in waiting. 50 men of each Regiment in garrison to volunteer into the 47th and 87th Regiment under orders for India. Walked with Trappes round the works and lines of the garrison. Garrison evening parade.

21st - Mounted the citadel guard.


27th - Took lodgings with Trappes, Hare and McDonagh. Sent letters to England via Cape of Good Hope by Mr. Smith of the D.

28th - Mounted the citadel guard. The garrison and regimental duties here are very severe, and allow no time for journal writing. In short more is expected of the officer than he can possibly perform with any degree of credit or satisfaction to himself. Both men and officers are wretchedly accommodated yet no allowance is made and as much or more is expected from all ranks than I have ever experienced in any quarter in England where the soldier has literally nothing to do but prepare for parade inspection. Here the regimental duties are such that to be on guard is absolute rest and relaxation. Exposed to every inducement to get drunk from the cheapness of the wines and spirits and the number of licensed spirit houses, the great offers made to the soldier to desert, the little attention paid by him to the cleanliness or comfort of his quarters, when not under the immediate and constant eye of his officer are considerations sufficient to call forth the exertions and cheerful obedience of officers, to orders calculated to remedy such evils, so injurious to discipline. Necessary duties become light in proportion to their importance but the intervention of unnecessary parade form and minutie in the full employ of serious and indispensable duties, clow and disgust the most zealous.
August 5th - Hostages arrived from Buenos Ayres.

6th - Major King went on board to sail with the 1st Division for England. Sent letters by him.

27th - In consequence of several of the Irishmen of the Regiment having deserted, the remainder were ordered on board the Campion, under the command of Captain Clark.

30th - Prizes burnt by the Navy. General Gower's Ball, etc. etc.

September 1st - The Flying Fish schooner arrived from Buenos Ayres. 600 of the 71st Regiment had reached that place from Cordova.

2nd - Two ships arrived from England with merchandise. By her we heard of the defeat at Rosetta.

General orders

Head Quarters Monte Video 12th August 1807

In consequence of a representation from the Commander of the forces to the Spanish Commandant on the subject of deserters from this Army and desiring that strong steps might be taken for the recovery of men who have so shamefully disgraced themselves, in order that they may be brought to exemplary punishment. The following answer has been received.

May it please your Excellency, I enclose to your Excellency an annexed edict which I am going to issue conformable to what I have the honor to learn in the communication this morning with your Excellency which united to the precaution of posting in the country some small parties of regular soldiers under the command of an officer of trust, I believe I shall entirely remedy the evil of desertion, and with which precautions I reply to the letter of your Excellency which I had the honor to receive this day.

God preserve your Excellency many years,

His Excellency the General in chief of the British Army

(Signed) Havia de Elio

Don Havia Elio,
Colonel of the Royal Armies of His Catholic Majesty - Governor Political and Military of the City of Monte Video and Commander in chief of its country adjacent.

I make known to all the inhabitants of this city and its adjacent country, that having had suspicions that some Spanish individual has contributed to the desertion of the English soldiers, and this being contrary to the agreement entered upon by the generals, and to the good understanding which ought to exist between the two nations during the time limited, whatever person, who can be proved to have had the smallest part in the desertion of any individual whatever of the British Army shall be chastised with 8 years imprisonment and the confiscation of his property and that this may be known to all, it is published by proclamation and signed by me this day in Monte Video.

(signed) Havia Elio

3rd - The garrison paraded at 10, in the square, to witness the execution of a deserter from the St. Helena corps. Prisoner Charles Dixon attended to the place of execution by 6 priests who prayed with him for about an hour. Thunder, lightening and heavy rain the whole time. The prisoner was marched from the main guard in charge of a Sergeant's party, preceded by the
band of the 36th Regiment playing the Dead March accompanied by six priests, the Provost Marshall and Hangman in the slowest time possible and gaining about two inches each pace, to the gallows round which the garrison was formed three deep. The ceremony was painful and very awful and must have made a strong impression on the minds of the spectators. At 11 o'clock the rope was put round the prisoner's neck and the ladder taken away, when the rope broke and the prisoner fell to the ground in consequence of which accident, he received the pardon of the commander in chief.

General Orders

Head Quarters 3rd September 1807

The Commander of the forces makes known to the Army that the man who was to have suffered this morning to whom from the unexpected circumstance that occurred, mercy was extended. Others of different Regiments were sentenced to death by the same General Court Martial but as they were given up by the Spanish General, with a request that they should not be punished capitally, they have been embarked for distant parts of His Majesty's possessions, there to remain and by their services during life to make some atonement for their detestable offense.

The Army is now about to return to its Native Country where at this time the exertions of all are necessary to uphold its honor and welfare. The Army of South America might have been more fortunate but the chances of war are not always the most favorable to the brave. We have however the satisfaction to know we have not been conquered and that we have done our duty bravely and zealously towards our King and our country.

9th - The English evacuated Monte Video. The city of Buenos Ayres is built on a large plain gently rising from the little river Chuelo. Its latitude 34° 34' South, it has the name of Buenos Ayres on account of the extreme salubrity of the air. Like most towns situated on rivers, its breadth is not proportional to its length. The streets are however straight and of a proper breadth. The principal square is very large and built near the little river, the front answering to it, being a castle where the Governor constantly resides.

The city is surrounded by a spacious and pleasant country free from any obstructions to the sight; and from these delightful fields the inhabitants are furnished with such a plenty of cattle that there is no place in America or Europe where meat is better or cheaper. It is the usual custom to buy the hides of the beast, the carcase being in some measure a gratuitous addition; and the meat is always fat and very palatable. The country to the west, south and north of Buenos Ayres lately abounded so greatly in cattle and horses that the whole cost consisted in taking them; and even then a horse was sold for a dollar, \(^1\) and the usual price of a beast, chosen out of a herd of two or three hundred, only four rials \(^2\). All kinds of game and fish are also here in the same plenty; several sorts of the latter being caught in the river running by it. Both the American and European fruit come to full perfection, and are in great plenty.

The city is situated about seventy seven leagues from Cape Santa Maria which lies on the north coast near the entrance of the River de la Plata; and its little river not having water sufficient for ships of burden to come up to Buenos Ayres, they anchor in one of the two bays on the same coast. That farthest to the eastward is called Maldonado and is nine leagues from the above Cape. The other bay is from a mountain near it named Monte Video and is about 20 leagues from it.

The men generally wear a poncho which is made in the form of a quilt,
about two yards and a half or three in length, and two in breadth having an opening in the middle just sufficient to put their head through, the rest hanging down on all sides. This is their dress in all weathers, whether walking or riding. The peasants never pull it off but when they go to rest, tucking it up in such a manner that both their arms and whole body are at full liberty either for labour or diversion. This is an universal garb among all ranks when they ride on horseback, an exercise very common here; and the women are particularly famous for their skill in horsemanship. This dress, though so plain and uniform in itself serves to distinguish the rank and quality of the wearer, as its price is proportional to the work on it. Some wear it as a covering, some for decency and others for show. Accordingly if those of the common people cost only four or five dollars, others have stood the owners in a hundred and fifty or two hundred. This difference arises from the fineness of the stuff or from the laces and embroidery with which they are decorated. They are of a double woollen stuff, manufactured by the Indians, and generally of a blue colour, embroidered with red or white. Sometimes indeed the ground is white embroidered with blue, red and other colours.

The chief use made of these lands by the owners is the fattening of oxen, goats and sheep. And this is the principal employment of the greatest part of the inhabitants of the country of all ranks, and universally of the lower class. As soon as the horned cattle are fattened in these luxuriant pastures, and the proper season arrived four or five hundred and even more according to the largeness of the farm are slaughtered. They take out the fat, melt it into a kind of lard, and buccaneer or dry the flesh in smoke. But the greatest profit arises from the hide and tallow. But an idea of the fertility of this country may be best formed from the value of a live beast, which when fit to be killed, may be purchased for a dollar. Nor can a greater idea of the indolence of the inhabitants be given than in the price of their milk and butter, a pound of the latter is with them of equal value of one of their finest cows.

**Mate** which answers to tea, is very common in this country though the method of preparing and drinking it is different. It is made from an herb, called Paraguay as being the produce of that country. Some of it is put into a calebash topped with silver called here mate or totumo with a sufficient quantity of sugar and some cold water to macerate it. After it has continued in this manner some time the calebash is filled with boiling water. The herb being reduced to a powder, they drink the liquor through a pipe fixed in the calebash, and having a strainer before the end of it. In this manner the calebash is filled several times with water and fresh supplies of sugar, till the herb subsides to the bottom, a sufficient indication that a fresh quantity is wanting. Some squeeze into the liquor a few drops of the juice of lemons or Seville oranges. This is their usual drink in the morning fasting and many use it also as their evening regale. The manner of drinking it is certainly very indelicate the whole company drinking successively through the same pipe. Thus the mate is carried several times round the company till all are satisfied.

The peasants are surprisingly dextrous in managing the noose and lance and it is very seldom that tough on full speed, they miss their aim with the former. They will halter a wild bull with the same agility as any other creature; nor could a man, however cautious avoid being taken in their noose. As it is very seldom that they miss and are obliged on haltering a creature to draw the knot, at the same time that they throw the noose, they clap spurs to their horse and put him on his full speed, that the creature is far from having time to disengage itself, that it is no sooner caught than disabled.

This is also one of the weapons used in their private quarrels, defending
themselves with a lance of a middling length. And their address on these occasions is so very remarkable that very often, after a long dispute in which both parties are heartily tired of they part, with no other hurt than a few bruises. This is also the method they take to satisfy their revenge endeavouring to halter the object of their hatred, either when he runs from them, or is not apprized of their intention. In this case the only resource in an open country on seeing him with a noose in his hand, is to throw oneself on the ground keeping the legs and arms as close to the surface as possible that the noose may have no room to get under any part. The person may also save himself by standing close to a tree, and if in the street, by placing himself against the wall. A small distance, that is, under ten or fifteen paces, partly renders their dexterity ineffectual, but there is very great danger of being entangled when the distance is thirty or forty. The nooses, or halters, are thongs of a cow hide cut round the skin and of a proper breadth. These thongs they twist, and work with fat, till they are of a proper degree of suppleness but so strong that though when twisted they are not larger than the little finger, yet they hold the wildest bull, when its efforts to escape would break a rope of hemp of much larger dimensions.

Monte video - This is a town on the river of La Plata about 60 miles from its mouth. It has a large and convenient harbour, and the climate is mild and agreeable. The market is plentifully supplied with fish and meat at a very cheap rate. Its principal trade is in hides. It is 150 miles from Buenos Ayres, to which you may pass by land or water, and is in 34° 56' 9" South Latitude.

*Manner of the Spaniards.* To sleep, talk, smoke a cigar and ride on horseback are the occupations in which they pass three fourths of the day. The great abundance of provisions gives facility to their idleness besides which there are amongst them many persons of property, so that they all appear anxious to live in style, and have nothing to do. The women during the whole of the morning sit on stools in their entrance halls, having under their feet, first, a cane mat and over that a piece of the stuff made by the Indians, or a tiger's skin. They amuse themselves with playing on a guitar, or some similar instrument, which they accompany with their voice, while the slaves prepare the dinner. Though covered by a veil in public places, they live at home with much freedom, and receive company at any time. They do not suffer themselves to be pressed to dance or play the guitar, piano forte, or sing. When they are not occupied in dancing, they sit continually on their stools already mentioned, which they sometimes place outside the door. During our stay at Monte video we found no difficulty in getting admittance into their houses, and from several families, we received great attentions and civilities.

*Pages 106-116 are author's illustrations.*

*Journal continued from September 3rd 1807.*

Sept. 8th - Mounted St. Thomas' Guard. Wind blowing fresh and in shore, which prevents the embarkation of the troops.

9th - Orders were given to the troops to prepare for immediate embarkation. The guards on their return to the regimental parade were ordered to pile their arms, and fall again as soon as possible in marching order. The Battalion was formed on the parade at half past 10 and marched immediately to the mole 73, where boats were in readiness to receive us, and in the course of an hour, the men were on board their respective ships. The embarkation of the troops at Monte video took place in the following order. The troops
were formed in marching order on their several parades at half past 10 o'clock in the morning. The 5th Regiment marched first to the mole and by means of a platform, which rested on a large decked boat, round which were assembled the boats of the men of war and transports, the men were soon off. A division of the Artillery and the 40th Regiment arrived on the mole, as soon as the 5th Regiment were in the boats, and embarked in the same order. At 11 o'clock a signal gun was fired from the citadel, to call in the guards from their posts (which were of the 36th Regiment). The 36th Regiment as soon as the guards were returned to the citadel marched to the mole. A division of the Grenadier company of the 4th Regiment and some Artillery were the last troops on shore. They struck the English flag in the citadel, and marched with it to the mole. The keys of the gates, etc. were delivered up by Colonel Browne of the 40th Regiment and Commandant of the town, 74 and all British subjects were on board by 3 o'clock in the afternoon.

10th - Got under weigh in the morning, to go up the River for the purpose of watering. Came to an anchor in the evening.

11th - The Master received an order to commence watering and to hoist a signal at the mast head as soon as he had completed.

12th - The ship's company and the soldiers on watch employed all day and night in taking in water which is brackish and promises fair to deprive us of one of the greatest comforts at sea (viz) good water.

13th - Sunday. Finished taking in water. Signal made to get under weigh. All boats hoisted in and the fleet under weigh at half past 9 o'clock. Divine service at noon, which we have not had an opportunity of attending (in any way) since we left the Atlas. At 3 PM off Monte Video, with a light breeze, the water smooth and the sky perfectly clear. We saw the Spanish colors flying in different parts of the town.

14th - A good breeze took us out of sight of Monte Video but towards evening it slackened and we were becalmed off Maldonado Mountains. The fleet well together. The evening delightful.

15th - Caím. The sentence of a Regimental Court Martial was executed at morning parade.

16th - Towards evening a breeze sprung up from the north east which is as near as possible the course we want to steer. The ships destined for the Cape of Good Hope parted from the fleet, to make the best of their passage.

17th - A strong wind and heavy sea from the Northeast. Saw a vast number of porpoises which the sailors regard as a sign of stormy weather. While on the night watch the Atlas transport was very near running foul of us, but she fortunately bore away without doing us, or herself, any damage.

18th - The Medusa Frigate parted from the fleet to make the best of her way to England. Strong breeze from the Northeast. The motion of the ship very unpleasant.

19th - The ship lays her course east by north as directed by signal from the Admiral.

20th - Sunday. Early this morning Mrs. Fish of the Light Company died.
After morning parade the body was thrown over board. The fleet principally astern and the Bellona carrying but little sail, she rolls much and makes a quantity of water. Strong breezes.

21st - Strong winds with rain, took in sail. Several of the ships struck their top masts and reefed top sails, to prepare for bad weather, which we apprehended was fast approaching. The Fuerte, a sloop of war (one of the Spanish prizes taken at Monte Video) was near running foul of us, which for a moment caused some confusion. Our Master (Edward Lamb) seems very confident, that we are going to the Cape, since we are steering the direct course for it, and the wind would allow us to steer two points more to the Northward, which is the course he thinks the Admiral would take, if we were going to England. The wind increased much towards night and the sea ran high. The motion of the vessel very unpleasant. The vessel is obliged to be pumped every watch owing to a leak, she makes nearly three inches of water an hour.

22nd - Stormy weather and heavy rain. We saw a whale at a little distance off the starboard quarter, frequently spouting up the water a considerable height, as if from a fountain. The fleet well together under easy sail. Frequent and violent squalls of wind and rain. Towards night some lightening which we thought would make some alteration in the state of the weather.

23rd - At 1 o'clock AM the weather cleared up and became more moderate. At 6 AM the Admiral made signal to steer northeast by east. The Africa 74 guns bore up into the body of the fleet, having a ship in tow (one of the prizes taken at Monte Video, part of the 71st Regiment on board). She has been very leaky ever since we left the River but the stormy weather we have just experimented has much increased it, and she makes 6 inches of water in an hour. She hoisted a signal of distress very early this morning and was taken in tow by the Africa. The Admiral made signal for the fleet to lay to. about 12 at noon and the men of war's boats repaired round the ship in distress. Just as we were about to sit down to dinner we saw a boat making towards us. She came alongside and two officers of the 71st regiment came on board to remain, their ship proving unsafe to proceed on the voyage. We thought it a great mercy that the weather moderated so soon for had it continued to blow with the same violence till morning, the vessel and all on board in all probability would have foundered and although we were in a very crowded state in the cabin, we were heartily glad to receive those officers and give them every accommodation in our power. The fleet made sail again about 10 PM by signal lights from the Admiral which was repeated by the other ships of war. The transports answered the signal by hoisting a light at the main top mast head. The night was very fine and the floating illumination presented a novel and very pleasing scene. Those officers of the 71st regiment that came on board informed us that they heard from an officer of the Daphne frigate that the fleet would touch at St. Helena where some new arrangements would take place. Our fears respecting the water are realized, it proves so very bad that I can't take it in any way whatever. Hot water is bad, but hot salt water is the devil and when taken as tea, chocolate or coffee it is more nauseous than the most lively imagination can fancy.

24th - The Africa still has the leaky ship in tow. The Admiral made signal for the fleet to lay to at 9 o'clock AM. The men of war boats and others crowded round the ship and the officers of the 71st that belonged to her went on board to make a division of their stock. Made sail again about 11 PM.
25th - Some of our crew, particularly four Englishmen behaved in a very improper manner to the Master in refusing to stand to the pump in their turn, when ordered, who was induced to make a signal to the Admiral, that he needed assistance, which was answered and the Flying Fish schooner spoke us and being informed of the circumstance bore away to acquaint the Admiral with it. He spoke us again and ordered the four men to get ready to be sent on board his ship. Lieutenant Godwin commanding the Flying Fish came on board, saw the men sign their accounts and sent them on board, leaving us four of his men in exchange, but we certainly had the worst of the bargain as neither of the four were helm's men. Lieutenant Colonel Davie strongly represented to Lieutenant Godwin the scarcity of hands on board, viz. 19 in all and 6 only were able to take the helm, and four of the six were the men that were to leave the ship. The ship being leaky, rendering it necessary to stand to the pump every watch, the duty of the ship became laborious to the seamen and soldiers on watch. Lieutenant Godwin mustered the crew aft and individually asked them if they were able to steer and having informed himself of the truth of the weak state of the crew, he returned to his ship and sent us two more men, one of which was a helm's man and in other respects a fairish seaman. Thus we have lost four able seamen although pickles and received six fellows such as they are, foreigners, one negro, and two that are not able to go aloft. Mr. Godwin took some porter, bread and cheese with us and appeared delighted at the exchange. I think both the Master and his men have acted foolishly to themselves. The former in the first gale of wind, will find the want of the men and the latter will soon find the different way of carrying on duty in a man of war and wish themselves back again. Towards evening it came to blow very fresh. Took in sail, etc. etc.

26th - Blowing a gale of wind frequent squalls and rain. With great difficulty we got through our dinner. Top, bottom and side dishes changing sides, down the middle up again and other pretty manoeuvres while the young folks such as wine and beer glasses were kicking about at such a rate, that they danced themselves to pieces. Oh! The comfort of a dinner at sea, in a storm, particularly when the dinner is well chosen, i. e. an overflowing tureen of soup, thin clear hashes and every dish overcharged with a sort of liquid (gravy, I can't call it). Several drawn bottles of porter on the table and each man's glass charged with the delicious beverage, all of which by a sudden roll of the ship, turned completely topsy turvy forming a number of meandering canals, rapid streams, cataracts, etc., one of which emptying itself on the lap of each individual lashed to the table. This and few other scenes, that are often exhibited in a cabin might be added to the groans of Samuel Sensitive and Timothy Testy. I would recommend these gentlemen to go on a long voyage which would find miseries and groans enough for a dozen volumes. It continued to blow all day with great violence. Captain Way, I. Hamilton and Dundas standing on the deck after dinner were precipitated from one side of the ship to the other and thrown with great violence against one of the guns, and were taken up senseless.

27th - The wind has moderated and we are now steering our course to the N.E. with a fresh breeze. Divine service at the usual hour.

28th - A fine breeze quite aft. At half past 11 o'clock AM Brigadier General Ackland and his Brigade Major came on board. He inspected the men on the Quarter Deck and examined the state of the ship. He ordered returns to be made out of the number of officers and the men on board, the number of sick, stating their cases. He intends visiting the different transports of his brigade which at present consists of the following regiments (viz.) 5th, 36th,
and 38th, 1st battalions. Lieutenant Godwin of the *Flying Fish* came on board with the General. He told us that the four seamen he got from the *Bellona* were the best men he had in the ship. Our party on board the *Bellona* consists of the following officers: Lieutenant Colonel Davie, Captains Way and Clark, Lieutenant I. Hamilton, McKenzie, Leech, Hare, Bent and Dundas, Quarter Master Irwin and Assistant Surgeon H. Bone of the 5th Regiment Captain Charles Cother and Lieutenant Thomas Murray of the 71st Regiment, Ensign Bruce (his wife and two daughters) of the 6th Garrison Battalion, (nine women, nine children), Artillery Sergeant, two servants of the 71st Regiment and 110 Sergeant Corporals, Drummers and Privates of the 5th Regiment. Total 145. The *Bellona* is deeply laden with artillery stores and cannot take in water, for a greater number of troops.

29th - Delightful breeze, the weather is just the same as we experienced in the trades but rather cold; going under easy sail, large before the wind. Ship making 6 knots an hour.

30th - A fine breeze and pleasant weather. At 8 AM we were alongside the *Polyphemus* 64, ordered the band on the poop.

October 1st - Light breeze, with a heavy swell, which made the ship roll very much. The fleet lay too for a short time. Master Hiller (the Master of the *Atlas* transport) came on board. Towards night almost a calm.

2nd - A fine breeze and clear weather. The fleet well together.

3rd - A strong breeze and very high sea, violent shower of rain fell at 4 PM; caught a quantity of rain water for washing.

4th - Sunday - Owen Small of Captain Way's company died this morning (case dysentery) and was buried immediately after morning parade. Divine Service at the usual hour. Spoke the *Sir M. Pitt* Hospital Ship. Mr. Lamb is of opinion that we have fallen in with the S.E. Trade winds, as the wind came round to that quarter with the sun and blows very steady. Course still N. E. Ship making 4 knots an hour under her three single reefed top sails.

There are many shocking sailors in the fleet, which retard us considerably. The Admiral shortens sail towards night in order that the stern-most ships may come up, but soon drop back again in their old station, carrying every stitch of canvass and oblige the fleet often to lay to, or take in sail.

5th - Fine breezes and pleasant weather during the day. At 10 AM one of the seamen perceived from the fore-castle, a spar or something much resembling the broken mast of some ship, floating perpendicular in the water. He called to the man at the helm to avoid it. On our near approach it appeared to be a part of some wreck. The mast appearing three feet above the water. Drew near to the Admiral towards evening parade the band playing on the poop. Frequent squalls during the night.

6th - Wind and course as yesterday. While at dinner the *Protector* gun brigantine came long-side, her commander came on board with the following order:

**MEMORANDUM**  
*Polyphemus* at sea 5th October 1807

It being of the utmost consequence that the fleet should get to England as soon as possible and the only means of getting the bad sailors on are by the best taking them in tow, the undermentioned transports are therefore directed to take in tow those expressed against their names and use every
exertion to keep up. Signed George Murray. 76

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<tr>
<th>Juliana</th>
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<td>Diadem</td>
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<td>Frances and Eliza</td>
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<td>Columbine</td>
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<td>Three brothers</td>
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<td>Adament</td>
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N.B. Signal number 42 will imply taking in tow, with both ships's pendants shown.

7th - A good breeze and the fleet kept well together. Warm and pleasant weather.

8th - Thursday - The Steady gun brigantine spoke us, and ordered us to pass within hail of the Daphne. Bore down towards her, but on our passing under her stern we found that the brigantine had made a mistake and taken us for some other vessel. A very warm sunny day.

9th - Wind directly against us. Several things having been lost by individuals on board, the Lieutenant Colonel ordered an examination of packs, haversacks and boxes belonging to the men, but to no purpose. Mr. Hiller came on board.

10th - Lieutenant Murray went on board the Chapman where he heard that the fleet would certainly touch at Barbadoes to take in fresh water. Almost a calm. Crossed the Tropic of Capricorn.

The Ram, the Bull, the heavenly twins
and near the Crab, the lion
shines, the Virgin and the
scales, the scorpion, archer and
the goat. The man that
holds the watering pot and
fish with glittering tails.

11th - The wind became fair, a strong breeze from the S.E. at 2 AM. course N.N.E., rain. No church parade. The Admiral and fleet principally astern, strong breezes during the day.

12th - Fresh breezes, rain and squally weather. Went to windward of the fleet.

13th - Fresh breezes from the S. E. Ship making upon an average 6 knots an hour under easy sail.

Convoy: Polyphemus 64
         Africa 64
         Daphne 36
         Protector 18
         Fly 18
         Steady 18
14th - Fine breezes and pleasant weather. The Adjutants went on board the Polyphemus with returns. Spoke some ships of the fleet.

15th - Fine breezes blowing fresh, going fast through the water. Saw several flying fish. The Admiral has taken a ship in tow. At day break this morning saw some of the fleet as far astern as the eye could see. Towards night it became squally. Carried away our fore and main top gallant masts.

16th - Strong stiff breezes. The seaman employed in setting up new fore and main top gallant masts. Ship making upon an average 6 knots 4 feet an hour. The fleet well together. Full moon at 3 PM. We all wish the breeze may continue and carry us across the line, avoiding the extreme heat we experienced in January last, when becalmed for several days.

17th - Strong breezes and cloudy weather. We find it impossible to preserve our pork 24 hours, lost two legs and a shoulder of a pig that was killed yesterday. The sun nearly vertical.

18th - Sunday - Strong breezes. Ship rolling a good deal. Divine Service at the usual hour. Three men only on the sick list and those ophthalman cases, one very bad, (Thomas Finally of Clark’s company). The inconvenience we experience and the economy we are obliged to observe with regard to the water, bad as it is, is great. After the cooks have taken the quantity of water requisite for the men’s breakfast and dinner and the grog mixed, the small quantity that remains in the scuttle butt, is soon gone and till the evening no more is brought on deck, when there are as many candidates as there are people on board for a drink of water. The allowance to the officers (viz. 5 pints each) is put into a separate cask and the key kept by the officer on watch in order that there might be no abuse, since the above quantity is all that is allowed for cooking breakfast and all purposes. Some rain.

19th - Fine strong breezes from the east. For these last four or five days we have had upwards of 140 knots on the log. We are all in good spirits and begin to calculate on a much shorter passage than we first imagined. The heat is not so great as might be expected in these latitudes owing to the delightful breezes.

20th - We expect to cross the equator tomorrow. Wind S.E. which is the regular trade wind, but till today the wind has been but very little better than east.

21st - Moderate winds and cloudy weather. About noon it had the appearance of a calm but a light wind sprung up aft and carried us across the line at 3 o’clock PM. Ship making 3 knots an hour. The Master gave some grog to the ship’s company and soldiers. All on board having crossed the line before, Neptune did not board us. Those who have gone through the ceremonies observed on the occasion can have no wish for a repetition of them. As I gave no account of the manner observed on board the Atlas on the 29th January in shaving and ducking I will give a short account of it here.

CEREMONIES ON CROSSING EQUATOR 77

On our crossing the line, Neptune sent one of his attendants on board who went up the fore rigging and from the mast head hailed the ship inquired the name of the Commander where bound and from whence it came?
He then ordered the mate (who was recognised as an old friend, having several times crossed the line) to back the main yard, that Neptune might come on board. Neptune seated in his car holding his trident and Amphitrite by his side, drawn by four Nereides, attended by two constables, a barber and some of his favorites, came in great pomp and majesty on the Quarter deck and expressed himself much pleased to see so many strangers he desired to be informed who commanded the troops on board and on what service they were employed. He paid many compliments to us all, gave us his best wishes for success in our undertaking and a pleasant passage. Amphitrite was very chatty and good natured.

After a long conversation, addressing himself very graciously to every one in turn. He proceeded in great state to the fore castle where large casks filled with water and a number of buckets were paraded to be used as he might be pleased to direct. The seamen who had not crossed the line were all ordered below and battened down in the fore castle.

Neptune ordered his constable to go below, blindfold and bring one of the sailors to him. As soon as he was brought on deck and the hatchway again secured, a bucket of water was thrown at him from all quarters. He was ordered to sit down on a piece of wood placed over the mouth of one of the largest casks of water.

Neptune then asked what countryman he was and bade him to take the following oaths. First you are never to kiss the maid when you can kiss the mistress etc. Second you are never to drink small beer when you can get strong, etc. Third you are never to go up the lee rigging when you can go up the weather, etc. Fourth that you will hereafter most faithfully observe and do to all others who have never crossed the line, what we are going to do to you. Each time kissing the large brush used to wash the decks.

The barber then mixes a large quantity of tar and grease in an old paint pot adding any other thing more nasty if it can be procured and with a hard paint brush, daubs the man’s face all over and with a piece of old iron hoop, the edge of which being previously made as rough as possible, labours to get some of the filth off. Having finished, he says something to induce the poor sufferer to speak who on opening his mouth receives whatever adheres to the razor and at the same moment pulls away the wood on which the sailor was seated and precipitates him head foremost into the cask where he is left to his own exertions to get out and frequently held by the leg for some time to keep him a longer time under water. As soon as he extricates himself from this situation he is again saluted with torrents of water from the whole party until he is able to take off the handkerchief with which he was blindfolded.

There were 13 men and boys of the crew who had never crossed the line and it occupied a good deal of Neptune's time to see the ceremony performed to all. The appearance of Neptune and his party was singular enough. Their bodies, legs and arms were painted in stripes of different colors and on their heads they wore wigs and caps made of picked rope yarn. Neptune’s wig was finely powdered with flour, each carried something to distinguish his order. They were all very well dressed and made really a good appearance. Such a group of figures in the streets of London would have, I am sure, as many spectators, as ever attended a street exhibition. In the evening we had dancing till a late hour, our band playing on the poop.

22nd - Light airs, heat extreme. Was member of a Regimental Court Martial assembled for the trial of Dr. I. Nix and Private I. Charles, both of Captain Way’s company confined for taking water out of the hold. Both found guilty. Nix punished at evening parade. Charles pardoned this being his first time he was ever confined. Several of the transports have ships in tow, the one appointed to the Bellona contrives to keep up with the fleet without
assistance. The sea at night presents a pleasing and singular appearance of luminous particles on the surface, but this we noticed in a far greater degree on our passage out particularly at Port Praya where the boats at night appeared surrounded by flames of fire, particularly at the head and stern and the plying of the crows. Often the wake of the vessel appears as fire and round her as the reflection of stars. I have discovered fish approaching by means of the light occasioned by these appearances. The *Bellona* is very leaky and requires to be pumped every two hours.

23rd - Violent showers from 1 AM till 9. Ships generally experience this kind of weather in these latitudes. We caught a considerable quantity of rain water. We regard ourselves particularly fortunate in not having a calm. Thermometer 80° shade.

24th - Fine breeze during the morning. One of our sows produced a litter of seven, all alive and kicking. At 12 noon the Admiral made signal, strange sails in sight. Signal made to the *Daphne* to give chase to them in the N. W. At 1 PM several large vessels were seen from the mast head. They were sufficiently near at 3 to be known to be Indiamen 78, under convoy of a 64 78. She made her number to the Admiral and hoisted an Admiral's flag at the mizen top and fired a salute, which was returned by the *Polyphemus*. Various are the opinions respecting the fleet, but most agree in thinking that they are homeward bound under convoy of the *Blenheim*, Admiral Troubridge. It gave us all vast pleasure to find the *Blenheim* safe as we heard at the Cape great apprehensions on her being lost off Isle of France. The *Polyphemus* and India fleet lay to astern. Towards night a calm. We suffer much from the heat, the effects of which we find more powerful than when under a vertical sun. Some showers and lightening.

25th - Sunday. Divine service at the usual hour. Spoke the *Indefatigable* and was informed that the fleet we fell in with yesterday was outward bound under convoy of the *Monmouth* 64, Admiral Drury, 6 weeks from England. They give the following particulars: the *Saracen* arrived in England the 10th September (I hope my letters by her went safe) Russia has made peace with France. England at war with Denmark, an English fleet and 20,000 troops off Copenhagen, General Beresford at Madeira with 3 Regiments. We saw nothing of the India fleet at day break this morning. Many boats were out this morning. We wish to pass within hail of the *Bruce Grove*, Captain Drury is on board her. He is nephew to the Admiral and no doubt he has more particulars as a boat from the *Bruce Grove* went on board the *Polyphemus* this morning. A calm. The *Bruce Grove* hailed us this evening at half past 5. We sent our boat on board her. Major Bird and Hospital Mate Birrt paid us a visit. He showed us a letter Captain Drury received in the morning from Admiral Murray informing him that his Uncle the Admiral, his brother and family on board the *Monmouth* were all well and on their passage to India. Admiral Drury to succeed to the command vacated by the loss of Admiral Troubridge in the *Blenheim*. The letter confirmed all we heard this morning and states that the *Malabar* of 50 guns having 200 men on board for the 5th Regiment sailed from England in August last for the River Plata and that the 5th were to have proceeded to the East Indies, instead of the 89th Regiment. An expedition was preparing in England, General Sir I. Stuart to have the command of it. Major Bird and Hospital Mate Birrt passed the night on board. Heat extreme and 14 officers in the cabin. for the night made it (I should conceive) as hot and suffocating as the black hole in Calcutta.

26th - Major Bird and Birrt left us before breakfast. Dundas visited the ships
of the 5th Regiment except the Free love. He brought back a good account of them. The number of sick very few. The troops on board the Harlequin were removed in consequence of her being unsafe. The boats of the men of war employed on this service. A perfect calm, by far too hot to do anything. There would be no living on deck but for the awning. Thermometer 120° Sun, 84° shade. Captain Philipps paymaster of the 47th Regiment came on board, while we were at dinner. He gave us a copy of a letter he received from Colonel Browne stating all particulars as already mentioned. It appears that England is at war with the whole world. We are of opinion that our stay in England will be short if we visit it at all. Cork is a more convenient port for shipping to sail from than any of the English. Possibly we may bring up there. Took our wine on the poop. At 7 PM we noticed a comet and observed it for some time, its bearing by compass was N. W. Major Bird sent a copy of the men of war's pendants and all the telegraph signals with their signification so that if we keep a good look out we may at any time know what is going on.

27th - Heat oppressive. A fine cooling shower at half past 8 AM. Got delightfully wet through. Several sharks have been seen parading round the vessel today. We caught a small one which the seamen mean to dine on. Saw some birds very like swallows flying round the vessel. Our fowls have singular fondness for eating each other and we daily take some of them out of the coop, half eaten. A perfect calm. Had our wine brought on deck. We saw the comet again at 7 PM bearing as yesterday. It really is too hot to do anything, even write which I feel much inclined to, I find too great an exertion. Oh! for a breeze.

28th - Had the morning watch, bathed, a gentle breeze sprung up, constant lightening, the air much cooled but still very warm.

29th - Had the mid-night watch. Constant and vivid lightening, distant thunder, hard rain during the morning. Mr. Petie, Agent of transports and Lieutenant Goodwin came on board to get provision returns, some of the fleet being very short. They brought us an English newspaper (13th September) which Major Nichols 45th Regiment got out of one of the Indiamen. Lieutenant General Whitelocke's dispatches appeared in it. The order and manner of attack on 5th July faithfully stated, but we were unable to make out the advanced post in the centre occupied by the Lieutenant General. Lieutenant Colonel Burne 36th and Major Nichols 45th very deservedly noticed. The few remarks made we thought pointed and just. We all pray that a strict and impartial inquiry may take place and then it will appear that the troops did their duty and in justice to officers and men this inquiry ought to be made. Mr. Goodwin told me he had seen some papers on board the Polyphemus that assured the conduct of Brigadier General Craufurd. The evening cleared up and became fine.

30th - A light breeze from the N. E. (trade wind). The heat oppressive, considerably to windward of the fleet. "Make good use of your time". The leisure time an officer has on board ship ought to be prized and profitably employed. We have formed a library in the cabin of several instructive and amusing books and we generally devote a portion of time to them. Then journal writing, drawing and nautical observations, tracing our course on the chart employ our mornings. Dinner at 5 o'clock and often our conversation over our wine, carries us back to the River Plate and our operations on either side of the River. But the news brought us by the India fleet, has given a new subject, and we begin to anticipate what will be the probable state of affairs at home by the time of our arrival. The having something to do, the
alloting certain parts of the day for different employments establishes method and regularity, gives strength to the mind, and makes the time which otherwise would hang heavy on one’s hands, pass pleasantly and profitably away. The fond husband, the impatient lover, the affectionate son and brother without employment would experience a month in a day, lose his spirits and temper, become impatient and make but a dull and stupid companion.

31st - A fine steady trade wind. Several of the fleet much to leeward. Bathed at 4 o’clock AM. We are steering as close to the wind as possible. Course N.N.W. The variation of the compass is equal to another point of Westing.

Nov 1st - Sunday. Light breeze. Divine service at the usual hour. We sat 15 at dinner today. So many in a small cabin, the heat of dinner, four or five servants, altogether made the heat suffocating. I soon went on deck and took post on the chicken’s poop, till 1 AM and enjoyed a good nap. On going below found the heat too great to be able to sleep.

2nd - At 3 AM Hare fell out of his cot which is slung immediately over my bed. He came stem on and got foul of my larboard bow. He was for a time entangled in my weather yard arm and fore rigging. I put my helm hard a lee and wore off without receiving any damage. At 4 AM Hare and myself bathed. The breeze freshened at 5. Ship making 5 knots an hour. The Fly sloop hailed us and ordered the Master to shorten sail which not being immediately attended to, she fired a musket shot at us. Flying fish we see daily in great numbers. The air begins to cool a little. Course N. N. W., Wind N. E.

3rd - The breeze continues, delightful weather. We easily make out the telegraph signals. The Admiral has just signified to the agents and others forming a board of survey on the Harlequin transport. “The wind is too strong, to make the required survey”.

4th - Strong breezes, a heavy sea and great swells from the N. E. The vessel makes much more water than usual. She has made for these last 12 hours more than 6 inches an hour owing no doubt to the heavy sea which makes her pitch a good deal. One of the leaks is known to be close to the stem on the larboard bow, a little below the water mark. The First Mate has just been below to examine it. He thinks it is occasioned by the looseness of one of the bolts, owing to rust. She had also a leak astern and took in a considerable quantity of water in consequence of it on the passage from St. Helena to the River Plata but while in harbour at Monte Video in still water, she was lightened aft and the leak stopped but owing to the extreme heat of the weather we have just experienced, her seams may have opened a little. It is impossible to do anything to stop the leak on the inside (where the water is heard to rush in with great force) since the lining and some of the knees cover it and any attempt to cork it would be ineffectual and eventually make it worse. The difficulty and almost impossibility of doing anything on the outside, below the water, must be obvious. The Bellona went on shore at Plymouth, after she was engaged for this service and received some injury, for which she was docked, but not allowed a sufficient time to be properly examined. At Monte Video no opportunity offered to repair the damage since none of the stores were taken out of her or any means used to find out and stop the leak, although her situation was strongly represented to the Admiral. But for the soldiers on board, she could not be kept above water, for there are scarce seamen enough to attend to the sails. We have now been at sea two months, and have had hitherto most favorable winds and although we have had occasion to pump the ship once and latterly
twice every watch we still get on as well as the best of them and I trust we shall continue to do so and about the second week of next month, drop anchor on our native shore. The fleet are well up and some of the transports that have ships in tow are taking the lead of the fleet. One of the gun brigantines ordered to give chase. We have not discovered any strange sail. Captain Lamb has bent his best sails as we may in the course of another week expect some bad weather and those on the ship would be blown in ribbons the first fresh wind. Weather very pleasant.

5th - The Admiral has made signal to steer N. Many of the transports make a dashing appearance having been new painted. Early this morning a violent squall of wind and rain. No complaints of the heat. We are shaping our course towards the banks of Newfoundland which the strong winds from the N.E. have obliged us to.

6th - Squally and cloudy weather. A heavy swell, motion of the ship at times violent. Much cooler, indeed climate is delightful. Some showers.

7th - Strong breezes and cloudy weather, a heavy swell. Course N. Winds N. E. by E. We may now expect to fall in with some vessels from England since we are steering the exact tract that vessels take from England to the West Indies and possibly some cruisers of the enemy may be on the look out for us. Since the failure at Buenos Ayres, and the return of the troops have been known so long in England, no doubt but the information has reached Paris long ago. Frequent showers of rain during the day.

8th - Strong winds. Had the morning watch. The ship walks fast through the water making 7 knots an hour close hauled. Prayers at noon, as usual on the quarter deck. We were in hopes of seeing the Admiral make his longitude known to the men of war but unfortunately at the moment of his doing it the Flora transport passed between us and totally prevented it. However we saw the Africa 64 make her longitude to the Polyphemus which was 33° 16’. The telegraphic signals afford us not a little entertainment and we have someone constantly on the lookout for signals. We marked our course on the chart and noticed the tract of a vessel that made the channel in ten days from the place we marked ourselves today at noon which even for a single ship was a great run. Last night we crossed the Tropic of Cancer having now passed the delightful climate of the tropics we must expect variable winds, frequent squalls.

9th - Strong and favorable winds. The Admiral made signal at 11 AM to steer N. by E. Our rigging and sails are far from being in good order. We are constantly carrying away something or other at every squall of wind. The Admiral is making telegraph signals to one of the men of war. Dundas who is appointed signal Lieutenan is on deck taking down the numbers. He is just come below to inform us that the Admiral has directed the Fly sloop of war “to get news from the strange sail” which she gave chase to this morning. Bearing NNE the Fly is just coming up with her. We have bent the best main and main top sails. Saw some porpoises. Strong wind, however some of the transports are carrying top gallant sails. Was on the first watch. Captain Way stayed on deck with me nearly the whole watch. Fine moon light.

10th - Latitude 29° 11’. Strong and favorable winds. Delightful weather. At day break much ahead of the Admiral and fleet, shortened sail, lay to by signal. The Flying Fish hailed us and told the Master not to go before the Admiral’s beam neither by day nor night. If he did, the act of disobedience of orders would be put in force against him. The Protector gun brigantine
spoke us and ordered the Master to get supplied with wine, from one of the transports. We pass comfortable nights now the weather is not in the least too warm. The Admiral made signal at 5 PM to steer NNE. After dinner walked the deck till 10, fine night.

11th - Squally weather. The Protector gun brigantine ordered us to lay to, and send our boat on board the Amphitrite HR ship, for some Madeira wine, she being close alongside us. Leech went on board her and on his return informed us that three of our men that were sick and sent on board her on our leaving Monte Video had died on the passage. Made sail again at half past twelve. Much astern of the fleet. Spoke the Free love.

12th - Well up with the fleet, light winds. Leech went on board the Polyphemus with monthly returns to the Brigadier General. Dundas and Murray accompanied him. They also went on board the Flora and Elenor transports to endeavour to get some wine and porter. The officers on board the Polyphemus said they hoped to be at anchor at Portsmouth by next Sunday fortnight. The Admiral sent round the fleet to inform the Masters of transports that he had received information of some of the enemy’s cruisers being off the Western Islands and directed them to keep together. He also sent a memorandum of his latitude and longitude conceiving the Masters to be unacquainted with the strength of the current. Master Lamb is a very skilful navigator and has frequently been this course. He has crossed the equator twenty six times, indeed most of the Masters seem to have a great confidence in his reckoning for if any of them come within hail they generally ask his longitude etc. etc. The Free love out of sight. At day break the Fly sloop ordered to drop astern steer S and if falling in with her, to take her in tow. Almost a calm. The men of war ordered to exercise their men, (or as with us, give them a field day). Master Hiller of the Atlas came on board and dined with Master Lamb. He told us that the strange sail, spoke by the Fly sloop, was an American from England. She gave information of our having taken Copenhagen, our loss considerable, the town half burnt and five of our frigates destroyed. Four of our sick, one woman and a child, Master Hiller told us, had died since he was on board. The warm weather has been very unfavorable for the wounded. However there was a man on board the Amphitrite who underwent amputation and the stump healed in nine days, owing no doubt to the great constitution of the patient. I believe the deaths out of the number of sick and wounded that were embarked at Monte Video have been immense and several have undergone amputation. Towards evening we saw the Fly sloop coming up with the Free love as far astern as the eye could see. The Adjutant and his squad returned just in time for dinner and brought with them the following paper to be published as speedily as the authors can possibly venture to dismiss from their hands a work of such a nature. A slight sketch of the Viceroyalty of Buenos Ayres by two gentlemen who have perhaps had the best opportunity ever enjoyed by a British subject of informing themselves on the matter, both from their knowledge of the Spanish language and from the very particular circumstances in which they have been individually and severally placed. In which will be represented as faithfully as the authors abilities and lights will admit, the political and commercial situation and capabilities of the country. The dispositions of the South Americans previous to the late attempts of the British. A brief account of those attempts together with the causes of their failure. And lastly (what it much imports us to know) the consequent impression left on the minds of the same people.

To be published by subscription:
13th - Light winds and clear weather. The Chapman got foul of the Flying fish this morning but soon got off again. Several boats out. The Admiral cast off his tow (the Royalist). A fine night and clear weather.

14th - Had the morning watch. Cloudy weather and light winds, a heavy swell. Spoke the Flora and Chapman transports.

15th - Sunday, Divine Service at the usual hour. Squally weather, cold with rain.

16th - Squally weather, a cold N. E. wind. The wind is blowing from the very quarter we want to steer to. The weather too appears unsettled and in all probability our voyage will be prolonged a week or ten days. The Admiral made signal towards evening to steer N. E. by E. should the wind become fair.

17th - Squally and blowing weather, wind N. E., cold with rain.

18th - Squally weather with rain, wind N. E.

19th - A high sea, sad pitching and rolling. The Admiral made signal at half past 5 PM for the convoy to close.

20th - Wind East. Squally weather and heavy sea.

21st - Light winds from the South. The Admiral made signal to steer East. A fine and pleasant day. The Admiral has just made his longitude known (viz) Longitude 39° 20' by time keeper. Longitude 39° 19' by lunar. The wind increased toward the night. Ship making 4 knots an hour, light showers of rain.

22nd - A delightful day, sea smooth, wind on the quarter. Divine service at the usual hour. The Flying Fish has just hailed us ordering the Master to issue the water in such proportion that it may last for a month from today. She gave us the Admiral's longitude which at 8 o'clock this morning was 37° 35' W. It appears that the Admiral calculates on a long passage fearing we may fall in with another East wind and I am rather fearful from the fineness of the day and clear sky that the wind is very unsettled for this season of the year the wind at S.S.W. generally produces rain. The Admiral's precaution is very judicious but I trust we shall not continue at sea so long a period he wishes to provide for. The wind fell off towards night and indicated a change.

23rd - This morning presented one of the most shocking and distressing scenes I ever witnessed. At half past eight while dressing, Murray's servant went to his Master's birth to wake him and found him dead. The shock and
feelings of us all at such an event can only be conceived. For independent of the effect the sudden death of a friend must occasion there were other circumstances combined to make the death of poor Murray truly melancholy and afflicting. He was put to bed by his servant having drank freely. None of us had the most distant idea but that after the night's rest he would be perfectly well again. Nor till the circumstance was made known by his servant had any of us the least apprehension of what happened. It appeared by the position the body was found in that he had turned himself on his face (or more likely a roll of the ship had turned him as there was a heavy swell) and was suffocated. The men paraded at 4 o'clock. The band on the poop played the 104 Psalm, the body was brought on the quarter deck and as soon as the band had finished was taken to the gang way and committed to the deep. I read the service, everyone was deeply affected. Murray was a very young man, only 22 years of age, nearly at the head of the subalterns of his regiment with a promise of promotion from Brigadier General Beresford on the eve of returning to his family, of receiving his prize money, for the captures of the Cape of Good Hope and Buenos Ayres, and a long arrear of pay. Thus fell a young man in the prime of life owing to the intemperance of a moment. Such an event ought to be a warning to everyone and induce us to be constantly on our guard to avoid excess in drinking which particularly in an officer is the most pernicious and dangerous habit, not to say vice, he can be addicted to. It renders him incapable of performing his duty, and makes him a dangerous companion even for his most intimate friend. I have frequently observed its baneful and destructive consequences and no one, more than myself can have a greater horror and hatred of so shocking an evil and enemy to society. Wind S.E. by E. Ship making but little headway.

24th - Wind S.E. by E. Blowing a gale, lowered top gallant masts, close reefed the top sails and mizen. Sea very high, ship rolling and pitching in grand style. The Jane transport made signal of distress this morning having carried away her fore yard. The Admiral made signal to steer E.S.E. during the night should the wind come fair. Wind and sea moderate.

25th - Wind S.E. by E., made more sail. Signal at 10 AM to close to convoy.

26th - Wind S. E. by E. A strange sail in sight. The Daphne gave chase. She proved to be the Jane that parted on the 24th instant. The Flying Fish has just spoke us ordering the Master to use the greatest caution in the use of water, as the Admiral expects to be two months or ten weeks longer on the passage. A thick cloudy day. No observation.

27th - This morning we saw a strange sail in the fleet, which at first we took for a French prize, but Master Lamb seems inclined to think she is an English ship homeward bound from Newfoundland.

The Fly sloop of war gave chase to a strange sail bearing N.W. a fine day, almost a calm. I hope the wind will become fair. A thick fog.

28th - A fair wind. The Bellona very far astern of the fleet. The Flying Fish lay to and made signal for us to make more sail. She fired 12 shots at us to enforce the signal, all which the Master will have to pay for. Set top gallant and lower studding sails. Wind W.N.W. Course E.S.E. The wind became fair at 1 o'clock AM and if it continues fair we may hope to be at anchor in the course of a fortnight. It was a long time before any quantity of canvas could be got upon the ship owing to the few hands on board. The top gallant masts lowered down on the deck, the studding sail booms unrigged, the top sails too were reefed.
29th - The wind as fair as it can blow (viz) N.W. Course E.S.E. Being in the latitude to run down, our course is as straight as a line can be drawn from W to E. We have made a famous run of it these last 24 hours having a distance of 178 miles on the log. Divine Service at half past 11. A strong breeze, ship making 8 1/2 knots an hour.

30th - The wind changed to N.E. at 4 AM which is against us. The fleet much dispersed. Fitzgerald came on board from the Flora. He told us that they had spoke the Fly sloop of war and learnt from her that the strange sail she gave chase to on the 27th instant was fourteen days from England and gave information that 40,000 Portuguese troops were going to the Brazils, that 15,000 English garrisoned Copenhagen and that we had taken either 7 or 8 Danish men of war.

1st December 1807 - The wind changed to N. N. W. at 5 AM but it appears very unsettled, the fleet carrying studding sails. At noon wind N. by E. The wind is getting round more to Eastward and unables us to lie our course. Cold weather.

2nd - Wind as much against us as it can blow. Cold wet disagreeable weather. The whole fleet at day break much to leeward. Closed by signal. Wind and sea moderate.

3rd - Wind N.E. light showers of rain. The wind came round to the Southward. The fleet tacked and stood N.E. by N. The number of rats in the ship is immense. They have eaten and destroyed a considerable quantity of bread. The injury they do the sails and cordage in the sail room would ruffle the temper of a man possessing more patience than Edward Lamb, Master of the Belfona. But for two good cats and a famous dog, who make great slaughter among them, their numbers and the mischief they would do would be inconceivable. Nests of them have been found among our baggage. Towards night almost a calm.

4th - Very little wind but what there is of it, in our favor. A mild day. The wind is getting round to the westward, which is quite aft. The Admiral gave orders to the Flying Fish by telegraph to order the transports on no account whatever to go before his beam, particularly by night. The Fly sloop made all sails and went ahead. We mean to put the ship's guns in order in case of exigency.

5th - Wind and sea moderate. A mild and pleasant day. The men were told off and appointed to the guns which were put in order. At noon almost a calm which at this season of the year, in these latitudes, is uncommon.

6th - A strong breeze from N.N. E. a good deal of rolling. The Admiral made signal to the Africa 64 guns to make her longitude (yesterday at noon) known. Answer 21° 29' West. The Daphne was at prayers at the time or probably she would have been ordered to show hers. Divine Service at noon. Second Sunday in Advent. A cold day. Our distance from the Lizard about 500 miles.

7th - A cold blowing day. Wind N.N.E.

8th - Wind and sea very high. Hard showers of rain and cold weather. Wind N.E. by N. No reading or writing today. We endeavoured to keep ourselves warm by exercise on deck, pumping, attending the sails, running about, etc. We spiped 80 several seas in the course of the day. We carried but little sail
being ahead of the fleet which made us roll in good earnest. At 7 PM the wind came more fair. At noon a small bird was seen flying round the ship, which was generally taken for a shore bird.

9th - On the mid watch. Cold, wet and blowing weather, frequent squalls, sea high. At 1 AM the wind came more ahead, almost N.E. At noon the wind moderated. A cold but clear day. Four days fair wind would carry us to Portsmouth.

10th - Wind still N.E. but much milder than yesterday.

11th - Wind N.E. by N. blowing moderate. The Fly sloop of war went ahead to make soundings. A strange sail joined the fleet. We hailed her. She is from Newfoundland, has been 40 days at sea.

12th - Almost a calm. Scarcely steereag way, mild and pleasant weather. A midshipman came early on board from the Protector gun brigantine with a letter to the Colonel from Brigadier General Ackland. The Colonel Dundas and Captain Cother went on board the Polyphemus and brought back the following news received from the Pomona frigate, Captain Barrie. Copenhagen has been carried and about 500 houses burnt. The whole Danish fleet (16 sail of the line and frigates) taken and brought to England with all stores. Sir H. Popham to be made Best with 500 pounds per arm and comptroller of the navy. The whole of France and from the Baltic to the Archipelago in a state of Blockade. Prince of Portugal to be deposed and L. Buonaparte to be made King. War expected between America and France. An expedition for the River Plata talked of. Sir S. Smith with a secret expedition, Sir S. Hood a secret expedition. General Beresford commanding land forces, Sir J. B. Warren supersedes Admiral Berkley, General Whitelocke is to be tried. 17 charges prosecuted by Sir Samuel Achmuty.

Who never set a squadron in the field
Nor the division of a battle knows
More than a spinster.

13th - A boat from the Free love came on board. The fleet very low in stock, water and provisions. Some ships on an allowance of one quart of water a day. Several of the fleet like the old Bellona very leaky. Three French privateers have been seen on the flanks of the fleet. The Daphne in giving chase to one of them carried away her fore-top mast. The Admiral wishes to make an English port, but should the wind be unfavorable, he will stand direct for Cork. The lead was thrown both yesterday and this morning. No soundings. Divine service at noon. On board the transports where lime juice has been issued to the troops, they are generally free from scurvy which however has carried off a great number of the wounded. We make out the telegraph signals famously. The Admiral spoke a strange sail on the 12th instant and communicated to the Africa that "Sir Hood is an Admiral!"

14th - Very little wind. At 4 PM we had soundings: 90 fathoms, bottom white sand and shells. I took notice of the space from the time of having the lead till it reached the bottom which was 1 m. 28 sec. Towards evening a light breeze. A boat from the Melantho came on board.

15th - Steering E. and E.S.E. Latitude and longitude uncertain. Made but little way through the water. Saw some strange sails which were boarded by the men of war. The Admiral made signal to steer S.E. should the wind permit in order to give the Scillies a good birth. We expect to see the light
house during the night.

16th - Towards morning the wind came to the eastward of South and the ship fell off to E by S which smells like Cork. A Corvette came into the fleet and sent a boat on board the Admiral after which she made all sail possible and went ahead. Some strange sails were seen and examined by the men of war. Soon after 12 at noon the Admiral made signal to bear up and sail large before the wind and also to steer N by E during the night which course is direct for Cork. We saw clearly by the latitude and longitude that it was impossible for the fleet to weather the Scillies. Most of the transports being very light, they could not beat to windward.

17th - At half past 8 AM land in sight. The Admiral and fleet made signal for pilots to come on board. Notwithstanding my having been at sea 14 weeks, I must confess I felt more pleasure on making Port Praya and the other places we touched at, on our passage out, than I now experience from the disappointment of not making an English port. At 11 a pilot came on board and informed us that troops from England are disembarking at this moment at Monkstown. At half past 12 dropt anchor. On the Cove of Cork is an excellent and very safe anchorage capable of containing a very large fleet. The number of shipping here at present very considerable. The land very high. General orders were given out forbidding any officers or men from going on shore. The troops supplied with fresh provisions.

[Here the handwriting changes considerably with no apparent explanation. The handwriting found to be similar to that in the dedication of George Bent on page one.]

18th - Dec. 18th, 1807 - Brigadier General Ackland came on board at 10 in the morning inspected the men on the Quarter deck; between decks and etc. Still no officers allowed to go on shore which order we all think very severe, several of the Irish lads living within a few miles of the Cove. A guard ordered to mount on board each ship. Plenty of good beef, potatoes, butter and bread for dinner, famous feeding. A "Pat came on board this morning with some new boots for sale. Well Pat do you think these boots will fit me, Sure your Honor, this is a leg that will fit any foot." The second battalion 5th regiment disembarked yesterday and the day before 900 strong in very high order and marched to Kings all Barracks.

19th - A fleet from Newfoundland came into harbour, 17 weeks at sea. Hare got leave to go to Cork his mother and sisters came alongside in deep mourning. Two Lieutenants of the Polphemus (sic) had a field day, one of them shot through the body. They fought without seconds. No going on shore.

20th - Sunday. Captains Adams and Bennett came on board and left the second battalion all well yesterday. One of the transports having 150 men and 2 subalterns on board is missing. They parted in a gale of wind the day they left Alderney. An express sent to Cork to order Lieutenant Hare to join immediately. A row about his going on shore. Poor fellow has lost his father. Dined on board the Free love, Adams and Bennett slept on board. Harrison 38th paid me a visit.

21st - Lieutenant Colonel M. Kerrie came to see us. He gives brilliant account of the 2nd battalion. The Admiral intends to weigh the moment the wind becomes fair. The Lieutenant of the Polphemus wounded on Saturday, died yesterday. We are still confined to our ships. We are well supplied with provisions from the shore of every land and live like Kings on board. Subaltern of the guard. Hare came on board about 4 o'clock,
the Colonel reported his arrival to the Brigadier.

22nd - Brigadier General Ackland came early on board left orders with the Colonel. Officers of the 5th regiment are permitted to go on shore. Hare, Hamilton and Dundas off like lamplighters. Took the guard for Dundas, went to the Hospital ships to remove discharged recovered men to the Bellona with General Ackland who ordered me to take charge of them and provide fresh meat, vegetables, porter etc. for them for the passage to England. Went on shore to buy beef, potatoes and necessaries for the sick, 35 of them of different regiments.

23rd - Went on shore to purchase provisions and necessaries for my charge. Dined on board the Flora transport.

24th - Went to Cork by water with Bone, the row of the river was beautiful. Returned in the evening, dined at Cove and slept on shore, a fine feather-bed.

25th - After breakfast took a long walk with Bone, returned on board to dinner.

26th - Was subaltern of the guard on board. Lieutenant Reverend Bishop came on board from the 2nd battalion.

27th - Sunday, all bustle. Hare, Hamilton and Dundas came on board, several officers were reported absent. Lieutenant M. Kerrie put under arrest.

28th - Received an order late, to put the recovered sick men under my charge on board the different transports of the 17th Light Dragoons. Left the Bellona at 5 PM having men in the launch in tow. Succeeded in making the ocean and Chapman but blowing weather and total darkness obliged me to return to the Bellona at 9 having 6 men not disposed of.

29th - The Battalion disembarked, very blowing weather, 4 companies returned from the passage to Cove. Put the 6 men on board the Agincourt. All off my hands. Left on board the Bellona with the sick and baggage of the regiment. Clark, Hare and Crocker dined with us.

30th - Sent a letter to my father. A fine day. Mr. Byrtt came on board.

31st - Blowing a gale of wind. Several vessels went on shore and others received great injury. Towards the night the wind moderated.

Jan. 1st, 1808 - Went on shore with Bone to get information from the agent respecting the supply of beef, candles and etc. to the sick. Read the papers, bought some grog, went on board, blowing very fresh. Admiral Murray and fleet bound to England. Still at anchor. No letters from home, shocking!

2nd - Went on shore, bought fresh beef for the baggage guard and other men discharged from the sick list.

3rd Bruce and his family removed to the Flora transport. The Admiral has made signal for sailing. Signal to weigh at 3 PM. The fleet were working out of the harbour till night.

4th - Wind S.E. Cold with rain. Some of the fleet put back. Having lost the fleet at 2 PM Admiral Murray and the whole fleet put back and ancho-
red. A Private of the 71st, Steel, died on board.

5th - William Humphries of the 5th regiment died on board. Mr. Byrte left us and went to Cork to the General Hospital there.

6th - James Murray, a Private of the 71st regiment, died on board. I went with a party of those to away him.

7th - A lighter came long for the remaining part of the baggage and such of the sick as could be moved. Received a letter from home. Dined on board ship. The lighter pushed off about 5 PM reap tide and to little wind. We made no progress.

8th - Breakfasted on board the lighter. Eggs, tea and etc. Disembarked at Cork at half past 10 in the morning. Sent 18 sick to the General Hospital. Procured cars for the baggage and billets for the party. Called on Brigadier General Ackland, dined at the Bush coffee room with Captain Broke, Bone and 2 of the Hospital staff. Met Captain Cotter 71st regiment there. Visited the baggage guard.

9th - Breakfasted with Broke. Marched off the party at half past 10 found the roads very bad, the cars miserable conveyance for the baggage and the horses much fagged. Got to the new barracks Kinsale at half past 6. Slept at the Bear Inn.

10th - Breakfasted with Dobson who leaves us today for the 2nd battalion. Sunday walked in the Green, the Promenade. Our band exhibited there. Slept in the barracks.

11th - Regimental orders require such returns, orders and etc. that we are confined to the barracks. Joined Ridge, Lockyer and M. Pherson in a breakfast mess.

12th - An inspection of necessaries. Called on Mrs. Drury and Mrs. Hamilton.

13th - Employed all day with company's accounts for an inspection tomorrow. Captain Clark up to his chin in papers.

14th - Walked with Ridge and M. Pherson. Got some cash. To a stupid ball and supper in the evening. 6 6°.

16th - Rain.

17th - Sunday. The battalion did not attend Divine Service in consequence of a medical inspection. Was subaltern of the day. The band went to Church and sung. Afterwards they went on the Green.

18th - An inspection of necessaries and surgeon's inspection after morning parade. Ball at Cork.

19th - A subaltern and 30 men went to Cork for ammunition.

20th - Mounted the barrack guard. Wrote a letter to Mary Bent. The Colonel dined at the Governor's and on his return sat an hour with me in the guard room. Hard frost.

21st - Colonel Davie, Major Pratt ordered to England to attend General
Whitelock's trial.

22nd - Sergeant Longbottom of this company died in the Hospital. Busy making out the band accounts and etc. Captain Way ordered to England on General Whitelocke's trial. Wrote letters to my Uncle, Fanny Milton which Way will put into the office on his arrival in town.

23rd - A wet and unpleasant day, attended the funeral of Sergeant Longbottom with the company.

24th - Sunday, the battalion paraded for muster and in service order, after morning parade went to church. The parade was too late to admit of the men's going.

25th - Lieutenant Colonel Davie left us for England to attend General Whiteocke's trial. In short all our field officers and Captain Way are ordered to appear.

28th - To a Ball in the evening which was well attended.

31st - Sunday. The battalion attended Divine Service. A wet day, no walking on the Green. Major Bird received orders to send out parties to receive Irish Militia Volunteers.

228 2nd February - Ridge and Armstrong left us after breakfast. The first to resume his old situation as aid - de - camp to Lieutenant General England.

3rd - Mounted the barrack guard.

4th - Walked with Mrs. and Captain Drury, lunched and etc.

5th - Called on Miss Hamilton and with her on the Miss Cookes. Walked round Compass Hill and etc. Returned to Sandford May 29th 1808.

Number of miles on the Logbook.

| Voyage out | 16,359 miles |
| Voyage home (to soundings) | 8,759 miles |

25,118

224 bis LIST OF THE REGIMENTS and the county names they severally bear.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>nos.</th>
<th>County name</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Royal regiment of foot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>the Queen's Royal regiment of foot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>East Kent on the Buffs</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>the King's own</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>the Northumberland</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>the King's</td>
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<td>9</td>
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<td>10</td>
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<td>North Devonshire</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>East Suffolk</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>First Somersetshire</td>
</tr>
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</table>
The Bedfordshire
the Yorkshire East Riding
the Buckinghamshire
the Leicestershire
Royal Irish
the First Yorkshire North Riding
the East Devonshire
Royal British Fusileers
the Cheshire
the Royal Welch Fusileers
the Warwickshire
King's own Borderers
Cameronian
Inniskilling
North Gloucestershire
Worcestershire
Cambridgeshire
Huntingdon
Cornwall
First Yorkshire West Riding
Cumberland
Sussex
Herefordshire
North Hampshire
First Staffordshire
East Middlesex
Second Somersetshire
Regiment of Foot
Royal Highland
Monmouthshire
East Essex
Nottinghamshire
South Devonshire
Lancashire
Northamptonshire
Hertfordshire
West Kent
Second Yorkshire West Riding
Oxfordshire
Shropshire
West Norfolk
Westmoreland
West Essex
West Middlesex
Rutlandshire
Second Nottinghamshire
Royal American
South Gloucestershire
Wiltshire
West Suffolk
Second Staffordshire
Second Yorkshire North Riding
Berkshire
South Hampshire
Durham
South Lincolnshire
Surrey
The sea is like a silvery lake / and o'er its calm, the vessel glides/ gently
as if it feared to wake / the slumber of the silent tides.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PRIVATES</th>
<th>to July 4th</th>
<th>July 5th</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>officers</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Killed</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>311</td>
<td>326</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wounded</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>552</td>
<td>584</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>missing</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>66</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

[ HANDWRITING HERE CONTINUES AS BEFORE ]

Translation of the Spanish publications relative to the letters previous to the Articles of Evacuation of Spanish America by the British Troops. With a view of satisfying the public curiosity relative to the correspondence between the Spanish and English Generals, for the adjustment of the capitulation by order of the Commander in chief, the purport of each Flag of Truce and the proposals made on the part of the British General together with the modifications, objections and additions offered on our side has been permitted to be published as hereafter follows:

To his excellency Santiago Liniers - Camp before Buenos Ayres, 3rd July, 1807

Captain Rocke of the 17th Light Dragoons who I had the honor to dispatch this morning to your Excellency, informs me that it is your Excellency's wish that I should communicate in writing the proposals I had to make to you; in consequence of which, I have the honor to inform you, that his Excellency Lieutenant General Whitelocke, anxious to prevent any unnece-
ssary effusion of blood, has induced me to intimate to your Excellency that under the present circumstances he is willing to come to terms with the inhabitants of Buenos Ayres, on the conditions hereafter stipulated, he may possibly consent to some small alterations in their favor without changing the original purport.

1st All subjects of His British Majesty detained in South America are to be given up and hostages placed in the hands of the English Commander until their arrival at Buenos Ayres.
2nd All military officers and soldiers, and other persons holding civil employment under the government of Buenos Ayres will be considered prisoners of war.
3rd All cannon, arms ammunition and military stores are to be given up in good order.
4th All public property of any description will be confiscated by the British commanders.
5th The inhabitants of Buenos Ayres are allowed the free exercise of the Roman Catholic religion.
6th Private property will be respected. Our force is so considerable, that I flatter myself your Excellency can have little doubt of the result and believe me, when I assure you, that the desire above is to prevent a scene so horrible as that presented in a town taken by storm, and is the only motive which induces General Whitelocke to permit me to address your Excellency in this style. I have the honor to be etc. etc. etc.

I.L. Gower Major General

Reply to intimation dated 3rd July
To Major General I.L. Gower—

Sir: I am directed by the Spanish General Don Santiago Liniers to announce the receipt of your letter by a Flag of Truce respecting the surrender of Buenos Ayres and to inform you that he will not pay any attention to any correspondence regarding that point as he has a sufficient and spirited number of troops commanded by Generals ready to die in defense of their country, and that this is the time to prove their patriotism. Your most obedient servant

Elio Colonel 84

229 bis Intimation 2nd Head Quarters at the camp before Buenos Ayres, 4th July 1807
To his Excellency General Liniers—

Your Excellency will do me the credit to attribute to humanity alone the information I now give your Excellency which is that the chief column of my army has affected a junction with that part under the command of Major General Gower. Your Excellency is without doubt acquainted that another column is about a league from the Capital, awaiting my instructions. I have likewise various reinforcements on board ship together with a squadron ready to cooperate with the operations I am now carrying on. It is my wish therefore after this faithful statement to be acquainted whether your Excellency still persists in returning the same answer as that contained in your letter yesterday, to the Major General who has my authority to treat with you on that subject. The bearer of this, Captain Whittingham has orders to wait half an hour for your Excellency's answer whether or no. I have the honor to be etc., etc.

John Whitelocke.
Reply to intimation 2nd Buenos Ayres

4th July 1807 To his Excellency Lieutenant General Whitelocke —

I have just received your Excellency’s Flag of Truce, dated this day, and have the honor to inform you in reply that as long as I possess ammunition, and that there exists among my garrison, and its auxiliaries the same spirit that at the present animates them, I shall never agree to any proposals made to me to abandon the post intrusted to my charge, well persuaded that I am able to cope with all the force your Excellency may oppose to conquer me. As to the laws of Humanity to which your Excellency refers, permit me to observe that whoever understands the right definition of them will agree with me, that your Excellency as an aggressor and not I who comply merely with what justice and honor points out, that violate them. I have etc. etc.

Santiago Liniers.

Intimation of the Spanish General - Citadel Buenos Ayres 6th July.

To his Excellency Lieutenant General Whitelocke —

The same humane sentiments which induced your Excellency to propose a capitulation to my troops, without making yourself acquainted with my resources, at present animates me, well informed that I have made prisoners eighty officers of different ranks, above one thousand soldiers and at least double that number in slain of your Excellency’s troops. Notwithstanding no attack has as yet reached the centre of my army. With a view to prevent a further effusion of blood, and to give your Excellency a clearer idea of Spanish generosity, I have to propose that your Excellency being willing to reembark with the remainder of the Army, evacuate Monte Video, and the River Plata, leaving hostages, for the fulfilment of the Treaty. I will not only restore those troops I have just made prisoners, but also all those taken from Master General Beresford, giving your Excellency to understand at the same time that if these terms are not complied with, I cannot answer for the rigorous treatment the prisoners in my possession may experience from the exasperated ardour of my troops, who have the more reason to be so, since three of my aid-de-camps have been wounded after presenting themselves in various parts with Flags of Truce, and in consequence I transmit this to your Excellency by a British officer and expect an answer in the course of an hour. I have etc. etc.

Santiago Liniers.

P.S. After writing the above General Craufurd and the whole of his brigade together with the officers of other regiments have fallen into my hands 85.

Reply Plaza de Tauros 6th July, 1807.

To his Excellency General Liniers —

I have the honor to announce the receipt of your Excellency’s letter and perceive that you do me the justice to believe I do not lend a deaf ear to whatever may relate to the cause of humanity, and as during yesterday’s action, the wounded of both parties are much dispersed, I propose an armistice of 24 hours for each of us to take away our respective wounded. The posts at present occupied by each Army to be the line of demarkation. As to what may regard my abandoning the advantages I have already obtained it is out of the question, having taken a number of prisoners, a large portion of artillery, and gained both flanks. I leave it to your Excellency’s sincerity to draw upon a comparison between the situation of the two armies. I greatly lament the circumstance of your Excellency’s aid-de-camp having been wounded, and can only attribute it to errors which occur so frequently at the commencement of hostilities. I shall take care to prevent its happening again begging leave at the same time to observe that my aid-de-camp, dispatched with a flag of truce on the 4th instant was fired at all the way
passing your Excellency's lines. I have the honor to be John Whitelocke.

Plaza de Tauros 6th July, 1807
To H. Excellency General Liniers —
I have the honor to inform your Excellency that I only received your Excellency's letter as I was entering this post, and your Excellency having resumed the fire of your artillery, I presume you are not agreeable to a cessation of hostilities. It grieves me much to see the sufferings of the wounded, who require assistance and I therefore propose to your Excellency to stop all firings whatever, and will send you an officer of rank, Major General Gower, who will explain to your Excellency how far I can accede to the proposals expressed in your letter. I have etc. etc.

John Whitelocke.

Plaza de Tauros, 7th July, 1807
To H.E. General Liniers —
We have the honor to inform your Excellency that alone induced by motives pointed out to you by Major General L. Gower we consent to conditions proposed to you, and have in consequence appointed officers who together with those of your Excellency may take their measures for receiving the prisoners, remembarking the troops, and settling requisite points.

We have the honor to be John Whitelocke. George Murray

Articles proposed for the final accommodation of the capitulation —
No. 1 — For this period there shall be a cessation of hostilities on both sides the River Plata. Agreed to.
No. 2 — The troops of His British Majesty, may possess during 4 months the fortress, and town of Monte Video, and a line of demarkation drawn from St. Carlo in the West, and as far as Pando in the East, which territory shall be considered neutral, and no hostilities shall be committed therein. —Agreed to— but only for two months and in the neutrality it shall be considered that both nations shall be judged by their respective laws — (i. e.) Spaniards by theirs and English by theirs.
No. 3 — A reciprocal restitution of prisoners shall take place on both sides including not only those subjects of His British Majesty taken since the arrival of General Whitelocke but also all those detained in South America since the commencement of the war —Agreed to.
No. 4 — No impediment shall be put to the purchasing of those provisions requisite for the equipment of the fleet at Monte Video —Agreed to.
No. 5 — The space of 10 days is to be allowed for the remembarking of the troops of His British Majesty in order that they may pass to the Northside of the River Plata with all the arms (excepting the prisoners) ammunition and baggage, at the most convenient part they choose for that purpose and during that time, no provisions may be sold to them —Agreed to.
No. 6 — The trade of the English shall receive no hinderance whatever during the space of 4 months —Impossible being quite contrary to the laws of the country.
No. 7 — Monte Video is to be given up in the state it was found at the capture and all the artillery it possessed.
No. 8 — Three officers of distinction shall be given up on both sides, until the fulfilment of the treaty, it being understood that these officers of His British Majesty who were made prisoners cannot serve against South America before their return to England.

Fortress of Buenos Ayres, dated 6th July, 1807
Signed: L. Gower Major General
Santiago Liniers.

Blank pages. [Here the diary retakes the relation of the battle].
28th June 1807 - The troops began to disembark about 9 o’clock and were all landed by 2 PM. Part of the troops were landed at a creek where they stepped easily ashore on dry ground, but those who were landed to the right got ground above a hundred yards from the shore and waded up to the middle in water. The landing was effected without opposition and without accident. The whole force amounted to nearly 8000 men. Lieutenant General Whitelocke commander in charge. Major General Gower second in command. Brigadier Generals Sir S. Achmuty, Lumley and Craufurd.

The troops were brigaded as under: 86

95th, 8 companies
Light Battalion X  Brig. Gen. Craufurd
company 71st regiment x Light companies of the
different regiments.

5th, 38th, 87th: Brigadier General Sir Samuel Achmuty.
36th, 88, 17th Light Dragoons: Brigadier General Lumley.
40th, 45th, 6th, Dragoon Guards, 9th Light Dragoons: Colonel Mahon.

Immediately on landing General Craufurd’s brigade and General Lumley’s advanced under the command of Major General Gower. They crossed the [blank in manuscript] and took up a position on the heights beyond it. Sir Samuel Achmuty’s and Colonel Mahon’s brigades staid in the fort of Ensenada and in some houses more advanced. Several of the field officers got mounted immediately on landing. Three or four Spaniards who came with the Army from Monte Video noosed the horses and sold them for two dollars each. Immense herds of oxen were grazing near the beach but the troops were not permitted to kill any of them. The 5th regiment marched into the fort, about 4 PM. Ensenada de Barragan is a paltry fort 30 or 36 miles from Buenos Ayres towards the sea. There is raised a curtain and two bastions capable of mounting eight pieces of cannon. These well served would command the bay and harbour. The barracks could contain 5 or 600 soldiers. No cannon were in the place, nor any article of furniture in the houses. The country round is a level green plane, neither hills nor trees obstruct the view. The pasturage is high rich clover and grass. The cattle and horses feeding around are innumerable. It was dark before the officers had any particular room allotted them. The place was a kitchen, a room 12 feet square. A few rushes were on the floor and fifteen or twenty officers pigged on them for the night. We stowed away along side each other, with our head to the wall. I put my knapsack under my head, put on my cloak and slept very fair. Annoyed by vermin getting under my clothes. At day break, rose, shook my self, slung my pack and haversack and sallied out to get some grog. Found some of the officers frying pork steaks in the cover of a tin canteen joined the party and partook of the repast. The Grenadiers contrived to bayonnet some pigs in the fort which furnished the steaks. The men landed with one blanket, a great coat, 1 flannel shirt, a pair of overalls, a pair of shoes, three days provisions and grog. The officers were allowed only what baggage they chose to carry and they loaded themselves more or less in proportion to their fondness of comfort at night, or of lightness and ease on the march during the day. About 9 the brigade marched left in front. Colonel Mahon to follow in the rear. The two first miles were dry ground, crossed a small river, over which two boats formed a bridge. The 8 or 9 following were a deep morass. The depth of black muddy water was from 1 1/2 to 3 feet. The bottom black mud, in some places a small low kind of osier or ground ash. The Army were nearly 3 hours in wading through this morass. The 5th being in the rear of the column were in the most fatiguing situation, yet the men got on with the greatest spirit. Having reached dry ground the brigade halted some time, being delayed by a narrow pass between two ponds. Then ascended a rising ground and took up a
position. The 5th on the left. The head quarters of the regiment was two small huts, with a few trees around them. Major Pratt was detached with 3 companies to the left. The field officers occupied the kitchen, the other officers a kind of store room. We caught some fowls, but the men were not allowed to bring any sheep or cattle. Made a large fire which kept in during the night, a small quantity of gin was issued to the men and having discussed the contents of their haversacks, they wrapped themselves up in their great coats and blankets, lay down near the fire and slept quite comfortable till morning. We had but little dinner, some fowls stewed in a tin canteen were brought us by the servants in the evening. Got plenty of hides, spread them on the floor, stowed myself away among the crowd and slept very well.

June 30th - Got up at day break. My servant made some tea in a canteen which I enjoyed much. Joined by Major Pratt at 8 and marched soon after. Three days mutton was issued to the troops on the march. Joined the right of the line, and the men were supplied with biscuit, the distribution of which was momentary. The army now marched with great regularity. The 95th riflemen advanced, on the flanks and in the rear. Mounted dragoons were also on the flanks. The medical staff of each regiment 20 or 30 paces on the right flank of the column, attended by 10 men to carry wounded or sick, under the command of a lieutenant. No enemy to be seen. Came in the evening after marching 8 or 10 miles to a large house on a height, opposite to which the army halted for the night taking line. Picquets and guards sent out as usual. The men piled arms, kindled large fires in the rear of the line and cooked their mutton, got some stewed mutton in a canteen. Put my pack, haversack, sword and pistols under my head, placed my feet to the fire and slept well. The officers of course eat, drink and sleep well with their companies. Heard that an officer of the 36th on picquet had his hat noosed by the Spaniards. One of the staff servants was shot through the lungs.

July 1st - Up at day break. Fully accounted in marching order. Marched in the same order as yesterday. Marched over the blankets of the Light Battalion which General Whitelocke had made the men throw away. Much in want of grog and biscuit. Near the village of Reduction, the Grenadiers of the 5th, 38th, and 87th, were advanced to storm a fort but found no enemy, and I believe no fort. Halted at the village for the night. The sick and weak men were put into the church. The village of Reduction contains about 20 houses and huts. It is on a high ground and only a mile and a half or two miles from the River Plata. To the foot of the hill from the River is a deep bog, three quarters of a mile wide at this village. Brigadier General Beresford landed on the 25th June 1806 — on the 26th was at Reduction, 27th crossed the River at the bridge and entered the town of Buenos Ayres by capitulation. The village is distant about 3 leagues from Buenos Ayres.

July 2nd - Early in the morning thunder and lightening and heavy rain. At day break the weather became fine. One man and a boy were assassinated at the village. Halted on a height, 5th on the right of the Army, under a prickly pear hedge. Every man in the Army had at least one sheep each, many had two or a sheep and a lamb. Water was scarce. Had some kidney for dinner and dressed some mutton for tomorrow. Made my bed as usual committed my body to the care of Morpheus.

3rd - Early in the morning rain, thunder and lightening. The Army marched at day break. After marching 6 [ sic ] or 6 miles crossed the River Chuclo. The men fixed their ammunition on their bayonets and the officers carried their haversacks, thrown over the swords, on their shoulders. The water was about 3 feet and 3 1/2 deep. Having crossed the River, Buenos Ayres
was still 8 miles distant. The men wet and cold and without grog. They advanced however with true British spirit. About 5 miles from the River came to a house, and some cultivated fields and a road. Heard firing in front and on the flanks. Advanced up a narrow, wet, clayey road, a hedge on either side of prickly pear. The column was halted and kept standing shivering in the cold. Various orders were passed from the front to the rear. Advanced in double quick time, opposite Mr. White’s house in the suburbs the army halted, under a heavy rain. A constant fire of musketry in front and several wounded men were carried past the Army to the above mentioned house. The army advanced and formed a line nearly parallel with the River Plata, along a road which crossed the suburbs of the city. The regiment having taken up its ground, each company was ordered to take possession of the neighbouring houses in its front and rear.

4th - Small enclosures, garden houses and hedges in front and rear of the army. The advanced picquets keeping up a constant fire. Bread and spirits issued to the men. The line under arms at 10 o’clock. Retreated about 400 yards and formed behind some hedges. This retreat was a finesse to allure the Spaniards to come out, it had not however the effect expected. Between 3 and 4 o’clock the enemy not appearing. The army advanced and occupied the position from which they had retreated.

5th - The battalion under arms at 5 o’clock every man was completed to 60 rounds of ammunition, according to general orders. The officers and men left their haversacks in a field in charge of a sergeant and some weakly men. About half past 6 the regiment advanced by wings about half a mile along the two streets allotted and halted anxious to hear the guns, the signal for advancing. The morning was fine. No noise except the howling of dogs in Buenos Ayres. The men were silent as the grave in anxious suspense. Every officer had made his will or in some way settled his affairs. At 7 precisely the gun fired and we advanced in double quick time, frequently running, the street or road in some places very deep and dirty. The houses became thicker and thicker till having advanced about a mile or a mile and a half we had entered the town without opposition, seeing no enemy or having a shot fired. Still advancing we heard firing on our left, which soon became heavy. The 87th were on our left. The 38th on the left of the 87th and the firing proceeded from the Place de Tauros. We advanced till we reached the River Plata and then gave three cheers. We then began to break open houses battering at the doors with axes and the buts of muskets. Hoisting the King’s colours on one of the highest houses. Our men in the streets and on the tops of houses kept up a smart fire, finding Spaniards in trees, on the tops of neighbouring houses and in every corner. Some guns from the fort were brought to bear on our colours. Took possession of a large church and planted the colours on it. Our wounded men were now bringing in fast. At 11 o’clock the church was nearly full of wounded and prisoners. Colonel Davie was ordered to advance with 3 companies to the assistance of the 36th regiment. We were for a time exposed to a heavy fire from the fort. When Colonel Davie ordered me to find Sir Samuel Achmuty and report his advance to him. At 2 PM returning from the Place de Tauros where I found Sir Samuel, fell in with Captains Clark and Drury. They ordered me to take some prisoners in charge and conduct them to the church (of St. Catalina) where there was still a small party of the 5th regiment. At 1/2 past 3 received an order to conduct all the prisoners to the Tauros. Sir Samuel had established the head quarters for his brigade there. I then learnt that the assault had failed, that the Light Battalion and the 88th were taken prisoners. In the orders for the assault, no provision was made for defeat, no rallying point nor place of retreat mentioned, no plan of communication between
the regiments nor even between the wings of the same regiment. Every commander of a wing having reached the River was at a loss what to do and Generals Whitelocke and Gower were not in the town to give orders. The wings therefore acted independently and waisted [sic] the day in breaking open houses and consequently in some cases the men committed irregularities. But those who are versant in military matters attribute the failure to the plan of attack, running headlong into a town where every house is a fort, where all the principal streets were defended by cannon, deep ditches and embrasures of hides filled with sand and... armed inhabitants posted on the tops of houses, etc. etc. Our army too unacquainted with the town, without spies, without guides, without having previously battered the town, without cannon, without even being loaded. The 88th regiment were taken early in the day. They got into a house near the fort and cannoned by it, were surrounded and after losing half their Grenadiers and several others, were obliged to surrender. Brigadier General Craufurd took possession of St. Domingo Church and was also surrounded and obliged to capitulate. The 45th took possession of the Residencia, a large church on the left, and kept it. Colonel Guard left the place and joined Brigadier General Craufurd in St. Domingo where he was taken prisoner. The 6th Dragoon Guards and Artillery retreated with loss and without being useful. Night was now approaching. Picquets were posted. Our regiment officers had a stable and yard to pig in. Mounted picquet.

6th - About 10 AM Generals Whitelocke and Gower joined the troops in the Retiro and several gun boats commenced bombarding the fort, but were stopped in consequence of a flag of truce. Random shot were flying round the chain of sentries, several lighted on the Parade. All firing ceased in the afternoon.

7th - Colonel Mahon with Artillery and 40th regiment joined.
9th, 10th, 11th - The troops under arms two hours every morning before day break.

12th - The troops began to embark by daylight. The 5th regiment being last was not on board till 9 or 10 o'clock at night. Cold, miserable and broken-hearted, every one disgusted and dissatisfied with the conduct of our chiefs who showed neither judgement, nor bravery. Their conduct after the 7th instant exhibited meanness and suspicion and we all trust that they will be called to an account for it on their return to England. The inhabitants are without exception inimical to the English believing us to be heretics, and barbarians and elated by their recent success entertain the most sovereign contempt for our prowess in the field. So astonishingly ignorant are the Padres who lead the people in every thing of wealth, resources, commerce etc. of the British dominions, that one of them (by his brethren esteemed as a sensible man) maintained with all the obstinacy of perfect conviction that the King of England meant to have resided in future in Buenos Ayres, that England produces no cattle, the army never paid, that our only manufactures were woollen, our navy the best in the world but our army the worst, that 5000 Spaniards would conquer treble the number of English, which he illustrated by example, the few Spaniards who took General Beresford and General Craufurd and the defeat of our best troops under General Whitelocke by an untrained population of whom only 15,000 had arms and not half of them ever engaged, that it is impossible for the English to conquer them, they being of the true faith and protected by Heaven. We heretics and barbarians, he imagined London and England synonymous and could not be made to understand that it was only the largest city in England and contained above one million inhabitants. Such are the notions really enter-
Tained by the Padres, and which they propagate with incredible zeal, amongst the ignorant multitude.

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Tactics is the art of arranging and directing the movements and leading the troops to battle with the greatest possible regularity. The knowledge of these then is the foundation of that branch which relates to operations in the field and which is, in these respects, subject to the same principles as that of sieges. In fact, a siege is no other than if I may so speak, an operation defensively offensive. An Army sits down before a place, and makes its advances only in raising before itself defensive retrenchments called parallels. Each parallel is a point of defence which covers, supports and secures the troops and more especially the batteries, which being entirely offensive could not be otherwise sustained. The same participation of the nature of defence belongs also to operations in the field. A country is as much as possible covered by detachments, and by the occupation of advantageous posts, which are so many defensive positions to support an army in case of need. In the arrangement of a battle, every front is disposed in the most exact order of defence and so as not to leave any unguarded; for in order to insure a victory, it is necessary to take every precaution against being yourself surprised. In a siege, you would not begin by attacking the citadel and leave behind you the outworks. This would be the height of imprudence. The posts of defence must first be destroyed which is done by spirited cannonade; and if the attack succeeds, a lodgement is then made. From this quarter another outwork is attacked, and thus advances are gradually and successively made to the heart of the place. In the same manner, in operations in the field, it would be imprudent to lead forward an army without the usual precautions of securing the means of retreat. An army would in leaving behind it fortified towns of the enemy, forts, or intrenched posts, run the greatest risk of being either entirely cut off, or harassed excessively from those posts which it had neglected to occupy.

When a siege is determined on, the first step is to examine the plan of the place to be besieged. So also in an operation in the field it is proper to begin by consulting the map of the country into which we design to carry the war, and in doing this, as much caution is exercised as in reconnoitering the ground of a place to be attacked, and before which the trenches are about to be opened. In a siege, the town being of course the point aimed at from every part of the works, the general depot of the trenches is a central spot, from whence are issued the different succours which supply the parallel.

In advancing securely and methodically against a place the right and left wings of a parallel ought to be well defended and the communication with the general depot regular and easily accessible. In operations of the field, the country of which we wish to render ourselves masters, has always a leading point against which the main attack is directed. To make a progress in this country, and to arrive at this point, it is necessary to form a first line, and for the depot of general subsistence. The same precautions are employed as in the general depot of the trenches; that is to say to render the communications to the right and left of this line, both easy and secure. For this purpose, it is necessary to seize in some advantageous post on either flank; and previous to venturing forward this line must be strengthened by gaining possession of the rivers on the towns which lie in its direction and by forming central entrepots and magazines both of provisions and ammunition.

The second line must not be begun till the first is completely secured; that is to say, till the communication between the rivers and towns and the general depot is equally easy and safe. In the same way an advance is made from the second line to a third and so to others.
In conforming to these rules, whatever be the events which may retard the success of the campaign nothing fatal can happen, and you retain always possession of the ground on which you have established your first line. Although you should exhaust even a whole campaign in effecting this, your time will perhaps not have been ill employed since you will thus have secured the means of opening the following campaign with advantage. In a siege the batteries ought to bear upon the besieged by a fire superior to that from the town, and this tends to excite the ardour of the troops so detachments, well conducted, harass and confine the enemy, protect convoys, cover foraging parties, levy contributions and when successful, equally inspire confidence to the soldier.

Sometimes it is necessary to abandon a battery because it has been formed with too little care and without a ready communication with the trenches. So a detachment that is sent out, and does not retain its communication with the main body, may be compelled to retreat with precipitation. And as sieges, batteries ought never to be raised which may be eventually useless, so a prudent general will be careful never to hazard large bodies of advance troops, unless he is assured of not being reduced to the necessity of withdrawing them; for it is a much less serious evil not to possess ourselves of a post than to be compelled to relinquish it because it was not in our power to retain it.

Thursday January 28th 1808 87 - The board room for the trial of General Whitelocke, was yesterday prepared in the Great Hall, or dinner room in Chelsea College. The Court was thus constituted:

Sir Meadows, President
2. Norton 12. Ogilvy
3. Lake 13. Fox
5. Moore 15. Harris
7. Halse 17. Welford
8. Dundas 18. Garth

Substance of the charges was as follows — 1) Having contrary to the tenor of instructions in the summons to Buenos Ayres, required that the civil officers and magistrates should be prisoners of war, which, it is averred, is contrary to all the customs of war, and had a decided effect in inflaming the civil population to resistance.

2). Exposing the Army to a destructive discharge of musquetry from the town without furnishing that Army with any means of defence or attack.

3). Not being present personally on the advance against Buenos Ayres; also not keeping open a communication between the main body of the troops and the detachment under General Craufurd, which compelled that officer to surrender.

4). Surrendering the fortress of Monte Video without necessity, which was capable of making an effectual resistance against any force which could be brought against it.

General Gower "Two corporals with tools to precede each column, the whole to be unloaded, and no firing to be allowed on any account." 88

March 24, 1808 - Colonel Gordon, Secretary to His Royal Highness, the Commander in Chief, communicated officially to Lieutenant General White-
locke the sentence of the Court Martial as approved by His Majesty. It is as follows:

"The Court Martial" having duly considered the evidence given in support of the charges against the prisoner Lieutenant General Whitelocke, his defence and the evidence he has adduced, are of opinion, that he is guilty of the whole of the said charges with the exception of that part of the second charge which relates to the order that the column of cannon should be unloaded and that no firing should be permitted on any account. "The court was anxious that it may be distinctly understood that they attach no censure whatever to the precautions taken to prevent unnecessary firing during the advance of the troops to the proposed points of attack and do therefore acquit Lieutenant General Whitelocke, of that part of the said charge. The Court judges that the said Lieutenat General Whitelocke be cashiered and declared totally unfit and unworthy to serve His Majesty in any military capacity whatever."

"The King has been pleased to confirm the above sentence, etc."

The Gentleman's Magazine January 1808 by Sylvanus Urban, Gent
NOTES

1. The date January 19, 1808 is a bit odd since the last journal entry is dated Thursday January 28th 1808. This may have been added later and the last entry before sending it to his grandfather, George Bent, may have been January 12.

2. PM—post meridiene or afternoon.

3. Lieutenant Colonel L. Holland also kept a journal which was first published in Spanish by the newspaper La Nación (Buenos Aires) in a series beginning on 28 June 1937 entitled "La segunda invasión inglesa". We consulted the work in an edition published by EUDSEBA in 1975 with the title Expedición al Río de la Plata.

4. Auxiliary transport or auxiliary vessels—hospital ships, supplies, military stores.

5. Paces and inches.

6. The troops under the command of General Craufurd had secret orders to go to Chile. These were changed when the British Government learned of Bexford’s defeat in Buenos Aires and appointed Lieutenant General Whitelocke as commander of all troops in South America.

7. The quarter deck is the stern area of a ship's upper deck.

8. Downwind, situated away from the wind.

9. Bent refers here to being a member of the court martial not of Ridge's company.

10. Opposite of leeward, moving or situated toward the direction from which the wind is blowing.

11. Dog watches are either of two watches of 2 hours each extending from 4 to 6 and from 6 to 8 PM.

12. This latitude is obtained by measuring the position of the sun at noon and thus calculating the position of the boat. The wind, course and steering are based on a compass which had 32 positions, 8 for each cardinal point equal to 11 degrees 15 minutes each.

13. Commodore—The ranking officer commanding a body of ships.

14. Knots—One nautical mile an hour equivalent to 1854 meters, thus 3 knots are 5,54 kilometers per hour.

15. Quarter gallery—A small gallery on each quarter of a ship towards the stern.

16. League—Any of various units of distance, in this case a nautical league is equal to 3 miles thus 47 1/2 leagues: 142.5 miles or 88,028 meters.

17. Porto Santo is an island NE of Madeira in the archipelago of the same name.

18. Master—actually the Captain of the ship.

19. Judging from the bearing and distance they have anchored on the South Bank of Bugio island of the Desert islands since at 21 miles (7 leagues) off Madeira this is the only site adequate for anchoring. According to Holland's journal (op. cit.) the fleet was awaiting the Jackdave sent to accompany several ships to Madeira to purchase wine.

20. Palma is located 46 miles WNW of the island of Tenerife on the NW of the archipelago.

21. Island named Santa Maria.

22. This black pebble gives the beach the name Praia Negra.

23. All temperatures are given in Fahrenheit.

24. At this time the Napoleonic Wars made France and England bitter enemies.

25. We note here that the Nereide had not yet parted from the convoy. We know that on January 6, 1807 the Nereide and the 9th Light Dragoons along with three merchant ships part from Port Praya for Buenos Ayres arriving at Montevideo on February 6.

26. Although soldiers were discouraged from marrying, those already married were allowed to live with their families in military quarters, and wives were allowed to accompany their husbands overseas. Only five women (and children) per company were allowed food rations. The role of these women was very important since they washed, ironed, cooked and sewed for the entire company and on occasion they even followed their husbands into battle aiding with the sick and wounded. If the husband died these women quickly remarried within the company so as not to lose their status as otherwise they were no longer supported by the regiment. Their lives were not comfortable although their needs were met. These "female soldiers" were ruled by military discipline and punished for transgressions according to military law.

27. The cargo from the Campion was transferred to other ships and, according to Holland (op. cit.) she was instructed to follow the fleet as best she could, not return to England as Bent states here.

28. It has now been proven, that these fish do not point out the prey but only accompany the shark.

29. He refers to a book where information is available or perhaps where he has consulted.

30. Commonly known as Portuguese men of war or 'Caralho a la vela', they are a type of
31 He refers here to page 152 in the journal where he gives a detailed description of the crossing of the equator.

32 Tropic of Capricorn.

33 Holland (op. cit.) who was aboard the Spencer does not mention this at all.

34 A bay south of Capetown formed by a peninsula of the Cape and the continent.

35 A small bay within False Bay on the East coast of the isthmus of the Cape of Good Hope.

36 Table bay, facing Capetown is named for Table mountain which is to the South of the city.

37 As we know, the Campion leaves the fleet on January 18 as it is leaky and sailing bad, thus his surprise to find it at Table Bay.

38 Equivalent to Sergeant Major this officer is responsible for everything related to food supplies, lodging, and movement of the troops.

39 Since the fleet was to sail on the 5th Bent and party mentioned were ordered into town to round up all the troops and get them on board. Holland (op. cit. p. 81) states that drunken sailors and plenty of baggage had to be sorted out and put on board.

40 The English fleet to China.

41 The Polyphemus becomes the Headquarter ship as the Spencer returns to England as Bent mentions on March 27.

42 We see from this listing that the Nereide has returned from the Rio de la Plata bringing news of Beresford's defeat and of Achmuty's control of Montevideo.

43 Refers to the embarkation of troops in 1806 to follow Beresford in the first attempt to conquer Buenos Aires.

44 The Adjutant General is the officer responsible for everything related to discipline, arms and equipment, and dress of the military; the administrative services.

45 Tropic of Capricorn.

46 A fathom is equal to 6 feet.

47 Lieutenant General White洛克e left England on March 9 and arrived in Montevideo on May 10, 1807.

48 Actually the Paz schooner.

49 Lieutenant Colonel Pack in command of the 95th Regiment (not the 71st as stated here) captured Colonia on March 5. Juan Beverina, Las Invasiones Inglesas al Río de la Plata, 1806-1807, Circulo Militar, 1939) states that the Spanish offered no resistance and gives no loss figures. Pack had come to Buenos Aires with Beresford and was held prisoner with him in Lujan, later both escaped to join White洛克e. The 71st Regiment is Pack's company but at the time he was taking Colonia, the 71st was being held prisoner.

50 Admiral Stirling had been sent to replace Sir Home Popham, (who returned to England) arriving in Maldonado on December 3, 1806 and later retreating to await General Achmuty's arrival and the capture of Montevideo.

51 The baggage allowances are hard to understand since they conflict with the fact that White洛克e was very concerned in trying to reduce the amount of baggage in order to alleviate the troops during the march into Buenos Aires.

52 The troops were moved onto ships which could easily sail the shallow areas of the Rio de la Plata.

53 The Regiments carried two flags, the Royal flag which included the regimental coat of arms and the Regimental flag with the same coat of arms and the regimental colors.

54 The mouth of this creek was found to be at about 1/2 mile from the original landing place. Thus troops were ordered to disembark at the creek since the boats could reach it easily and the troops need not wade to shore.

55 Beginning on Journal page 245 Bent gives a more detailed account of the events occurring from June 28 to July 12, 1807.

56 The problems of the troops during the march were twofold: 1) the burden of carrying baggage and arms and 2) the supply of food. Both problems were anticipated to some extent by White洛克e and his staff due to their inability to obtain a sufficient number of horses in Montevideo nor to transport these across the Rio de la Plata.

57 Blake appears to be an Assistant Adjutant General.

58 Riachuelo.

59 Mr. White, was a North American who had escaped from Liniers' prison and served as a guide for the English. (Holland p. 115).

60 Refers here to artillery pieces.

61 Beverina (op. cit) has a translation of these orders which he has taken from the proceedings of the White洛克e trial. His translation states the time here to be five o'clock, not 11 as Bent states. Again later Bent has cannonade beginning precisely at seven o'clock and Beverina's translation states 6:30. These seem to be the only discrepancies.

62 Possibly means two Sapper Corporals responsible for making trenches, repairs, fortifica-
Colonel Browne had been Commandant of Montevideo since the troops had left for Buenos Aires on June 28.

He refers to the sea's phosphorescence.

Rear Admiral Murray is the commander of this sailing fleet.

Ceremonies of this nature continue to be held on board ship when crossing the Equator.

English fleet sailing to and from India.

He means a 64 cannon ship.

Spiped.

Baronet - a rank of honor below a baron and above a knight.

Corvette - a warship ranking next below a frigate.

Lighter - a large boat, usually a flat bottomed barge, used for loading and unloading ships.

Javier de Elío, Colonel of the Spanish troops.

Among these prisoners was Lieutenant Colonel Holland.

Bent was in General Achmuty's brigade.

This last section may have been added in order to give the journal an ending. See note 1.

He is referring back to the General Orders July 4th, see pages 72 to 75.

Bent gives the source from which he has extracted the information.