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Letter from John Spencer Smith to Harford Jones

Holding Institution British Library: India Office Records and Private Papers

Reference IOR/L/PS/9/76/91

Date(s) 17 Jul 1799-17 Aug 1799 (CE, Gregorian)

Written in English in Latin

Extent and Format 1 item (4 folios)

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About this record

A copy of a letter from John Spencer Smith, Minister Plenipotentiary in Constantinople [Istanbul], to Harford Jones, Resident in Bagdad [Baghdad], sent from Constantinople and dated 17 August 1799.

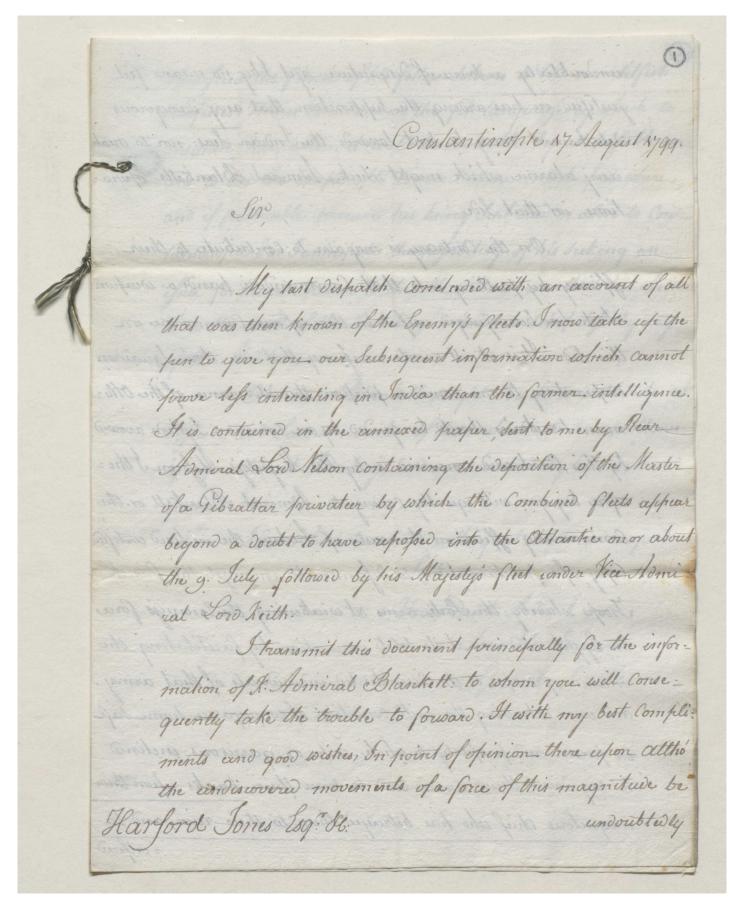
The letter forwards a report on the movements of French and Spanish warships for the attention of Rear-Admiral John Blankett, Commander of the British naval squadron in the Red Sea (see below). It also forwards a proclamation from the Porte [Government of the Ottoman Empire] appealing to French troops to desert and offering safe passage home, which Spencer Smith recommends Blankett to distribute in Suez and Cosseir [Al Qusayr] (not enclosed).

Attached is a letter from Vice-Admiral Horatio Nelson, sent from Mahone [Mahón] and dated 17 July 1799. The letter forwards reports from a Gibraltar privateer that the combined French and Spanish fleet has entered the Atlantic Ocean, pursued by Vice-Admiral George Keith Elphinstone.



Letter from John Spencer Smith to Harford Jones [1r] (1/8)









undoubtedly a Source of Disquietude: yet I by no means feel justified in has aring the Supposition that any Jangerous detachment may be Sent lowards the Indian Seas: nor to oreate any alarme which might check Admiral Blanketts ofura: two in that Side On the Contrary is my ain to Contribute to their efficiely by putting into that Commanderi hands a weafon which has been judged useful in those of our Commodore on this Side It is at all events necessary that our thro Squadron cooperating to one common purpose the deliverance of the Ottoman territories Should be quided by one Common Tystem avowed by this Court and concurred in by His Magisty's Mission I the: refore beg you will equally convey to Admiral Blankett or the Commanding officer on the wasts of Arabia the enclosed certified Copy of a prodomation, to dipeninate amongst the french Troops whereby the Sorte arms at weakening the Enemy's force in light, and even at its total evacuation by facilitating the means of escape to the discontented individuals of that army. and even extending the mild condition of conveyance home safe in person and property to whole corps or yarrisons enclined to lay down their arms: and to turn their backs whom their iniquitous chief who has betrayed them to their ruin and sa

Letter from John Spencer Smith to Harford Jones [2r] (3/8)

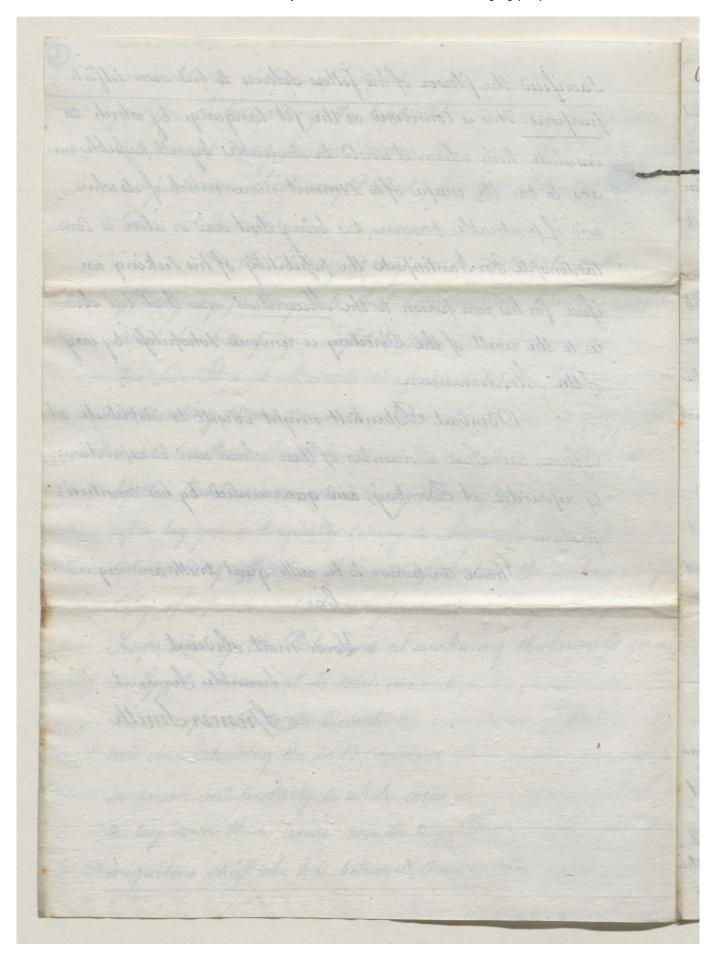


	Sacrificed the flower of his fellow Soldiers to his own Selfish
	furfices. This is Considered as the fit language by which to
ale	insulate, him whom it would be advisable by all possible me:
	ans to bar the escape of to commit more mischief els where.
	and if praticable procure his being Sent dead or alive to Cons:
	tantinople For Santicipate the possibility of his seeking an
n	
	if we for his own person to the Mauritius, now that his obedien
	ce to the recall of the Directory is rendered Schopeless by way
n	of the Mediterranean.
-	Admiral Blankett might do well to distribute at
ED.	Cosseir, and Such a number of these which can be expeditions:
-	ly repriented at Bombay, and quarranteed by his countersi:
e	gnature.
ied,	Thowe the honor to be with great truth and regard
4	Sin
	26
6	Lour most obedient
5	humble Servant
	Spencer Smith
e	
	The stage of the fellowing the series below the series of
iz —	Mound had not at the time the land thomas forming give
	The state of the s
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Letter from John Spencer Smith to Harford Jones [2v] (4/8)





Letter from John Spencer Smith to Harford Jones [3r] (5/8)



opy for amound Blankett Mahone the xy. July 1799 Tought Montano Muster of the Privater called the Frince Edward his onew Consisting of 23. Men avri: ved this Morning at 11. O'Clock delivered his disputches at one quarter before Twelve and gave verbally the following Intelligence . was sold as and is anough sou That on Suriday the 4. Instant willy in the Morning a Signal was hoisted on the Rock at Gibruttar for a fleet Seen to the last, that between - 7. and 8 of Same, Morning Lord I. Vinant ordered a Kings Cutter to go and recommittee the fleet / light breezes from the Hist) as the Cutter Iw not return Montano was ordered to repair to You St. Vincent on board a Line of Battle Ship in the Bay the only one there, at 12. O'clock he was directed to ready for sew and at about 7. (the Catter was not returned) he look on board an English Officer he Supposed to be a Capt of a Frigate with disportches, he immediately rown wind the Rock and at about 8 O'Clock he Set Jail Wind N.W. he Steved last and at three the next Morning howing gone about II. Miles he hound about 10. (pourse) Tunes fired



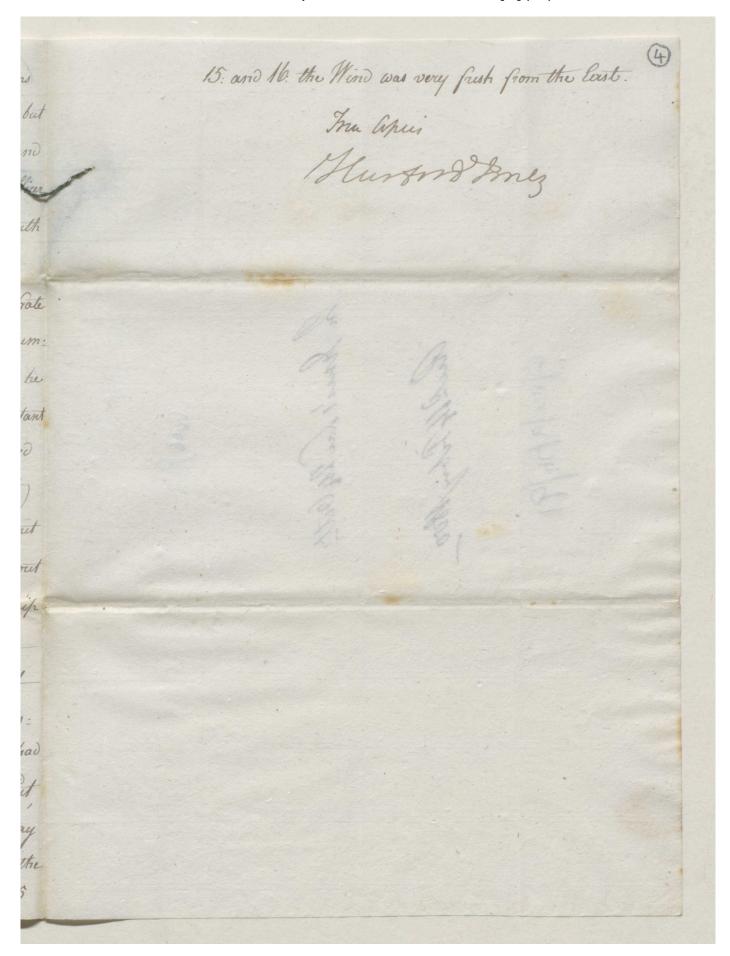


it thursdered and lightened was very gloomy and by means of the Lightening he perceived the flet to be South of him but could not Count the Sumber he Continued to Steer last and Show nothing more till the It about Midday when the Spoke the Muster of a Danish Brig 15. Luques to the South of Alicante coming from Sourcey and bound for Naples who informed him that on the 1. Instant being off cape Sate was board or Shaw the French & Spanish fleets bo in num: ber the greatest part of which were Line of Battle Ships he further Says that on the 14: being to the S. C. of Town Distant about 12. Miles, he discovered the Flut Commanded by Lord Reith going under an easy Sail [a convey precuding it) Composed of 31. Line of Bottle Ships and One figate about five he Spoke a Line of Battle Ship of Said fleet and about two the Officer he had on Board went into Low Keeths Ship the privater was detained about a quarter of an hour and received disportches for Mahon, the fleet crowded all Sail possible when he left Tibrattar Low It Vincent dis: patched a Trivater for Fortugal from the Wind he had he Supposes the Enemy's Steet might go through the Fut if not on the 8: 9. Cortainly he judges Low Keith's fleet may have purped the Streights of Gibrattar by this Time on the



Letter from John Spencer Smith to Harford Jones [4r] (7/8)







Letter from John Spencer Smith to Harford Jones [4v] (8/8)



