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## 'Engagement between the Teignmouth Cruizer commanded by Lieut. Hewitson and a French Privateer'

<b>Holding Institution</b>	British Library: India Office Records and Private Papers
<b>Reference</b>	IOR/F/4/343/7961
<b>Date(s)</b>	18 Aug 1809-31 Jan 1810 (CE, Gregorian)
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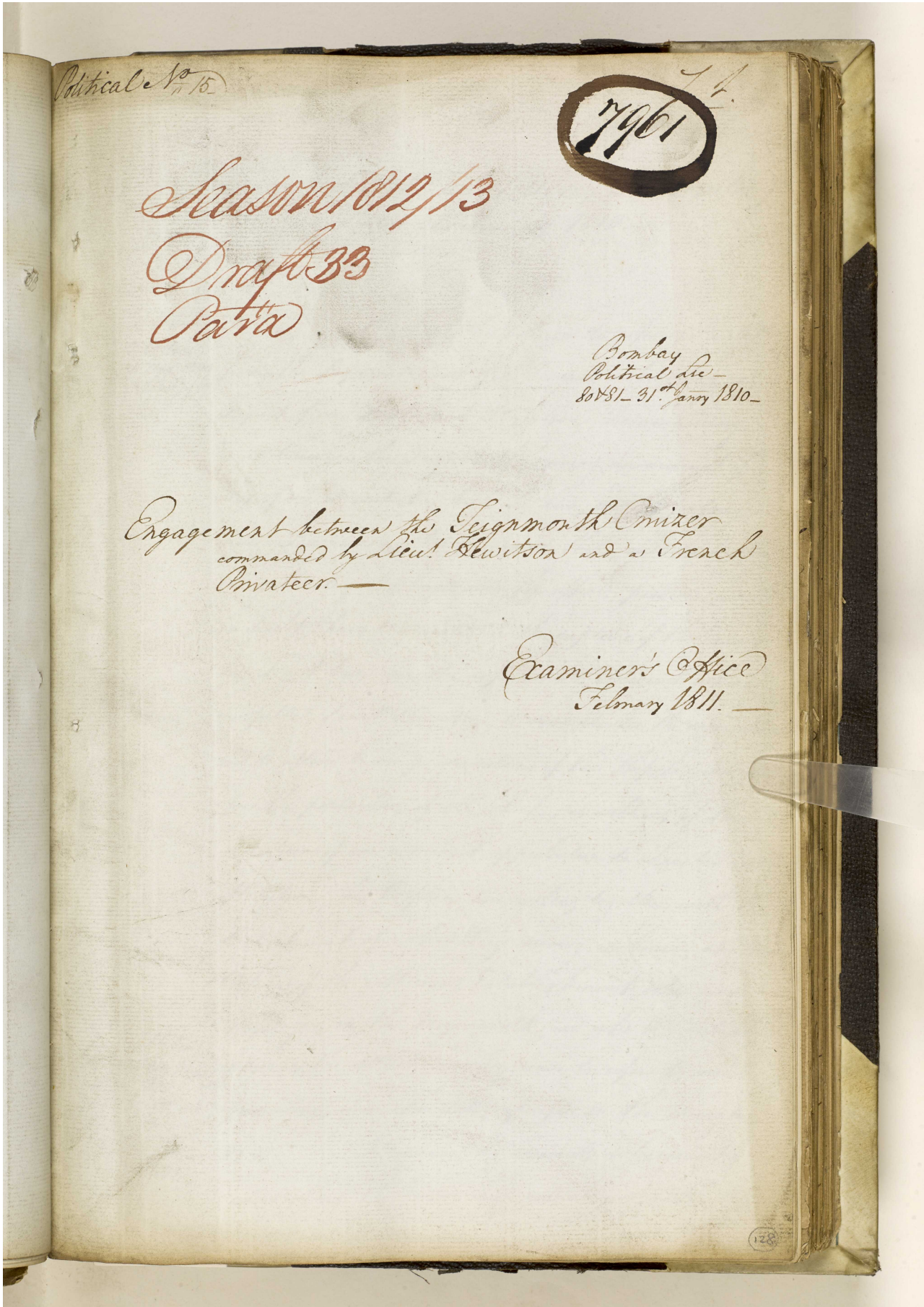
### About this record

This item consists of copies of correspondence and resolutions cited in, or enclosed with, political letters from the governments of Bombay and Bengal. The correspondents are: the Government of Bombay; the Superintendent of the Bombay Marine, William Taylor Money; Lieutenant William Hewitson, commander of the East India Company's cruiser *Teignmouth*.

On 29 July 1809, during her voyage from Bussora [Basra] to Muscat, the *Teignmouth* encountered a French privateer and was on the point of capturing her when an explosion occurred on board, allowing the privateer to escape. Hewitson gives an account of the action and those killed or wounded and mentions the HM frigate *Caroline*, the East India Company's brig *Vestal* and the East India Company's cruiser *Mercury*.

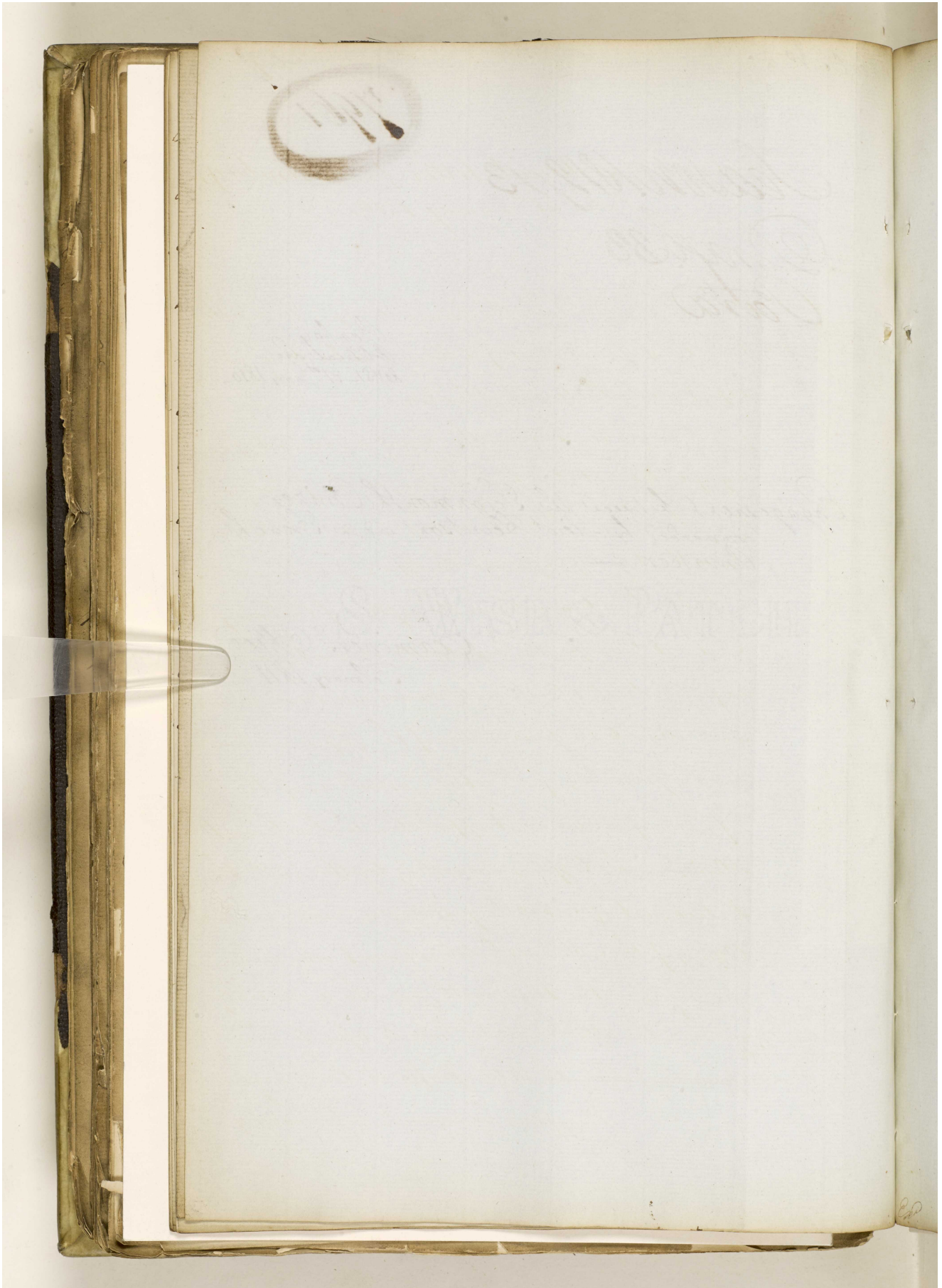
The title page of this item contains the following references: 'Political No. 15, Draft 33, Season 1812/3, Examiner's Office February 1811'.

'Engagement between the Teignmouth Cruizer commanded by Lieut. Hewitson and a  
French Privateer' [128r] (1/20)





'Engagement between the Teignmouth Cruizer commanded by Lieut. Hewitson and a  
French Privateer' [128v] (2/20)





'Engagement between the Teignmouth Cruizer commanded by Lieut. Hewitson and a French Privateer' [129r] (3/20)

Extract of Political Letter from Bombay,  
Dated 31<sup>st</sup> January 1810.

Part 80.

Pol. Cons.

25 Aug. 1809.

folio 7957.

We have the honour to refer to a Letter from the Superintendent of Marine submitting a Report from Lieutenant Hewitson, Commanding your Cruizer the Teignmouth, giving an account of a very spirited contest which he had, on his passage from Breshire, with an Enemy's Ship, and which, from the gallantry displayed and the effects produced, would, no doubt, have terminated in the capture of the Enemy had it not been for the unfortunate accident which compelled Lieut. Hewitson to discontinue the engagement and to attend to the preservation of the Ship he commanded, for the particulars of all which, as well as of the expression of our warmest approbation to Lieutenant Hewitson, his Officers, and Men, together with the Detachment of Artillery serving on board, and those Officers of the Madras Establishment who were passengers on the Teignmouth, and who so creditably joined in the attack, we beg leave to refer to our 1<sup>st</sup> Sept. - 8186  
8<sup>o</sup> B. - 8194 proceedings under the dates specified in the Margin.

81.

It appears by accounts subsequently received that the Enemy had actually struck her

Colours (129)







1956

3

Extract Bombay Political Consultations  
the 25<sup>th</sup> August 1809.

Read the following letter  
from the Superintendent of the Marine  
with Enclosure  
Honble Sir

I have the honor of laying  
before you a copy of a letter from Lieut.  
William Hewitson in Command of the  
H. Co. Ship Teignmouth, reporting the  
particulars of a very spirited contest which  
he had on his passage from Bussiere, with  
an Enemy's ship of Superior Force, and  
which from <sup>the</sup> gallantry displayed, and the  
effects produced would no doubt have  
terminated in the capture of the Enemy,

Chilli

had

(130)



'Engagement between the Teignmouth Cruiser commanded by Lieut. Hewitson and a French Privateer' [130v] (6/20)

had it not been for the unfortunate  
accident which compelled Lieut Hewitson  
to cease the engagement, and attend to the  
preservation of the Ship he Commanded.

2. I hope that your Honble  
Board will view this affair in the same  
light, and that you will consider Lieut.  
Hewitson, his Officers & Men, together with  
the Detachment of Artillery serving on board,  
and those Officers who were passengers in  
the Teignmouth, and who so honorably joined  
in the attack, as entitled to your  
warmest commendation, at the same time  
that the loss sustained and particularly  
Lieut Steward's severe wound must be  
the subject of deep regret.

Bombay  
18<sup>th</sup> August 1809

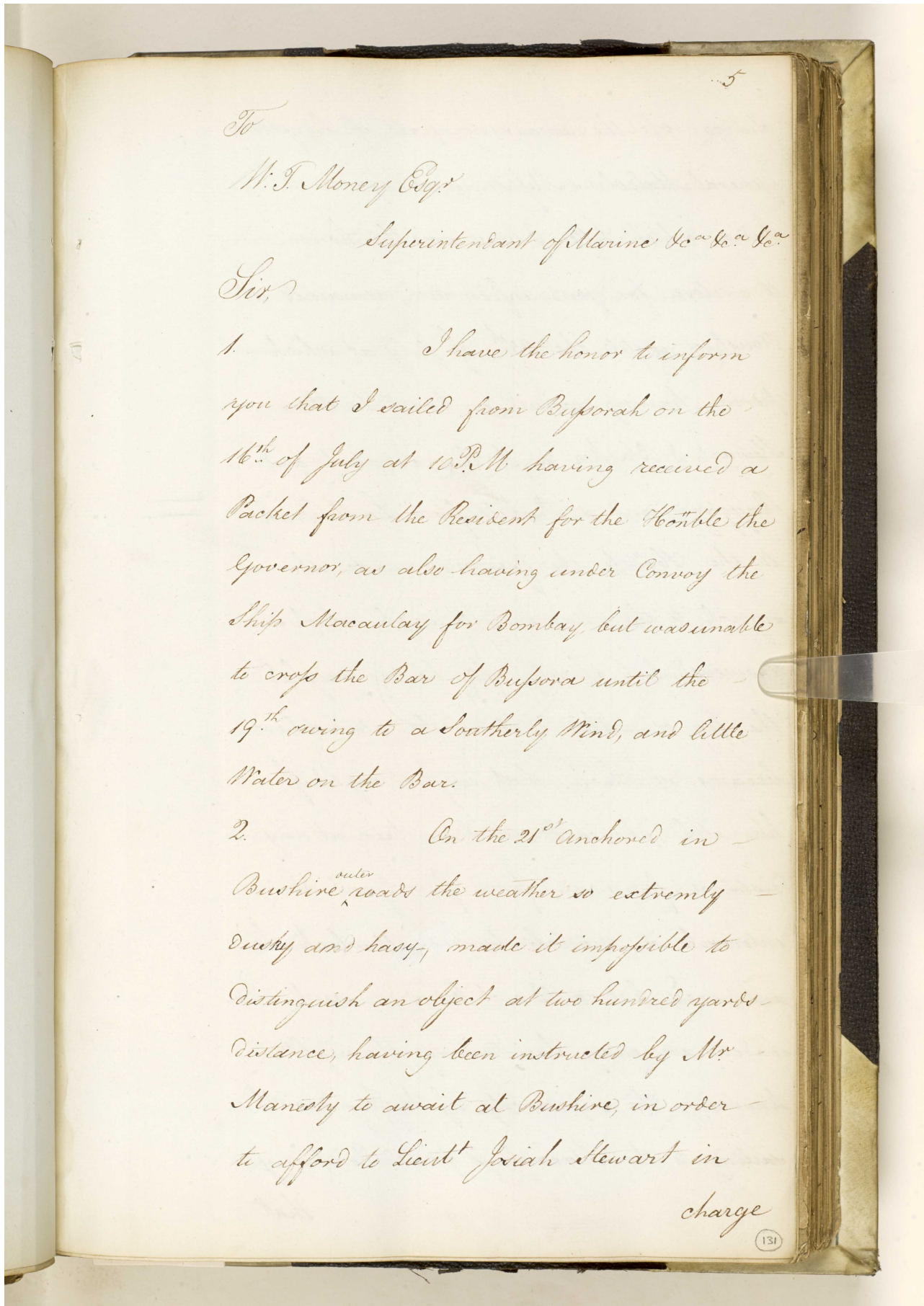
I have &c.

(Signed) M. S. Money

Capt.

To



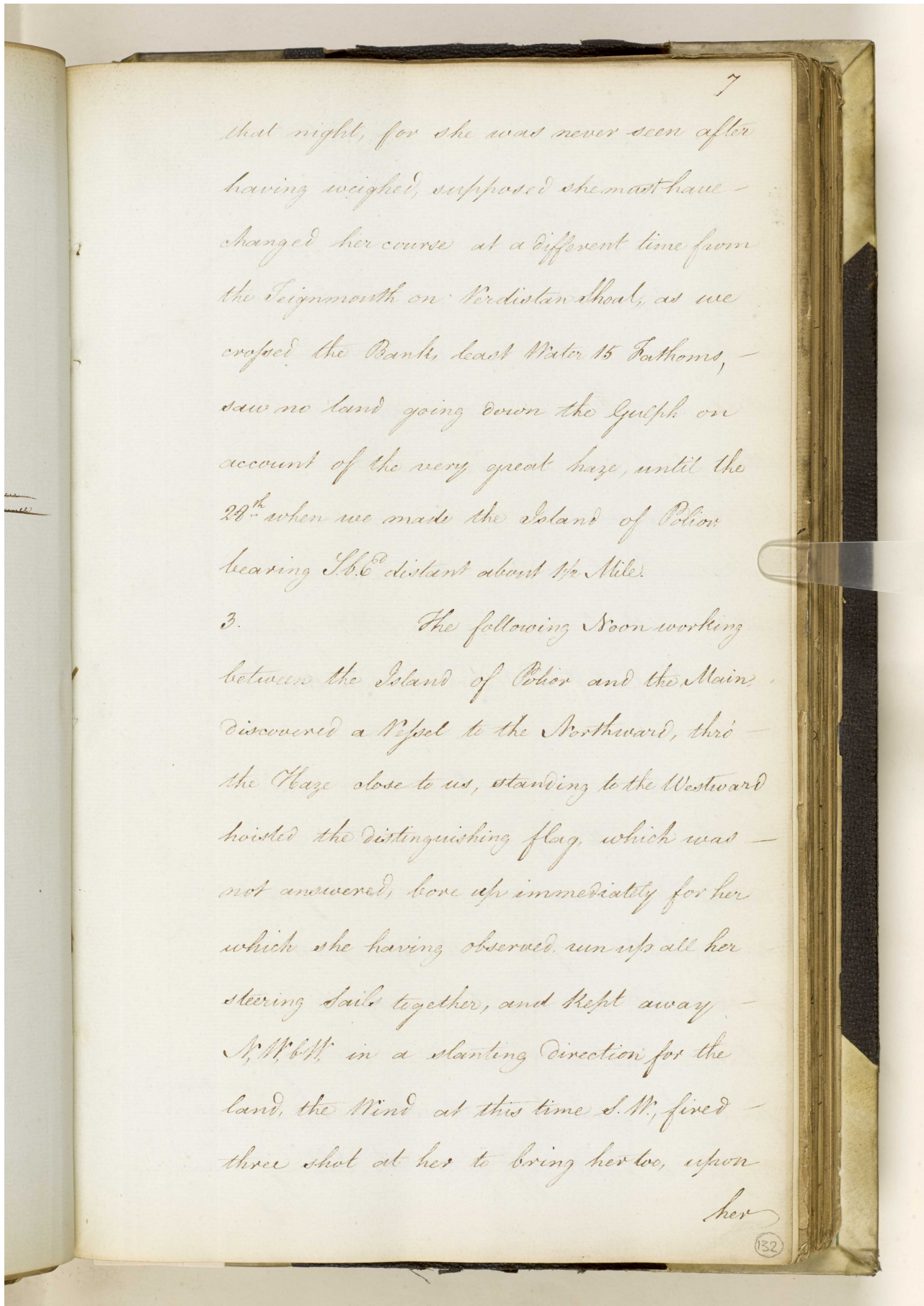




charge of the remaining part of Brigadier  
General Malcolm's Mission, a conveyance to  
India, which Letter I have now the honor  
to enclose for your information, remained at  
Abusire until the 25<sup>th</sup> of July at which  
period, having received on board Lieut  
Stewart & Blacher with their Servants and  
Baggage, and a Packet from Lieut Bruce  
to the Honble the Governour, made the  
signal to the Macaulay to weigh, which she  
answered, but shortly after having weighed,  
the fog or rather dusk in the atmosphere  
became so thick, that we lost sight of  
her, altho' she could not have been at any  
distance from us, fired five Guns at  
intervals, as signals to her, all which she  
answered, but could not be seen, went  
under an easy Sail during the night  
knowing the superiority of the Teignmouth  
sailing to the Macaulay's, parted Company  
that

Lieut  
Bruce







her finding that we were coming fast up  
with her, she got out Sweeps, but she having  
got so close in with the shore, that she  
must either run aground or tack, she  
hauled in her steering sails and tacked, —  
which brought us close alongside of each  
other about 2 P.M. when she hoisted French  
Colours, and commenced firing — wore round —  
and returned it, and continued a smart  
action with her until ½ past 5 P.M. generally  
within Pistol shot, and sometimes within  
half a Pistol shot, about which time an  
unfortunate accident took place on board  
the Teignmouth by a Box of fixed  
Ammunition being blown upon the quarter  
deck which set fire to the after part  
of the Ship, and burnt severely the men  
whose names are inserted in the Margin;  
from this unlucky circumstance, I was  
obliged to haul off from the Enemy

Officers of the Ship  
Mills Wash  
Isaac Palmer  
P. Green  
Noury (Coxswain)



9  
to extinguish the fire, and put the ship in  
a fit state to renew the action, which we  
accomplished by half past 6 P.M. for our  
bonaces & airline, most of the running rigging  
with a part of the standing rigging  
was shot away; the Enemy taking  
this advantage and making every effort  
in her power to escape by standing back  
to the Eastward with what sail she could  
carry. At  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 6 bore up again in chase  
when owing to thickness of the haze and  
darkness of the night, we lost sight of  
her about 2 A.M. the following Morning  
having observed, about this time she altered  
her bearings quickly from S.E. to S.W.  
led me to suppose she was on the other  
tack, tacked accordingly, but have since  
every reason to suppose we lost sight  
of her, owing to her having bore up  
for the Wishma Channel instead of  
having

(133)

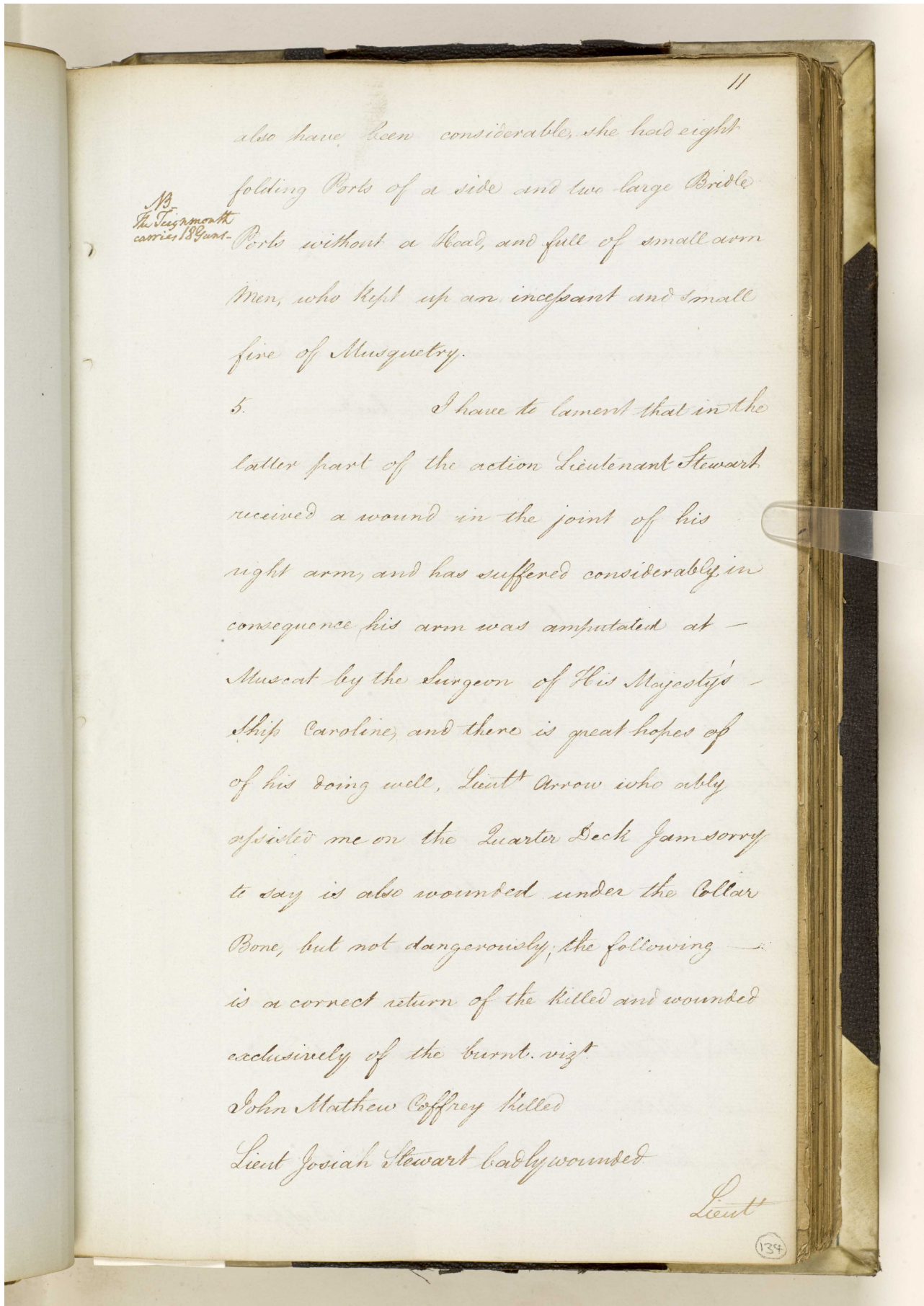
part of the  
of the  
of the  
of the  
of the



having tacked, as we had 9 fathoms sand upon  
the tail of a Bank that forms the Westside  
of the Kishma Channel

4. I am happy to say that the Officers  
Soldiers, Seapoyes and European Seamen under  
my Command behaved themselves much to my  
satisfaction, and I feel myself much indebted  
to Lieutenants Stewart and Blacker, who aided  
during the whole of the action at the great  
guns and small arms, and animated the  
crew by their good example and activity,  
and I am confident had not the aforementioned  
unlucky circumstance taken place, that  
she in a very few minutes more must  
have been our prize as the state of the  
Enemy was a deplorable one, her fore  
top-sail yard, Main yard arm, sprit-sail yard  
and Jib Boom were shot away her hull  
much shattered and her sails full of  
shot holes. I think her loss in Men must  
also





*MS  
The Teignmouth  
carries 13 Gun*

also have been considerable, she had eight  
folding Ports of a side and two large Brides  
Ports without a Head, and full of small arm  
Men, who kept up an incessant and small  
fire of Musquetry.

5. I have to lament that in the  
latter part of the action Lieutenant Stewart  
received a wound in the joint of his  
right arm, and has suffered considerably, in  
consequence his arm was amputated at  
Muscat by the Surgeon of His Majesty's  
Ship Caroline, and there is great hopes of  
of his doing well, Lieut Arrow who ably  
assisted me on the Quarter Deck Jam sorry  
to say is also wounded under the Collar  
Bone, but not dangerously, the following  
is a correct return of the killed and wounded  
exclusively of the burnt vizt  
John Mathew Coffrey killed  
Lieut Josiah Stewart badly wounded

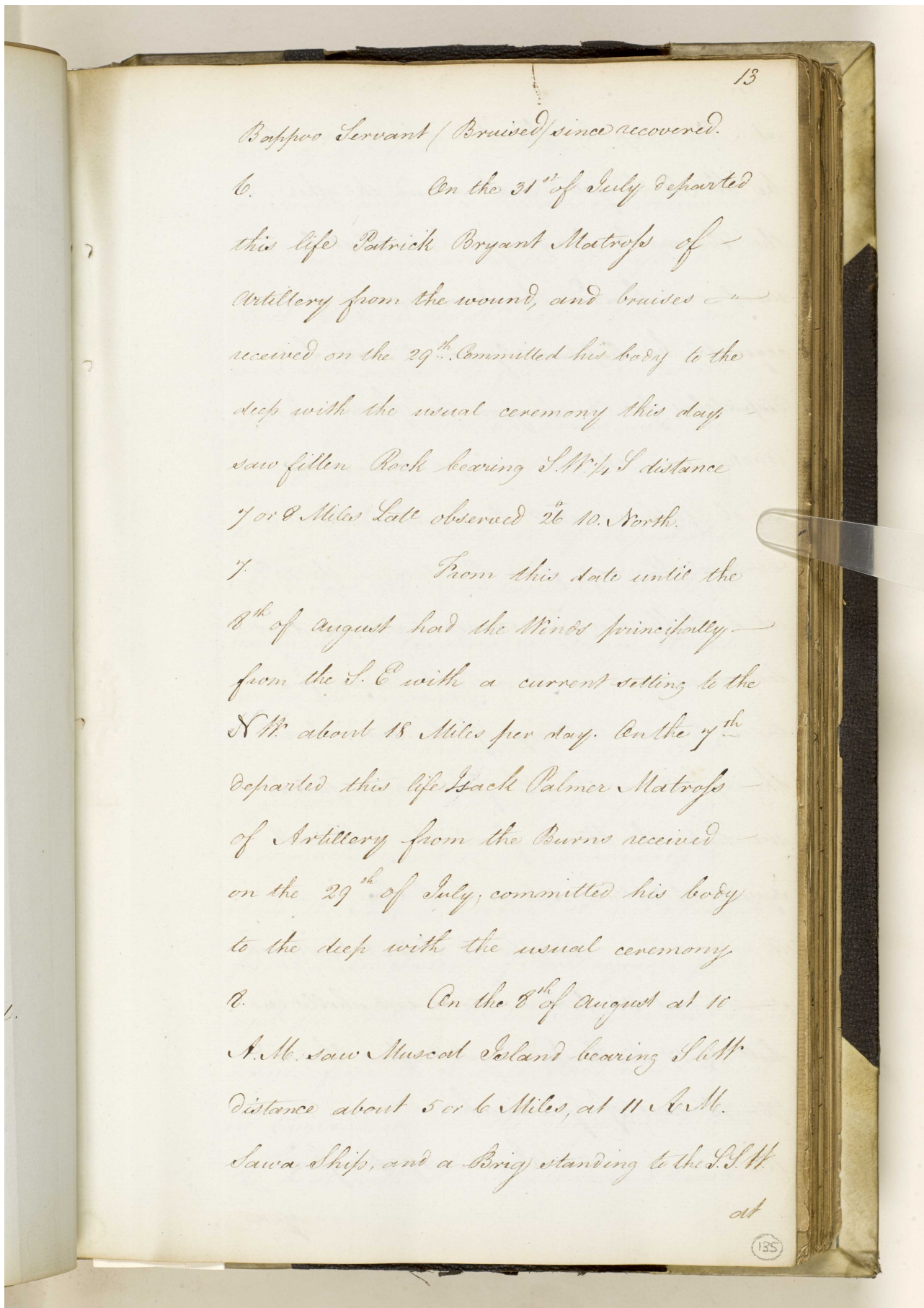
Lieut

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Lieut Mr Arrow badly wounded bone  
 Mr Salter Caulker do in the Arm  
 Tho<sup>s</sup> Barrow Quarter Master, slightly in the Eye  
 Stephen Christian do — badly in the Arm  
 James Norman Seaman wounded in the Shoulder  
 Mr Bealight — do in the back  
 Mr Wilson — do in the Eye (lost)  
 Aem Chinese — do in the back  
 Afsam do — do in the Eye  
 George N<sup>o</sup> Lieutenant Servant in the Side  
 Corporal Whitley Artillery in the Neck  
 Patrick Green in the Thigh & burnt  
 Serjeant Moram (slightly) since recovered  
 Richard Allen (Stewart) slightly  
 Lewis Mucys Seaman do  
 Stephen Jefferson Seaman Bruised, do  
 Patrick Brien Private Artillery Wounded, since dead.  
 Richard Holliday do slightly wounded  
 James Millis do do do  
 Jose Captains Servant do do  
 Baypro





Rappoo Servant (Bruised) since recovered.

b. On the 31<sup>st</sup> of July departed this life Patrick Bryant Matrops of Artillery from the wound, and bruises received on the 29<sup>th</sup>. Committed his body to the deep with the usual ceremony this day saw fallen Rock bearing S.W. 1/4 distance 7 or 8 Miles Late observed 26 10. North.

f. From this date until the 8<sup>th</sup> of August had the Winds principally from the S. E. with a current setting to the N.W. about 18 Miles per day. On the 7<sup>th</sup> departed this life Isack Palmer Matrops of Artillery from the Burns received on the 29<sup>th</sup> of July, committed his body to the deep with the usual ceremony.

a. On the 8<sup>th</sup> of August at 10 A.M. saw Muscat Island bearing S.W. distance about 5 or 6 Miles, at 11 A.M. saw a Ship, and a Brig standing to the S.W.

at

135

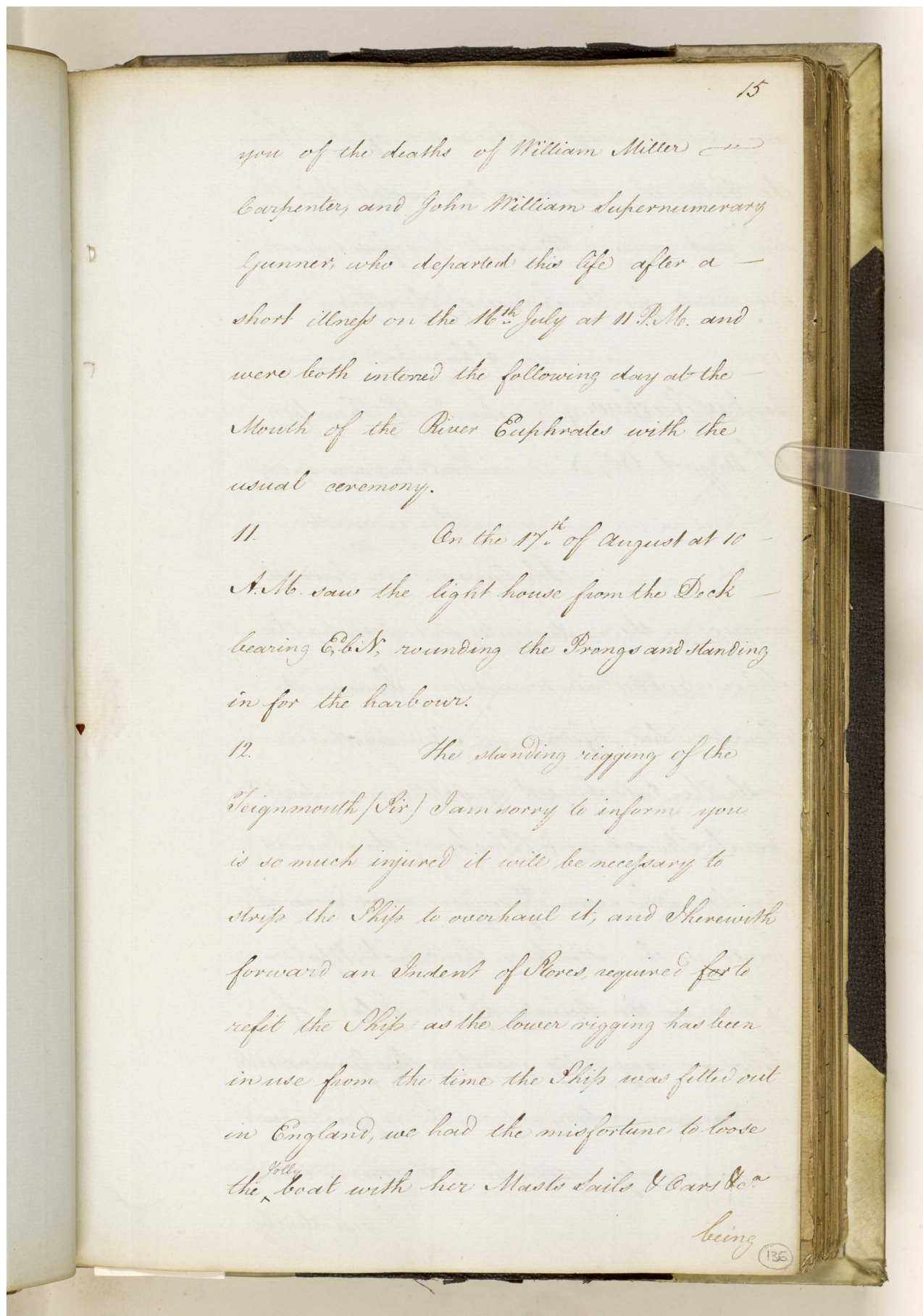


at Noon spoke the Ship which proved to  
be H. M. Brigate Caroline, and the other  
the Honorable Company's Brig Nestal, &  
went on board the Caroline, and was  
requested by Captain Gordon to wait his  
dispatches for Bombay; on the 9<sup>th</sup> at 1 P.M.  
Anchored in the entrance of Muscat Cove  
in 16 fathoms, at 8 P.M. arrived the H. C.  
Cruizer Mercury from Bombay, on the 10<sup>th</sup>  
at 5 P.M. having received Capt. Gordon's  
letters weighed with a light breeze from  
the S.E. and stood out of the Cove, cleared  
the gulph on the 12<sup>th</sup>, from which period  
we had the Winds from the S.W. with  
squally Weather and a high sea.

9. On the 10 at 11 A.M. struck  
soundings 50 fathoms sand and shells in  
Sole 19. 17 North and longitude per Chron.<sup>o</sup>  
70-46 east of Greenwich.

10. I am sorry to inform  
you





15  
you of the deaths of William Miller  
Carpenter, and John William Supernumerary  
Gunner, who departed this life after a  
short illness on the 16<sup>th</sup> July at 11 P.M. and  
were both interred the following day at the  
Mouth of the River Euphrates with the  
usual ceremony.

11. On the 17<sup>th</sup> of August at 10  
A.M. saw the light house from the Deck  
bearing E. by N, rounding the Brongs and standing  
in for the harbour.

12. The standing rigging of the  
Teignmouth (Sir) I am sorry to inform you  
is so much injured it will be necessary to  
strip the Ship to overhaul it, and shew with  
forward an Indent of Stores required for to  
refit the Ship as the lower rigging has been  
in use from the time the Ship was fitted out  
in England, we had the misfortune to loose  
the <sup>Yolly</sup> boat with her Masts sails & Cars &c.  
being



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being shot away in the action of the 29<sup>th</sup>;  
the Cutter is also in so bad a state, that she  
will not swim - We shall therefore require  
two Boats for the Service of the Ship.

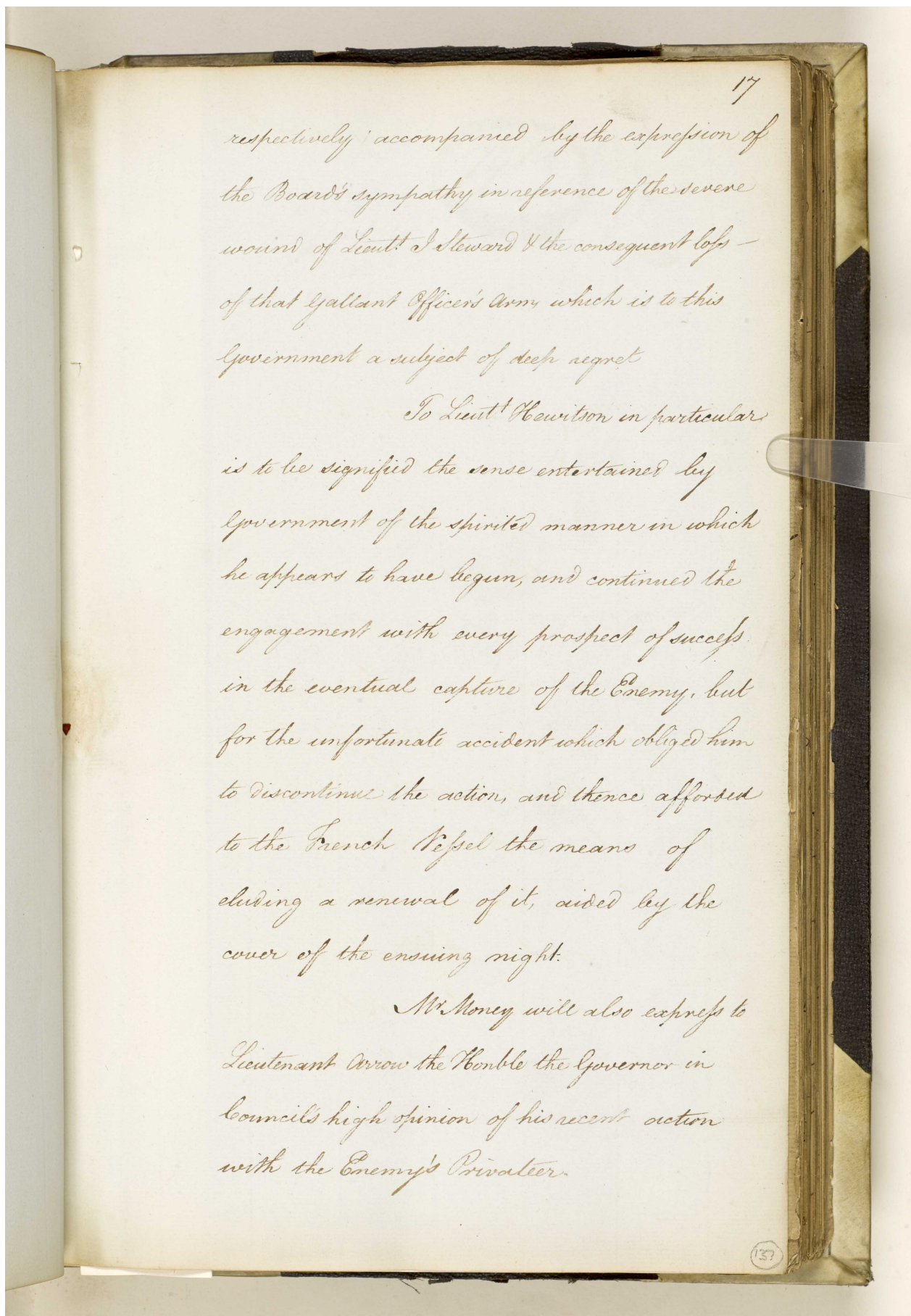
I have &c

Bombay Harbour  
17<sup>th</sup> August 1809

(Signed) W<sup>m</sup> Hewitson  
Lieut. in Command of  
the Teignmouth

The Governor in Council  
concur in the sentiments expressed by the  
Superintendent in considering Lieutenant  
Hewitson his Officers and Men together  
with the Detachment of Artillery and Lieut<sup>ts</sup>  
Josiah Stewart and Blacker of the Madras  
Cavalry who were Passengers, and so honorably  
joined in the attack on the French *Nepol*  
of force in the vicinity of the Island of  
Pallor as very fully meriting this Government's  
high commendation, which the Superintendent  
is accordingly instructed to tender to them  
respectively





17  
respectively accompanied by the expression of  
the Board's sympathy in reference of the severe  
wound of Lieut. Steward & the consequent loss  
of that Gallant Officer's Arm, which is to this  
Government a subject of deep regret

To Lieut. Hewitson in particular  
is to be signified the sense entertained by  
Government of the spirited manner in which  
he appears to have begun, and continued the  
engagement with every prospect of success  
in the eventual capture of the Enemy, but  
for the unfortunate accident which obliged him  
to discontinue the action, and thence afforded  
to the French Kipfel the means of  
eluding a renewal of it, aided by the  
cover of the ensuing night.

Mr. Money will also express to  
Lieutenant Arrow the Honour the Governor in  
Council's high opinion of his recent action  
with the Enemy's Privateer.



'Engagement between the Teignmouth Cruizer commanded by Lieut. Hewitson and a  
French Privateer' [137v] (20/20)

