

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

**Volume IV  
Part 2 of 3**

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

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138 NAVAL OPERATIONS, APRIL-SEPTEMBER 6, 1804

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

Moderate breezes from N E & pleasant weather. Running along the side of Sicily between the Gulf of Catania and the Port of Augusta with an Offing of 7 Miles — Towards evening it fell calm.

At 8 P. M. Augusta light house bore N W b W  $\frac{1}{2}$  W 6 miles At Sundown Saragosa in sight from the mast head bearing by compass S  $\frac{1}{2}$  E nearly 8 leagues —

From this time till 2 A. M. light breezes from the E. At  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 2 A. M. being dark & hazy & supposing the ship to have ran her distance we brought to, till day light, when we made sail for Saragosa bearing W b N. 4 leagues Unstowed the two bowers —

Light airs or calms till  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 11 A. M. at which time we came to in Saragosa in 8 fath<sup>s</sup>  $\frac{1}{4}$  of a Mile W b N from the Light house

Veered to 20 fathoms on the small bower & furled sails. Found here the U. S. Schooner *Enterprize* L<sup>t</sup> Decatur and L<sup>t</sup> Somers with the 6 gun boats which parted company from us at 10 last evening — On anchoring made the necessary arrangements for watering ship — 20,000 Gallons are wanted to compleat our water — Noon light Airs from E S E.

Surgeons report 5 sick, 4 convalesc<sup>t</sup>

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

To Accountant of the Navy from Secretary of the Navy

NAV. DEP<sup>t</sup> June 1<sup>st</sup> 1804

Surgeons and Surgeons mates in the Army being allowed Quarters and to draw Wood at the rate of One Cord P<sup>t</sup> month from the 1<sup>st</sup> October to the 1<sup>st</sup> April and half that Quantity for the other months of the year and the Surgeons and Surgeons mates of the Navy Stationed at the navy yard at Washington being allowed by Law the same pay and Emoluments; and as I can see no good reason why an equivalent in money should not be allowed, in lieu of the Quarters and Wood, especially as by allowing it the Commission to the Contractor for the Rent and Purchases will be saved — You will therefore allow to these officers at the rate of ten dollars P<sup>t</sup> month in lieu of Quarters and the Value of Wood they may be entitled to draw estimated at the Contract Price or Price paid for Wood Supplied at the Marine Barracks —

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

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

NAVY DEP<sup>t</sup> June 1, 1804.

Commodore S. BARRON.

I enclose Commissions for

M<sup>r</sup> H. I. Reed

S. Vanschaick

C. Gadsden.

J. T. Leonard.

J. Maxwell

J. Trippe

E. N. Cox

O. H. Perry.

M<sup>r</sup> J. Bainbridge } Same date.

R. Henley

J. M. Gardner

W. Crane

S. G. Blodget } Same date

J. Gibbon

A. C. Harrison

D. T. Patterson

D<sup>l</sup> Murray,

to be Lieutenants in the Navy of the United States. —

Let it be known to each of these Gentlemen that such Commissions are in your possession and will be delivered when they shall apply to you to be examined and found upon examination to be qualified for the Station. They are arranged in the preceding List agreeably to rank. To avoid heart burnings it would be desirable that this relative rank should be preserved. If an application for examination should be made to you by any one of the Gentlemen on this List junior to the others who may not have applied, you will notify such senior officers of the circumstance and also the Officers junior to the Applicant and inform the Senior Officers that they may be first examined if they please — If they decline the offer, the junior Officer must then be examined and if he should be found qualified for the Station, you may deliver his Commission, numbering it agreeably to merit. Still however keeping in view that where there is only a shade of difference, and the Senior Officer shall possess qualities which will render him conspicuous at some future day, the date of warrant is to be respected, but in Cases where the junior Officer shall be decidedly superior, you will give him rank.

You will not be unmindful of the situation and rights of the unfortunate Midshipmen in Captivity.

There will be several Gentlemen in the Squadron acting as Lieutenants for whom you have no Commissions. Let it be known that they will be examined under the regulations prescribed for the examination of those for whom you have Commissions and that Midshipmen are not to be promoted in the Navy as a matter of right according to the date of their warrants. You will keep me informed of all the examinations that may be made.

M<sup>r</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Grath Sailing Master of The *Argus* has resigned — You may give him a passage to this country in the *John Adams*. You will appoint his Successor which may be M<sup>r</sup> Suggs or such other Officer as you may judge most expedient to appoint.

M<sup>r</sup> Baker, Purser of the *Siren*, has also resigned, M<sup>r</sup> Harris, a Passenger in the *Congress*, is to take his place, and M<sup>r</sup> Baker is to be permitted to return to the United States in the *John Adams*.

Doctor Marshall now in the *Siren* is to be removed to the *Constellation*, and Doctor Archer now in the *Constellation* is to supply Doctor Marshall's place as Surgeon of the *Siren*.

Lieu<sup>t</sup> Livingston I fear is not qualified for the high station he holds in the Navy. It may be proper to order him home in the *John Adams*. You will however exercise your discretion on the subject.

The Ships going out are not officered agreeably to our wishes. On your arrival in the Mediterranean you will make such disposition of the Officers as may be most advisable.

I have given directions to Commodore Preble to re-enter if practicable the Crew of the *Enterprize* whose terms of service have expired. It will be very agreeable if they can be re-entered — Seamen at 12\$ ordinary at 8\$ and Boys at 6\$ — If they cannot be re-entered they are to come home in the *John Adams* and the Crew of The *John Adams* are to be attached to such vessel or Vessels as may be judged most advisable. The *John Adams* is to return to the United States immediately after Landing her provisions unless her Services shall be imperatively required for some expedition that may be on foot. It is intended to keep her constantly employed as a provision Vessel.

It will be well to direct her on her way home to touch at Naples and Leghorn to afford Convoy to our Merchant Vessels. —

[NDA. LB, 1799-1807.]

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To Midshipman John B. Nicholson, U. S. Navy, Washington, D. C., from Secretary of the Navy

NAVY DEPT<sup>t</sup> June 1, 1804.

You will consider yourself attached to the Frigate The *John Adams* as one of her Officers and will immediately report yourself to her Commanding Officer. If on the arrival of the *John Adams* in the Mediterranean the Commodore should not have occasion for her but should order her to return to the United States, you will then report yourself to the Commodore, shew him this Letter and he will assign you a station on board of one of the public ships under his Command.

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

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To Joseph Barnes, U. S. Consul, Naples, from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

UNITED STATES SHIP *Constitution*

*Syracuse Harbour 1<sup>st</sup> June 1804*

SIR. On my arrival here yesterday, I was honored with your several letters of the 28<sup>th</sup> March 6th and 16th of April — I was lately at Naples and obtained the King's order for Six Gun and two Mortar Boats — a number of Battering Cannon — 200 Barrels of Powder — Muskets, Pistols, and every article which I requested for an attack on Tripoly The Gun Boats are now in this Port under the Flag of the United States — the Bombards are not yet ready, as soon as they are, we shall commence our operations and I hope with success. I thank you for your obliging offers of Money &c<sup>s</sup> but have no occasion to draw on London even if I had, you need be under no apprehension that I should be imposed on for want of a knowledge of Exchange, which by the way is much more favorable to the drawer at Malta, than any other place in the Mediterranean.

I did not bring out any letters for you, as I observed in a former letter, but a few days since a Gentleman came on board at Messina with a packet from the state Department for you, which I presume is what you have been waiting for — the Packet cover was worn out, and had the appearance of having travelled much.

I hope on the receipt of your papers you will visit Sicily as some very serious representations have been already made, and more will be made to our Government by the Masters and Supercargoes of our Merchant Vessels of the inconveniencies they suffer for want of a Consul in the Island of Sicily. I likewise hope you will see the necessity of appointing such characters for Vice Consuls in the different ports, as I can employ for Navy Agents, you must be well aware of the advantages arising to our Commerce from having Merchants of respectability for Vice Consuls, I have appointed M<sup>r</sup> Gibbs, M<sup>r</sup> Broadbent, and M<sup>r</sup> Dyson as agents for the United States Squadron at Palermo Messina and Syracuse. from the respectability of those Gentlemen and their steady attention to the concerns of the Squadron, I have been induced to mention them in very favorable terms to our Government. The above named Agents whether they

are Consuls or not, will receive the consignments of every American Cargo, and all the business of the Navy Department.

[LC. EPP, LB, April–Nov. 1804.]

To James Leander Cathcart, Leghorn, from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

UNITED STATES SHIP *Constitution*  
Syracuse Harbour 1<sup>st</sup> June 1804.

D<sup>r</sup> SIR. I arrived here yesterday with the six Gun boats which I mentioned in my letter from Messina, & am honored with your several communications of the 17<sup>th</sup> 18<sup>th</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> of April with their enclosures. I sincerely thank you for your exertions with the Neapolitan Government in the procurement of gun & mortar boats, but regret that your journey has been attended with so many unpleasant circumstances as you mention. The six Boats which I have here, carry each a long French 24 pounder, & will have 40 Men. —

The mortar boats are repairing & will be ready in three weeks, as soon as they are completed for service, I shall commence an attack on Tripoli, & hope by exertion, to bring the Bashaw to terms of Peace honorable to the United States; for be assured, to no other terms shall I consent. — M<sup>r</sup> OBrien is not authorised (as you supposed) to beg or to negotiate a Peace with Tripoli: that power was delegated to Col<sup>l</sup> Lear, who has delegated it to *me*. M<sup>r</sup> OBrien came up for the purpose of affording me what assistance the knowledge he has of the Barbary language can give me, as in case of negotiation, a person who will faithfully interpret whatever I may be disposed to make known to the Bashaw, is of the first consequence; this I am confident M<sup>r</sup> OBrien will do, & I can assure you, that you mistake that part of his character, which leads you to believe he wishes us to *purchase* or *beg* a Peace, as he is as anxious that we should beat them into it, as I am myself I value the national character of my Country too highly, to consent to a peace which the most powerful Nation in Europe would blush to make. — It is to be regreted that any circumstance should have deprived us of *your services*. —

I thank you for the Tripolitan Treaty, & for the Cypher, both of w<sup>ch</sup>, may be useful, I shall attend to the *key* with you which you request; but I request you, by no means to write in Cypher to Captain B —, as it will create suspicion, & cause him to be ill used; and deprive him of any future correspondence, all letters to, or from the Prisoners are opened; the Officers are all confined in one large room in the centre of the Bashaw's Castle, and none of the Consuls allowed to see or speak to them. I do not allow any officer of the Squadron to write to them at present, for fear of some imprudent communication. —

I shall attend to the enquiry & investigation of the Affairs you wish me to, should I land at Tripoly; & be assured, I have no doubt of your zeal to serve our country on every occasion. —

It will be well for you to forward the Invoice of the 14 bales of clothing as soon as possible, as the Pursers cannot distribute any, until it arrives, the clothing shall be attended to, the money I shall not want, you will therefore, give your orders to M<sup>r</sup> Degen respecting it. I wish it was in my power to send a vessel to take you to Gibraltar, but it is not at present. —

I am expecting a re-inforcement of two or three frigates, but whether they arrive or not, I shall make the attempt to subdue, the stubborn temper of the Bashaw. —

142 NAVAL OPERATIONS, APRIL-SEPTEMBER 6, 1804

I wish you a prosperous & pleasant passage to the United States, & remain with much respect. —

[NA. SDA. CL, Tripoli, Vol. 2, 1801-1805.]

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Extract from journal of U. S. Brig *Argus*. Master Commandant Isaac Hull, U. S. Navy, commanding, Friday, 1 June 1804

Cruizing on and off Tripoli This day begins with light airs and Sultry W<sup>t</sup> Capt. Hull went on board the prize sent some provisions on board of her the Master of the prize and 6 men came on board us at 4 AM, the Ketch in C<sup>o</sup> wore ship to the Westward at 5 Wore again to the Eastward and sent the boat on board the prize at 6 the boat returned wore ship and made sail at 9 saw a Strange sail tacked at 11 3 Strange sail in Sight tacked to the Westward —

[NDA photostat.]

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Extract from Diary of Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, Commodore of U. S. Squadron in the Mediterranean, Friday, 1 June 1804

Light Eastly winds & pleasant weather the *Enterprize* & six Gun boats in company, employed 5 Boats to bring off Water, directed the Ketch *Intriped* to be fitted up as a Hospital Ship, to receive the sick from The *Enterprize* the crew of that Vessel being unhealthy, in consequence of the time of service of that Vessels Crew having long since expired I ordered twelve of the Crew to be discharged, who insisted on being released, the remainder were prevailed on to remain a few weeks longer, Received several letters from Naples & Leghorn, and one from Portland in America, —

[LC. EPP, Diary, 1803-1804.]

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

Moderate breezes from the Eastward — At single anchor in Saragosa. *Enterprize* & 6 Gun boats in company The *Intrepid* which we left under charge of a Midshipman & three seamen, this day hauled out into the road — At sundown calm — Hove up and down in Order to keep a clear Anchor— At 8 P. M. mustered the larboard watch as an anchor watch — At day light five shore boats came along side for Empty water casks Recieved, this forenoon, 120 gang casks Water —

Surgeons report 6 Sick — 2 conv<sup>ed</sup> & 1 discharged Among the sick is L<sup>t</sup> Elbert of a fever

Noon light breezes from the South<sup>d</sup>

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

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To the U. S. Consuls in Europe from Secretary of State

(Circular)

DEPARTMENT OF STATE, June 2<sup>d</sup> 1804.

SIR. On receiving information of the loss of the *Philadelphia*, an act of Congress was passed whereby a Million of dollars, was appropriated to enable the President to impart such vigor to the conduct of the war, as might at once change the exultation of the enemy in his casual fortune into a more proper sentiment of fear and prepare

the way for a speedy & lasting peace with Barbary. The five following frigates have therefore been appointed to sail into the Mediterranean, and will proceed without delay, viz.

The <i>President</i> of 44 guns.....	Commodore S. Barron.
The <i>Congress</i> of 36 d <sup>o</sup> .....	Cap <sup>t</sup> Rodgers.
The <i>Constellation</i> 36 d <sup>o</sup> .....	Cap <sup>t</sup> Campbell.
The <i>Essex</i> ..... 32 d <sup>o</sup> .....	Cap <sup>t</sup> J. Barron.
& The <i>John Adams</i> armed en flute,	Cap <sup>t</sup> Chauncey.

making our whole force in that Sea to amount to 6 frigates & five Sloops of war.

It having been found necessary to change the form of the Mediterranean Passport now in use, arrangements have been made with the Barbary powers, by which either the old or the new form will be sufficient to protect our Vessels until the 1<sup>st</sup> of July 1805, after which the new form only will be valid.

JAMES MADISON.

*To the Consuls of the  
U: States, at Naples. Cadiz,  
Malaga, Leghorn, Marsailles.  
Cette, Genoa, Sicily, Trieste, Malta,  
Barcelona & Gibraltar.*

[NA. SDA. Despatches to Consuls, Vol. 1, Oct. 1800–Feb. 1817.]

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

NAVY DEP<sup>t</sup> 2<sup>d</sup> June 1804 —

It will be proper that you issue to the Commanders of the several vessels of your Squadron, instructions, directing them to require their Midshipmen to do duty in the Tops and to perform such other services as will contribute to their improvement in Seamanship and the other Branches of their profession.

[NDA. LB, 1799–1807.]

To Captain William Bainbridge, U. S. Navy, Tripoli, from Secretary of the Navy

NAVY DEP<sup>t</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> June 1804 —

I have received your communication announcing the loss of the Frigate *Philadelphia* and agreeably to your request I have directed the Commodore of the Squadron to institute a Court of Enquiry upon your Conduct in that affair, when you shall be enlarged.

From the high charater you and your Officers previously sustained, I cannot but indulge a sanguine hope, that the Court may find no cause to pass a censure upon your Conduct. —

[NDA. LB, 1799–1807.]

To Captain Stephen Decatur, Jr., U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. Schooner *Enterprize*, from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

U. S. SHIP *Constitution*

*Syracuse* June 2<sup>d</sup> 1804

SIR You will sail as soon as possible with the *Enterprize* under your command, & proceed to join the Squadron in the Blockade of

Tripoly. You may touch at Malta for such provisions & stores as you cannot be furnished with from the U. S. Stores at Syracuse —  
I expect to joint the Squadron off Tripoly in a few days  
[LC. EPP, Order Book, May 1803-June 1805.]

Extract from log book of U. S. Brig *Argus*, 18 Guns, kept by Sailing Master Samuel B. Brooke, U. S. Navy, Master Commandant Isaac Hull, U. S. Navy, commanding, Saturday, 2 June 1804

This day begins with moderate & Clear Weather all sail set on a Wind the *Vizen Syren* and *Scourge* in Sight At 4 P M. the town of Tripoli bore W b S Mustered the Crew at Quarters at 5 in Courses and down flying Jib At 6 the town of Tripoli bore S<sup>o</sup> distant about 6 or 7 miles

At midnight Calm and Clear Weather —

At 4 AM sounded in 45 fath<sup>r</sup> water —

At 6 Tripoli bore S b E dist<sup>r</sup> about 3 leagues —

At 8 let a reef out of the top sails and set T. G. Sails At 9 loosed all sails to Dry and set all sail necessary

At Meridian Moderate and pleasant Weather Tripoli S  $\frac{1}{2}$  E dist<sup>r</sup> 8 miles —

Lati<sup>o</sup> Observ<sup>d</sup> 33° 05' N.

[LC. EPP, *Argus*, 1804.]

To Degen, Purviance & Co., Leghorn, from Secretary of the Navy

NAV. DEP<sup>t</sup> June 3<sup>d</sup> 1804

We have a Squadron of Ships which will sail from the United States in the Course of two weeks for the Mediterranean to consist of

The Frigate *President* Commodore S. Barron.

The Frigate *Congress* Cap<sup>n</sup> John Rodgers

The Frigate *Constellation* Cap<sup>n</sup> H. G. Campbell

The Frigate *Essex* Cap<sup>n</sup> James Barron

The Frigate *John Adams* armed *en flute* a store Ship Commanded by Cap<sup>n</sup> Isaac Chauncey

These ships are intended as a reinforcement to our Squadron at present in the Mediterranean and their respective Commanders are instructed to draw upon you for the Disbursements of their Vessels in the manner prescribed to our former Squadron —

As it may be frequently convenient and *advantageous* for our Commanders to draw upon Naples it will be agreeable to me that you Deposit a Credit for that purpose with Frederick Degen Esq navy agent —

[Same letter, without the last paragraph, sent to James Mackenzie & A. Glenie, London, dated 2 June 1804.]

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

To Secretary of State from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

UNITED STATES SHIP *Constitution*

*Syracuse Harbour 3<sup>rd</sup> June 1804 —*

SIR I am honored with your favor of the 26th December last the contents of which to me was highly flattering, and be assured that my first and most ardent wish is, that I may continue to merit the approbation and confidence of my Country.



I take the liberty of enclosing for your perusal a letter and memorandum which I presented to General Acton, Prime Minister of the Neapolitan Government respecting a grievance of such magnitude that I could not pass it without remonstrance and I hope and trust that Government will not construe this interference into an over step of the power vested in me especially when they consider the serious consequences attending this unprecedented restriction on our Commerce.

Although I did not tarry at Naples long enough to receive the Minister's official declaration that the grievance was removed. Yet I had his verbal assurances that it should be done immediately. I likewise enclose for your perusal a memorandum of commercial advantages that other Nations have over ours by virtue of certain regulations mutually agreed upon, and I cannot but suggest Sir that the want of these necessary regulations with this Government must be attributed in a great measure to a want of Consuls or Agents of character and information.

It is said that a Major Barnes has the appointment of Consul to this Government, but that gentleman has not been in Sicily or Naples this long time. I am informed that he is speculating at Leghorn, in truth he is spoken of with no great degree of respect by gentlemen of respectability in this Country. It may be needless for me to remark how natural it is for National Character to be judged from that of an individual, more especially when such individual supports a commission and National Uniform.

Under the impression that Government will (as far as may ly in their power) remedy this grievance

[See 14 May 1804.]

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

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To John Broadbent, U. S. Navy Agent, Messina, from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

UNITED STATES SHIP *Constitution*  
*Syracuse Harbour 3<sup>rd</sup> June 1804.*

DEAR SIR I arrived here the morning after I left you. the Gun Boats behaved well. I rely much on your exertions and friendly offers of hurrying the equipment of the Bomb Vessels and the *Nautilus*, but the Bomb Vessels are of the first consequence. I sail this evening to the Southward.

I have nothing new to communicate — please deliver the enclosed to M<sup>r</sup> Gorham.

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

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

U. S. SHIP *Constitution*  
*Syracuse Harbour June 3<sup>d</sup> 1804*

SIR You will remain in this harbour with the gun boats of the U. S. Viz N<sup>o</sup> 1, N<sup>o</sup> 2, N<sup>o</sup> 3, N<sup>o</sup> 4, N<sup>o</sup> 5, & N<sup>o</sup> 6 under your command untill farther orders from me. It is expected that you will at all times keep them in a state of preparation for Action, & exercise the men by getting under way as often as every other day & oftener if you think proper I wish the Utmost harmony may subsist between the Citizens

of the U. S. engaged on board of them whether they were born in America or elsewhere — You will take the Ketch *Intrepid* under your charge, and your Surgeon is to attend to the sick on board her, and direct him occasionally to visit the Castle where the Tripoline Prisoners are confined and attend to the Sick there; — I send you letters to be delivered to the *John Adams* & one to any other ship that may arrive in my absence.

I expect to return in ten days — Keep up a correspondence with M<sup>r</sup> Broadbent & L<sup>t</sup> Reed, that you may be able to acquaint me, on my return of the State & Condition of the two Bombards & the *Nautilus* at Messina. — The same rules are to be observed on board the Gun boats as on board the other Vessels of War.

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

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To whom not indicated from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

JUNE 3<sup>d</sup> 1804

SIR It is necessary that all the Neapolitans on board the Gun boats subscribe to the same articles of Agreement which the Seamen of the Ships of war of the U. S. do, leaving the space appropriated to each Captains name blank — You will see this done tomorrow — Fill up three of the Commanders names with your own, L<sup>t</sup> J. Decatur & L<sup>t</sup> Bainbridge, and leave the other three blanks —

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

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

TRIPOLY June 3<sup>d</sup> 1804

SIR Independant of this Certificate that will be presented you, I have the honor to inform you that there are French Merchants of Marseilles who were proprietors of the Ligurian prize taken by a Corsair of this regency and restituted at my request by the Pacha — Citizen Didier Genevay authorized is come to recieve the Vessel, and is embarked thereon on his return: He will bring you this Letter — The good & perfect Intelligence which exists between the U. S. of America & the French Republic assures me that you will let pass freely said French property which has been masked only to preserve it from the Capture of the Enemy —

P. S. The Treatment of Prisoners is as much better as possible — They cannot account for the retard of the Cloathing —

[LC. EPP, LB, April–Nov. 1804.]

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Extract from journal of U. S. Brig *Argus*, Master Commandant Isaac Hull, U. S. Navy, commanding, Sunday, 3 June 1804

Cruizing on and off Tripoli at ½ past [sic] standing in for the town fired two shot which were not returned wore Ship and stood off the town bearing S E b S distance about 4 miles AM at 5 saw a sail stand<sup>d</sup> out of Tripoli she proved to be a Spanish Ketch bound to Syracuse

[NDA photostat.]

Extract from log book of U. S. Brig *Argus*, 18 guns, kept by Sailing Master Samuel B. Brooke, U. S. Navy, Master Commandant Isaac Hull, U. S. Navy, commanding, Sunday, 3 June 1804

This day begins with moderate and fine Weather at  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 1 P M Tacked to the N, E, —

At 5 standing in for the fort to the Westward of Tripoli fired 2 shot which was not returned Wore ship tacked and Stood for the town fired 2 Shot at it wore Ship and stood Off at 6 stand<sup>d</sup> off under Topsails mainsail and Jib Tripoli bore about S E b S dist<sup>d</sup> about 2 Leagues

At Sundown Tripoli bore S E b E dist<sup>d</sup> 4 miles

At 11 wore Ship to the N & E, At  $\frac{1}{2}$  past saw a Sail standing out of Tripoli — At Meridian boarded her she proved to be a Spanish Ketch bound to Syracuse Tripoli bore S b E dist<sup>d</sup> 3 Leagues

Lat<sup>d</sup> Obs<sup>d</sup> 33° 13' N.

[LC. EPP, *Argus*, 1804.]

Extract from log book kept by Sailing Master Nathaniel Haraden, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Sunday, 3 June 1804

Light airs from the South<sup>d</sup> — At Single Anchor in Saragosa. *Enterprize* & Gun boats in company The following mates & midshipmen were ordered to rejoin the *Constitution* from the Gun boats. M<sup>r</sup> Reid, Mess<sup>rs</sup> Nicholson, Hall, Casey & Laws Towards evening the *Enterprize* sailed on a cruize off Tripoly —

Completed our water having recieved 375 Gang Casks which contains 20.625 Gall<sup>s</sup> —

Supplied the Gun boats with 54 Barrels of Naples Powder containing 3,256 English pounds.

At Day light sent the large cutter on shore after rum —

We recieved from the *Constitutions* Stores at Syracuse 24 Trucks for 24 Pounders, and a number of Blocks from the *Philadelphia's* stores.

Surgeons report 6 sick, 4 convalesc<sup>t</sup>

Noon light airs from the Westward —

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

To Lieutenant Colonel Commandant Franklin Wharton, U. S. Marine Corps, from Captain John Rodgers, U. S. Navy

U. STATES FRIGATE *Congress*, Potomack

June 4<sup>th</sup> 1804

SIR I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your Letter of the 29<sup>th</sup> Ult<sup>o</sup>, this Ins<sup>t</sup>, the subject of which is painful to me indeed, not only because M<sup>r</sup> Shields who is under my command, should so commit himself as dare offer Violence to a Seargent or Sentry of the Corps, but particularly that he should behave so unlike a Gentleman & Officer as to use insulting Language of yourself and M<sup>r</sup> Fenwick. M<sup>r</sup> Shields I arrested immediately on receipt of your Letter, and herein enclose you the Charges with which he is furnished and which I shall Exhibite at his trial. — You will oblige me by furnishing the Evidence in support of these Charges, previous to the Squadron leaving Hampton Rhoades as I am determined such unwarrantable conduct shall receive the reward it merits —

P. S. I shall apply to the Commanding Officer for a Court Martial on M<sup>r</sup> Shields the Instant the Evidence is furnished.

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

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

NAVY DEP<sup>t</sup> June 4: 1804 —

You will take in the Squadron not exceeding 3 months' water including the ground Tier, & it is our expectation that you will, if practicable, take out 6 months' provisions. If you do not, I fear you will experience embarrassments in your operations in the Mediterranean.

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

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

NAVY DEPM<sup>t</sup> June 4: 1804 —

You will consider yourself authorized to employ as many gun-boats to aid your operations in the Mediterranean as you may think proper. They may be hired or accepted on loan. —

[NDA. LB, 1799-1807.]

To Nicholas C. Nissen, Danish Consul, Tripoli, from Tobias Lear, U. S. Consul General, Algiers

(Copy)

ALGIERS June 4<sup>th</sup> 1804.

SIR, It is with great satisfaction that I have the honor to inform You that, in a letter which I received a short time since, from the Secretary of State of the United States, he has directed me, by order of the President of the United States, to present You with a snuff-box ornamented in a suitable manner, and particularly with the Arms of the United States, to mark it as a National Present; in acknowledgement of Your good Offices and services rendered in attending to the Subsistence and accommodation of Captain [Andrew] Morris & crew of an American Vessel [*Franklin*] which was captured last year by one of the Bashaw's Cruizers.

I shall write to Leghorn, by a Vessel which sails in a few days from hence, to have the said order executed, which when done shall be forwarded with a letter expressive of the sentiments which dictated the gift.

I have not yet received a line from the United States since they have heard of the loss of the *Philad*\* and the unhappy captivity of our Citizens. Your kind attentions to Captain Bainbridge, his officers, and crew, so far as you have been able to give them, will afford another cause of grateful sensibility towards you, which will not be forgotten neither by my Countrymen nor our Government. Accept, my dear Sir, my tribute of thanks for Your benevolent acts and intentions towards my unfortunate fellow Citizens. I am persuaded that the same goodness of heart which prompted you to give them all the alleviation in your power, will still influence you to continue those attentions. I am in anxious and daily expectation of receiving from my Government orders which will afford substantial relief to my unfortunate Countrymen. In the mean time it may not be proper to say more on this subject.

This letter is committed to the care of your worthy colleague here, who puts it under cover to Your Consul in Tunis I need not say

how happy I should be to hear from You through this, or any other channel.

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

To Tobias Lear, U. S. Consul General, Algiers, from Captain William Bainbridge,  
U. S. Navy

Triplicate

TRIPOLI BARBARY *June 4<sup>th</sup> 1804*

DEAR SIR, I done myself the pleasure to write you on the 20<sup>th</sup> ult<sup>o</sup> in which I mentioned that I was daily expecting to hear from Com<sup>e</sup> Preble, and receive a supply of cloathing for our seamen, which they stand much in need of; I have not yet had the pleasure of hearing from him, but presume that it cannot be long before he will appear off here with news from our Government, for we have not heard a word from America in answer to our letters announcing our unfortunate captivity. This detention of news from our friends in that quarter makes the hours pass heavily with us; and the long time it takes for letters to come from Algiers deprives us of the pleasure of hearing from you as frequently as we could wish, as your letters always give us consolation & information.

No change has taken place since my letter of the 20<sup>th</sup> of last month, except the seamen have been removed from the appartments they occupied to others much more commodious; — their present prison is an excellent building: The change has relieved me from much anxiety on their acc<sup>t</sup>, fearful that the hot months of July & August would be attended with serious effects, owing to the cooped-up situation they were in, but they now enjoy much purer air than their Officers.

Your letters of the 16<sup>th</sup> Decem<sup>r</sup> 12<sup>th</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> Febru<sup>r</sup> have been received. I have wrote you under 9 different dates, probably some may miscarry — should you not hear from me as often as you might expect I hope you will not attribute it to neglect; for, exclusive of my duty to keep you informed of our situation, I feel much pleasure in corresponding with you, and am sorry that I have not a more interesting scene to write of than the walls of a close prison afford.

With respectful compliments to M<sup>r</sup><sup>s</sup> Lear, and best wishes for the happiness of yourself

[Stephen Decatur Col.]

To George Dyson, U. S. Navy Agent, Syracuse, from Master Commandant Isaac Hull, U. S. Navy

UNITED STATES BRIG *Argus*

*off Tripoli 4<sup>th</sup> June 1804*

SIR, I send to your care the Ketch *Le S<sup>t</sup> Jean Baptiste* Prize to the United States Brig *Argus*, and Schooner *Vixen*, you will please supply M<sup>r</sup> Henley with what Provisions he may want for his crew. — I have given him Orders to advise with you on all matters relative to the Prize, and will thank you to render him any service he may stand in need of, I shall be in Syracuse in a few days, when I shall determine what can be done with her. —

[NDA. Isaac Hull LB, 1803–1804.]

150 NAVAL OPERATIONS, APRIL-SEPTEMBER 6, 1804

Extract from log book of U. S. Brig *Argus*, 18 guns, kept by Sailing Master Samuel B. Brooke, U. S. Navy, Master Commandant Isaac Hull, U. S. Navy, commanding, Monday, 4 June 1804

This day begins with fresh breezes and Clear Weather at  $\frac{1}{2}$  past Merid<sup>a</sup> sent Geo<sup>e</sup> Owlin Q<sup>t</sup> master and W<sup>m</sup> Dougherty, O. Seaman onboard the Ketch and provisions at 1 saw a sail ahead made all sail in C<sup>o</sup> with the *Vixen* at 3 Spoke a Tunisian Galley from a Cruise the *Vixen* in Chace of the other sail wore Ship and stood in Shore at 6 in top Gall<sup>t</sup> sails  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 7 reefed the topsails & tacked Ship to the Northw<sup>d</sup> & Eastw<sup>d</sup> brailed up the mainsail and haul'd down the Jib at 3 T,k<sup>d</sup> to the Southw<sup>d</sup> set the B. mainsail and Jib at 6 let the reefs out of the topsails and set T. G. Sails At 8 Tripoli bore S  $\frac{1}{2}$  W dist<sup>t</sup> 3 or 4 leagues at  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 9 stand<sup>e</sup> in for the town fired 3 Shot at it, wore Ship and Stood off hauled up the foresail down Jib and brailed up the Boom Mainsail —

At Meridian Tripoli bore S E b S  $\frac{1}{2}$  S dis<sup>t</sup> 3 Leag<sup>s</sup>  
Lat<sup>o</sup> Obs<sup>d</sup> 33° 03' N.

[LC. EPP, *Argus*, 1804.]

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

U. S. FRIGATE *Congress*, S<sup>t</sup> MARYS

June 5<sup>th</sup> 1804

SIR I have the honor to acquaint you the *Congress* the *Congress* anchor'd here last evening at Sun Set, in company with the *President*, — and that I am this instant getting underweigh to proceed to Hampton Road, having all the Guns on board & such provisions as followed in Craft, I am sorry I did not take all the Guns on board at the mouth of the Eastern Branch, as I am now perfectly satisfied there is water sufficient for the largest ship in our service with all her Guns & Provisions on board —

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

[5 June 1804]

Concerning Thomas Woods, prisoner at San Lucar

MEMORIAL of a number of American Citizens to Joseph Yznardy Esquire, Consul for the United States of America, resident at the city of Cadiz.

WE the undersigned Citizens of the United States of America, Hearing, with the deepest regret and commiseration, the shocking calamities which an American Seaman, Thomas Woods, during a confinement of nearly three years in a dismal prison at San Lucar, has suffered, and still continues to suffer; feel ourselves compelled from motives of humanity, RESPECTFULLY to intreat you'll make use of the influence vested in you as Consul of the United States, to have this, our ill-used, unfortunate countryman released from imprisonment; and that you will extend to him the provision allowed by government for citizens in his predicament. — Your memorialists beg leave further to observe, that from recent accounts received from the prisoner, his health of late has become very much impaired, and if speedy relief is not administered it may arrive too — late. — Con-

finding in your willingness to serve this unfortunate man, your Memorialists pray you to accept the assurances of their respect.

Cadiz 5 June 1804.

C B SEAMAN	THOS WILLSON [HILLSON?]
SAM <sup>l</sup> PECK	GEO W, ELROY
CHA <sup>l</sup> RHIND	H <sup>l</sup> BOIT
JOHN GRAVES	DAN <sup>l</sup> TRUMAN

ISAAC ATKINS

[NA. SDA. CL, Cadiz, Vol. 1, 1791-1805.]

[5 June 1804]

To Lieutenant Joseph Tarbell, U. S. Navy, from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

SIR The imminent danger which you a few moments since ran this ship into, either through neglect or want of Judgement obliges me to withdraw my confidence in you, so far as to consider it imprudent that you should in future be intrusted with the charge of a watch on board her as her loss would involve incalculable consequences to the U. S. — You will therefore consider yourself as a supernumerary untill ordered to some other Vessel of less consequence —

Given on board the U, S, ship *Constitution* June 5<sup>th</sup> 1804 at ½ past 2 P. M. off the ISLAND OF MALTA.

Signed, EDWARD PREBLE

L<sup>l</sup> TARBELL of the Navy  
Present.

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

[About 5 June 1804?]

To the Commander of any U. S. Ship of War at Tripoli from George Davis, U. S. Chargé d'Affaires, Tunis

To the Commander of any of the United States Ships of War before Tripoly

GREETING

There is embarked on board Said Bombard *La Vergenia del Rosario*, three boxes & one Jar marked NGN the Property of C N Nissen Esquire the Danish Consul at Tripoly: as also one box marked W B — containing one thousand dollars for said Consul Nissen at the disposal of Cap<sup>l</sup> W<sup>m</sup> Bainbridge —

(L, S — )

In witness whereof I hereunto  
Set my name

Signed, GEORGE DAVIS

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

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

Cruizing on and off Tripoli These 24 hours Commences with fine Clear Weather at Meridian sent Geo<sup>l</sup> Owlin Q<sup>l</sup> master and W<sup>m</sup> Dougherty O. Seaman on board the prize with Provisions at 1 saw 2 Sail ahead made all sail in Comp<sup>y</sup> with the *Vizen* at 3 Spoke a Tunisian Galley from a Cruise the *Vizen* in chace of the other sail

[NDA photostat.]

## 152 NAVAL OPERATIONS, APRIL-SEPTEMBER 6, 1804

Extract from Diary of Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, Commodore of U. S. Squadron in the Mediterranean, Tuesday, 5 June 1804

Wind S W and pleasant, working towards Cape Passari, three ships of War in sight, in the S E, quarter, standing towards us, at 4 spoke an Imperial Brig from the Levant bound to Alicant, at 3 P M discovered the three strange ships to be Frigates, at 5 having approached within two miles, and they not answering the private Signal, beat to quarters and cleared ship for Action, at 6 they hoisted Neapolitan colours, at  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 6 spoke them, a Boat came from the commodore to receive Private Signals, which I gave them, three ships of this Squadron left Massina the 25<sup>th</sup> Ultimo on a cruize against the Barbary States, at Midnight passed Cape Passaro with a moderate Breeze from the N W, Stood to the Southward & Westward for Malta, at 6 saw that Island the S E, end bearing S W B W, —

[LC. EPP, Diary, 1803-1804.]

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

NAVY DEPT<sup>ts</sup> June 6. 1804 —

Commodore S. BARRON.

With this you will receive Letter N<sup>o</sup> 1 — containing your Instructions for the general government of your Conduct on a Cruise. [Nos. 1 to 6 are dated 31 May 1804.]

2. Letter laying down the principles of Blockade.
3. Letter of instructions in relation to Officers.
4. Letter of Instructions in relation to the Crew of The *Philadelphia* now captives in Tripoli.
5. Letter authorizing the establishment of an Hospital.
- N<sup>o</sup> 6. Letter ordering a Court of Enquiry upon Cap<sup>t</sup> Bainbridge. —
7. Letter directing that Midshipmen shall do duty in The Tops. — [2 June 1804.]

The loss of the frigate *Philadelphia* which may have operated with the Barbary Regencies to the prejudice of our national Character, and has subjected a number of our Fellow Citizens to the Condition of Slaves, requires our attention. All that a sound mind, an ardent Zeal and daring valor could achieve with the force committed to Commodore Preble, has been performed by him, His force, however, is not adequate to the accomplishment of our purposes, we therefore have put four additional Vessels in commission and the President having the highest confidence in your judgment, valor and enterprize has been pleased to confer upon you the Command of all our forces in The Mediterranean which on your arrival there will consist of

The frigate <i>President</i> —	of 44 guns.
The frigate <i>Congress</i>	of 36 guns.
The frigate <i>Constitution</i>	of 44 guns.
The frigate <i>Essex</i>	of 32 guns.
The frigate <i>Constellation</i>	of 36 guns.
The Brig <i>Siren</i>	of 16 guns.
The Brig <i>Argus</i>	of 16 guns.
The schooner <i>Vixen</i>	of 12 guns.
The schooner <i>Nautilus</i>	of 12 guns.
The schooner <i>Enterprize</i>	of 12 guns &
The <i>John Adams</i> armed <i>en flute</i> which is to be employed as a Transport Ship. —	



With this force it is conceived that no doubt whatever can exist of your coercing Tripoli to a Treaty upon our own Terms and of your preventing the effects of hostile dispositions which may be entertained towards us on the part of any other of the Barbary Powers. —

The varying Aspects of our Affairs in the Mediterranean — the great distance between this Country and the probable places of your operations render it improper to prescribe to you any particular course of Conduct. We therefore leave you unrestrained in your movements and at liberty to pursue the dictates of your own judgment, subject to the general accompanying Instructions.

It is however the expectation of the President that you will without intermission maintain during the Season in which it may be safely done, an effectual Blockade of Tripoli, and that you will by all other means in your power annoy the Enemy so as to force him to a peace honorable to the United States, and it is submitted to you whether during such Blockade it would not be advisable to keep some of your Squadron cruising off Cape Bon.

With respect to the Ex-Bashaw of Tripoli, we have no objection to you availing yourself of his co-operation with you against Tripoli — if you shall upon a full view of the subject after your arrival upon the Station, consider his co-operation expedient. The subject is committed entirely to your discretion. In such an event you will, it is believed, find M<sup>r</sup> Eaton extremely useful to you.

You will keep a vigilant Eye over the movements of all the other Barbary Powers, & communicate frequently with our Consuls at Algiers, Tunis, and Tangier, and should any of these Powers be induced to declare or wage war against the United States, it is the Command of the President and you are hereby instructed to protect our Commerce by all the means in your power against them.

Col<sup>o</sup> Tobias Lear our Consul General at Algiers is invested by the President with full power and authority to negotiate a Treaty of Peace with the Bashaw of Tripoli, and also to adjust such terms of conciliation as may be found necessary with any of the other Barbary Powers. He is therefore to be conveyed by you to any of these Regencies as he may request of you, and you will cordially co-operate with him in all such measures as may be deemed the best calculated to effectuate a termination of The war with Tripoli and to ensure a continuance of the friendship and respect of the other Barbary Powers.

Colonel Lear has made some advances on account of the Crew of the late frigate *Philadelphia*. You will ascertain from him what the amount may be and re-imburse him out of the funds at your Command. —

For the Disbursements of your Squadron, you have on Board of your Ship 20,000 Dollars, and a credit is deposited for you with Mess<sup>rs</sup> M<sup>r</sup>Kenzie & Glennie, London, and Mess<sup>rs</sup> Degen, & Purviance, Leghorn, who will also deposit a credit for you with Frederick Degen esquire at Naples. In all your Bills you will be particularly careful to mention the purposes for which they are drawn.

The following Gentlemen are our Agents,  
 Mess<sup>rs</sup> Degen & Purviance — Leghorn.  
 Frederick Degen Esq<sup>r</sup> — Naples

George Dyson Esq <sup>r</sup>	at Syracuse —
William Higgins Esq <sup>r</sup>	at Malta —
John Gavino Esq <sup>r</sup>	at Gibraltar
Stephen Cathalan Esq <sup>r</sup>	at Marseilles and Toulon. —

They will all give to your Squadron every assistance in their power. M<sup>r</sup> Eaton is our Agent for the Barbary Regencies. He is to be suffered to return to The United States whenever he shall request it.

We have a deposit of provisions in Syracuse which with the Cargo of The *John Adams* will, we calculate, be sufficient for the Squadron till the first December next. We shall immediately send a small vessel carrying about 800 Barrels with provisions to be landed at Gibraltar where she will probably arrive before the Squadron. The Squadron can call there and replenish should this Vessel have arrived. If she should not have arrived the Squadron will proceed aloft and the provisions to be carried out in this small vessel will be deposited in Gibraltar subject to your orders for the use of the Squadron. In a few weeks we shall send you another Provision Vessel with directions to go first to Gibraltar, thence to proceed aloft if required. —

I enclose a Letter to Commodore Preble left open. You will be pleased to deliver it to him yourself without Sealing it. I also enclose a Letter for Cap<sup>t</sup> Bainbridge which you will be pleased to forward.

As soon as your Squadron is ready for Sea you will weigh Anchor and proceed off Tripoli with all practicable dispatch. If you can take out in the Squadron, a Bowsprit from Norfolk for the *Constitution* it will be desirable — If you cannot take it out we shall shortly send it by a Provision Vessel.

You will keep me constantly informed of all your proceedings.

I have only to subjoin my wishes for your success and glory. —

[NDA. LB, 1799-1807.]

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

NAV. DEP<sup>t</sup> June 6<sup>th</sup> 1804

This letter will be handed to you by Captain John Grayson having on board of the schooner *Eleanor* under his command provisions for the use of our Squadron P<sup>r</sup> bill of lading enclosed — my object in sending this small vessel to you is to replenish the Squadron now going out on their arrival at Gibraltar — should the Squadron be in Gibraltar when the *Eleanor* shall arrive then inform Cap<sup>t</sup> Jn<sup>o</sup> Grayson that he is to deliver her cargo agreeably to the Orders of the Commodore — it may be taken from on board the Schooner *Eleanor* immediately into the ships of the Squadron — But if Cap<sup>t</sup> Jn<sup>o</sup> Grayson should arrive at Gibraltar before the Squadron or not till the Squadron shall have left Gibraltar you will have the provisions landed without delay and Deposited in Store giving the requisite information to the Commodore of the Squadron

Let me Know whether the Cargo has been delivered in good Order & when you shall have received it if not in good Order state particularly the deficiencies —

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

To Tobias Lear, U. S. Consul General, Algiers, from Secretary of State

DEPARTMENT OF STATE *June 6<sup>th</sup> 1804*

SIR,

[Added to circular of Secretary of State of 2 June 1804 sent to Tobias Lear, was the following:]

Commodore Barron has orders to provide at a suitable time for your joining him in order to the negotiation of a peace with Tripoli. This we hope may now be effected under the operation and auspices of the force in the hands of that Officer without any price or pecuniary concession whatever. Should adverse events or circumstances of which you can best judge and which are not foreseen here, render the campaign abortive, and a pecuniary sacrifice preferable to a protraction of the war, you are authorized to agree in the last instance and in that only to the terms of peace specified in my letter to M<sup>r</sup> Cathcart of the 9<sup>th</sup> of April 1803, with such modifications as may be convenient. Of the Twenty thousand dollars permitted to be given as the first purchase & Consular present, five thousand are to be retained until a Consul for Tripoli to be commissioned by the President shall arrive. Should you be able to reduce the terms, as may be expected, you will retain a proportionate sum for this object. On peace being made you have authority to place at Tripoli a temporary Agent to attend to our affairs. For the ransom of the Prisoners, if a ransom be unavoidable, you may stipulate a sum not exceeding five hundred dollars for each prisoner including Officers, but deducting from the number in the hands of the Bashaw, those promised to Cap<sup>t</sup> Dale to be released in return for the release of some of the Bashaw's Subjects who had been captured by him, and also as many as may be considered an equivalent for the captures of Cap<sup>t</sup> Preble.

A desirable shape to give the ransom money would be an annuity payable in four or five instalments. This rate of ransom must not be yielded however without such a change in our affairs by accident to the Squadron or by other powers joining against us in the war as is very unlikely to happen; and you will bear in mind that the sum of 500 Dollars p<sup>r</sup> man connected with terms which were otherwise favorable was the voluntary offer of the Bashaw to Cap<sup>t</sup> Preble in the month of January prior to the reverse which he has since experienced, and to his knowledge of the force now sent against him.

Of the co-operation of the Elder Brother of the Bashaw of Tripoli, we are still willing to avail ourselves, if the Commodore should judge that it may be useful, and to engage which as well as to render it the more effectual he has discretionary authority to grant him pecuniary or other subsidies not exceeding twenty thousand dollars; but the less reliance is placed upon his aid, as the force under the orders of the Commodore is deemed sufficient for any exercise of coercion which the obstinacy of the Bashaw may demand. The power of negotiation is confided to you in the first instance, but in case of accident it is to devolve on the acting Commander of the Squadron.

A very elegant sabre, prepared in London, and intended for a present, the motive of which no longer exists is delivered to Commodore Barron to be deposited in your hands, and which you may apply to any necessary purpose. Its value in London was [679] Pounds Sterling. It is the same which was returned to this Department by M<sup>r</sup> W<sup>m</sup> Eaton. The enclosed advertisement will inform you of the

manner of carrying into effect the proposed change in the Mediterranean passport. The Navy Department have made an arrangement for repaying you the advances stated, in your letter of the 24 Dec<sup>r</sup>, to have been made for the relief of the Officers and Crew of the *Philadelphia*. Exclusive of this, the following conjectural estimate is made of the state of our pecuniary transactions.

You were provided with funds to the amo <sup>t</sup> of.....	\$97. 000
Instead of 24,000, which you was to receive from	
M <sup>r</sup> Cathcart; you rec <sup>d</sup> from him in Cash.....	12. 000
A Consular present which you suppose will sell	
for.....	20. 000
	32. 000
	24. 000
	8. 000
Add the difference.....	8. 000
	\$105. 000

(Note — It is supposed another estimate ought to follow) [\*]

From a quantity of Brass now on hand it is in our power to furnish the 10 twenty four pounders and five eighteen pounders requested by the Dey of Algiers. They will not perhaps cost without freight more than Eighteen thousand dollars & if they would be taken for a years annuity as M<sup>r</sup> OBrien suggests, it would be an advantageous measure to send them, but if otherwise, as he imagines the rate at which the Danes & Swedes & Spaniards furnish them, produces a loss of not more than a fourth or a third upon the cost, they form a remittance preferable in a high degree to the list handed you by the Minister of Marine on the 26<sup>th</sup> Dec<sup>r</sup> last. It is believed that they can be prepared in two Months. In the mean time the Cargo of the *Sally*, which was wrecked near S<sup>t</sup> Lucar will be repeated, with such additions as are hinted in your letter of the 24<sup>th</sup> Dec<sup>r</sup> as substitutes for part of the list of the Minister of Marine. The articles of that list being so disadvantageous you will lose no opportunity of obtaining its retraction, as respects the powder, cordage & cable; and if the money is received at the rate of 30,000 dollars pr. year, according to the undertaking of the Jews, after the brass guns, timber &<sup>g</sup> are forwarded there will be nothing due even for the current years annuity, consequently there will be no claim to the list being remitted, at least for the present. The ransom money of the prisoners is provided for by a credit, which the Sec<sup>r</sup> of the Treasury has given you on the House of Sir Francis Baring & C<sup>o</sup>; a copy of the letter to whom is enclosed.

M<sup>r</sup> Eaton has presented his accounts comprehending various charges, for which the regular vouchers could not be procured from the nature of the case. I enclose an abstract of the whole and request you will take a convenient opportunity of examining them either in person when you may go to Tunis, or thro' the medium of D<sup>r</sup> Davis. In particular I wish for information respecting the cause of the detention of the *Gloria* at Tunis after her return from Gibraltar, and what she could have chartered for per month; of the truth of the extortion

by the Bey's Minister, and any illustration you may be able to procure of the transaction, which resulted in charging the sum stated for the detention of the *Ann Maria* at Tunis. Under the instructions formerly given to M<sup>r</sup> Cathcart to propose a periodical sum to be paid to Tunis, and which have been repeated to you, he made the offer which they authorised, but it was declined by the Bey's Minister. We are therefore now under no obligation to accede to it; and unless the pacification with Tripoli should contrary to our expectation set a precedent, you will be silent with respect to the periodical payments to Tunis, & even repel them if the subject should be revived by the Bey. You will judge from your communications with M<sup>r</sup> Davis and other means of information, how far it may be requisite, if a favorable accommodation takes place with Tripoli, for you to go to Tunis, for if the Bey remains quiet, and does not expect you, and especially if the President's last letter to him should have silenced his demands, it may be expedient to avoid Tunis. But if his expectations of the Frigate or other exorbitant sacrifices render it necessary for you to come to a final explanation with him you will concert with the Commodore the exhibition of such views of his injustice & the Naval faculties of the U: States as may repress or very much reduce his hopes of obtaining sacrifices from us; for it was not only to over awe Tripoli, that the expense of equipping this Squadron was incurred, but upon a calculation of its salutary effect upon the other Regencies, and especially Tunis whose unfriendly conduct might require its presence. It is hardly necessary to observe that this remark is not meant to prompt undue provocations to war, much less a commencement of it; Your prudence will be a security that your communications with Tunis will be addressed to such motives only, as may have the best effect upon the preservation of peace according to the circumstances under which your intercourse may be conducted.

Enclosed is a letter from the President to the Dey of Algiers, in answer to his request for the Cannon.

[NA. SDA. Despatches to Consuls, Vol. 1, Oct. 1800—Feb. 1817.]

[\*Estimate which followed.]

Balance carried forward.....		\$105, 000
Your Expenditures and those of M <sup>r</sup> OBrien have been for the		
Consular present.....	20, 000	
The Biennial present.....	16, 000	
Account of OBrien.....	4, 000	
Capt [Andrew] Morris and his crews ransom.....	6, 800	
	46, 800	
You have further to expend for debt to the Jews.....	15, 800	
D <sup>r</sup> Davis at Tunis — say.....	4, 000	
Yourself for salary &c say.....	4 000	
		70, 600
		34, 400
May be wanted for purchasing peace with Tripoli and your expences in going there and to Tunis.....		22 000
		12, 400

**158 NAVAL OPERATIONS, APRIL-SEPTEMBER 6, 1804**

On the other hand we Owed in Sept <sup>r</sup> 1803 two years annuity to	
Algiers — say at 30,000.....	60,000
We have remitted only.....	14,000
	<hr/>
	46,000
cash unappropriated in your hands.....	12,400
	<hr/>
	33,600
To be remitted from the Treasury.....	20,000
	<hr/>
Leaving a debt of.....	13,600

But if the peace should be made with Tripoli without a pecuniary sacrifice or with a small one, the whole or part of the 20,000 will be applicable to its discharge.

[Stephen Decatur Col.]

To James Simpson, U. S. Consul, Tangier, Morocco, from Secretary of State  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE June 6<sup>th</sup> 1804.

SIR.

\* \* \* \* \*

[See Circular of 2 June 1804] On M<sup>r</sup> Lear's departure he was furnished with a number of the tops of the new Mediterranean passport, which we wished to substitute for that now in use, and by the same opportunity a copy of the new passport was sent to you. You were also requested to procure an understanding with the Emperors Government in order that the change might be brought about without inconvenience. Tho' you have not reported to me your proceedings on the subject, it has been taken for granted that the arrangement has been effected; but least by any possibility it may be otherwise I enclose another copy of the passport together with a copy of the advertisement which has been published to notify the change, and I request your immediate attention to arrange the business on the principles of the latter.

Cap<sup>t</sup> Rodgers assures us that so far from the people of the *Meshouda* having cause of complaint, they expressly & publicly declared their satisfaction with the treatment they experienced. I await however the final report you intend to make before any opinion is formed of the reality of the complaint or the satisfaction due. In the mean time as the demand is not large, a confidence is reposed in you to quiet it, if it cannot be avoided before you receive instructions from Government.

I am &c

JAMES MADISON

[NA. SDA. Despatches to Consuls, Oct. 1800—Feb. 1817.]

To M. d'Italinsky, Russian Ambassador to Constantinople, from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

UNITED STATES S. Constitution  
Malta Harbour 6th June 1804

SIR. I was this day honored with a letter from the American Consul at the Court of S<sup>t</sup> Petersburg enclosing copy of a letter from His Imperial Majesty's Chancellor to him, offering to engage the Grand Seigneur to mediate for the release of our Country Men, Prisoners to the Regency of Tripoly.



COMMODORE EDWARD PREBLE. U. S. NAVY.





As His Majesty's intercession with the Ottoman Porte is through you, I have taken the liberty to enclose a copy of remonstrance made to that Government through the medium of the French and English Ambassadors; the facts therein contained will enable you to urge the *honorable* intentions of your Sovereign with more propriety, and a greater prospect of success; and thereby more firmly cement that harmony and good will which has so long subsisted between the Russian Empire and the U S of America

About two months since I captured a Ship [*Madona Catapoliana*] under Russian Colours which made shift to get into Tripoly with Military Stores, and came out laden with property belonging to a Tripoline Consul this was a most flagrant violation of the blockade, but so deeply was I impressed by the generous interposition of His Russian Majesty, that I this day released the ship. Indeed I feel myself bound by honor and inclination to promote the interests of your Country to the extent of my power; and it is scarcely necessary to assure you that my Government will accord with pleasure the high sence with which they receive such noble proofs of disinterested friendship.

P. S. I am not as yet informed of the effect of my remonstrance thro' the F & E Ambassadors. \* \* \*

[LC. EPP, LB, April–Nov. 1804.]

[6 June 1804]

Certificate concerning Pilot Louis Jouvas or Jourvass

I certify that Louis Jouvas Served on board the U. S. Ship *Constitution* under my command as Pilot from October 19<sup>th</sup> 1804 [1803] to this day

Signed EDWARD PREBLE

MALTA HARBOR *June 6<sup>th</sup> 1804*

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

Extract from Diary of Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, Commodore of U. S. Squadron in the Mediterranean, Wednesday, 6 June 1804

moderate Breezes from the N W and pleasant a strong current setting to the Eastward, Standing in for the Island of Malta on a wind on the starboard tack all sail sett, — at about 20 minutes past 2 P M as I was at dinner, a Midshipman came into the Cabbin & informed me we were near the shore, I ordered him to go on deck and tell the Officer to tack ship, the helm was immediately put down, & as the ship came to, I observed from the Cabbin Ports that she was nearly on shore, I sprang on deck and found her in stays not a cables length from the shore, and the Rocks to be seen under her Bottom, I met the Officer of the Watch Lieutenant Tarbel, at the head of the Cabbin Gang way and took the Trumpet from him, ordered him below, and took charge of the deck, and got the ship on the larboard tack, had she missed stays or shot half her length further a head in stays she would inevitably have struck the Rocks and probably would have been lost, as she was under a press of canvas with a fresh Breeze, for this want of Judgment, or neglect of duty in Lieu<sup>t</sup> Tarbell in endangering the ship, I suspended him from duty, and suspecting a design on the Part of the coasting Pilot to lose the ship I ordered him confined in irons, — at 5 P M working to windward to gain Valette Har-

bour, at 6 Anchored in 13 fathoms water in the outer Harbour, — Ordered the Pilot out of Irons and to be discharged from the United States Service, — Punished two seamen with 12 lashes each for neglect of duty, —

[LC. EPP, Diary, 1803-1804.]

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Extract from log book kept by Sailing Master Nathaniel Haraden, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Wednesday, 6 June 1804

Moderate breezes from N W — We are standing in for the Island of Malta under all plain sail — contin<sup>d</sup> standing in till  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 2 when we tacked off shore — When the ship came head to wind she was not more than a cables length from a low Point which is 4 or 5 Miles to the S E of the Harbor of Valetta — The Bottom was Visible and apparently bold home to the shore — The Commodore and all the gun room Officers were at dinner except Lieut<sup>t</sup> Tarbell the Officer of the Watch The coasting or cruising Pilot was also on deck at the time the ship was standing in — The Officer of the Watch was ordered below & suspended from duty — The Pilot was immediately Ordered in double Irons on suspicion of attempting to run the ship on shore From this time till 5 P. M Employed working to windw<sup>d</sup> in order to anchor in Valetta — At 6 P. M. came to in the Outer harbor in Valetta in 13 fathoms Muddy bottom Furled sails & moored half a cable each way with the small bower & stream — Ships company employed thro' the night scrubbing hammocks — The Pilot who was confined, was this day discharged from the U. S. Service — cutter watering ship — Punished W<sup>m</sup> Harrison & Jn<sup>o</sup> Russell seamen with 12 lashes each for Neglect of duty — Rec'd 3 casks Molasses contain<sup>g</sup> 31a Gall<sup>s</sup> — Noon calm

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

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

NAVY DEP<sup>t</sup> 7 June 1804 —

Commodore SAM<sup>l</sup> BARRON.

Herewith you will receive a Copy of a letter which I have this day written to Cap<sup>t</sup> Isaac Chauncey. —

Should the Squadron arrive at Gibraltar before Captain Chauncey, it might, should Tunis have commenced hostilities against us, be prudent to order one of the Ships of your Squadron to wait at Gibraltar the arrival of the *John Adams*, to accompany her aloft. You will exercise your soundest discretion on this point.

[NDA. LB, 1799-1807.]

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To Master Commandant Isaac Chauncey, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. *John Adams*, from Secretary of the Navy

NAVY DEP<sup>t</sup> June 7, 1804 —

I have read in the Newspapers an extract of a Letter stated to have been written by Commodore Preble dated 19th March 1804; which furnishes ground for apprehending that at that period the Bey of Tunis meditated hostile movements towards us. It is stated that he was then equipping his whole naval force with the utmost expedition; that it was whispered that his object was the American

Commerce, and that from various circumstances Commodore Preble gave faith to the report.

Although we have no official information on this subject, yet it behoves us to be on our guard. On your arrival at Gibraltar you will therefore endeavour to possess yourself of information as to the dispositions actually entertained towards us by the Bey of Tunis, and if you find he has commenced hostilities against us, or should not be able to ascertain to your satisfaction that he has not commenced hostilities against us, you will remain at Gibraltar until the arrival of the outward bound Squadron, unless we should sooner have at Gibraltar a force adequate to your protection, in which case you will exercise your discretion, and act as Circumstances may direct. —

Should you remain at Gibraltar until the arrival of the outward bound Squadron, you will be governed in your subsequent movements by such orders as you may receive from the Commodore. —

[NDA. LB, 1799-1807.]

To Levett Harris, U. S. Consul General, St. Petersburg, Russia, from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

UNITED STATES SHIP *Constitution*

*Malta Harbour 7th June 1804*

SIR. About 2 months since one of our Brigs of War cruising off Tripoly captured the Polacre Ship [*Madona*] *Catapoliana* George Morfino Master under Russian Colours which had made shift to get into Tripoly at a time when our Squadron had been driven off the Coast for a few days by a gale of wind. She sailed from Smyrna with a cargo consisting of Powder, Guns, Shot, Ship Timber &c<sup>t</sup> for and on account of the Bashaw of Tripoly, and sailed from thence the day on which we captured her with a cargo of Cattle for acc<sup>t</sup> of the Tripoline Consul at Malta; this was certainly a most flagrant violation of the Blockade, and of the law of Nations in such cases, and obliged me to send all her papers home that the vessel might be condemned in our Court of Admiralty but so deeply was I impressed by the generous interposition of His Imperial Majesty, that I this day released the ship as a compliment to his flag, and shall be happy at all times to have it in my power to show how much it is my wish as well as that of our Government to promote on every occasion the present friendship and good understanding between His Imperial Majesty and the United States.

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

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

UNITED STATES SHIP *Constitution*

*Malta Harbour 7th June 1804*

SIR. To your remonstrance respecting the capture of the Ship called the *Virgin of Catapolaghi* [*Madona Catapoliana*] commanded by George Morfino under Russian colours. I have to observe that I have not only the attestation of the Pilot that they were apprized of the Blockade of Tripoly before leaving Smyrna — but of several of the Crew likewise, and the Master himself acknowledges that he was aware of the circumstance before he went on the Coast; and that

Tripoly was not blockaded simply by manifest I would observe that at the time of the entrance of said ship, I was cruising off that Port, but an east wind which prevented my laying close in with the Town proved favorable to his Views. he entered it is true without molestation and supplied our declared Enemy with Naval and Military Stores in violation of a close Naval Blockade of nearly four months, for it is a fact of great notoriety that the port was blockaded two months before my formal declaration thereof was made; and in truth a variety of facts and circumstances evinced a disposition on the part of the Master of said Ship to enter said port of Tripoly notwithstanding his knowledge of that circumstance, I have considered it a duty incumbent on me to send the papers &c<sup>s</sup> of said Ship to America for adjudication, and cannot doubt but she will be condemned.

That harmony and good understanding which has so long subsisted between our Governments (as well as my own inclination) induced me to pay the greatest deference to the reasons advanced in your remonstrance, and were the circumstances literally those that you have been pleased to state I cannot deny but objections might be advanced as to the propriety of detention, but I beg you to be assured Sir, that every circumstance seemed to be aggravated by implied deception and that want of *fair dealing* which but too frequently involves Governments as well as individuals in painful litigations and even now that I am under the fullest conviction that the Ship would be condemned in any Admiralty Court in Europe, I have been induced to restore her to the commander as a compliment to the Russian Flag, and an earnest of the high opinion I have of the magnanimity and of the disinterested friendship that His Imperial Majesty has been pleased to evince for the United States of America of the nature of which you will be informed by the enclosed letter from the Chancellor of the Russias to our Consul resident at St Petersburg which I rec<sup>d</sup> two days since. —

All I can do, must be deemed but a poor compensation when compared with the admiration, and the very high sense with which my Government will receive such honorable testimonies of your Sovereign's good will towards them, and for which they will not fail to give ample proofs when opportunity offers.

His Excellency P. D'KARPOW

*His Imperial Majesty the Emperor of Russia's  
Minister at Naples —*

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

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

Cruizing on and off Tripoli at 2 P M Cap<sup>ns</sup> Smith and Dent came on board Tripoli bore S E b S  $\frac{1}{2}$  S. dist<sup>l</sup> 6 miles at 8 light airs Inclinable to Calm Sounded in 48 fathoms Water bottom fine Grey sand the Cap<sup>ns</sup> Returned on board their Ships at midnight heard several heavy guns fired at  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 6 AM. saw the *Vixen* to the Eastw<sup>d</sup> and several gun boats standing from the land at 9 light airs standing to the Eastw<sup>d</sup>  $\frac{1}{4}$  past the *Scourge* made the Sig<sup>l</sup> N<sup>o</sup> 216

[NDA photostat.]

Extract from log book of U. S. Brig *Argus*, 18 guns, kept by Sailing Master Samuel B. Brooke, U. S. Navy, Master Commandant Isaac Hull, U. S. Navy, commanding, Thursday, 7 June 1804

This day Commences with Mod<sup>o</sup> and clear Weather at  $\frac{1}{2}$  past Merid<sup>n</sup> Spoke the U. S. Schooner *Vixen*

At 1 saw a sail to the eastw<sup>d</sup> made sail in chace at 4 spoke the U. S. Schooner *Enterprize* last from Syracuse At sundown Tripoli bore S E b S dist<sup>n</sup> 6 miles —

At midnight light breezes and Pleasant —

At 3 AM made sail to the Eastw<sup>d</sup> at 5 hauled up the Courses and hove too Tripoli S  $\frac{1}{2}$  E the *Scourge* in Sight —

At 10 in top Gall<sup>s</sup> sails and wore ship at 11 set T. G. sails & flying Jib fired several Shot at the Gun boats which was returned by them and the Batterys Wore Ship and stood off —

Lat<sup>n</sup> Obs<sup>d</sup> 33° 00' N.

[LC. EPP, *Argus*, 1804.]

Extract from Diary of Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, Commodore of U. S. Squadron in the Mediterranean, Thursday, 7 June 1804

made a complimentary visit to the Governor Sir Alexander Ball who returned it on board, filled up our water, Mr Higgins reported the Cargo of Provisions & Stores delivered by ship *Betsy Walk* Captain Reddick was very much damaged, deficient, and in very bad order, — Received a letter from Mr Levett Harris our Consul at S<sup>t</sup> Petersburg, enclosing a copy of one from the Chancellor of the Emperor of Russia to the Russian Minister at the Ottoman Court by order of his Imperial Majesty, directing the said Russian minister to desire the Grand Senior to send a Fireman to Tripoli, to endeavour to obtain the release and Restoration of the Americans taken in the late Frigate *Philadelphia*, in consequence of the friendly interference of the Russian Monarch. I this day as a compliment to his flag ordered the Vessel *Catapoliana* from Tripoly detained by Captain Stewart under Russian Colours for a violation of Blocade to be released, and the Brigantine S<sup>t</sup> F<sup>t</sup> *Crusifiso* a Maltese Vessel under English Colours, detained by the *Nautilus* for the same reason to be given up to the owner for three hundred dollars he giving a full indemnification and acquittal of all claims for damages, but the Cargo remains unsold at Syracuse, — A Spanish Vessel arrived sent in by the *Argus* with an Ambassador of the Grand Senior on Board with his suite consisting of about thirty Persons, this is the same Vessel that entered Tripoly from Tunis with a passport from Mr Davis our Charge de Affairs at that place, —

[LC. EPP, Diary, 1803-1804.]

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

[Cruising in company with *Argus*, *Vixen* and *Scourge* almost continuously since 27 May 1804.]  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 6 squar'd the yards & stood in for the harbour of Malta At 9 pass'd the Commodore at Anchor. At 10 came too with the starboard bower in 13 fathoms, furl'd all sail. —

(Those remarks include 36 hours.)

[NDA.]

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

U. S. FRIGATE *Congress*  
Hampton Road June 8<sup>th</sup> 1804.

SIR I have the honor to inform you the *Congress* anchor'd in this Road at 6 P. M. this day after a Passage of nine Days, from Alex<sup>t</sup>, and without any unpleasant occurrence, further than is common with a ship of such heavy draught of Water, and a raw undisciplined Crew, — I have this Ins<sup>t</sup> dispatched an Officer to Norfolk to attend to the getting on board the Spars, Cordage &<sup>s</sup> which you ordered to be procured here, and to ship 10 or 12 Seamen, in the place of that Number of Miserable Wretches which M<sup>r</sup> Gardiner shipped in Balt<sup>e</sup>, all of whom I shall be obliged to discharge being totally unfit for service —

The *Congress* can be made ready for Sea in 24 Hours —

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

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from Tobias Lear, U. S. Consul General,  
Algiers

ALGIERS June 8<sup>th</sup> 1804

DEAR SIR I have recieved with much satisfaction the esteemed favor which you did me the honor to write on the 3<sup>d</sup> May with its enclosures — I feel very happy in the just approbation which which you have received from our Government of your conduct To a mind like yours it must afford a gratification beyond any pecuniary consideration.

I agree with you that we can expect no efficient interference in our favor from the Quarter mentioned — The present State of things makes it politic for other nations that we should be at war with Tripoly—

Before this you must have heard from M<sup>r</sup> Davis on the Subject of the complaints of the Bey of Tunis respecting the Tunisian Sandals and the stopping the Spanish Vessel going to Tripoly with his Passport: I have written to him on this Subject, referring to you for all matters of this kind, and observing that if the Bey of Tunis wished for a war with us he would not fail to make it upon the Ground of which he complains, however unjustifiable it may be, but if that was not his wish, he would be satisfied with *proper* explanations in cases of this Nature — I shall send copies of M<sup>r</sup> Davis's letter to our Consuls in Europe by the first opportunity — I am still without a line from the United States since they must have heard of the loss of the *Philadelphia* and captivity of our Citizens — This Event will probably make some change in their Orders respecting Barbary Affairs: or at any rate makes the Orders recieved when we left the United States, as they relate to Tripoly, inapplicable; — I recieved a *Commission* from the Secretary of State to make Peace with Tripoly but as it was sent before the News of the *Philadelphia* had reached the United States, it was predicated on the then state of our Affairs I wait anxiously to hear farther from home — I think it certain that a force will be sent out.

As there is a great difficulty in Transferring money from hence to Tunis I have written to M<sup>r</sup> Davis, that I should request you to furnish such funds as might be necessary for our unfortunate Citizens in captivity until some efficient measures are taken by the Govern-

ment respecting them — By a letter from Cap<sup>t</sup> B. of the 5th of April, I was happy to learn that he had recieved sufficient for their immediate wants, and had 500 Doll<sup>s</sup> in hand, and hourly expected cloathing from Malta—. If in your power, I know you will furnish the necessary for our Citizens in Tripoly — Should you not be able to do it, I have desired Cap<sup>t</sup> B. to inform M<sup>r</sup> Davis who is directed to obtain money by a dft on me *at any rate* for that purpose

We are in a continual state of Agitation here from the expectation of a Visit from the British. The Cruizers are all in port and we have no arrivals — No news, but reports in abundance.

As I send this by a Courier which has been dispatched to me by M<sup>r</sup> Davis, I cannot be very full, as it is uncertain when it may reach you, and its route circuitous. I enclose a letter for yourself & one for Lieut<sup>t</sup> Comm<sup>d</sup> Decatur which came into my hands some time since: but no opportunity has Offered for forwarding them — M<sup>rs</sup> Lear is in good health & sends her best regards & wishes to her [you].

Wishing you all *success*, health & happiness

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

To Captain William Bainbridge, U. S. Navy, Tripoli, from Tobias Lear, U. S. Consul General, Algiers

ALGIERS June 8<sup>th</sup> 1804

DEAR SIR, I had the pleasure to receive your acceptable favor of the 5<sup>th</sup> of April, on the 2<sup>d</sup> instant, and was very happy to hear that yourself and Officers were comfortably situated, and the means of support had reached you.

I have not received a Line from the U. States since they must have heard of your misfortune. I am in hourly expectation of letters from our Government; and I need not say how happy it w<sup>d</sup> make me if they should expediate the deliverance of yourself and our fellow Citizens from Captivity. — I assure you my dear Bainbridge, I have a most heartfelt pleasure in knowing that I have, in any measure, been the cause of Comfort or Consolation to you & those about you. We know that among a Crew of a ship of war there will be some unthinking wretches who will sacrifice the Comforts or necessaries of tomorrow, for the beastly luxuries of to day. It is the case with people of this description of all Nations

As there is a very great difficulty in transferring money from hence to Tripoli, I have written to Commodore Preble, request<sup>t</sup> that he would furnish what might be necessary until some efficient arrangement sh<sup>d</sup> be made by our Governm<sup>t</sup> for your relief; but in case he cannot do it, I pray you to write to M<sup>r</sup> Davis at Tunis who has my Instructions, in that event to obtain money by a Draft on me, at any sacrifice.

We are here without any arrivals or news of any kind; but there is a continual agitation on account of the Reports that the English are Coming, in force, to settle their affairs with this Regency. —

The sensibility which you express for the attentions & services which I have been able to render to yourself & our unfortunate fellow Citizens, is a higher compe[n]sation than could be bestowed by other means. I pray you to keep your Spirits, and exercise your patience for a little time. I know your Situation must be afflict<sup>t</sup> to a mind like yours; but remember that your Countrymen sympathize in your

afflictions, and that the sun will by & bye dispel the clouds which now hang over you. When relived from your Captivity you will be received by your friends an[d] those most dear to you, with more joy than if you had returned home laden with unweadley wealth

I enclose letters for you which have been some time here, hoping for an opportunity of forwarding them. They are duplicates, I presume, of what I had the pleasure to forward in my letter of the 24<sup>th</sup> of March. —

M<sup>r</sup> Bille, the Danish Consul, & M<sup>r</sup> Thajjnville & his family take a lively interest in your unfortunate situation. They always enquire after you & desire the best regards & wishes to be given to you.

M<sup>rs</sup> Lear sends her best prayers & wishes for the health and speedy deliverance of yourself, your Officers and our other fellow Citizens. — Beleive me to be my Dear Bainbridge,

[Stephen Decatur Col. NDA photostat, Book A.]

To George Davis, U. S. Chargé d'Affaires, Tunis, from Tobias Lear, U. S. Consul General, Algiers

(Copy) N<sup>o</sup> 9.

ALGIERS June 8<sup>th</sup> 1804.

SIR,

\* \* \* \* \*

In stead of replying to all the foregoing letters, in the order of their dates, I shall first touch upon the more important subjects of the two last; observing that after the departure of M<sup>r</sup> OBrien from this place for Tunis, nothing occurred to make it necessary for me to write to you even if a *good* opportunity had offered untill I should hear from you upon his arrival in Tunis. —

In my letter to M<sup>r</sup> OBrien, when he left this, a copy of which is enclosed, You will see that he had no *powers* from me to make a final arrangem<sup>t</sup> with the Bey of Tunis; he was only desired to ascertain, if possible, in conjunction with Yourself, the ultimate expectations or demands of the Bey on our Gov<sup>t</sup> — He *knew* that I had not forwarded to you any instructions or orders of our Government, relative to giving a fixed sum to Tunis Annually or Biennially; for when he spoke to me on the subject, I told him I thought it unnecessary at this time, as he knew perfectly well what those terms were, which the Gov<sup>t</sup> had limited; and that I wished to hear further from the Government after they knew of our late misfortune, before the *ultimatum* was brought forward. He should have made a *fair* statement of that matter to You. In his letter to you of the 25 of April, he has taken up the proper idea on this subject. In his letter to You, of the first of May, has given you a power with respect to 5000 dollars, which he certainly was not strictly warranted in doing. — I state these things that You may see the ground on which they Stand. — And as I am persuaded it was done for the best, according to our affairs stood with the Regency of Tunis, I do, for Your satisfaction confirm them.

I now enclose you an extract from the Instructions of the Secretary of State relating to Tunis. Nothing is said of a regalia, on the reception of a Consul; but that is a custom so fully established, that the sum of ten thousand dollars partly in cash and partly in goods (not Naval Stores) would be allowed of course. Or the whole of the Consular Present might be in goods, if more agreeable, not exceeding the ten thousand dollars. —



In Your letter to the Secretary of State (copy of which You have sent me) You quote my letter to M<sup>r</sup> OBrien thus "to ascertain the precise expectations of the Bey of Tunis, and close our affairs with this Regency if it could be done on admissible terms". — My letter to him You will see is thus, "endeavour to ascertain the precise expectations of the Bey of Tunis from the United States, that our affairs with that Regency *may be settled*; if it can be done on admissible terms". It is only necessary for me to state the true expression. — If You have had an erroneous copy given You, I am sorry for the mistake.

In the same letter You mention, that, in Your conversation with the Sapatapa on the 6<sup>th</sup> of May, he, acquiesced in the proposition of a biennial Regalia in Cash equal to what would purchase a Regalia of Naval Stores in Trieste. But neither the amount in Cash, nor the quantum of Stores are mentioned. It is certainly necessary that the sum should be limited; or at least that the Stores should be specified and their quantity ascertained. Without this we are left afloat, at their mercy, for their own prices and quantity.

After having made these remarks I can only say, that the expectation of the Bey's receiving a frigate, or a Regalia in stores, being done away, is obtaining two important points, which would never I think, have been yielded by our Government. As to the Cash payment a few thousand dollars could be no object, provided, by sacrificing them, we could be placed upon the ground of security with respect to Peace, so far as it can be ascertained in these Regencies

In your letter to the Secretary of State dated April 8<sup>th</sup> (an extract of which You have forwarded to me in Yours of the 24 id<sup>th</sup>) it appears, that the Bey refused, in the most pointed terms, to acknowledge me as an official character, if I should come to Tunis, and that he would have no *conversation* or *negociation* of any kind with any other person but Yourself. It seems, however, that both the Bey & Sapatapa had much conversation with M<sup>r</sup> OBrien, on our affairs with the Regency while he was there, and that the principal points of negotiation were discussed by M<sup>r</sup> OBrien, and pretty well understood, before the Commercial Agent desired, on the evening of the 29<sup>th</sup> of April, that your visits to the Palace might be made alone when You wished to enter upon business — I mention this merely to shew the inconsistency of conduct

The return of difficulties stated in Your letter of the 18<sup>th</sup> of May, seems to have done away all the previous understanding, and placed us upon a ground, where we can look only for War; for I presume it has been an uniform line of conduct observed by our Vessels *lately* in the blockade of Tripoli, to prevent the entrance of any Vessel whatever, and that the Tunesian Sandals have been often turned back; whether they have been captured or destroyed without some outrageous violation on their part, of the usages of blockaded Ports, is a point on which I am not able to speak; but I presume neither has been done by the orders of the Commodore. — It lay wholly with the Commodore to respect Your Passport or not; and I presume you explained the matter to him when you saw him, and are able to judge how far the the Spanish Vessel has been stop'd by his orders.

It is very certain, as you observe, that so long as our War may continue with Tripoli, we shall have difficulties, of a similar nature to those stated, to encounter with Tunis. If the Bey of Tunis wishes

a war with the United States, he will, undoubtedly make these things the ground of it, however unjustifiable; but should that not be the case he will be satisfied with proper explanations, and where his subjects may have sustained an injury of no great magnitude, there would be no difficulty in making them a compensation, provided the case should merit it or policy demand it, to continue the peace, and the amount be not very large. In cases of magnitude a reference must be made to our Government, which the Bey will not refuse if he is not disposed for war. — I shall, however, transmit copies of your letter of the 18<sup>th</sup> of May to our Consuls in Europe by the earliest opportunity that our Vessels may have a due caution given them.

Your bills upon me of the 29<sup>th</sup> of April, fav<sup>r</sup> Seig<sup>r</sup> Saul Levi Brahm for two thousand Spanish dollars has been paid; and I am very sorry that You could not negotiate another in the same way without too great a sacrifice, as money cannot be sent from hence at present without great risque, and the heavy drafts I have been obliged to make on Leghorn to pay our Annuities here (w<sup>h</sup> is done up to the 5<sup>th</sup> of March last) makes me rather averse to drawing for more from that quarter until I shall hear from thence. I shall, however, enclose You a letter of credit on Messrs Degen & Purviance of that place for two thousand Dollars

I have examined your accounts and transmit herewith one copy, with the notes as you will see.

If you will refer to my letter by M<sup>r</sup> O'Brien, You will find that I did not accuse you of neglect of duty or inattention in not having written to me; but imputed the non rec<sup>t</sup> of letters from you to causes which we could neither of us controul. I think from my letters as well as from my conduct towards you, you cannot infer that I wish to give you pain, or embarrass your situation; but the station in which I am placed makes it a duty incumbent upon me to be frank in my communications.

In a letter which I had the honor to write the Sec<sup>y</sup> of State on the 14<sup>th</sup> Feb<sup>r</sup> I observed,

“I have said nothing on the Subject of my recognizing D<sup>r</sup> Davis, as Charge d’Affairs of the United States in Tunis; because I conceived the propriety of the measure too apparent to need a comment. You have undoubtedly been informed of every thing relating to him in the Affair of M<sup>r</sup> Cathcart at Tunis. I received it from both parties and could not find anything criminal in M<sup>r</sup> Davis’ conduct. It was necessary to have some one there on the part of the U. S. He appears to stand well with the Bey and Regency — is said to be a Gentleman of talents and well qualified for the place, and I trust that the President will not think I have acted amiss in what I have done with respect to him.”

I have detained the Courier which You sent from the second of this month to the present time, in hourly expectation of receiving orders from our Government respecting Tunis & Tripoli, predicated on their knowledge of the loss of the *Philad<sup>a</sup>* & the Captivity of our Citizens; but I cannot feel justified in detaining him longer. And as I have not received a line from the United States since they must have heard of our misfortune at Tripoli, I can only say that we must endeavour to keep our ground at Tunis, in the best manner we can, without making too great sacrifices, un[t]ill we hear from our Governm<sup>t</sup> — The moment any thing arrives here of importance to our affairs in this Sea, I shall dispatch a Courier to You; and, in the mean time, I place great confidence in Your address and influence to keep us from running on a lee shore there.

In my letter to the Secretary of State mentioning the loss of the *Philad*<sup>s</sup> &<sup>c</sup> I observed, that the loss of this Ship and captivity of our Citizens must either be followed immediately with a force sufficient to reduce Tripoli to terms at once, and keep others in check — or we must submit to an unconditional tribute to all the Regencies — Or, withdraw our Commerce wholly from this Sea, keeping, however, a force to guard the Straits, which would be attended with an expence fully equal to attaining the first Object. — I wait most anxiously to know the determination of the Govern<sup>t</sup> upon this event, as it has materially changed the face of our Affairs in this Sea, and makes former orders inaplicable to the present State of things.

In a letter from the Sec<sup>y</sup> of State, (rec<sup>d</sup> 26<sup>th</sup> of Ap<sup>l</sup>) dated in Jan<sup>y</sup> I rec<sup>d</sup> a Commission, in due form, to make Peace with Tripoli; but the late event has made it necessary for me to wait new orders before I proceed in the business. I have also a letter patent from the President to the Bey of Tunis, to settle Affairs with him; but on this subject it is unnecessary for me to say more than is contained in this letter.

I enclose letters for the Commodore, M<sup>r</sup> O'Brien, Captain Bainbridge, and from the Sweedish and Danish Consul's here to their respective Colleagues in Tunis, also two letters from a Domestic of mine, who resided some time in Tunis, to his friends there.

Reports and letters have come here informing that the English are about to pay a visit to this place very soon. This has caused considerable alarm and much agitation, particularly among the Jews, and keeps every thing in a state of suspence. The Cruizers of this Regency have not yet gone out, and I presume will not go, until the intentions of the English with respect to this Regency is known.

We have no arrivals — no news. — The information which you gave me from Marseilles, has not been rec<sup>d</sup> here thought [sic] any other channel. —

By a letter which I rec<sup>d</sup> from Captain Bainbridge of the 5<sup>th</sup> of Ap<sup>l</sup> (enclosed with the duplicates & triplicates of your former dispatches) I am happy to learn that the wants of our Citizens have been supplied by the funds remitted them through Yourself and other channels, and that he had then 500 Dollars on hand. Cloathing he expected every hour from Malta. As it will be more in the power of the Commodore to furnish future funds for the support of our unfortunate Citizens, than to send them from hence, I shall write to him on the subject, and also to Captain B. whom I shall desire, in case the necessary support could not be sent by the Commodore, that he w<sup>d</sup> apply to you; in which case You must get the means of *immediate* support by a draft on me. — By a Vessel which sails from hence for Leghorn in a few days, I shall advise Messrs Degen & Purviance of the letter of credit which I send You —

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

To Richard O'Brien from Tobias Lear, U. S. Consul General, Algiers

ALGIERS June 8<sup>th</sup> 1804.

DEAR SIR, I have duly rec<sup>d</sup> your favors of the 22<sup>d</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> of april, and feel much obliged by the communication thus contained. — The fair train on which our affairs appeared to be when you left Tunis has been interrupted, as you have undoubtedly learned from M<sup>r</sup> Davis, by a Complaint of the Bey that the Sandals of his Regency had been

taken by the Am. Vessels off Tripoli, and that a Spanish Vessel, with M<sup>r</sup> Davis', Passport, had been prevented from entering that Port. — These are matters which relate to the department of the Commodore, who I know will do whatever is right in them. — As I have not rec<sup>d</sup> a line from the U. States since they must have heard of the loss of the *Philadelphia* & Captivity of our Citizens, I have told M<sup>r</sup> Davis that the understanding with Tunis respecting an annual or biennial payment in Cash was the Only thing we could do at present with that Regency. If the Bey was determined on war; he would make it at all events; if he was not, he would be satisfied with proper explanations of any thing which might occur with respect to Tripoli, and wait for further Orders from home.

We are here pretty much in the same state you left us No arrivals no news; but Continual reports of a Visit from the English, which causes much agitation & alarm at times, among the Gentlemen of the Black Robe

The hurry & bustle at your departure caused me to forget to give you the receipt for Articles rec<sup>d</sup> from you on account of the U. S. I now enclose one receipt, and shall forward a duplicate, by another opportunity. —

We were very glad to hear that you had so favorable a Passage to Syracuse, and that no one suffered from sea sickness. M<sup>rs</sup> Lear unites with me in Compliments & best wishes to M<sup>rs</sup> OBrien Yourself & little ones. —

I enclose several letters which have come here for you since your departure. You have them in the state I received them

As I send this by the way of Tunis, and it is uncertain when it may reach you, I can only say that we are here as you left us, — We reside at the Garden, in which I have endeavoured to make some improvements, and I am afraid I am laying out more money than I ought in justice to myself; but it affords me some amusement

[Stephen Decatur Col. NDA photostat, Book A.]

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

*Siren MALTA — June 8<sup>th</sup> 1804*

SIR Herewith I send you a copy [31 May 1804] of M<sup>r</sup> Anderson's Communication relative to five Deserters from the Prize Ship *Madona Catapoliana* under his charge — I must however observe he neglected to make those Circumstances known to L<sup>t</sup> Com<sup>d</sup> Smith (who was here at the time) untill after those Vessels had Sailed —

I also beg leave to inform you that I have two Deserters now on board and have deferred punishing them that you may make an example which I trust will prevent such practices in future —

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

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

Cruizing off and on Tripoli This day begins with moderate breezes and fine Weather at 1 saw a sail to the Eastward made sail in chase at 4 spoke the U. S. Schooner *Enterprize* from Syracuse at Sundown Tripoli bore S E b S distance about 6 miles at 3 made sail to the Eastward set and took in Sail Occasionally *TK*<sup>6</sup> and wore Ship when Necessary in C<sup>o</sup> with the *Vixen* and *Enterprize*

At  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 11 AM fired Several shot at the gunboats which was returned by them and the Batteries wore ship At Meridian fine Weather

[NDA photostat.]

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

Light Airs from the East<sup>d</sup>, Moored in Valetta. Noah Morse & Francis Hopkins who were sent to the Hospital from this ship are dead — At 7 P, M anchored here from a cruize off Tripoly the U. S. Brig *Syren* Calms or light airs thro' the night — At 6 A. M. unmoored Ship. & hove short in order to proceed to Sea — In the Act of weighing the Wind sprang up from the Eastward which is right into the harbor — Rec'd two men belonging to Malta as cruizing or coasting Pilots for the *Constitution* —

Noon Moderate breezes from Eastw<sup>d</sup> —

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

To Secretary of the Navy from Secretary of State

DEPARTMENT OF STATE June 9<sup>th</sup> 1804.

SIR. I have the honor to inform you that the President has determined to send to the Dey of Algiers ten brass twenty four pounders, and five brass eighteen pounders, with Carriages and the necessary apparatus complete. They are to be long guns fit for batteries. He also wishes the Cargo of the Ship *Sally*, lost off S<sup>t</sup> Lucar, be repeated and another Cargo to be shipped to the Dey to consist of plank and timber of good quality, of small spars for topmasts, top gallant masts, steering sail-booms, and stuff for handles of rammers, sponges and ladles for cannon of different calibers, from 48 to 6 pounders. The Kinds of timber and planks for this last Cargo may be selected from the list out of which the last shipments, were made, and the proportions of the whole Cargo regulated by an attention to the stowage and assortment. The Cannon can be cast at Foxalls furnace out of some brass belonging to the public. It is desirable that the above should be collected and forwarded as soon as is practicable.

[NA. SDA. Dom. L, Vol. 14, May 1802-May 1805.]

To Thomas Appleton, U. S. Consul, Leghorn, from Tobias Lear, U. S. Consul General, Algiers

ALGIERS, June 9<sup>th</sup> 1804

SIR, I embrace the only opportunity which has offered to your Port since I have been here, to acknowledge the receipt of your acceptable favors of the 22<sup>d</sup> of Nov<sup>r</sup> 15 of Feb<sup>r</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> of April, as well as to thank you for the communications made by them, and for your very kind offer of services. —

The Port of Alicant affords the most direct & frequent communication with this place; but its great distance from Leghorn has prevented my profiting by that Channel, unless there was something very special to forward

There is no interdiction to my entering into Commercial business; but since I have been here, I have found so many Public duties to attend to that I sh<sup>d</sup> not have been able to have profited by com-

merce if any object had offered, which however has not been the case; for the dispute between the British and this Regency has suspended every thing of a Commercial nature here for some time past, and its effects will continue untill their differences are settled. Should any object present in future worth attending to I shall not be unmindful of your friendly offer.

The loss of the *Philadelphia*, and unfortunate Captivity of our Citizens, has materially changed the face of our Affairs, from what they w<sup>d</sup> have been had not that event happened. Since the news of this misfortune reached the United States, I have not received a line from thence, but am in daily expectation of Orders from Government, predicated on that event. —

With This Regency we appear to stand well. I was so fortunate as to effect a full payment of our Annuities in Cash, on the 5<sup>th</sup> of March last. This besides being a great pecuniary advantage to the U. S. secures, in some measure, our peace for a time here, so far as it can be done by removing complaints arising from deficiency of fulfilling our stipulations by treaty

The Bey of Tunis is threatening us very hard, as you will See by the Extract of a letter from M<sup>r</sup> Davis to me which I enclose for your information, and request you will give the same a Circulation to guard our commerce, as much as possible, against the event of a war with that power. I cannot help thinking however that the Bey knows too well his own exposed Situation to break with us on *light grounds* while we have a force in his Neighbourhood to annoy him, and I am persuaded that no *justifiable* cause for war will be given him by our Vessels. — A few days Previous to the late affair of the *Sandals* &<sup>e</sup> mentioned in M<sup>r</sup> Davis' Letter, our affairs with the Bay of Tunis were getting into a favorable train, he had given up the Idea of receiving a Frigate, or a regalia in Naval Stores; and the understanding between us seemed to promise a favorable termination of all complaints.

Whatever can be effected by our small force in this sea to protect our Commerce & annoy the enemy, I am persuaded will be done: And if any object of Enterprize which talants can suggest, and boldness, tempered with Prudence, can execute, I know our Commodore will avail himself of it.

The letter and small box bro<sup>t</sup> by Capt<sup>n</sup> Stewart of the U. S. Brig *Syren* from Mess<sup>rs</sup> Bacri; were delivered to David Coën Bacri, in my presence, here.

I shall always feel obliged by letters & information from you whenever opportunities offer, and wish I could give you something interesting in return; but we are barren here, excepting in the local events, which could not amuse. — The account you give me of M<sup>r</sup> Livingston's returning & General Smith succeeding him is the only information I have rec<sup>d</sup> on that Subject. You know of M<sup>r</sup> Livingston's meritorious exertions to interes[t] the Gov<sup>t</sup> of France in the redemption of our Unfortunate fellow Citizens at Tripoli, and mediate for a peace. — I have no faith in their effects. — It is convenient for France, while at war with Great Britain, that we sh<sup>d</sup> blockade the Port of Tripoli, which will deprive the English of one Source of Supplies for Malta. —

Ever since the appearance of Lord Nelson, off here in January, we have had constant reports of the English coming, in force; which

has occasioned continual Alarms & Agitation. I do not myself believe they will come while at War with France; For when they do appear it will probably be in Great force, which they cannot well spare at present in this Sea.

P. S. The Cruizers have not been out this Season, and I presume will not go out while their differencies with G. B. continue. —

June 17<sup>th</sup> 1804

The sailing of the Ship for Leghorn, which was to have been on the 10<sup>th</sup> inst was prevented, by the arrival of the Britis[h] Ship of War, the *Superb*, Capt<sup>n</sup> Keets, who bro<sup>t</sup> a person (Bryan M<sup>o</sup>Donough Esq., late from Tripoli) to treat in conjunction with Capt K. on the differences between the British & this Regency. There is yet no conclusion of this Business. The *Superb* is still here, but there seems not to be a good understanding on the Subject

[Stephen Decatur Col. NDA photostat, Book A.]

[9 June 1804]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from the Wardroom Officers of the U. S. Frigate *Constitution*

SIR We venture to address you in behalf of our Mess Mate, Lieut<sup>t</sup> Tarbell. A retrospect of his deportment heretofore, as an Gentleman, & correct Officer, prior to the unfortunate evening of the 5<sup>th</sup> inst, induces us powerfully to exert ourselves, that, if consistent, he may be ordered again to his duty with us as usual.

M<sup>r</sup> Tarbell is conscious of his error, and says 'twas founded on his too great confidence in the Pilot — We believe this to be the case sincerely. — We have always considered M<sup>r</sup> Tarbell to be one of our most correct Officers, and the circumstance above alluded to, which has incurred your displeasure, will, he says, be a lesson which he never can lose sight of.

Frigate *Constitution* Saturday Morning June 9<sup>th</sup> 1804

NATH HARADEN  
T, ROBINSON  
CHA<sup>s</sup> GORDON  
SAM<sup>l</sup> ELBERT  
JN<sup>o</sup> HALL  
ROBERT GREENLEAF  
JA<sup>s</sup> WELLS

[LC. EPP, Vol. 11, April-June 1804.]

To Lieutenant Joseph Tarbell, U. S. Navy, from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy  
*Constitution* JUNE 9<sup>th</sup> 1804

SIR On a retrospective view of the general tenor of your past conduct as an Officer, I am induced to believe that too much confidence alone in the Pilot might have occasioned your imprudent approach to the shore with this Ship on the 5<sup>th</sup> Inst so near as to endanger her safety while under your charge as Officer of the Watch: From this Circumstance, and a solicitation on the part of your brother Officers highly honorable to you that you may still continue among them, I am induced to direct that you return to your duty in full confidence that you will in future be more guarded in your conduct. —

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

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To Captain John Rodgers, U. S. Navy, from Lieutenant Colonel Commandant Franklin Wharton, U. S. Marine Corps

WASHINGTON June 9<sup>th</sup> 1804

SIR I am honor'd by your Letter of the 4<sup>th</sup> covering copy of cause of arrest served on M<sup>r</sup> Shields. I regret that it has been my Misfortune, to be compell'd to interfere with the conduct of the Young Gentlemen of the Navy. —

It has been, & always shall be my wish rather to promote their reputation, than to offer injury to it: this unfortunately, is the second instance since I have commanded here. I have done nothing more however than my duty in reporting. I now wish to be as friendly, as apparently I have been hostile trusting to the cool reflection of the Gentlemen, who I am sure, must acquit me of any intentional Injustice. I have recieved a Letter from M<sup>r</sup> Shields, acknowledging irritation at the moment but disavowing parts of the Charges: he has made amends sufficiently to me, by the *Politeness, of that Letter*, and I must now become his friend, his Advocate: You will of course confer on me, an obligation, a favour, I shall not forget, by removal of arrest, and restoring him to his Duty. I, in asking this from you Sir, withhold the Evidence you request: fully convinced that you will not differ from me in the termination of this unpleasant affair—

Wishing you Health & Happiness,

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

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Extracts from journal of U. S. Brig *Argus*, Master Commandant Isaac Hull, U. S. Navy, commanding, Saturday, 9 June 1804

Cruizing on and off Tripoli These 24 hours Commences with fine pleasant Weather and Clear Capt<sup>ns</sup> Smith and Decatur came on-board at 3 all the Capt<sup>ns</sup> went onboard the *Vixen* at 4 Tripoli bore S E b S at 6 Cap<sup>t</sup> Hull returned on board

[NDA photostat.]

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Extract from Memorandum Book of Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, 9 June 1804

Sailed from Malta for the Coast of Tripoly.

[LC original.]

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

Light airs from the E. At Single Anchor in Valetta. Ships draft abaft 22 $\frac{1}{2}$  Inches & forward 21 $\frac{1}{2}$  Inches — Rec'd 22 gang casks of water by the cutter. At 6 P. M. Weighed and warped out of the Harbour — Warping out till 9 P. M. when a light breeze sprang up off shore — In boats & made sail to the Eastward of Malta — Rec'd in Malta Robert Corbett belonging to the U. S. Schooner *Nautilus* & Emanuel Peterson who also belonged to her; the latter was brought on board as a deserter. Wind light & Variable between S E & S W during the night — Tacked as necessary in Order to work round the S E part of Malta — At day light we were 4 leagues E b S from Valette — Ships company from day light till 7 A. M. scrubbing their cloathes. At 6 A. M. a dead calm which continued till 9 when a breeze sprang up from E S E — Set the larboard stud<sup>s</sup> sails and steered S W



in order to pass the S E end of Malta which bore W. S. W — 4 leagues—  
The wind had shifted by 11 A. M. to S S E — In studd<sup>e</sup> sails—  
Employed clearing up the Decks, clean<sup>e</sup> Ship & stowing the anchors—  
Consul OBrien still remains on board — When in Malta this last  
time we opened the scuttles in the Gun room & those of the Warrant  
Officers store rooms forward — They are all well lined with thick  
cloth —

Noon Moderate breezes from S b E and pleasant weather — We  
are S E ½ E 4 leagues from the S E part of Malta

Left in Malta the *Syren* refitting for a cruize off Tripoly.

Latitude Obs<sup>d</sup> 35° 39' N.

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

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Extract from journal of William Eaton, U. S. Navy Agent for the Barbary Regencies,  
from 9 June to 26 June 1804

9. Arrived at Norfolk; crossed by packet to Hampton — Took  
lodgings at Jone's tavern, kept by Cheeseman — Found the *Congress*  
in the roads — She arrived the day preceeding —

11. The *Constellation* left the Eastern Branch.

13. The *President* arrived in Hampton roads.

14. The *Essex* arrived —

15. The *John Adams* —

21. The *Constellation* —

26. The *John Adams* went to sea —

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

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To Captain Samuel Barron, U. S. Navy, Hampton, Va., from Captain Hugh G.  
Campbell, U. S. Navy

*Constellation*, EASTERN BRANCH.

June 10<sup>th</sup> 1804 —

SIR We have as yet but one Cable on board, a second is promised  
on Wednesday, which will Enable me to leave the Branch Immediately  
after as all the tradesmen will be clear of the ship by that time — Hall  
is up from the *Essex*, he left that ship at Maryland point the day before  
yesterday — I am Sir. With Much Esteem

[Mrs. James S. Barron Col.]

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To James Leander Cathcart, Leghorn, from Secretary of State

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

June 10<sup>th</sup> 1804.

SIR. The latest letters I have received from you are those of the  
18, 21, & 27 March. I had before received several copies of your  
accounts, which are now in the Treasury Department in a course of  
investigation and settlement.

By Commodore Barron who is proceeding to the Mediterranean,  
with five additional Frigates, one of which is armed *en flute*; I take occa-  
sion to mention, that if after receiving my last letter, which permitted  
you to return to the United States, as soon as your convenience might  
require, you should have continued with Commodore Preble's Squad-  
ron, your conduct is approved by the President; but if after the arrival  
of the new Commodore, as there will be several Gentlemen under his

Command, who have some acquaintance with Barbary Affairs, and there will be less inducement to the abandonment of your wishes; your stay in the Mediterranean will recur to the footing pointed out in my letter above referred to. Enclosed is a copy of the act of Congress for raising a revenue & making appropriation for defraying the expense of the war with Tripoli.

[NA. SDA. Despatches to Consuls, Oct. 1800-Feb. 1817.]

To Alexander, Count de Worontzow (or Worontzoff), Lord Chancellor of Russia,  
from Secretary of State

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

June 10<sup>th</sup> 1804.

The COUNT WORONTZOW.

*Lord Chancellor of the Empire of Russia.*

SIR. The President of the United States has received from their Consul at S<sup>t</sup> Petersburg, the information communicated by your Excellency on the 25<sup>th</sup> of January last, that his Imperial Majesty would employ his good offices, with the Turkish Government, for the restoration of an American Frigate with her Crew, which having foundered near Tripoli fell into the hands of its Bashaw.

This friendly interposition is received, Sir, by the President with all the sensibility which it is calculated to inspire. Altho' the measures taken by the Gov<sup>t</sup> of the United States, in consequence of the accident at Triopli, and which will be followed up with the requisite vigor, promise to repair the loss, and to bring the Bashaw to proper terms of peace, yet it is a circumstance as flattering in itself, as it must be favorable in its effects to find in so illustrious and powerful a sovereign, so distinguished a mark of attention to the interests of the U: States. The President sees in it a ray of that luminous benevolence which shines in the character of his Imperial Majesty, and which emanating from the best feelings of the heart gives the brightest ornament to the attributes of his high s[t]ation. The generous instruction given to his Ambassador at Constantinople, excites in this view the less surprize, but it is for the same reason stamped with the purer value. I am charged by the President to convey to you these sentiments with a request that his Imperial Majesty may accept them as an expression at once of the President's exalted esteem, and as an acknowledgment on the part of the U: States for the particular act of kindness, which his Majesty has been pleased to exercise. The assurances which your Excellen[cy] has added of the friendly interest which his Imperial Majesty will continue to take in what concerns the United States, are Sir, fully appreciated by the President, and afford the greater satisfaction as they correspond with the disposition which his Imperial Majesty, will always witness in the United States, to cultivate good will, and the interchange of good offices with other nations, and especially with one, whose Sovereign merits them by his honorable & beneficent example. It only remains to thank your Excellency for the politeness and patronage experienced on this occasion by the Consul of the United States, and to tender to you the distinguished respect & consideration, which your celebrated merits demand, and with which I have the honor to be &°

[NA. SDA. Despatches to Consuls, Oct. 1800-Feb. 1817.]

Extract from Diary of Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, Commodore of U. S. Squadron in the Mediterranean, Sunday 10 June 1804

Moderate Breezes from the S W, standing to the westward by the wind, spoke a Greek ship from the Levant for Malta, at  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 7 P. M the S E point of Malta Bore N N E 7 leagues & the S W, point N  $\frac{1}{2}$  W 6 leagues, Wind S E, steered S W B S for Tripoly, ordered Lieu<sup>t</sup> Tarbell to his duty in consequence of the Solicitations of his Brother Officers of the Wardroom, at 10 A M mustered all hands at quarters and had an account taken of all the Cloathing Belonging to the ships Crew, — at noon the S E end of Malta Bore S B W, 123 miles distant, — Latitude Observed  $35^{\circ} 3' N^{\circ}$

[LC. EPP, Diary, 1803-1804.]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from James Leander Cathcart, Leghorn

LEGHORN June 11<sup>th</sup> 1804.

D<sup>r</sup> SIR. I receiv'd your receipt for the cloathing deliver'd to you by M<sup>r</sup> Matthew in due season, & your letter of the 15<sup>th</sup> of May was deliver'd to me by M<sup>r</sup> Frederick Degen of Naples on the 2<sup>d</sup> ins<sup>nt</sup>. I am extremely sorry that they dont seem to breath the same sentiments relative to my exertions in favor of the prisoners at Tripoli that your former letters did, & that you look upon the dictates of humanity as a mercantile speculation, but dont wonder at it in the least when I consider that you are treating with an American Consul who has been some time in the mediterranean; that honorable title has unfortunately devolved upon characters who with their Vice's, Navy Agents, & their Agents, has (with some few exceptions) furnish'd the Agents of other nations with a comparative term of reproach; I have pursued a different line of conduct & have represented many facts relative to them to government which I will substantiate on my arrival in the United States, the only visible effect that the[y] have had, is the honor of their implacable enmity which I shall endeavor to perpetuate; the papers herewith enclosed is sufficient document to prove that I have reap'd no benefit from those exertions, on the contrary much trouble & anxiety; I proposed to myself the pleasure of my fellow Citizens approbation as a sufficient indemnity for my trouble but as I am deprived of that satisfaction I am determined to sustain no loss, & have charged those articles to government, trusting to their equity for my re-imbursment; I presume the[y] are cheaper than any other person would procure them, for the[y] were mostly cut out in my house and M<sup>rs</sup> Cathcart inspected their making in order to economize, I therefore conclude that if the prisoners do not want them, that the Pursers of the Squadron will find it to their advantage to purchase them, the Sailors cloathing are valued in Spanish dollars the whole of the account is translated & a copy is herewith enclosed with the corresponding vouchers consequently they will only have to debit themselves for the amm<sup>t</sup> & forward the Secretary of State a bill of exchange, or order upon the Navy Department for the sum of \$4331.7/100 the cost & charges of the goods in question; I am extremely sorry I have put myself to such trouble & expence to serve people who seems so insensible of it. —

The two thousand dollars I deposited in the hands of M<sup>r</sup> Degen at Naples, subject to your order was likewise intended for the use of the prisoners at Tripoli of which I duly inform'd you by post, & by M<sup>r</sup>

Robert Spence, after receiving your letter of the 18<sup>th</sup> of March & perusing the one you wrote to M<sup>r</sup> Mathieu of the 19<sup>th</sup> it was impossible that I should expect you at Naples before you touch'd at Malta Syracuse or Messina where I directed my letters, had I the most distant idea that you would have arrived in ten days after my departure I undoubtedly would have done myself the pleasure of waiting for you although I could have render'd you no further service than what I have done already.

M<sup>r</sup> O'Brien's being with you by M<sup>r</sup> Lear's appointment & M<sup>r</sup> Davis being confirm'd in the Consulate by government does not alter my opinion of them, any more than it will tend to prove them honest men; I regret you have such iniquitous associates.

Major Barnes call'd at my house the other evening & inform'd me that Fred<sup>d</sup> Degen since he has been here has made a point to publish in company that it was entirely owing to his influence that you procured what you wanted at Naples, this induces me to forward you copys of my last note to General Acton & his answer with their translations which will prove M<sup>r</sup> Degen's assertion to be false, for I transacted my business without his assistance; & you may depend Sir that orders were forwarded to Messina to give you whatever you wanted before I left Naples, though General Acton regreted that you had not come to Naples, with the ship, as he prefer'd your taking the Artillery and ammunition from that place, as you are already inform'd by the copy of his letter to me of the 27<sup>th</sup> of March. —

By letters from Marseilles I am inform'd that Mon<sup>s</sup> Beaussier Commercial Agent of France at Tripoli has wrote under date of the 1<sup>st</sup> of April, that he has receiv'd instructions from his government to intercede with the Bashaw of Tripoli to procure a peace for the United States, & that in consequence thereof the Bashaw has lower'd his extravagant demand to the moderate sum of \$500,000 & that it is hoped that he will still abate something more; this is thought by some of our fellow Citizens to be a very favorable circumstance; I am of a different opinion & dont hesitate to assert that suing for the intercession of any nation with the States of Barbary is unwise bad policy, & degrading; but as I have deliver'd my sentiments on this subject already I shall forbear repetition. To pay 500,000 or even the third part of it to Tripoli by the mediation of France when (on the arrival of the three Frigates you daily expect) you will have so respectable a force under your command, would most undoubtedly stimulate the Chiefs of the other States to declare war against us: I hope a more honorable termination of the War; so far we have exactly co-incided in opinion, & I most sincerely hope that we may not differ in the last & most essential act. —

We have no direct conveyance to the United States from this port & my family will be increased the latter end of Sept<sup>r</sup>; if I can't get a conveyance in all this month I will not be able to leave Leghorn until November I shall probably be obliged to redraw for part of the two thous<sup>d</sup> doll<sup>s</sup> which I left at Naples subject to your order, to serve my culinary purposes; if I do, you shall be duly inform'd of it, I regret very much that none of our public vessels are going home soon as it would be an amazing accomodation to me, besides the economy attending the thing is of some moment in the present state of my private affairs. —

You have not acknowledged the receipt of any of my letters since the one enclosing the plan of the Gunboat; ? have you receiv'd the plan of a mortar boat with my communications of feb<sup>y</sup> 19<sup>th</sup> & March the 5<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> as well as those by M<sup>r</sup> Spence. —

While I remain in Europe I should be happy in hearing of your success, & I request you to command me without reserve in every thing that my services can be of use to you or the public —

[LC. EPP, Vol. 11, April-June 1804.]

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

[Blockading off Tripoli.]

At Meridian fine pleasant W<sup>r</sup> *Scourge Vixen* and *Enterprize* in Company

[NDA photostat.]

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[12 June 1804]

To Captain Samuel Barron, U. S. Navy, from Captain John Rodgers, U. S. Navy

SIR Not understanding your Signal I have sent a Boat to know what you wish to communicate

JUNE 12<sup>th</sup> 1804

[Mrs. James S. Barron Col.]

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

UNITED STATES SHIP *Constitution*  
Off Tripoly June 12<sup>th</sup> 1804.

His Excellency SIDI MUHAMMED DGHIES

*Prime Minister to His Excell<sup>y</sup> the Bashaw of Tripoly.*

SIR I beg leave to recommend to you M<sup>r</sup> OBrien the bearer of this letter who is authorized by me to treat for the ransom of the American Prisoners at Tripoly and whatever he may do I will ratify and confirm. I wish permission to send clothing and stores on shore for Captain Bainbridge and his Officers and Crew, and if you wish me to send the prisoner taken in the *Philadelphia* on shore, it shall be done, if you promise to return me an American seaman in exchange or send the same man back again. I would freely give him to you, but my orders from my Government does not permit it.

I beg you to accept my best thanks for your friendly attention to Captain Bainbridge and have the honor to be

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

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To Captain William Bainbridge, U. S. Navy, from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

UNITED STATES SHIP *Constitution*  
Off Tripoly. June 12<sup>th</sup> 1804

DEAR SIR, I am honored with your letters of the 27<sup>th</sup> — 29th March, the first enclosing a copy of your Note to the Minister of the Bashaw and the latter a triplicate of yours of 16th of February respecting the four Men taken on board in Gibraltar Bay — also your two letters of

the 20th Ult<sup>o</sup> — M<sup>r</sup> Pulis' account which you mention to have enclosed, I have not received — I wish you would send it by M<sup>r</sup> OBrien as I presume it was left out by Mistake —

The four Men rec<sup>d</sup> on board at Gibraltar are to be clothed &c<sup>t</sup> the same as the rest of the Crew — I regret that I was not permitted to send the clothing for the People and Stores for yourself and Officers on shore when I was off here last — I have on hand a large supply prepared for you, and shall send on shore as soon as permission is obtained —

I expected when I last left here to have returned to this Station sooner but my absence has been necessary — I send this by M<sup>r</sup> OBrien who has letters in charge for you and your Officers The *Congress* Captain J. B[arron] *Essex* which is to be brought out for Captain C. S[tewart] of the *Syren*, and the *John Adams* Chancy, are on their way to join our Squadron — The *President* Captain S. B[arron] and two others are to compose a separate Squadron without the Mediterranean to rendezvous at Gibraltar.

If your Officers wish to be provided with clothing I will send them a suit or two each, as may be most agreeable to them and as many shirts as they choose — Write me by M<sup>r</sup> OBrien and send me a memorandum of all you want that I can provide you with, and it shall be sent on shore if he obtains permission for that purpose.

The Emperor of Russia has interested himself warmly with the Ottoman Court in your favour — Bounaparte is declared Emperor of France, and King of Navarre and Italy. I have not any News Papers to send you, nor nay news from home.

I hope M<sup>r</sup> OBrien will be permitted to see you, Adieu for the present and believe me with real esteem

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

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

Copy

UNITED STATES SHIP *Constitution*  
Off Tripoly 12th June 1804.

SIR, I am hon<sup>d</sup> with your letters of the 28<sup>th</sup> March and 24<sup>th</sup> of May, which were received but a few days since, otherwise, I should have replied to them sooner.

I shall immediately send copies of them to my Governm<sup>t</sup> and to our Minister at Paris, in order that they may be acquainted that the intervention of the First Consul, through the Charge d'Affairs of the French Republic at Tripoly, is not likely to have the effect which (I believe) they might have expected. I cannot but suppose the First Consul will feel somewhat mortified that through his influence you have not been able even to obtain permission to land the necessary clothing & Stores which the American Prisoners are suffering for want of. It is probable the First Consul expected his mediation would have had more weight with the Bashaw of Tripoly than it appears to have had.

I have no objection to sending the Prisoner on shore who was taken in the *Philadelphia*, provided they will send me an American Seaman in exchange.

The Bashaw's pretensions to the enormous sum you mention, is, on his part, a vain one; nor will he ever obtain a tenth part of it for the ransom. The negotiation for ransom and Peace must be separate, as we will not pay one dollar for Peace.

I now again inform you, that neither M<sup>r</sup> Schimbri nor the English pro-consul had any authority from me to make any Negotiation whatever, or any way interfere in the affairs of the United States at Tripoly, and I am astonished at their assurance.

I am authorized to ransom our Prisoners, and to make peace, when it can be done on terms consistant with the honor and dignity of the United States; and the stipulated sum for ransom will be paid in cash immediately on the release of the Prisoners.

M<sup>r</sup> OBrien will deliver you this. That Gentleman is authorized to make an offer to the Bashaw; any assistance you can render him in any negotiation with the Bashaw, I shall consider myself under obligations to you for. The blockade must continue while the negotiation is going on, and for ever after, until a treaty of Peace is signed between the two Nations. Any treaty of Peace must be subject to the final satisfaction of the President of the United States.

I have clothing and stores on board for the Prisoners, and wish permission may be obtained to land them.

It will always afford me pleasure to see you on board.

M<sup>r</sup> OBrien will make known the terms I have authorized him to offer for the ransom of the Prisoners, and will consult you previous to making it.

I feel extremely obliged to you, for your friendly Offices towards Captain Bainbridge his Officers and Crew, and beg you to accept my warmest thanks.

{Stephen Decatur Col.}

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

This day begins with Moderate breezes and fine pleasant Weather Tacked and Wore Ship and Set and took in Sail frequently, as Occasion required at Sundown Tripoli bore South 6. or 7 miles at —

Midnight Tacked to the Southw<sup>d</sup> and Westward sounded in 8 fath<sup>m</sup> Bottom fine Yellow Sand at Suf[n]rise Tripoli bore South the *Scourge Vixen* and *Enterprize* in Sight at 11 saw a Strange sail bearing ENE made sail in Chace At Meridian D<sup>o</sup> Weather

[NDA photostat.]

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

At 9 hoisted out the boats At 10 weigh'd & made sail, plying out of the harbour [of Malta]. At ½ past 11 came too in 5 fathoms, the weather calm At meridian sent out a warp & brought too, light airs & warm, Came on board M<sup>r</sup> Jn<sup>o</sup> Pettegrew Midshipman (with an intention to join the *Argus*) & 8 men belonging to the *Argus*, which having been sent in a Ketch Prize to the *Argus*.

N. B. Those remarks include 12 hours.

[NDA.]

182 NAVAL OPERATIONS, APRIL-SEPTEMBER 6, 1804

To John Chalmers, Navy Yard, Washington, D. C., from Charles W. Goldsborough,  
for Secretary of the Navy

NAV. DEP<sup>t</sup> 13 June 1804

I am informed that the frigate *Constellation* is now waiting for her cables — for want of them the whole Squadron will be detained as it is not intended that the other Ships shall sail until the *Constellation* Joins them —

You will hence perceive the necessity of preparing the Cables with all Practicable expedition — I know when I announce the Circumstance to the Secretary that it will give him Great Concern —

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

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

U. S. SHIP *John Adams*  
Hampton Roads 13<sup>th</sup> June 1804

SIR I have the Pleasure of informing you that about an Hour since I let go my Anchor in this Place, where I found the *President* and *Congress* the *Essex* will be in this Afternoon — I passed her this Morning at Anchor about fifteen Miles from this Place waiting for the flood Tide to make.

I shall proceed to Norfolk as soon as the Ship is moored, where I hope to compleat my Business by tomorrow, and be ready to proceed agreeable to your Orders the first fair Wind.

[NDA. MC LB, 1804-5.]

To Benjamin King, Navy Yard, Washington, D. C., from Captain John Rodgers,  
U. S. Navy

U. S. FRIGATE *Congress*  
Hampton R. June 13<sup>th</sup> 1804

SIR I have sent you back the rings you sent for the *Congress*<sup>s</sup> conductors, and the Spires you sent with them are but little better; altho necessity has forced me to keep them. You decieved me in every promise you made, and in almost every peice of Work you did for the Ship; however be assured you have more particularly decieved yourself. —

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

[13 June 1804]

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

REPORT OF THE PROCEEDINGS, OCCURRENCES &<sup>s</sup> OF THE U. S. BRIG.  
*Siren*

SIR Pursuant to your order of the 22<sup>d</sup> April we sailed at 8 A. M. the Ships *Woodrop Simms* and *Madona Catapoliane* in company — the Wind Setting in prevented the prize from getting out and I accordingly proceeded with the *Woodrop Simms* for Malta which place we arrived at the 23<sup>d</sup> A severe gale from the N. E. prevented my leaving Malta untill the 26<sup>th</sup> following, when we sailed to join the blockade off Tripoli — On the 28<sup>th</sup> we met with the Brig *Argus* and Schooner *Vixen*, the *Enterprize* not having arrived I directed Lieut<sup>t</sup> Comm<sup>d</sup> Hull to take the Western Station with that Schooner when she joined;



the *Vixen* I kept in Company with me — The next day discovering a small sail running to the Westward along shore, we stood in and compelled her to take Shelter under the two Batteries, thrown up on point Gargash, 4 miles to the Westward of Tripoli; a few shot were exchanged with the Batteries at a great range, without producing any effect — The 2<sup>d</sup> May at night we were separated from the *Vixen* and driven as far as Lapadossa by a violent gale from S. E. which continued without intermission until the 9<sup>th</sup> when it abated, and we regained our Station — the 11<sup>th</sup>, which day the Sch<sup>r</sup> *Enterprise* & Brig *Scourge* joined the Blockade; The 13<sup>th</sup> Standing toward the town of Tripoli with all our force, drew from their Batteries, Gun Boats and Bashaw's Castle a heavy and incessant fire for about 15 Minutes without however doing any damage to the vessels but I have since understood that one of their heavy Cannon bursted and that they sustained some other damage —

On the 15<sup>th</sup> we boarded a Ketch under Spanish Colours from Tunis bound to Tripoli; she having Consul Davis's passport and nothing onboard but what was specified in it I permitted her after a thorough examination to go in, she had also been overhauled by the *Argus* and *Enterprise* —

On the 4<sup>th</sup> June we left the Station, having only 6 days wood water &<sup>r</sup> onboard — We took Old Tripoli in our Rout, thinking it probable something was there On the 6<sup>th</sup> we chased two Galleys; and got nearly within gunshot of them after a laborious days work at the Sweeps favored by a light breeze, which dying away at 8 P. M., they made their escape — On the 8<sup>th</sup> we [MS mutilated]

P: S: The *Vixen* left the Station on the 14<sup>th</sup> of May for Malta to replenish her Stores — returned on the 28<sup>th</sup> to the Station

The *Enterprise* left the Station for Syracuse on the 26<sup>th</sup> May —

Commodore EDW<sup>d</sup> PREBLE

13<sup>th</sup> June 1804

[LC. EPP, Vol. 11, April-June 1804.]

To Richard O'Brien, Tripoli, from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

Copy

UNITED STATES SHIP *Constitution*

Off Tripoly June 13<sup>th</sup> 1804

SIR, It is my request that you go on shore at Tripoly, for the purpose of endeavouring to negotiate for the ransom of the American Prisoners in that place.

You are hereby fully authorized, to offer the Bashaw forty thousand dollars for the ransom of Capt Bainbridge and the Officers & crew of the late frigate *Philadelphia*; and ten thousand dollars to the Prime Minister for himself & the public officers who forward our views, and assist in the negotiation. The whole shall be in Cash as soon as the negotiation is finished, and the Prisoners delivered; and if the Bashaw inclines to have peace, I will in behalf of the United States, enter into a treaty with him; but I cannot pay one cent for Peace. I will, however, stipulate to give him a Consular Present of ten thousand dollars, on the receipt of the first Consul appointed; but should the Consul be renewed within ten years, no present is to be given as a Consular Present until after the expiration of that time.

Endeavour to see Captain Bainbridge, and to procure permission to land clothing and provisions for him & his Officers. The Tripoline captured in the *Philadelphia*, I will send on shore, if the Bashaw will pass his word to send me off an American Prisoner in exchange for him.

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

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

TRIPOLY OF BARBARY  
*the 24 Prairial Year 12. — 13 June 1804.*

The Chargé D'Affaires of the French Republic and General Commercial Agent near the Pacha to Commodore Preble Commanding the Naval forces of the United States of America in the Mediterranean.

SIR. This day and at this moment of  $\frac{1}{2}$  past twelve I recive the honor of your letter of yesterday in reply to mine of the 28 March & 24 May last, I have myself a considerable ago forwarded Copies of the first to my Government.

You acquaint me that the mediation of the first Consul through my Channel will not probably be attended, with the effect which Your Government looked for, that the first Consul will be somewhat mortified to observe that his influence has not been able to obtain even the permission to land the Necessaries for the American Prisoners and that the first Consul possibly expect that his interference would have greater weight with the Pacha — I have fulfilled with all the Gile and intelligence of which I was capable th[e] Commission that had been confided to me — I have not Committed the name of the first Consul, nor the Dignity of my Government as you appear to believe — It is yourself Commodore who in rigor could be accused of this by the offer truly ridiculous and offensive abruptly made after an absence of two Months and a half, which breaks off all Conference and negotiation that could only be renewed with difficulty —

What must be my surprise to learn that at the moment M<sup>r</sup> OBrien ought to have conferred with me before making the proposal you had authorised him to do, he directly acquits himself of his Commission at the Castle without waiting that I found the means to speak with him And that upon the answer made him by the Prince and his Minister he took his leave and returned on board your frigate after having however obtained the faculty, which you had three months past, to land the Necessaries for the Prisoners in a Neutral Bottom — I confess to You Commodore that it was not decent my soliciting the good Offices of the first Consul when the intention was to propose so insignificant a Sum as 40,000 Dollars for the Ransom of 300 Prisoners and the conclusion of Peace — France in interposing in this Affair [had the] right to expect to be seconded by the two Parties, I had disposed the Regency to listen to reasonable terms of Peace and to soften the fate of the Prisoners which daily receives alleviation — This was my Mission, but the Pacha naturally felt himself offended at an offer, worse than that made by Commodore Morris at an Epoch when none of your Countrymen were deprived of their liberty. Without doubt you are not ignorant Commodore that the Ransom of a single Cabbin-boy is four to five hundred Dollars and that M<sup>r</sup> Cathcart proposed three Years ago at the time of the Declaration of

War the same Sum of 40,000 only to suspend hostilities for ten Months.  
Accept Commodore the assurances of my high Consideration &ca

P S. the 14 June. I flattered myself to have been able to send you yesterday or this day my Answer, but it appears you have also given up the intention of landing the Cloathing for the Prisoners since you left the Road this morning without making the Signal agreed upon and to which the Pacha is always ready to reply — I therefore give Course to this letter by the way of Tunis addressed to you at Malta —

Malta the 20 July 1804

A True Copy translation W<sup>m</sup> Higgens

[LC. EPP, Vol. 11, April–June 1804.]

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Extract from journal of U. S. Brig *Argus*, Master Commandant Isaac Hull, U. S. Navy, commanding, Wednesday, 13 June 1804

Cruizing on and off Tripoli This day begins with fresh breezes & Clear Weather still in Chace of the strange sail at 1 Tacked to the N<sup>o</sup> at 2 shortened sail and hove too alongside the U. S. frigate *Constitution* Commod<sup>e</sup> Preble — the Commod<sup>e</sup> made the Sig<sup>l</sup> N<sup>o</sup> 995 Cap<sup>t</sup> Hull went on board at  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 4 the Commod<sup>e</sup> made the Sig<sup>l</sup> N<sup>o</sup> 571 filled away standing in for the town of Tripoli with the Squadron in Comp<sup>y</sup> at 8 Cap<sup>t</sup> Hull returned at 7 AM Squadron in Comp<sup>y</sup> the Commod<sup>e</sup> fired a Gun & hoisted a flag o Truice which the Squad<sup>e</sup> also, did at  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 8 the Commod<sup>e</sup> came too about 5 miles off Tripoli and sent his boat on Shore at 11 stand<sup>e</sup> on and off under easy sail. Variously Emp<sup>d</sup>

[NDA photostat.]

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Extract from log book of U. S. Brig *Argus*, 18 Guns, kept by Sailing Master Samuel B. Brooke, U. S. Navy, Master Commandant Isaac Hull, U. S. Navy, commanding, Wednesday, 13 June 1804

At 6 standing in for Tripoli in C<sup>o</sup> with the Squadron hoisted a flag of Truice  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 8 the Commodore Came too about 5 miles from the town at  $\frac{1}{2}$  past his boat went on Shore at 11 let a reef out of the topsails standing off and on under easy sail At meridian pleasant Tripoli bore South,

Lat<sup>e</sup> Obs<sup>d</sup> 33° 00' N.

[LC. EPP, *Argus*, 1804.]

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Extract from Memorandum Book of Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, 13 June 1804

Sent Mr. Obrian on shore at Tripoly under a Flag. He returned same day.

[LC original.]

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Extract from Diary of Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, Commodore of U. S. Squadron in the Mediterranean, Wednesday, 13 June 1804

Fresh Breezes from the E S E, — at 1 the *Scourge* made the Private signal for American Vessels of War, — at 2 P M the *Argus*, *Vicen*, *Enterprize* and *Scourge* Joined company, made the Signal for all Captains, — at 3 P M Bore up for the Town of Tripoli then in sight bearing S W B W 4 leagues, made the Signal to the Squadron to follow

my motions, — at  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 4 P M, wore ship & stood off shore the Town then bearing S<sup>o</sup> 3 miles distance, 17 fathoms water saw an armed Brig & Schooner and 17 Gun Boats at anchor inside the Reef, sent the *Argus* & *Enterprize* to the Westward & the *Vixen* & *Scourge* to the Eastward to look out, & lay too off the Town all night, — at 4 A M stood in for the Town, and at 9 A M Fired a Gun and hoisted a White flag at the Fore top Gall<sup>t</sup> mast head, with our colours in their places, which was answered by the Bashaw with a White Flag at the Castle & a gun, — at 10 A M Anchored with the Small Bower in 24 Fathoms water, the Town of Tripoli bearing by compass S S W distant 4 miles, at noon I sent Mr Obrian on shore in the Barge, with Lieutenant Gordon as Officer of the Boat, — I instructed Mr Obrian to endeavour to procure permission to land some cloathing, Stores & Cash for the use of Cap<sup>t</sup> Bainbridge and his Officers & Crew, — and to Offer the Bashaw & his Officers fifty thousand dollars for their Ransom, and to release all the Tripolines in our possession, and also agreed to establish Peace and give 10,000 dollars as a present with the first Consul that is appointed if the Bashaw would accept of the 50,000 dollars for the Ransom of the Prisoners We have been engaged in watering & provisioning the *Vixen* & *Scourge* all this morning, — at noon wind E S E, fresh Breezes and a considerably heavy sea, —

[LC. EPP, Diary, 1803-1804.]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from Captain William Bainbridge, U. S. Navy

TRIPOLY BARBARY 14<sup>th</sup> June 1804

DEAR SIR, I was much disappointed in not receiving a line from you yesterday when the Boat came on Shore — the pleasure that your letters always affords us added to the anxiety to hear from you on general Subjects — Altho' I was disappointed, I rest assured on your friendship and on your every exertion to relieve us from our unfortunate situation —

The letters that I received yesterday were five from America, but of an old date. One from Consul Kirkpatrick, One from Consul Montgomery, with two copies of Col<sup>o</sup> Lear's letters of December and February — and a Copy of a letter from the Honb<sup>l</sup> C. Pinckney at Madrid to Col<sup>o</sup> Lear — this last copy reached me without any intimation accompanying it — I have wrote you Eight or ten letters since the 26<sup>th</sup> March; As I have not the Satisfaction to know when my letters leave this place, I cannot calculate the probable time of their reaching you — My Several letters informs you of the want of cloathing for our Seamen — They have lately been moved to a more spacious and better prison than they heretofore occupied — Indeed this [or their] change has been a very advantageous one, and that of the Officers on the first of March much for the Worse — and we feel it every day more forcibly on account of the increasing heat of the Weather —

I should have been extremely happy to have seen my friend Consul OBrien, but an unnecessary rigour prevented my having that pleasure Please to present my respects to him —

Signed W<sup>m</sup> BAINBRIDGE

P. S. I have no letters from you since the 27<sup>th</sup> March

*Secret Communication under same date. — [Written in lime juice.]*

DEAR SIR I have wrote you several letters in lime juice and gave my opinion respecting all Consuls in this place — No dependance can be put in any of them except the Danish who is a man of honor, and I do not believe the others are — Of the F. C. you need not expect any services against the interest of this place — Whoever negotiates should remain on shore, and take them in the time when they appear in the best humour — They have a frightful idea of Bombs in this place — In my former letters I have mentioned a probability of an Escape — Since writing them, a Vessel laying in the Harbour with a Boat out induced the attempt which was found and will be found impracticable from the Vigilance of the Guards on the Top of the Castle. The Officers were fortunate in making good their retreat —

I am extremely anxious to hear the determination of Government and what is the demand of the Bashaw — Place no confidence in M<sup>r</sup>Donough — It is his infamous behaviour, & the folly of Consul C. that we are indebted for this War with Tripoly —

I trust my dear Sir that you will endeavour to give us our letters from America: that, and hearing from you, is the only small consolation we can receive in our present situation —

May success crown all your undertakings prays Yours truly  
(Signed) W<sup>m</sup> B

[LC. EPP, LB, April–Nov. 1804.]

[14 June–5 July 1804]

To Secretary of the Navy from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

U. S. SHIP *Constitution*

*Off Tripoly June 14th 1804*

SIR I had the Honor to write you from Syracuse the 30th Ulto. & forwarded Triplicates which I have not failed to do of all my communications since I arrived in these seas but have no doubt that many miscarry — I have not been honored with a letter from you since the news of the loss of the *Philadelphia* reached America — The *John Adams* has been long anxiously expected; Your letter of the 9th February mentioned that she would be here by the last of April —

I have been Obliged to discharge 14 of the crew of the *Enterprize* who would not consent to remain longer, the remainder have volunteered their services in the Gun boats —

Yesterday I anchored off the Harbor, and sent M<sup>r</sup> O'Brian on shore under a flag of Truce to endeavour to ransom our unfortunate Countrymen, and, if the bashaw should desire it, to establish Peace — I thought Proper to make an attempt to ransom them previous to an attack, fearful that if we succeeded in destroying the Town and shipping that the Barbarians might commit some acts of inhumanity on their Prisoners — M<sup>r</sup> OBrien did not succeed in his Mission He landed at Noon and returned on board at  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 2 P. M. — You will see by his instructions how far he was authorized to go for the ransom — I presume if the terms had been accepted that our Government would have been Satisfied, but as they were refused we have no alternative but to oblige him to accept them or Others more favorable to us. I have however written to Cap<sup>t</sup> Bainbridge

and have authorized him to repeat the same Offer to the Bashaw with the addition of ten thousand dollars to the Prime minister to be secretly given him if he effects the ransom & peace; His influence at Court renders this Step necessary I do not expect that these terms, or indeed any reasonable ones will be acceptable to the Bashaw untill we make a general attack by Cannonading & Bombarding the Town — I am confident when that takes place that we shall soon have Peace on conditions that we may not blush to acknowledge —

When M<sup>r</sup> OBrian came from Algiers he brought me a letter from Col<sup>o</sup> Lear which advised me to Offer the Bashaw 600 Dollars ransom for each of the Officers & Crew of the *Philadelphia*, provided he would make peace without any money or annual stipulation and without a Consular present, excepting with the first Consul appointed by the President — I am confident was I to make the Offer it would be accepted immediately, but it would be imprudent to offer a sum which would stimulate the avarice of the other Barbary Powers —

M<sup>r</sup> OBrien while on shore was not allowed to see any of the Prisoners neither would the Bashaw permit him to see either of the Consuls or deliver letters except some for Cap<sup>t</sup> Bainbridge which were delivered to the Bashaw himself — He Promised to permit cloathing & provisions to be sent on shore for the prisoners but whilst we were putting them in the Boat he hauled down the white flag — This breach of promise is to be lamented as the Sailors are in great want; indeed they are almost naked.

The *Syren Argus*, *Enterprize Vixen* & *Scourge* are now in Sight: The Port is constantly kept closely blockaded, and (I think) the Bashaw will soon be sick of the War

TUNIS BAY. *June 20th.*

I left Tripoly the 16th Inst: blockaded by the *Syren*, *Vixen* & *Scourge* and came here with the *Argus* & *Enterprize* in Company You will see by M<sup>r</sup> Davis's letters that the Bey is not satisfied with us, and it is therefore necessary to keep a good look out in this Quarter, particularly as the Tripolines have a small Xebeck hauled up here — She is however stripped & disarmed & her crew gone home by land, in consequence of having been for some time blockaded by the *Enterprize* —

We have visited this bay several times lately, it is absolutely necessary frequently to shew a force before their Ports in order to check their Piratical disposition —

The Bey threatens, but I do not believe will make war against us if we succeed in punishing Tripoly, or if more force arrives — The Bey, among other things, complains of our cruizers having destroyed some Sandals or open boats attempting to enter Tripoly which he says were from Jerba in his Regency. It is true that boats have been driven on shore near Tripoly but as the People belonging to them immediately absconded to alarm the Troops stationed along the Coast, it is not possible for us to know where they were from, but it is evident we have a right to take or destroy them when succouring our Enemy.

The Tunisians have about 20 Cruizers at Sea: One Frigate of 36 Guns, and several smaller armed vessels are at Anchor in this Bay and ready to sail. When I was here last month I let M<sup>r</sup> Davis have \$4000. to pay a demand of the Bashaw's which the Secretary of

State authorized, but which M<sup>r</sup> Davis could not satisfy without borrowing that sum to make up what he was deficient. I shall call on Col<sup>l</sup> Lear to return me the money when Opportunity Offers —

June 22<sup>d</sup> Sent the *Enterprize* to Syracuse with Orders to have the Gun boats ready for sailing —

23<sup>d</sup> — Left Tunis Bay, & the 24th touched at Malta for intelligence and sailed the same day, & the 26th arrived at Syracuse where we found the *Enterprize* and the Six Gun boats — Whilst Off Tripoly we parted with most of our water and provisions to the *Syren Vixen* & *Scourge* to prevent the necessity of their leaving the Station; We are now replacing it — Recieved letters from Messina informing me that the bomb Vessels will be ready in a few days —

29th. The *Argus* having had her spars & rigging overhauled and taken on board as much provisions & water as she could conveniently carry, sailed again for Tripoly, but with orders to Touch at Malta & convoy over a small Vessel under Neutral Colors with provisions and cloathing for the Officers & Crew of the *Philadelphia* —

Having this day completed our stock of Water and taken on board 5 months provisions of all sorts, we sailed for Messina

June 30th — Arrived at Messina — The *Enterprize* in company We find here the *Nautilus* — Her repairs are completed and she will be ready for Sea in four days — One of the bomb Vessels is completed for Sea, and the other will be ready for Sea in a few days We shall take them under convoy for Tripoly, but we shall touch at Syracuse for the Gun boats to join us — The *Nautilus* has been almost wholly rebuilt and quite new coppered, her repairs will cost upwards of three thousand dollars

July 5th: We have taken on board here 700 bomb Shells and Powder in proportion and the bomb Vessels being ready we sail to-morrow Morning —

I hope my next letter will announce to you our success against Tripoly, the restoration of our unfortunate countrymen to the Sweets of Liberty, and our Country an honorable peace — Our Squadron is small but composed of young men whose anxiety to distinguish themselves gives me well founded hopes of Success — I regret that we have not another frigate or two here at this moment, but it will not do to delay time as we have only about Eight weeks more of this Year that Gun boats can remain out with safety in these Seas.

The Provisions that came out in the *Woodrop Sims* was delivered in excessive bad Order — Many of the Casks of Rice, Butter &<sup>re</sup> were without heads & some not half full — the Beef & Pork badly hooped & without Pickle. the Canvass was almost every bolt damaged and the twine wet & rotten, so much so indeed, as to render both useless for sails — The Damage has been occasioned by careless and bad Stowage in a leaky ship —

When I left Tripoly there was not one Vessel in Port except their cruisers — A French Vessel left it about 3 weeks since and was captured by the *Argus* & *Vixen* & sent to Malta, but as she was forced into Tripoly by a Tripoline Cruiser two years since, and has lately been given up in consequence of a demand from the french Government I ordered her immediate release —

The Imperial Russian Polacre *Madona Catapoliana*, captured by the *Syren* having left Smyrna for Tripoly previous to my Official declaration of the Blockade, although the Cap<sup>t</sup> acknowledges he

knew the place was blockaded by our ships left so much room for Litigation, and the Russian Minister at the Court of Naples having demanded her, the Vessel old and of little value and a fair opportunity offering, by giving her up, to pay a Compliment to the Russian flag, I concluded to do it as the Emperor has interested himself in our Tripolitan affairs as you will see by my dispatches —

A small brig belonging to Malta which was captured by the *Nautilus* the 16<sup>th</sup> February off Tripoly was Ordered home in charge of an Officer of that Vessel (M<sup>r</sup> Cox who had obtained permission to return home for his health) having met with bad weather and the Vessel being old and leaky, put into Malta, where she was claimed by the former Owners — They founded their Claim on her being in an English Port and not condemned; as she had been cleared for Jerba in Tunis, and the Vessel of little value in Order to prevent litigation and expence, we concluded to restore her to the former Owners for 300 Dollars, they resigning up the Cargo as Tripoline Property, and giving a full & complete indemnification against all future claims or damages —

The Papers of all the Vessels detained have been sent home by the Captors and consigned to Judge Peters of Philadelphia in order to obtain their condemnation — The Papers of the Brig *Transfer* captured by the *Syren* have been sent by L<sup>t</sup> Stewart to Philadelphia. I wrote you some time ago, that in consequence of the loss of the *Philadelphia*, and the necessity of repairing the *Enterprize* and *Nautilus*, I had in order more effectually to keep up the Blockade taken her into service after having her valued — No demand has or will be made of her as the Governor of Malta acknowledges her to be a good prize — I wish her Condemnation to be sent out as soon as she is condemned, and if Government do not wish to continue her in service she can be sold for more money here than she has been Valued at — I mentioned in a former letter that L<sup>t</sup> Dent was commanding the *Scourge* & that M<sup>r</sup> Wadsworth & M<sup>r</sup> Izard were Acting as Lieutenants & M<sup>r</sup> Morris as Master of her — Their conduct has been meritorious, & I hope in due time they may be confirmed —

The conduct of the Spaniards is rather hostile towards us — They have sent fourteen Ship Carpenters to Tripoly who have built, and still continue to build gun boats for the bashaw — These Carpenters, our Consular Agent at Tunis informs me went to Tripoly with the Passport of M<sup>r</sup> Pinckney our Minister at Madrid — If so, They must have deceived him — There wear the Spanish Cockade and are regularly paid every week by the Consul of that Nation —

P. S. I have made such arrangements, that I can supply the Squadron with any Quantity of Brandy at 75 cents p<sup>t</sup> Gallon which makes it unnecessary to send out any more Spirits

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

To Master Commandant Isaac Hull, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. Brig *Argus*,  
from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

U. S. S. *Constitution*  
Off Tripoly June 14<sup>th</sup> 1803 [1804].

SIR You will proceed off Old Tripoly and cruize four days and at the expiration of that time proceed to Malta and land such of the People captured in your prizes as wish to be landed there, the re-



mainder you will proceed to Syracuse with, after taking in, such supplies at Malta as you may stand in need of — You will wait at Syracuse my farther Orders

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

[14 June 1804]

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

SIR You will attend closely to the Blockade of Tripoly untill my return to this Station, the *Vixen & Scourge* will remain with you, the *Argus* is to go into Port to recruit her Stock of Provisions & Water & land her Prisoners but is first to proceed off Old Tripoly whither the *Vixen* is to accompany her & cruize three days, & then return to join you

The British Consul is to be allowed to land with his family & baggage when he appears off here in a ship of War

Signed EDWARD PREBLE

P. S. The *Enterprize* accompanies me to Tunis

U. S. Ship *Constitution*  
Off Tripoly June 14<sup>th</sup> 1804

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

To Lieutenant John H. Dent, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. Brig *Scourge*, from  
Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

U. S. SHIP *Constitution*  
Off Tripoly June 14<sup>th</sup> 1804.

SIR You will remain on the Station off Tripoly and attend to the Orders of the Commanding Officer and wait till farther Orders from me —

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

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

standing on and Off Tripoli at 4 the Commodores boat returned from Shore he hauled down the flag of Truce Observed by the Squadron Commodore made the Sig<sup>l</sup> N<sup>o</sup> 600, sent the launch on board the Commodore set and took in Sail as Occasion required At 8 Tripoli bore S b W distance 4 leagues tacked and wore Ship as Necessary At 9 Cap<sup>t</sup> Hull went on board the Commod<sup>o</sup> at 10 he returned —

[NDA photostat.]

Extract from Memorandum Book of Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, on board  
U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, 14 June 1804

Sailed for Tunis. *Argus* and *Enterprize* in company.

[LC original.]

Extract from Diary of Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, Commodore of U. S.  
Squadron in the Mediterranean, Thursday, 14 June 1804

Strong Breezes from the E S E, at Anchor N N E from the Town of Tripoly, — at ½ past 2 P M the Boat returned from the Shore,

Mr Obrian Reported that he was permitted to land, and had an audience of the Bashaw and his prime Minister, — when he made the Bashaw the Offer which he was authorized to make for the Ransom of our unfortunate Countrymen, and also propositions for peace, The Tyrant refused to accept of either on the principal of his right to expect more money, He also refused to allow Mr Obrian to see or speak to either of the Consuls or any of our Prisoners or to deliver any letters to them, but promised to continue the White Flag until night to give me an opportunity to land the Cloathing which I ordered immediately to be got ready for sending on shore, it was directly hoisted up on the gang way, but before we had time to put it into the Boat the white Flag was hauled down at the Bashaws Castle, this was about 48 minutes past 3 OClock PM, this circumstance precluded the possibility of sending a Boat on Shore and the Cloathing &c was returned to the store Rooms, — thus ended this attempt to release our countryman & restore peace, — We have now nothing to expect from the justice or humanity of the Tyrant of Tripoly but must endeavour to beat & distress his savage highness into a disposition more favourable to our views than what he at present possesses, — this Afternoon we gave the *Vixen* a hawser & rode her astern in order the more readily to compleate her supplies of water and provisions & Stores, — towards night several of the enemies gun Boats weighed & went into the inner Harbour, — We lay at Anchor all night, the *Vixen* & *Enterprize* was ordered to look out to the Westward and the *Argus* & *Scourge* to the Eastward, — in the morning they all joined company, continued to send supplies on board the Brigs and Schooners, made several signals to the different Vessels, — at ½ past 9 we weighed & brought to head to the Northward Wind W N W, — I wrote letters by Mr Obrian to the Prime minister, Captain Bainbridge the Danish & French Consuls, but they were all returned excepting the ministers & the French Consuls which were delivered to the minister at noon Tripoly bore S W B S 4 leagues distant, —

[LC. EPP, Diary, 1803-1804.]

Extract from log book kept by Sailing Master Nathaniel Haraden, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Thursday, 14 June 1804

Strong breezes from E S E. At Single Anchor four miles N b E ½ E from Tripoly — Squadron in company. Employed supplying the Squadron with Water and Provisions — At ½ past 2 the Boat returned from Tripoly — At 4 P. M. the white Flag was hauled down at Tripoly which was also done by the Squadron This afternoon we rode the *Vixen* by a Hawser in order to get on board all her water — The Sea however was so great that we could not complete it In this service we were assisted by the *Argus's* launch which in the evening we hoisted in along with our boats — Our large cutter is stove badly in her upper works —

Veered to fifty fathoms.

Towards the evening Several of the Enemy's Gun Boats which were moored within the Reef as a line of Defence weighed & ran into the Harbor —

The E S E wind continued strong till 2 A. M. when it came moderate Shortened in to 50 fath'

At Day light out two Boats for watering the *Vixen* and *Scourge* then in sight standing towards us

At 7 A. M. the *Vixen & Scourge* joined us — A strong current prevented them from keeping near the ship

At ½ past 9 weighed & brought to; ships head to N E.

At 2 P. M. made the *Scourge* Signal N<sup>o</sup> 995

At 4 “ *Argus's* Signal N<sup>o</sup> 600

At 5 “ *Enterprize* Signal 995

At 9 A. M. *Scourges* Signal N<sup>o</sup> 600

At 10 A. M. *Scourges* Signal 216

Moderate breezes from W N W all forenoon —

Employed in supplying the *Vixen & Scourge* with water and Provisions.

Noon the Town of Tripoly in sight bearing S W b S 4 leagues

Squadron in company

Latitude Observed 33° 00' N.

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

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

Circular,

U. STATES FRIGATE *President*

June 15<sup>th</sup> 1804

SIR It is requested by the Secretary of the Navy that you take in, not exceeding three months Water, including ground tier — and it is expected, if practicable, to take out Six months provisions —

It is likewise required that you report an opinion as to the Sails of your Ship, I mean as to the manner in which they have been made, whether perfectly suitable for Men of War or not —

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

To Benjamin King, Navy Yard, Washington, D. C., from Captain John Rodgers,  
U. S. Navy

U. STATES FRIGATE *Congress*

June 15<sup>th</sup> 1804 —

SIR Your conduct has been so Derogatory to the principles of truth & so particularly neglectful of the Work you had to do for the *Congress*, that I am determined to make a report of the same to the Govern<sup>t</sup> — A Man in your situation ought at least to be a Man of principle & truth; as by your want of Boath, I shall be forced to go to Sea, without many Articles which are of the Utmost Importance — You say you have sent the Pump Geer, which is every thing you had orders for —

In reply I ask if you have sent the Hoops for our lower mast Heads, Swifter Bolts [or Botts] for lower rigging, Train takle Bolts [or Botts] for upper & lower Deck, Bolts & Swivels for Cranes of quarter boats, Mizen Topgallant Studdingsail boom Irons, rungs for conductors and many other articles of less M[agnitude] which you promised faithfully to do, — It is your Interest to pray that my Head may be Knock'd off before I return, for be assured if you are not punished before that period I will revenge the Injury you have done me, with my own hands. —

The Injury you have done the Government by your want of Veracity is beyond my calculation at present.

The Work of all the Ships might have been done in season, provided you had Employ'd proper hands, your reason for Employing such creatures as you did, was very obvious to me —

I am with no more respect than is Due to Men of your principles &<sup>t</sup> &<sup>s</sup>

J. R.

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

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

U. S. SHIP *Constitution*  
Off Tripoly, June 15<sup>th</sup> 1804

SIR M<sup>r</sup> O'Brien informs me that the Tripolines keep their small schooner and a Galliot of four Guns constantly manned in order to sweep out with the Seventeen Gun boats and attack any one of our Brigs or schooners that may happen to be becalmed alone near the Coast: It will therefor be prudent for you to keep the *Vixen* constantly with you when you stand in near the town, that in case it should fall calm, you may be able to support each other: And you will keep the *Scourge* always at a prudent distance with out you, as I suspect the Tripolines intend to attack her the first time they discover her alone in a calm even if she should be at a considerable distance from the land, if none of the other Vessels of the Squadron should be near enough to support her — the *Scourge* being a dull sailer and not well provided with Sweeps She will require much of your attention.

You will see the propriety (now we are so near the time of Main Attack) of not hazarding too much for the Sake merely of destroying or cutting off a market or fish boat — The loss of any one of our vessels at this time would be attended with incalculable consequences to the Service — I have Ordered Cap<sup>t</sup> Smith to join you immediately and not to go to old Tripoly but shall look in there myself with the *Argus* & *Enterprise* —

P. S. Cap<sup>t</sup> OBrian had a private hint of their intentions when on shore from an old friend of his: he also informed him that the Brig has all her men, guns, Small arms & ammunition on board & can be got ready for Sea in four hours. — E. P.

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

To Master Commandant John Smith, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. Schooner *Vixen*,  
from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

U. S. SHIP *Constitution*  
Off Tripoly June 15<sup>th</sup> 1804

SIR In consequence of information which M<sup>r</sup> OBrian has given me that the Bashaw of Tripoly keeps his Schooner of eight guns & his Galliot of four Guns constantly manned & ready to sweep out with the 17 Gun boats, to attempt to board the first of our Brigs or Schooners that shall be becalmed alone near the coast in order to retrieve his character with respect to the loss of the *Philadelphia* I have thought proper to countermand your orders for proceeding off Old Tripoly, and to direct that you remain on this Station in company with the *Syren* & *Scourge*, and you will see the propriety of not approaching alone too near the Town, as should the Wind fail you, you must be

convinced that any spirited exertions on the part of the Enemy with their force would endanger the loss of Your Vessel, which would be attended with serious consequences to the Service, particularly at the present moment, when we are so near the time of a General Attack which I hope will deprive him of the Means of Annoyance —

Cap<sup>t</sup> OBrien recieved a private hint from an old friend at Tripoly of the intentions of the Tripolines —

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

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

BARBARY TRIPOLI 15<sup>th</sup> June 1804 —

DEAR SIR, I wrote you on the 4<sup>th</sup> inst. to which I refer for our present situation. Enclosed you will receive the following letters: for M<sup>r</sup> B. G. Harrison Esq, and Savage & Degen, which I will thank you to forward by the first safe conveyance — I have not heard from you since the 24<sup>th</sup> of April — I cannot acc<sup>t</sup> for this long delay — I hope that you will not let an opportunity escape you of writing, to me, for it seems that we are almost forgot by every one — No news from America — none from Algiers since the 24<sup>th</sup> feb<sup>r</sup> — None from the Commodore since the 27. of March, altho' he had a boat on shore at this place three days since, but I had not the pleasure of receiving a line from him.

I wrote to Col<sup>l</sup> Lear on the 4<sup>th</sup> inst. pray in your letters to him mention that I frequently write to him —

(Signed) W<sup>m</sup> BAINBRIDGE

*Sympathetic ink [Written in lime juice.]*

D<sup>r</sup> SIR, On the 13<sup>th</sup> inst. Com. P. sent a boat on shore at this place, Consul OBrien came in her remained on shore about 2. hours, I received no letters from the Commodore or any message and did not see OBrien — the Commod<sup>o</sup> might have written and the letter kept back — I have heard in a round about way that the Bashaw demanded one million. OBrien offered forty thous<sup>d</sup> they of course vary [vary] widely — the frigate left this yesterday without any further intercourse with the shore — God knows what the intention is I am entirely ignorant of the movements I am well convinced in my mind that whoever comes here to treat should obtain permission to remain on shore for several days and spend two or three of them with the Minister before he had an audience with the Bashaw.

The french has great influence here; but we never shall feel any salutary effect through their present representative in fact we have not been befriended by any Consul here except the Danish, he has the inclination but not the abilities — I heard that Emperor Bonaparte had interested himself in our situation — We most assuredly have not felt his influence for, or are kept more strict than Prisoner generally are in Barbary — Communicate this to Col. Lear & C. P. — a few shells here in this hour would have a good effect — let me hear from you soon — W. B.

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

Extract from journal of U. S. Brig *Argus*, Master Commandant Isaac Hull, U. S. Navy, commanding, Friday, 15 June 1804

Cruizing on and off Tripoli — at 1 P M the Commodore made the Sig<sup>l</sup> N<sup>o</sup> 276 made all sail in Chace she proved to be the U. S. Brig *Syren* the Comm<sup>o</sup> hoisted our Distinguishing flag made all sail towards him Capt<sup>n</sup> Hull went on board of him and returned at 8 P M —

[NDA photostat.]

Extract from Diary of Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, Commodore of U. S. Squadron in the Mediterranean, Friday, 15 June 1804

Light breezes from the N N W, laying to off Tripoly, the *Argus*, *Vixen* *Enterprize* & *Scourge* in company, — at 2 P M a sail discovered in the N N W made the *Argus* & *Enterprize* signals to Chase, — at 3 P M the *Enterprize* made the Signal that the chase is a friend, — at 4 the *Siren* joined us from Malta, at  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 6 calm and a strong Current setting to the S W made the signal for the Fleet to anchor came to in 20 fathoms sandy Bottom covered in spots with small Coral, Tripoly Bearing W B S distant 4 leagues, — the coast to the S b E of us about 3 miles distance, — Completed supplying the Squadron with Stores, — at 10 P M the *Argus* & *Vixen* weighed with a light Breeze from the Westward they are ordered to look into Old Tripoli the *Argus* then to proceed to Malta & Syracuse for Stores &c and the *Vixen* to return off Tripoly, — at 5 made the Signal to weigh weighed & stood to the W N W with the wind from the S W, — at  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 11 made a signal for Captains Smith & Hull gave them fresh orders the *Argus* to accompany me and the *Vixen* to remain on the station as I do not think it prudent to leave less than three Vessels off Tripoly to keep up the Blockade, — The *Enterprize* I have ordered to accompany me to Tunis, the critical situation of our affairs with that Regency requires that we shew a force in their Bay frequently to deter them from depra-dations on our commerce, — at noon fresh Breezes from the Northward, The *Siren*, *Argus*, *Vixen*, *Enterprize* & *Scourge* in sight, — Tripoly bearing S B E, 4 leagues distance took off the arrest from Mr Page and ordered him on board the *Vixen*

[LC. EPP, Diary, 1803-1804.]

Extract from journal of Midshipman F. Cornelius deKrafft, U. S. Navy, in U. S. Brig *Siren* of 18 guns, Master Commandant Charles Stewart, U. S. Navy, commanding, Friday, 15 June 1804

$\frac{1}{2}$  past Mer<sup>n</sup> discov'd the afore mention'd vessels to be part of our squadron. At 1 saw the land ahead. At  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 2 came up with the squadron, hove too & spoke the Commodore. L<sup>t</sup> Stewart went on board the Comm<sup>o</sup> fill'd away again. At 2 hove too again, the Comm<sup>o</sup> astern. At 5 handed top gall<sup>t</sup> sails, settled down the top-sails & came too with the stream anchor p<sup>t</sup> signal of the Comm<sup>o</sup> about 10 miles to the E<sup>d</sup> of Tripoli, the Comm<sup>o</sup> *Argus*, *Scourge* & *Vixen* all came too at the same time —

Midnight Calm. At 5 a signal from the Comm<sup>o</sup> to get under way.  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 5 weigh'd & made sail to the N E<sup>d</sup>.

Latt: Obs: 33° 4' N.

[NDA.]

Extract from journal of U. S. Brig *Argus*, Master Commandant Isaac Hull, U. S. Navy, commanding, Saturday, 16 June 1804

the Commodore and *Enterprise* in Company at 4 the Commodore made Sig<sup>l</sup> N<sup>o</sup> 1036 made all sail Tripoli E b S dist<sup>e</sup> about 5 Leag<sup>s</sup> At ½ past 4 Commodore made Sig<sup>l</sup> N<sup>o</sup> 605 in Studding sails and made all sail by the wind at 5 Commodore made Sig<sup>l</sup> N<sup>o</sup> 571

[NDA photostat.]

Extract from log book kept by Sailing Master Nathaniel Haraden, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Saturday, 16 June 1804

Light breezes from the North<sup>d</sup> cruising off Tripoly — Lieut<sup>s</sup> Hull & Decatur waited on the Commodore p<sup>r</sup> Signal At ½ past Meridian the wind shifted to E N E. At 1 P. M. we filled to the North<sup>d</sup> — At 2 bore up to W N W & W S W. in order to examine the coast to the West<sup>d</sup> — The *Argus* & *Enterprise* Signals were made to follow the Commodore, and the *Syrens*, *Vixen's* & *Scourge's* Signals to keep their stations continued steering to W N W & W S W till ½ past 5 P. M. when we hauled on a wind to the North<sup>d</sup> and took our departure from Tripoly bearing E b S ¼ S. 19 Miles — the nearest part of the coast S S W, 8 Miles — *Argus* & *Enterprise* in company Punished William Duffy Seaman with 12 lashes for Drunkenness, and Exekiel Lombard Marine with 12 lashes for Embezzlement of Spirits —

Sun down fresh breezes & pleasant

Made the signal to steer North, through the night which course leads along the East coast of Tunis and to the passage between the Islands of Kerkini and Lampidosa —

By ½ past 8 P. M. fresh breezes — Shortened sail for the *Enterprise* to come up in Order to prevent separation — continued under easy sail through the night At Day light Made all plain Sail except Stay-sails *Argus* & *Enterprise* in company. —

From Day light till 8 A. M. Ships company washing their cloathes— Fresh breezes & pleasant all the forenoon Made & shortened sail as necessary for the *Enterprise* to keep company. At 11 A. M. the wind shifted from E to N N E, which continued till noon with fresh breezes In top gall<sup>s</sup> sails & single reefed the Topsails —

Our distance corrected since our departure Yesterday is nearly 130 Miles N b W ½ W which proves Heathers Chart Very much out of the way in the Soundings and situation of the Island of Kerkini —

At Noon our soundings were 20 fath<sup>s</sup> which we suppose to be to the Eastward of Kerkini —

Agreeable to Heather's chart we should be 7 Miles from it. which proves he has placed it too far to the Eastw<sup>d</sup>

Surgeons report 10 sick 8 convalescent —

Latitude Observed 35° 1' N.

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

Extract from journal kept by Purser John Darby, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. S. *John Adams*, Master Commandant Isaac Chauncey, U. S. Navy, commanding, probably Saturday, 16 June 1804

[Several lines of manuscript badly mutilated] delivering my Invoices and original bills of slop Purchases, accompanied by a letter to the Secretary he examined the Bills and Wrote a letter to Capt Chauncey

informing him that my Invoice and bills appeared perfectly Satisfactory, and ordered me to Join the ship again with all possible despatch

I took Passage in the Stage at George Town for Porttobacco on Monday Morning the 11<sup>th</sup> Inst from there hired horses and proceeded on to Leddlers Ferry expecting to overtake the ship there but she had sailed from thence that morning. — I then hired Horses and proceeded on for Hampton [Manuscript mutilated]

[NDA original. Miss Camilla S. McConnell.]

To Tobias Lear, U. S. Consul General, Algiers, from Captain William Bainbridge,  
U. S. Navy

TRIPOLI BARBARY 17<sup>th</sup> June 1804  
(rec<sup>d</sup> Aug<sup>1</sup> 19. 1804)

DEAR SIR, I wrote you on the 4<sup>th</sup> ins<sup>t</sup>, in which I informed that we were still closely confined under lock & key, and that this Government has not relaxed in its severities to us Officers; — that the crew had been moved to a much more spacious prison than they had occupied. On the 13<sup>th</sup> ins<sup>t</sup> the Frigate *Constitution* came to an anchor off this port, — the same day Consul O.Brien came on shore, remained about two hours; — I am ignorant of what transpired, for I was not allowed the liberty to see him, and did not receive a line from the Commodore or himself. The Frigate left the coast the day following.

By Consul O.B. I received the copies of your letters of the 16<sup>th</sup> December & 12 Febr<sup>y</sup>, with a copy of a letter from the Hon<sup>ble</sup> C. Pinckney, our Minister at Madrid to yourself. Those copies were all handed me without a line from you, which makes me naturally conclude that your letters covering them must be withheld from me: — if this is the case *which I believe to be*, the depriving us of any part of the few letters that come for us *is cruel*. I presume that this Government calculates to compel the United States, by severities on us unfortunate prisoners, to a speedy Peace; however, I have the consolation in knowing that such measures will never be attended with the intended effect; and I declare that I will be a greater advocate for my Country's treating generously with this Regency, by receiving liberal treatment from them, than I will be from the greatest regour that can be used.

I have done myself the pleasure of writing to M<sup>r</sup> Pinckney, and thanking him for the friendly interest he took to supply our wants, and meliorate our situation I have informed him, by the provision which you have made, that we are amply supplied with cash; and as to the letters from Diplomatic Characters in Madrid I have had no intimation of their being received, and most certainly we have not experienced any salutary effects from such influence.

The last letter that I received from Commodore Preble was dated on the 27<sup>th</sup> March, in which he says "That the Celebrated Bonaparte has interested himself deeply in your situation". I hope that *we may* soon feel some effects of this great influence; as yet we have certainly been kept under closer restriction than what is customary even in Barbary, or what the Swedes were in this Regency.

Your last letter was of the 24<sup>th</sup> Febr<sup>y</sup>; — I have a long while been anxiously expecting to hear from you, but I do not, my dear Col<sup>o</sup>, entertain the most distant idea of any inattention, I know it must proceed from other causes. I shall only add that your letters afford



us much happiness, and we all rely on your friendly assistance in relieving us from our hard destiny.

Please to present my best respects to M<sup>rs</sup> Lear, — I hope she finds herself pleasantly situated at Algiers.

I will thank you to present my compliments to M<sup>r</sup> Thainville & family, and to all my acquaintances in Algiers, particularly to Consul Bille; — his colleague in this place is one of the worthiest of men.

Believe me to be unfeignedly

Yours truly

W<sup>m</sup> BAINBRIDGE

[Stephen Decatur Col.]

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

TRIPOLI BARBARY 17<sup>th</sup> June 1804.

DEAR SIR, I have this moment received your favor of the 27<sup>th</sup> ult<sup>o</sup>, and am sorry to observe that you do not acknowledge the receipt of my letters of the 5<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> of April, which ought to have reached you previous to the date of yours. I frequently write to you, but as I am never informed when my letters leave this place, I cannot conjecture the time that you ought to receive them, or form a probable opinion of your ever receiving them. The extreme severity of keeping us constantly under *lock & key* may originate from an idea of compelling terms sooner from the United States; but I am convinced it will have a contrary effect, for I declare that I would be a greater advocate for my Country's treating generously with this Regency in receiving liberal treatment from them than I would be in the greatest Rigour they can go to. You are equally with myself acquainted with the disposition of Americans, and know that *they may lead, but cannot be drove*. How long our close confinement will continue God only knows, or how long the War I cannot conjecture; I have consolation in knowing that my Country has great Strength, and that her political union is every day growing stronger with the first Powers in Europe; and should it be our fate to remain here longer than we expect, we have the consolation in knowing that the longer we remain the less expence it will be to our Country to relieve us; and the Marine force that she is obliged to keep up by the Peace establishment is more than adequate to any war she may be engaged in with this quarter of the world: this you know to be fact as well as myself, and I only mention to let you see, altho' deprived of liberty, I feel for the honor of my Country.

The letter you mentioned enclosed in yours I have not received; — the keeping letters after they peruse them is *truly ungenerous*.

I wrote you on the 14<sup>th</sup> Inst., in which I mentioned that Consul OBrien was on Shore here on the 13<sup>th</sup>, but I was a stranger to what took place, and continue to be so. The report you heard respecting the Minister, Sidi Muhammed Dghies, is just, — he is very polite and attentive; which is the case with his Excellency when I see him, but his measures are certainly Severe. I enclose you a letter for Col<sup>o</sup> Lear.

The picture you draw of Europe certainly paints a scene of a most interesting epoch, and ere long great revolutions must take place in Europe and this part of the world. America's rising Glory will make

her friendship Courted by the Nations which at present form an erroneous opinion of her strength & respectability.

You do not mention whether you have received your Diploma from Government, — I wish it from my friendship, and for the good of my Country.

When you write to our Consul General at Algiers, please to inform him that I frequently write to him, and hope that my letters reach him.

*Sympathetic ink [Written in lime juice.]*

D<sup>r</sup> SIR, Your letter of the 27<sup>th</sup> May reached me on a half sheet of paper under cover of another small half sheet — the half sheet forming the sheet the letter was wrote on had been torn off — pray was this done by you after your letter was wrote — I am fearful that some discovery or suspicion has took place, perhaps the Danish Consul may have done it — I have not heard from him since the rec<sup>t</sup> — Reports says OB. offered 40, thousand, the Bashaw demanded one Million — the Commodore would do well to get a bomb ketch or two, and every night heave some shells into the Town, it would drive all the Inhabitants and greatly tend towards a speedy & reasonable Peace — the interfearence of B. has not been felt by us or never will if it comes through *Beau*. [Beaussier] here. — inform the Commd<sup>o</sup> of these circumstances — Shells — Shells we want — W. B.

*Written in Sympathetic ink, accompanying a Duplicate of the 17<sup>th</sup> of June 1804 —*

D<sup>r</sup> SIR, I am anxious to hear from [you] in lime juice to give me some idea of our probable fate, I am sorry to have it in my power to observe that our situation is like no Ship performing quarantine. — I receive no letters but from yourself, which I greatly thank — I do not accuse my friends if ought, but certainly my situation will justify an expectation & desire of receiving letters from them — I hope that Com. Preble, intends getting a Bomb Vessel and heave some Shells into the Town which I conceive may be done without risque, and it certainly would make the People extremely clamorous as they would be obliged to fly to the Gardens where are no habitations to secure them. — When you write to M<sup>r</sup> Livingston at Paris, I wish you would mention that we have received no attention from the french Consul or any advantage from the French influence in this place — if the first Consul has taken any measures to alleviate our situation they have not had the effect for want of a proper Representative in this place — France has great influence — Yours, W. B.

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

Extract from journal of U. S. Brig *Argus*, Master Commandant Isaac Hull, U. S. Navy, commanding, Sunday, 17 June 1804

This day begins with fresh Breezes and Squally the Commodore and *Enterprize* astern sounded Occasionally in 13 fathoms water bottom fine sand and Small Gravel At 2 the Commodore made the Sig<sup>l</sup> N<sup>o</sup> 1196 sent down T. G. yards at 5 sent them up again and reefed the T. sails at 7 all hands to Quarters and Exercis'd great guns set top Gall<sup>t</sup> sails at Midnight moderate and Cloudy Tacked at Daylight saw the land to windward Commod<sup>o</sup> & *Enterprize* in C<sup>o</sup> At meridian Cape bon bore NE  $\frac{1}{4}$  E People Emp<sup>d</sup> as Necessary

[NDA photostat.]

Extract from log book kept by Sailing Master Nathaniel Haraden, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Sunday, 17 June 1804

Fresh breezes from N N E. We are standing in for the Eastern Coast of Tunis near the Island of Kerkeni. *Argus* and *Enterprize* in company. The *Argus* was ordered ahead to sound & communicate her soundings to the Commodore, which she did. At 1 P. M. our depth was 16 fathoms. The water all round as far as could be seen was colored, and in many places the bottom was visible — At 2 P. M. double reefed the topsails, and down top gall<sup>s</sup> Yards. — By  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 2 P. M. the wind had shifted by degrees to East, and continued so till the afternoon with pleasant weather. At 4 P. M. up Top gall<sup>s</sup> Yards and out second reef from the Topsails. At this time we had deepened our water to 24 fath<sup>s</sup>

This afternoon we ran nearly 30 Miles over these banks between the Islands of Kerkeni & Lampidosa — We continued the lead all the time & found the soundings very regular, gradually deepening from 16 to 20 fath<sup>s</sup>

At Sundown saw the land bearing from W b N to N W b W, which we supposed to be Cape Coria and the land to the South<sup>d</sup> of it. At 2 A. M. tacked to the East<sup>d</sup> At 4 $\frac{1}{2}$  A. M. tacked to the North<sup>d</sup>

At day light saw the land bearing from W b N to N N W. As we drew in to the land the wind veered to the East which enabled us to lay along parallel with the Coast — At 9 A. M. we passed with an Offing of four leagues the Town or port of Susa — It appears to be strongly built with a Castle fronting the Sea — The weather has been pleasant with light winds all the forenoon — We are under all plain sail standing to the N N E — the small town of Arraella bearing by compass W S W, 5, leagues.

Cape Salimi and Cape Gobia which is the N E extreme of the land in sight bears N E b N, 44 Miles

All this part of the coast appears in small hills sandy towards the sea — Small villages every 6 or 7 Miles

Surgeons report 7 sick, 8 conv<sup>o</sup>t & 4 discharged —

Noon light airs

*Argus* & *Enterprize* in company

Latitude Observed 36° 07' North

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

Presumably to Secretary of State from James Monroe, U. S. Minister to London, England

N<sup>o</sup> 25. Duplicate

LONDON June 18. 1804.

SIR I received lately a letter from the house of Mackenzie & Glennie of this city giving an account of a fraud which has been practised on them in the name of Commodore Preble, by which they have paid to his account in favor of the United-States £4000 Sterling. I transmit you a copy of their communication and beg to assure you that I shall not fail to make all the exertion in my power to trace the fraud and recover the money if practicable from the authors of it.

The state of affairs here continues to be fluctuating. The opposition against M<sup>r</sup> Pitt seems to be nearly as strong as it was against M<sup>r</sup> Addington. The King also continues indisposed, but in what degree is unknown. The advocates for a regency appear to gain

strength. It is expected that a debate and division will take place to-day in the House of Commons, that will furnish better data whereon to form a better estimate of future events.

[NA. SDA. Disp., Gt. Britain, Vol. II, 1803-1804.]

Extract from journal of U. S. Brig *Argus*, Master Commandant Isaac Hull, U. S. Navy, commanding, Monday, 18 June 1804

at 3 Tacked ship to the S E saw a sail on our Weather beam made Sig<sup>l</sup> N<sup>o</sup> 433 to the Commod<sup>e</sup> at 4 the Commod<sup>e</sup> made our Sig<sup>l</sup> to chase made all sail at  $\frac{1}{4}$  past 5 Tacked and spoke the Chace she proved a Ragusee from Tunis bound to Suisa Commod<sup>e</sup> made the Sig<sup>l</sup> to bring her to him At 7 the land in Sight it bore N b E at 10 Squally with thunder and light<sup>n</sup> a Strange sail passed to leeward stand<sup>e</sup> S E at 9 AM Commod<sup>e</sup> made the Sig<sup>l</sup> 252 [or 232?] made all sail in Chace At meridian in Chace Emp<sup>d</sup> as Necessary

[NDA photostat.]

Extract from log book kept by Sailing Master Nathaniel Haraden, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Monday, 18 June 1804

Moderate breezes from the Eastward. *Argus* & *Enterprize* in company. We are under all plain sail standing in for the town of Hamate which is situated on the Eastern coast of Tunis nearly 40 Miles to the Southward of Cape Bon — This part of the coast appears to be well cultivated and is lined with Villages all along — At 3. P. M. fresh breezes — Tacked to S S E 3 Miles from the shore — Soundings 60 fath<sup>s</sup> — At  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 3 made signal for a general chase to windward — Punished James White, Thomas Jackson and Thomas Jones Seamen with 12 lashes each for neglect of duty. At 6 P. M. the chase was brought to by the *Enterprize* — Made signal to bring the chase to the Commodore — We boarded her — A Ragusa ship from Tunis bound to Suza

At Sundown a Squall rose from N N W with rain thunder & lightning — In third reef in the topsails and handed the Main Sail — At Sundown we were 8 Miles from the coast. Cape Gobia N E nearly 8 leagues Off this Cape is shallow water which extends a long way into the Sea. At  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 7 P. M. filled to N E b E. which is nearly parralel to this part of the coast and came by Cape Gobia with an Offing of 4 leagues Our soundings were from 25 to 15 fathoms.

At Day light out third reef from the Topsails and set the Main Sail & top gall<sup>s</sup> Sails

At 6 A. M. saw Cape Bon bearing N W b W nearly ten leagues, and a strange sail to the S E. —

At 7 A. M. saw two strange sails N N E — they are nearly in the direction of Cape Bon, for which we are standing.

At 8 A. M. made signal for a general chase. Strong breezes all the forenoon — The *Argus*, *Enterprize* & *Constitution* have been under a press of sail all the forenoon, chasing dead to windward

Noon the chase in sight from deck bearing N W  $\frac{1}{2}$  W —  
Latitude Observed 36° 52' North

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

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

U. S. FRIGATE *President*  
Hampton roads 19<sup>th</sup> June 1804

SIR Herewith you will receive the Copy of a Letter, said to be written by Robert Quinn, a Seaman on board the *President*: It is so calculated to excite a general mutiny; that it is necessary to take prompt & decisive measures to bring to punishment the Author. — John Kirkpatrick a Landsman also belonging to the same Ship; has been taken in the attempt to desert. I request you will summon a Court Martial, at which you will preside, to be held on board the *Congress*, for the trial of those delinquents as early as possible. — William Eaton Esq<sup>r</sup> will act as Judge advocate on the occasion —

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

[Enclosure]

Literal *Copy of the Letter alluded to*

The horrid usage that has been carried on in this Ship of late by the principal officers, is enough to turn every Mans Heart to wickedness, we are Kept on Deck from 3 O'Clock in the morning till 8 at Night there is no regulations in any one thing, we have been on deck for several days without one bit of Victuals, and durst not look for it, we cannot wash a single article for fear of being cut in two, you expect every thing done at a word, there is no allowance made for our friging day & night, but the time will come, when you will drive all thoughts of fear out of our minds, tryanny is the begining of all mischief, and generally is attended with bad doings at the latter end, any Commander or Captain that had the least feeling or thought, would not suffer this horrid usage, it is almost impossible for us to live. The *President* is arrived to such a pitch as to exceed the *Hermione*, some of our friends in America & other parts shall know of this shortly and in time we hope to get redress, Death is always superior to slavery.

We remain Your

UNHAPPY SLAVES

Address'd To Commodore BARRON  
Ship *President*

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

To the German Ambassador, Paris, France, from Robert R. Livingston, U. S.  
Minister to Paris, France

Trip<sup>ts</sup>

PARIS 19<sup>th</sup> June 1804.

THE UNDERSIGNED MINISTER PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED  
STATES OF AMERICA,

*His Excellency the Ambassador of his Imperial Majesty the Emperor of  
Germany &c.*

SIR, I have been honored by your note of the 26<sup>th</sup> of May, which should not have remained thus long unnoticed but for my absence from Paris. I am sorry to learn from it, that an insult has been offered by Captain Sturt [Sterett], commanding the American Vessel the *Enterprize* by the capture and detention of the austrian Ship *Peolina*

[*Paulina*] — I shall immediately transmit your Excellency,<sup>s</sup> note to my Government who I doubt not will give to his Imperial Majesty every satisfaction on the subject which the nature of the case may require. It does not appear whether the *Enterprize* was a Government Vessel or a private ship, nor is there such a detail of circumstances as will serve as the basis of an accurate investigation of the question of right or of the amount of damages — That these may be properly brought forward, I pray Your Excellency to invite Captain Radish to commence a prosecution in the Admiralty Courts of the United States where he may be assured of a full hearing and the most impartial justice — . Your Excellency will easily perceive how difficult it will be in any other way to ascertain or recover the damages he may have sustained particularly if the injury should have been done by a private Ship.

It gives me pleasure to assure Your Excellency that His Imperial Majesty only does justice to sentiments of the American Government when he supposes them animated with the desire to promote the harmony and confirm the ties of friendship that subsist between the two nations. His Imperial Majesty may be fully assured that nothing will be wanting on the part of the Government of the United States to confirm the opinion, and that while their Courts are open for the redress of private injuries they will themselves be ready to make satisfaction for any indignity offered to his Majesty thro' the misconduct of persons under their command, nor will they fail to give such orders as are best adapted to prevent a repetition of the offence.

[NA. SDA. Disp., France, Vol. 9, 1803-1805.]

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

TUNIS, June 19<sup>th</sup> 1804.

SIR. I have this moment discovered your Frigate, and as the hour is too late to make application for coming on board. I dispatch you the American Drogerman with my former communications.

I am very desirous to see you in person, as I have much to say to you on our affairs here, as well as at Algiers; and my present feeble health, does not allow me to enter into a written detail, having been confined to my bed twelve days with a violent fever.

You will be pleased to send the Drogerman off at three in the morning, in order that he may arrive at Tunis time enough to go to the Palace, and I will be at the Gouletta before twelve tomorrow if possible

Trusting that your health is better than when I had the pleasure of seeing you — I beg leave to assure you of the high consideration with which I have the honor to be

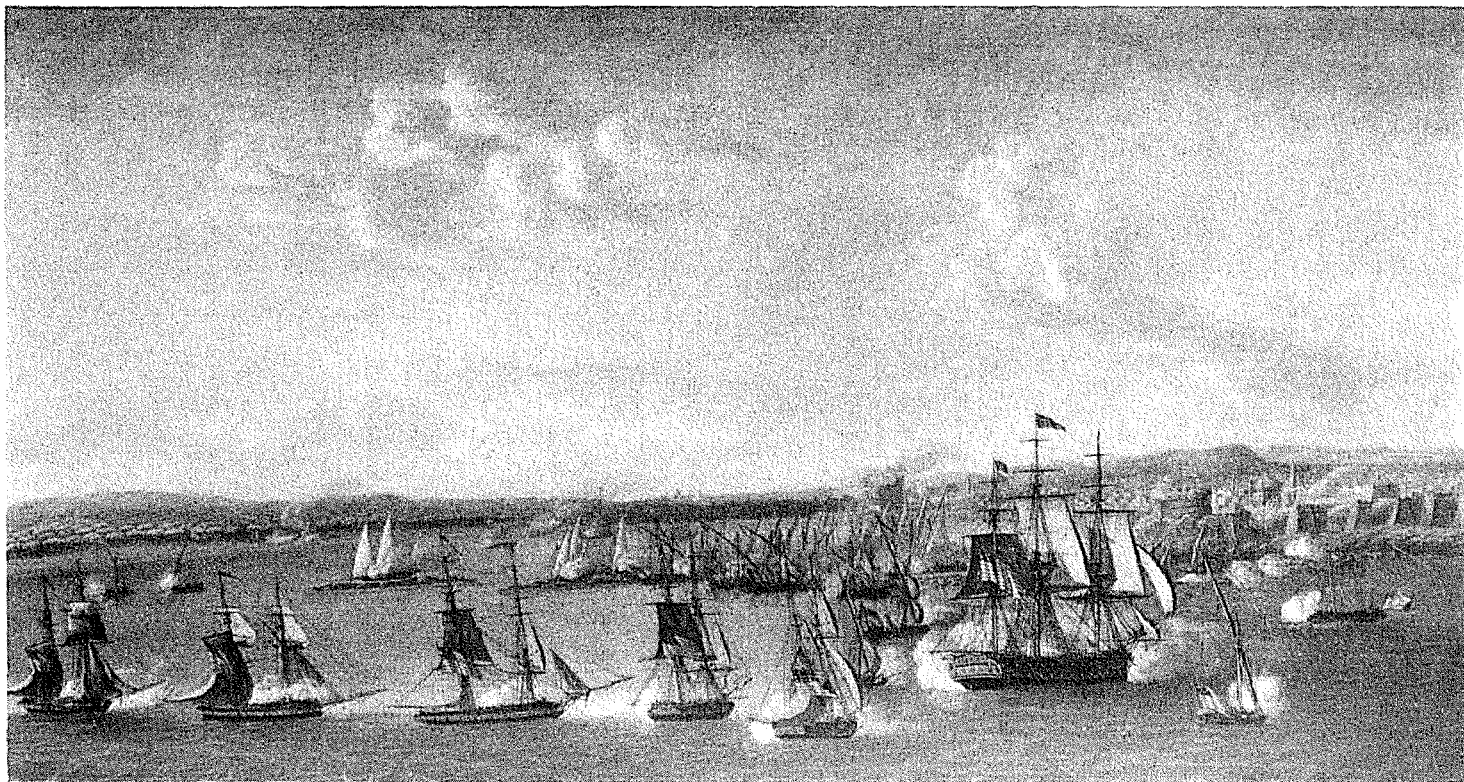
P S I have the honor to enclose you two letters from C<sup>o</sup> Bainbridge  
[LC. EPP, LB, April-Nov. 1804.]

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

UNITED STATES SHIP *Constitution*

Tunis Bay 19<sup>th</sup> June 1804.

SIR, I am this day honored with your letters of the 18<sup>th</sup> May and 19<sup>th</sup> June. I regret extremely your indisposition, but hope it will not



ATTACK ON TRIPOLI, 3 AUGUST 1841.





deprive me of the pleasure of seeing you afloat tomorrow. Your Drogerman shall be dispatched immediately, as I wish as much to see you, as you do me.

I know nothing of the capture of the two Sandals you mention belonging to the Island of Jerba; and as to the examination of the Vessel bearing your passport with the Chouix of the Grand Seigneur on board, you well know that every Vessel found on the Coast of Tripoly while blockaded by the United States Squadron is liable to examination; if not, we may as well give up the Blockade, as the Bashaw's friends by the abuse of passports, might with impunity supply him with such Articles of Military Stores &c<sup>s</sup> as he is most in want of. The Vessel with the Chouix of the Grand Seigneur entered Tripoly without any other molestation than a search. She was previously forced into Jerba by a contrary Gale, but on her coming out of Tripoly, was detained by one of our cruisers and sent into Malta whither she was bound. I was at Malta when she arrived, and released her immediately. I have now to observe, that passports for Tripoly while blockaded by a Squadron under my Command, cannot in future be respected, excepting such passport comes direct from the Navy Department of the U. S. As to the Bey's threats we have little to fear from them — Captain Samuel Barron in the *President* Captain James Barron in the *Congress* — Cap<sup>n</sup> Chauncy in the *Essex*, and Captain Shaw in the *John Adams* — and two Brigs are now I suppose in the Mediterranean — Captain S— B— with two Brigs, is to remain at Gibraltar as a check on our Enemies going into the Atlantic, and the others are to join me here immediately — of course the Bey will suffer by his temerity if he should attempt to *pay himself*, as he chuses to term Piracy.

I shall leave this tomorrow by ten o'clock — It is necessary that I see you before I go, and equally so for me to know whether the Bey intends to make War on us or not — if he is hostilely inclined I shall immediately take such measures as effectually to protect our Commerce, and punish him for his want of good Faith

[LC. EPP, LB, April–Nov. 1804.]

To Captain William Bainbridge, U. S. Navy, from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

UNITED STATES SHIP *Constitution*

*Tunis Bay 19th June 1804*

DEAR SIR I am honored with your letter of the 30<sup>th</sup> April, with all its contents. I regret extremely that your people should be in want of clothing when I have a full supply for twelve months for them on board this ship — I have also clothing for the Officers and a plentiful stock of Stores for yourself and Officers. I was in hopes the Bashaw would have permitted me to send the clothing and stores on shore the 13th instant — he promised M<sup>r</sup> O'Brien he would, but while we were putting them into the Boat, he hauled down the white Flag — I certainly made the Bashaw a handsome offer considering our means of annoying him, Fifty thousand dollars as ransom, and ten thousand for a Consular present, is a great deal of money, and I am convinced he will yet repent not having accepted the generous terms.

You are at liberty to offer them once more to him, through his Prime Minister, and if he chooses to accept of them let him hoist the white Flag, and fire a Gun when I appear off there again, and send a Boat off with a Letter, as soon as I agree to the truce by answering his Signal, which shall be immediately, for though I shall have it in my power to materially injure the Town and Inhabitants, a wish to avoid the effusion of Blood, induces me to make him this offer that Peace may be re-established —

I shall have a treaty prepared, and as soon as it is signed, and you are all released, the money shall be paid. The whole of the fifty thousand dollars must be for ransom as we cannot pay one dollar for Peace. the ten thousand doll<sup>rs</sup> shall be paid as a Consular present in cash at the arrival of the Consul from the United States, which shall be in eight months from signing the Treaty — and the Treaty must be subject to the final ratification of the President of the United States

I would have you attend to the *juice* of this letter, and hope you will find it *sweet to the Palate* I shall send you the clothing over in a Neutral Vessel immediately.

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

To Tobias Lear, U. S. Consul General, Algiers, from Captain Edward Preble,  
U. S. Navy

(Copy)

UNITED STATES SHIP *Constitution*  
*Tunis Bay 19<sup>th</sup> June 1804.*  
*rec<sup>d</sup> July 13<sup>th</sup> 1804.*

DEAR SIR, I had the honor to write you the 3<sup>d</sup> of May from this place, and now enclose you a duplicate. Since that time the Squadron has closely blockaded Tripoly. The 4<sup>th</sup> of May I left this Bay for Naples and applied to the King for the loan of Six Guns & two Mortar Boats completely prepared for service, with a sufficient Stock of Naval & Military Stores for a Seige. I also applied for six long Battering Cannon 26 pounders for the upper deck of this Ship, the whole was immediately granted — I took on board the Battering Cannon, Nine hundred shot, and one hundred Barrels of Powder at Naples, and sailed for Messina, where I remained three days, and sailed for Syracuse with Six Gun boats under American Colours, each carrying a long 26 pounder, and manned with 30 Americans. The Bombards will be ready in a few days; I intend them to make a dash at the Tripolitans, and I hope with success.

I enclose You copies of two letters from M<sup>r</sup> Beaussier and my answers — You will readily discover he is no friend of ours; I also send you a copy of my instructions to Capt OBrien on the 13<sup>th</sup> instant when I sent him on shore at Tripoly to endeavour to negociate for the ransom of our Countrymen, and for peace *if the Bashaw should desire it*. I conceived your letter of the 23<sup>d</sup> of March by the *Vixen* sufficient authority for me to say that I was empowered to ransom the prisoners, and make peace whenever it could be done consistent with the honor & dignity of the United States. The terms offered I presume would have been satisfactory to our Government, if they had been accepted, and hope I shall be able ere long to oblige the Bashaw to accept, altho he has been so imprudent as to refuse them

Captain OBrien will send you a long detail of his audience with the Bashaw. M<sup>r</sup> Davis will detail to You the State of our Affairs with this Regency. The Bey of Tunis complains of trifles, he says two Sandals have been taken by our Cruizers. The fact is, that the *Argus* chased a Sandal or Small open Boat, (not so large as our Cutter) on shore one mile from the Batteries of Old Tripoly and took her off under a heavy fire of Musketry from the Beach. Captain Hull suspected she was carrying Ammunition to Tripoly, but it proved she had nothing but coarse Earthen ware. The Bey of Tunis alledges that she belonged to Jerba, and on this trifling affair, is, or pretends to be extremely angry, and demands restoration of the Vessel & damages. The Boat & Cargo was not worth one hundred dollars, and if she had been worth ten thousand, she would have been a good prize. Capt Hull cut her adrift after he took her. The Emperor of Russia has taken a favorable part with respect to our Countrymen in Tripoli. He has written to the Grand Signior to send a Firman thither, and demand the release of the Americans. I have written M<sup>r</sup> Davis satisfactory answers to all the complaints of the Bey of Tunis, and directed him to forward copies to You. I wish should you be applied to for a passport for any Vessel carrying an Ambassador to go to Tripoli, you would give such passport to come to me off Tripoli, but not to enter without my permission, as I wish to respect your passports, and it is possible we may at the time of an arrival be so situated with respect to our operations against that place, as to render it improper to permit a vessel to enter under any circumstances.

I have so much writing to do, that it is impossible for me to enclose you at present copies of such correspondence with Russia, Constanti-nople, France, &<sup>r</sup> &<sup>r</sup> as I wish. I hope ere long to be able to, as well as a favorable account of our affairs with Tripoli.

The *Congress* Captain J. Barron, *Essex* Capt Chaunc[e]y, who brings her out to exchange with Stewart, and *John Adams* Capt [space] are momentarily expected to join the Squadron. I suppose they are now in the Mediterranean. I understand the *President* Capt S. Barron and two Brigs are to compose a Squadron without the Mediterranean to rendezvouse at Gibraltar, with such a force at hand, we shall have nothing to fear from the Powers of Barbary combined.

It is truly singular that the French Consul did not see M<sup>r</sup> OBrien when he landed at Tripoli, notwithstanding he has instructions from his Government to endeavour to procure the liberation of the officers and crew of the *Philadelphia*. I wrote him by M<sup>r</sup> OBrien but received no answer. I wish you to send copies of his letter to me of the 28<sup>th</sup> March and my answer thereto to our Minister at Paris, together with copy of instructions to M<sup>r</sup> OBrien, and write him the conduct of M<sup>r</sup> Beaussieur who never has been to see, or offered to relieve in any way whatever our unfortunate Countrymen. I have thanked him for his friendly attention to Captain Bainbridge and his Officers, because from his own report, I supposed he had been kind to them, but I have been deceived; no one but M<sup>r</sup> Nissen has ever paid them the least attention.

Give my best regards to M<sup>rs</sup> Lear, and accept my best wishes for your health & happiness.

I have not time to say more at present as I sail this evening — the want of more Frigates keeps me constantly on the fly.

P. S. Captain Bainbridge complains of the want of clothing for his people. I have now on board this Ship a sufficient quantity ready

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made for them to last more than twelve months, but have not been permitted to send them shore. I hope to in a few days as well as a quantity of Stores, and to a full supply of Cash

[NA. SDA. CL, Algiers, Vol. 7, Part 1, Jan. 1804-Nov. 1805; and Stephen Decatur Col.]

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Extract from Memorandum Book of Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, 19 June 1804

Anchored in Tunis Bay.

[LC original.]

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Extract from Diary of Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, Commodore of U. S. Squadron in the Mediterranean, Tuesday, 19 June 1804

Strong Gales from the N W, In chase working to windward, — at 3 P M the *Enterprize* Brought too one of the Vessels we are in chase of a Spaniard from Gergenta for Barcelona, — at 5 P M the *Argus* Brought too the other a Ragusa from the Levant for Mersailles, — at 8 Cape Bon Bore West 3 miles, moderate Breezes & pleasant weather, Sounded in 30 fathoms at 9 fresh Breezes working to windward, — at 10 A. M weathered Zembra Island and entered Tunis Bay, at noon we where 3 miles from Cape Carthage it Bearing S E B E, Saw 29 sail at anchor in the Harbour amoung which were one Frigate & five small Cruizers, Tunisines and one Tripoline Polackre ship stripped & hauled up, the same Vessel has been in her present situation for two or three months past and her Crew gone to Tripoly, —

[LC. EPP, Diary, 1803-1804.]

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Extract from journal of U. S. Brig *Argus*, Master Commandant Isaac Hull, U. S. Navy, commanding, Tuesday, 19 June 1804

These 24 hours Commences with fresh breezes and pleasant W<sup>3</sup> fired a Gun at the Chace brought her too the [chase] proved a Ragusee brig from Tunis bound to Suisa at 2 saw a strange sail to the N E made the Sig<sup>t</sup> to the Commod<sup>o</sup> the *Enterprize* boarded her fired a Gun at a brig to windward she bore down for us & proved a Ragusee brig 52 days from the Island of Cypress bound to Marsailles bore away and spoke the Commod<sup>o</sup> At 6 Cape bon bore N W  $\frac{1}{2}$  W Dist<sup>t</sup> 3 leagues —

At meridian standing in for the harbour of Tunis kept Employed as Necessary

[NDA photostat.]

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

NAV. DEP<sup>t</sup> June 20<sup>th</sup> 1804

It is intended to Repeat the Cargo of the Ship *Sally* freighted by you last year with Timber and plank for Algiers and lost in the Bay of S<sup>t</sup> Lucar —

I herewith enclose you an invoice of the Cargo then shipped which you will take immediate measures for procuring and you will charter a Vessel for the Voyage to be ready to receive the Cargo as soon as you shall have procured it —

You will readily See that some latitude will be allowed you with respect to breadth &<sup>c</sup> of the Timber and Plank not supposing that a perfect attention can be given to the invoice so as to make a correspondence in inches in every respect — it is desirable however that the invoice be attended to as nearly as possible and that if there be any Variation from it, it be an increase rather than a decrease in size —

I confidently hope that every exertion will be made by you to Expedite this Shipment — you will inform me as soon as you can ascertain with tolerable percision the earliest period by which you can carry this order into Effect

Your Requisitions for monies to carry this order into effect must be made under the head of Barbary Negotiations and your accounts Settled as they have been in Similar Cases —

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

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

TUNIS *June 20<sup>th</sup> 1804.*

10, O'clock AM —

SIR, The Oda Bashaw of the Gouletta, has not yet made his report to the Bey, which form is necessary before I can obtain permission to go on board; and as it is the hour you inform me, you should get underway, and their being no hopes of my receiving a permit to leave the Gouletta this day, I send you an express. — And in reply to your favour of last evening, have only to observe that the individuals said to be the owners of the Sandals, have been three times before the Bey to repeat their complaint: one of them states, that his Sandal, was captured in a Port of Tripoli, laden'd with salt fish, and earthen ware; that he with his people made their escape before the Vessel was captured — Whatever therefore may be said in future by the complainants, it will not be attended to by me farther than, that of demanding Justice for their false report —

You have been pleased to inform me that no Passport to enter Tripoli, will be hereafter considered as valid; I have only to say, that I must conform myself agreeable to my situation here, & observe the usages of other Nations under similar circumstances, towards these States. — A safe conduct for an Ambassador of a Neutral Power, to enter the Port of an Enemy, altho' that Port be in a state of Blockade, is generally granted — It shall not however under any circumstances be granted by me, unless I am satisfied that a refusal would be attended with an immediate difficulty.

It is impossible for me to say, what are the absolute intentions of the Bey, towards us; were I to deduce from his threats, they are unquestionably hostile: it is however certain, that fear alone, will restrain him from committing depredations on our commerce — You however shall ever be advised of his movements, and no difficulty will occur without my being fully prepared to meet it —

I am much distressed at the non arrival of a Courier I dispatched to Algiers on the 17<sup>th</sup> ultimo — his delay strengthens the report of the present disordered state of that Regency; to wit, that the Dey, has been assassinated, as well as a great proportion of Jews; that the late Prime Minister, is at present on the Throne — that the other ports of the Regency are in a more convulsed state — a new Prophet has arisen,

who, is followed by an immense Army of Bedouins, who are hastening towards the Capital — this intelligence was given to the Bey by a Rais of one of his Corsairs, and is generally credited at the Palace; I shall not fail to give you the earliest intelligence on this head —

Wishing you a prosperous cruise, and a continuance of health —

[LC. EPP, Vol. 11, April-June 1804.]

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

UNITED STATES SHIP *Constitution*  
*Tunis Bay June 20<sup>th</sup> 1804.*

SIR. I have rec<sup>d</sup> your favor of this date in which you mention the capture by our Squadron of two Sandals belonging to Jerba which His Excellency the Bey of Tunis complains of. I have heard only of the capture of an open Boat, she was chased on shore at old Tripoly, and brought off by the Boats of the *Argus* Captain Hull — under a heavy fire of Musketry — She was loaded with a quantity of coarse Earthen Ware, and bound to Tripoly in direct violation of the Blockade.

Soon after she was taken off Captain Hull finding she had not any Military Stores on board, and the Boat an old crazy thing and cargo of no Value, he cast her off, and suppose she drifted on shore on the Coast. this boat having been defended as a Tripoline by the People from the shore no compensation can be made for her. His Excellency the Bey well knows that the coast of Tripoly is blockaded and ought to forbid all communication by the Vessels of his Nation unless he means to treat us as Enemies with respect to the Ambassador of the Grand Seignior which you mention is expected from Algiers for Tripoly, you may give him a passport to come to me off Tripoly without any cargo whatever on board, and if circumstances does not render it very imprudent I will permit him to enter, but if the Vessel attempts to leave Tripoly with any other property or persons than what she carries in, I will most certainly make prize of her.

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

[20 June 1804]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from Surgeon James Wells, U. S. Navy

SIR A small supply of Sheep, or Fowls, if they can conveniently be procured, will essentially contribute to the recovery of the sick.

Com<sup>d</sup> ED<sup>d</sup> PREBLE.

Comm<sup>o</sup> U, S, Ship *Constitution*  
*June 20<sup>th</sup> 1804.*

[LC. EPP, Vol. 11, April-June 1804.]

Extract from journal of U. S. Brig *Argus*, Master Commandant Isaac Hull, U. S. Navy,  
commanding, Wednesday, 20 June 1804

standing in for the bay of Tunis with all necessary sail set Commodore and *Enterprise* in Comp<sup>y</sup> at ½ past 12 Came to with the best bower in 7 fathoms water the Comm<sup>o</sup> hoisted our distinguishing flag Capt<sup>n</sup> Hull went onboard the fort of Tunis bore W b N the high land from S b W to N b W At 10 AM got under way standing

off & on at 11 fired a Gun a[nd] hoisted the American Jack at the fore sent the barge on Shore for the Consul

[NDA photostat.]

Extract from log book kept by Sailing Master Nathaniel Haraden, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Wednesday, 20 June 1804

Strong breezes from N N W — We are running in for Tunis bay At ½ past 12 came to with the small bower in Tunis Bay in 7½ fath<sup>s</sup> water soft bottom —

Veered to 50 fath<sup>s</sup> and furled sails — The *Argus* anchored in company, and the *Enterprize* was ordered to stand in to the upper roads and send a boat on shore for the American Consul for whom we had a signal flying —

Our bearings are, Cape Carthage N b W by compass 2 Miles Cape Farina N b E. Golletta Castle W b S. 4 miles and Zembra Island N E b E ½ E 24 Miles —

On our Anchoring here a signal gun was fired, which by neglect, and contrary to Orders was loaded with a round shot but however, it passed near two Vessels without accident — We were employed all the afternoon in setting up the Topmast and top gall<sup>t</sup> rigging — At Sundown cleared ship for Action and primed the Guns — Ships company at watch and watch through the Night. In the morning scrubbed hammocks and cloathes — Between 9 & 10 A. M. strong breezes with rain From 10 till noon fresh breezes from N N W & pleasant weather This forenoon M<sup>r</sup> Davis U. S. Consul at Tunis waited on the Commodore — At 11 A. M. loosed sails to dry.

Noon fresh breezes from N N W. *Argus* & *Enterprize* in company [LC. EPP, Log *Constitution*, 1803-1804.]

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

U. S. Frigate *John Adams*  
*Hampton Roads 21 June 1804*

SIR I have the honor of herewith Transmitting to you Copies of my Quarter Bill and Indent Book

There are several Men, borne on the Ship's Books as Seamen, which I think must be reduced, but unwilling to do them any Injustice, I have deferred Rating them untill two Months hence when I shall have an Opportunity of knowing them better.

I have been detained here longer than I expected; the few small Articles wanted in the Different Departments M<sup>r</sup> Bedinger had more Difficulty in procuring than he expected; in Fact the Main Top Mast which was to have been ready last Saturday I shall have to go to sea without, unless it comes down early in the Morn<sup>g</sup> at which Time I propose to get under Way, and proceed agreeable to Orders — I believe we have lost Nothing by our Detention, for we have never had a Wind proper to proceed to sea with, since our Arrival in Hampton Roads —

Your Orders of the 7<sup>th</sup> Ins<sup>t</sup> I have received and shall govern myself accordingly Our Ship Continues healthy the Crew of which I am pleased with. The Officers for want of Experience have given me some Trouble the Midshipmen particularly; but hope that from exacting a Rigid Adherence to the Regulations of the Service together with their own Observations, that they will see the Necessity of paying more Attention to Orders and their Duty

I shall keep you informed by every Opportunity of my Proceedings and situation

[NDA. MC LB, 1804-5.]

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Extract from journal of U. S. Brig *Argus*, Master Commandant Isaac Hull, U. S. Navy, commanding, Thursday, 21 June 1804

This day begins with fresh breezes and pleasant Weather Laying too in the harbour of Tunis wait<sup>d</sup> for the Consul at 2 M<sup>r</sup> Davis came on board filled away and stood for the Commod<sup>e</sup> at ½ past 2 the Consul and Cap<sup>t</sup> Hull went onboard the Commod<sup>e</sup> came to an Anchor at ½ past 7 Cap<sup>t</sup> Hull returned onboard at 9 the U. S. Schooner *Enterprize* went to sea at 5 AM rec<sup>d</sup> 160 Gall<sup>s</sup> water from the Commod<sup>e</sup> at 8 got under way stand<sup>e</sup> off and on at 10 the Commod<sup>e</sup> & Consul came on board run into 3½ f<sup>m</sup>s water the Consul went on shore at 11 hoisted red Colours and fired a Salute of 15 Guns Emp<sup>d</sup> Occas<sup>y</sup>

[NDA photostat.]

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Extract from log book of U. S. Brig *Argus*, 18 Guns, kept by Sailing Master Samuel B. Brooke, U. S. Navy, Master Commandant Isaac Hull, U. S. Navy, commanding, Thursday, 21 June 1804

(At anchor in Tunis Bay.)

At 8 [AM] got under way standing off & on under easy sail at ½ past 10 the Commodore & Consul came on board run into 3½ fathoms water the Consul went on shore at 11 hoisted red Colours & fired a salute of 15 Guns

[LC. EPP, *Argus*, 1804.]

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Extract from Diary of Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, Commodore of U. S. Squadron in the Mediterranean, Thursday, 21 June 1804

fresh Gales from the N N W, at anchor in Tunis Bay, *Argus* & *Enterprize* in company, soon After noon our Consular agent, Mr Davis, came on Board, He informed me that the Bey of Tunis is very much dissatisfied with the Government of the United States, and appears to have hostile intentions altho He does not openly avow them, — at 9 P M the *Enterprize* sailed for Syracuse, the Consul remained on board all night, and by him I wrote to Col<sup>o</sup> Lear & Captain Bainbridge and desired him to forward the letters by express, — at 9 A M I went on board the *Argus* then under way and stood up for the Goletta, sounded the Harbour within a quarter of a mile of the Goletta & found 3 fathoms, at half a mile distance 4½ fathoms & without that distance from 4½ to 6 fathoms, for two miles to the Eastward, — while sounding the Prime minister & suit came down on the beach, where a Marque was prepared for him, — I directed Captain Hull to salute him, — landed our Consul, —

[LC. EPP, Diary, 1803-1804.]

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Extract from log book kept by Sailing Master Nathaniel Haraden, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Thursday, 21 June 1804

Fresh breezes from N N W —

At Single Anchor in Tunis Bay — *Argus* & *Enterprize* in company —



At 3 P. M. furled sails — At Sundown cleared ship for Action  
At 9 P. M. the *Enterprize* sailed — Moderate breezes and cloudy  
through the night —

At 9 A. M. Commodore Preble and the Consul went on board the  
*Argus*: She weighed and stood in towards the Golletta Castle —

Secured the Guns & made the necessary arrangements for weighing  
& going to Sea.

Noon moderate breezes from N b E with a swell setting into the bay.  
Supplied the *Argus* with 220 Gall<sup>s</sup> Water

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

To Marien Lamar, U. S. Consul, Madeira, from Secretary of State

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,

June 22<sup>d</sup> 1804.

SIR. I have received your letter of the 15<sup>th</sup> January. The National duty, as it is called, levied by the Consuls on Vessels trading to Madeira, being unauthorized by law, you ought to cease demanding it. It was equally beyond the authority of your Predecessors to engage a Physician to attend upon distressed Mariners, for a permanent yearly salary, \* \* \* it ought not therefore to be continued by you. As to the balance now due him, no more can be paid than his actual services may be proved to be worth, and upon your being satisfied by proper vouchers in this respect, you may pay him, reimbursing yourself by a draft on this Department. For the future you will provide for the Seamen as economically as possible, as they are thrown upon your care, and not by adopting permanent arrangements requiring expenses whether there may be objects demanding relief or not.

The Executive cannot empower you to lay a duty upon American Vessels for the expenses of the Buoy imported by the British Factory: nor is it probable that the Legislature would be induced to sanction it, since the principle it embraces in admitting a foreign Company to levy a discretionary tax within the jurisdiction of Portugal is not to be reconciled with its rights and might lead to abuses by which the Citizens of the U: States might suffer.

[NA. SDA. Despatches to Consuls, Oct. 1800-Feb. 1817.]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from Captain William Bainbridge, U. S. Navy

TRIPOLY BARBARY June 22<sup>d</sup> 1804

DEAR SIR I wrote to you on the 14th Ins<sup>t</sup> in which I mentioned that I had not the pleasure of receiving a line from you since the 27th March, and was much disappointed in not having that satisfaction on the 13th Ins<sup>t</sup> by my friend M<sup>r</sup> OBrien — The Happiness which your letters always affords us all makes us extremely anxious to hear from you by every opportunity. Though disappointed in that pleasing expectation we rest assured on your exertions to relieve us from our disagreeable situation —

Within these last three months I have wrote you many letters — In all of them I have mentioned the great want of cloathing for our Seamen — As I am never advised when my letters leave this place, I cannot form an opinion when they will probably reach you —

I am extremely anxious to receive letters from America in answer to mine announcing the loss of the Frigate *Philadelphia* and rely on your sending them to me if they come to your hands —

The Seamen have been removed to a spacious good prison, but the Officers are still penned-up in close confinement, and in this hot weather feel much the want of a few windows and doors to let in some air — Of the former there is none: of the latter only one which is kept bolted and locked, except when opened to hand in our provisions — However believe us Americans, possessed with fortitude and every sense of honor for Our Country — I know nothing of the interview that Consul OBrien had the other day — I should have been much gratified to have been permitted to see him — I should suppose in Negotiating it would be best to obtain permission for him to remain on shore a few days —

Pray in your next advise me if you received my letter in answer to yours conveying the thanks of the President for the capture of the *Mirboka* — Believe me to be with Sincere wishes to attend your movements, and that I am with Esteem & great respect

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

[Written in lime juice — invisible writing.]

D<sup>r</sup> SIR I hope that you will pardon me in offering the following opinion as being the most ready expedient to make Tripoli and particularly the Bashaw feel the greatest effect of the American War. A Bomb Ketch of a proper size for keeping the Sea — To come an anchor every night or every other night and heave some bomb shells in the Town would occasion all the Inhabitants to leave it (as they have dreadful Ideas of bombs and their houses slightly built) and fly to the Gardens which have not buildings to receive them this would put them to a very great inconveniency and make them extremely clamorous and the Bashaw would feel uneasy to be kept out of the Town

They are such bad marksmen that I presume a Ketch might anchor a half mile distant from the batteries without danger of receiving much or any damage — I candidly believe that heaving a few shells even if was but once a week to keep them out of the Town for 3 months that the Bashaw would be induced to come to moderate terms

Do not place confidence in any Consul or expect any service to be rendered by any here except the Danish — you mentioned that Bonap[ar]te had interested himself in our situation if this was the case we have felt no effects from it, and it must be owing to their Consul — For France has great influence here — If you give M<sup>r</sup> Livingston a hint of this it may have some effect —

Believe me to be with Sincere regard

Yours

W B

E. PREBLE Esq

[LC. EPP, Vol. 11, April-June 1804.]

To Tobias Lear, U. S. Consul General, Algiers, from George Davis, U. S. Chargé d'Affaires, Tunis

TUNIS June 22<sup>d</sup> 1804

SIR, I am this moment favoured, by the return Courier, with Your communication of the 8<sup>th</sup> Inst. and avail myself of an express (which

leaves this in two hours) to acknowledge its receipt. The short time allowed me, does not permit that I should enter in full reply to your last, *now before me*

The letters enclosed from Commodore Preble, who sailed from this port last evening, will be in answer to the late complaints of the Bey; *which give me no uneasiness — No difficulty shall arise which I will not be perfectly prepared to meet*; and believe shall be correct in saying, that his threats are the result of *fear*, more than of a determination to take *immediate* hostile measures against us — The Commodore has shewn himself too frequently in this Bay not to have convinced His Excellency, that his movements are closely watched; and I have strongly impressed the opinion that we have the full means in those Seas, of checking, and punishing, any hostile measures which his avarice might hurry him into — it only rests to observe, that we have no security for a continuance of the Peace, excepting that which arises from our Naval force in those seas; and it is more than probable, that menaces will be daily repeated, untill our affairs are finally closed with this Regency; but when I have solid reasons to believe, he will capture our Vessels, you shall be apprized by a Sea conveyance, before his plans can possibly be executed. —

The charges in my acc<sup>t</sup> with the United States, which you have been pleased to make exceptions to, are not only founded on those exhibited by M<sup>r</sup> Eaton, (which however, is no rule for me) but from the necessity of the thing — The Hon<sup>ble</sup> the Secretary of State, has been advised by letters bearing date October 29<sup>th</sup> and December 28<sup>th</sup> — that I was attending in my professional capacity, and at the particular request of the Bey, the Chief of the Aga's, and that I visited him daily at the Palace, which is three miles from Tunis, — the Sapatapa — Bey's Cousin, and other chief officers have also made application for my medical aid; and as you must be sensible, that my acquiescence is solely, in order to gain the means of being servicable to my Country. — It cannot be supposed, that I should in consequence, be charged with additional expences; from this statement I have no doubt but you will readily accord the propriety of the charge — if not, I shall be compelled to curtail my visits to the Palace.

We have been given to understand, that Algiers is at this moment in a state of revolution, and that the Dey has been assassinated, as well, as most of the Jews — This report has greatly excited my fears, as well as the Commodore's for the safety of your family; Your letter therefore relieves me from the painful suspense, under which I have laboured for eight days. — My health is extremely delicate, having been confined to my bed for fifteen days with a violent fever; should I continue to suffer during these warm months what I did last year, I shall be compelled to solicit for an immediate removal from this Regency.

I shall dispatch a Courier this evening for Tripoli, (at the Commodore's request) by which occasion your letter to Captain Bainbridge, will be forwarded. — I have also the honor to enclose you two from him & one from M<sup>r</sup> O'Brien.

From the extravagant price of Grain in this Regency, and consequent distress of the people, my Drogerman has solicited some trifling increase of pay, which indeed is at present insufficient for the support of one man — from the circumstance of his having a large family, whom I know are in distress; and in consideration of his long services to the

United States, I have promised him the additional sum of thirty dollars per Annum; and which I trust will meet your approbation, as he is at *this moment*, particularly serviceable to me.

I beg leave to assure You of the high consideration, and profound respect, with which I have the honor to be

P. S. The Courier, is to receive three Dollars from You, on his delivering this dispatch; and the like sum from me when he brings Your answer — I presume he will not stay more than one day in Algiers. —

The Courier, who has this moment come for his pay, acknowledges the receipt of ten dollars, but which he says was for his support in Algiers, and in consideration of his detention —

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

To George Davis, U. S. Chargé d'Affaires, Tunis, from Don Joseph Noguera, Spanish Consul General, Tunis

TUNIS June 22<sup>d</sup> 1804

The Undersigned Consul & Charge d'Affaires of his Catholic Majesty has the honor to participate to the Charge d'Affaires of the United States the Surprize with which he has heard the report spread in this City of the Capture by the American Vessels of War blockading Tripoly of the Spanish Vessel of Cap<sup>t</sup> Torres sailing from hence to Tripoly, and conducting an envoy of the Grand Signior & furnished with a passport of the Charge d'Affaires of the United States

The Consul of Spain does not presume to think without a very serious infraction of the passport on the Part of the Captain that such an unexpected calamity could have befallen him but his astonishment increases also in understanding by the same report that the said Captain was actually in this place on board one of the American Men of War not many days ago Not having recieved from said Cap<sup>t</sup> Torres letter nor light of any kind on the business which without an unpardonable negligence he ought to have imparted, and it would be extremely extraordinary indeed if the participation of this event to his Consul was denied him —

The Spanish Consul does neither presume to think that, that would have been the case without well founded reasons; but as M<sup>r</sup> Charge d'Affaires ought to be better instructed than any person of what has passed, and besides that his politeness is well known, the Undersigned thinks it his duty to ask from M<sup>r</sup> Davis all the insight that it will be permitted him to give — In the meanwhile he has the honor to sign himself with the highest consideration

JOSEPH NOGUERA  
Spanish Consul General

[LC. EPP, LB, April—Nov. 1804.]

[22 June 1804]

To Don Joseph Noguera, Spanish Consul General, Tunis, from George Davis, U. S. Chargé d'Affaires, Tunis

GEORGE DAVIS Esq. *Charged with the Affairs of the United States of America at Tunis*

To DON JOSEPH NOGUERA *His Catholic Majesty's Consul General at Tunis*

SIR, I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of Your Official communication of this date requesting to learn, whether the Spanish

Bombard *La Vergine del Rosario* Capt. Francesco Della Torre, bearing my Passport to enter and return from the Port of Tripoli in Barbary, had been captured by any of the U. States Vessels of War, and the reasons for this conduct. — I have only to state that the said Bombard on her passage to Tripoli, was visited by several of the U States' Vessels of war, and permitted to enter that Port without any molestation. That on sailing from said Port of Tripoli, bound for the Island of Malta, she was again examined, and in direct violation of my Passport, was found to have on board, fourteen individuals more than when she entered; and was accordingly sent into the Island of Malta, for adjudication, her commander remaining on board the U. States Brig, which had visited her: — but in consequence of the distinguished respect the Government of the U. States, its Officers & Agents wishes to shew to His Catholic Majesty's flag, the Commodore & Commander in chief of the Squadron, caused her to be released immediately, and presume that her Commander, has, ere, this arrived at Malta.

I have also the honor to make known to You, that Passports heretofore given for Vessels to enter the Ports of Tripoli, will not be considered as valid; and, as the Vessel, carrying His Catholic Majesty's Dispatches for that Port, is now at anchor in the road of the Gouletta, my duty combines with my desire to endeavour to prevent any interruption in her safe arrival — I would therefore advise the Courier's going in search of the Commander in chief of the Squadron, to whom, I will address a letter; it being necessary, in order, to enter the Port of Tripoli, to receive a Safe Conduct from under his hand; and should not circumstances render the measure very imprudent, I trust my request will be acquiesced to —

TUNIS *June 22<sup>d</sup> 1804* —

[LC. EPP, Vol. 11, April–June 1804 and Mrs. James S. Barron Col.]

Extract from journal of U. S. Brig *Argus*, Master Commandant Isaac Hull, U. S. Navy, commanding, Friday, 22 June 1804

at  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 12 the Commodore ret<sup>d</sup> onboard the *Consti[tution]* filled away the main topsail and stood out of the bay of Tunis in Company with the Commodore at  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 2 the fort of Tunis bore S W b W dist<sup>t</sup> about 6 miles at 5 the Commodore mad[e] Sig<sup>l</sup> N<sup>o</sup> 275 at  $\frac{1}{4}$  past he made Sig<sup>l</sup> 1074 Took in and Set sail as Necessary spoke a Spanish brig from Trieste bound to Barcelona at 12 Cape Bon bore E S E a Sail in Sight on our lee bow at 1 Came up with her she prov<sup>d</sup> a Ship the Commodore's boat boarded her At 8 AM Pantalaria bore S E  $\frac{3}{4}$  E Cape Bon N W  $\frac{1}{4}$  N<sup>o</sup> At Meridian light breezes the Commodore in Comp<sup>y</sup> Emp<sup>d</sup> Occas<sup>y</sup>

[NDA photostat.]

Extract from Memorandum Book of Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, 22 June 1804

Sailed for Syracuse

[LC original.]

218 NAVAL OPERATIONS, APRIL-SEPTEMBER<sup>6</sup>, 1804

Extract from Diary of Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, Commodore of U. S. Squadron in the Mediterranean, Friday, 22 June 1804

moderate Breezes from the N N E and pleasant weather at anchor in Tunis Bay, at  $\frac{1}{2}$  past noon I returned on board, weighed & sailed out of the Bay, at  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 3 P M weighed & sailed out of the Bay spoke a Neapolitan Brig Prize to a Tunisian Corsair then in sight which soon after passed us, — at 5 P M made the *Argus* a signal to chase N E B N, — which she spoke & reported a spaniard from the Levant for Tunis, — at 10 passed Zembra Sett Studing sails & steered to the E B S, — at 10 gave chase to a sail a head, which at 1 A M we Boarded 1 league N E from Cape Bon she was a spaniard from Merseills bound for Susa & Monastere in the Kingdom of Tunis, the Captain gave me a Packet of French News Papers, and I purchased two Cases of Cordial and two Cases of Sirop from him for which I paid him 50 Spanish dollars, — at 3 A M made sail & pursued our course S E B E to pass near the Island of Pantalaria, — at  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 4 A M Cape Bon bore W B S 9 miles distant, light winds & pleasant weather, — at 7 A M saw Pantalaria S E, steered for it untill noon, when the north point bore S E distance 4 leagues, Surgeons Report 9 Sick, & 7 convalescent, —

[LC. EPP, Diary, 1803-1804.]

Extract from journal kept by Purser John Darby, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. S. *John Adams*, Master Commandant Isaac Chauncey, U. S. Navy, commanding, Friday, 22 June 1804

[Several lines of Manuscript mutilated] Roll and acct. of Allotm<sup>t</sup> of Pay and forward them on to the Accountant of the Navy. — We are now waiting for a Wind, having receiv<sup>d</sup> our Sailing orders — this day there was a Court Martial held on board of the *Congress* Frigate on Two Seamen. one for Mutiny & the other for desertion the former sentenced to have 320 Lashes, & the other 150 —

[NDA original. Miss Camilla S. McConnell.]

[23 June 1804]

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

SIR I herein Enclose you the proceedings of the Court Martial in the Trial of Robert Quin & John Kirkpatrick and wait your orders for adjourning the Court Sine Die

JN<sup>o</sup> RODGERS

JUNE 23<sup>d</sup> 1804

Commodore SAM<sup>l</sup> BARRON  
U S, Frigate *President*

[Mrs. James S. Barron original.]

Sentences of Courts Martial

FRIGATE *President* JUNE 23. 1804

At a Court Martial—held this Day on the tryal of Robert Gwin on a charge of mutiny and John Kirkpatrick for desertion, the following sentences were decreed and approved —

Robert Gwinn, on a charge of Mutiny to have his Head & Eye brows shaved, branded in the forehead with the Word MUTINUS — to receive Three hundred & twenty lashes, equally apportion'd along side of the different ships of the Squadron with the Label MUTINEY in large capital Letters inserted on its front, & to be Drum'd on shore under a Gallows in a Boat tow'd stern foremost by a boat from each ship in the Squadron, as unworthy of serving under the Flag of the United States —

John Kirkpatrick on a charge of Desertion, to receive One hundred & fifty Lashes, to be apportion'd along side the Different Ships in the Squadron, during the execution of which sentence, he shall wear a white Cap with a Label in Front, in Capital Letters — THE REWARD OF DESERTION, and afterwards to be return'd to Duty.

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

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

GENERAL ORDERS

U. S. SHIP *President*  
*Hampton roads June 23<sup>rd</sup> 1804*

The Commander in Chief of the Squadron cannot but express his concern, and regrets that an incident should have occur'd which compels him to order the infliction of a punishment on individuals serving under his command, both painful & degrading to the character of a Seaman & Soldier— but viewing the crimes of mutiny and desertion of a most heinous nature, and justly meriting the most exemplary punishment, & being determin'd never to pardon crimes, fraught with such fatal consequences to the service, nor to mitigate in any degree the Punishment, annex'd, by Law to such Crimes — approves the sentence of the Court Martial of this Day, decreed against Robert Quinn and John Kirkpatrick, and orders it to be executed on Monday next, at 8 O'Clock —

Sign'd SAM<sup>l</sup> BARRON

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

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

TUNIS *June 23<sup>d</sup> 1804.*

SIR I have the honor to enclose for your information a copy of a letter\* from his catholic Majesty's Consul here, and answer — The Occurrence is fortunate as it will enable me to refuse on a solid foundation any passports that may be asked for hereafter by this regency — The Courier has been dispatched for Tripoly: but may be delayed as he is Obliged to pass from Zoara to the Coast of Tripoli in a boat, from this circumstance it may be adviseable, should you think proper to let the Courier pass, to send a duplicate of your letter to Cap<sup>t</sup> B. by her —

I wish the Passport given by M<sup>r</sup> Pinckeney Counter-signed by M<sup>r</sup> Eaton & my-self was destroyed & that he may not receive any thing in writing from you, as all such papers would be used to my injury here — There was a Subject of Tripoly on board said Courier — I presume he is left at Tunis: but it will be well to ascertain the fact

The Sapatapa was much gratified with your Salute, and would have sent a regalia of Fresh Stock &° on board, had you made any delay — I am again threatened with a return of fever

P. S. My Courier has returned from Algiers: I enclose under cover to M<sup>r</sup> Higgins a letter for Yourself & M<sup>r</sup> O'Brien from Col<sup>o</sup> Lear

\*The letters enclosed were the two preceding  
[LC. EPP, LB, April-Nov. 1804.]

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To Sir Alexander John Ball, Governor of Malta, from Captain Edward Preble,  
U. S. Navy

UNITED STATES SHIP *Constitution*  
June 23<sup>d</sup> 1804

SIR You will Oblige me extremely by allowing me to send to Tripoly in the Vessel that the British Consul goes over in, a few Bales of Cloathing for the American Prisoners who are almost naked — I wish also to send some provisions and stores to be delivered to Cap<sup>n</sup> Bainbridge (if permitted) but if not to be retained in possession of the Consul untill Cap<sup>n</sup> Bainbridge is allowed to recieve them, Your Influence with M<sup>r</sup> Langford will ensure his attention to my unfortunate Countrymen — I have written to him on the Subject —

I enclose your Excellency a file of Paris papers down to the 9th Inst. & presume they will be interesting, as they must be much later than any you can have recieved at Malta —

The Pilot I discharged when last at Malta, although a Frenchman has been three years in the American Service — You will therefore oblige me by releasing him from Confinement and sending him out of the Island — I believe him to be a Villain but too dull an one to do any injury to your Commerce — It is possible some blame may be attached to me for discharging him at Malta, which induces me to ask this favor —

The American Consul at Tunis informed me that a revolution had taken place in Algiers in favor of the English, they Dey has been assassinated, the whole of the Jews been put to death and all the Frenchmen in the Regency been put in chains — This Intelligence was brought to the Bashaw of Tunis from Algiers by one of his corsairs and believed to be true

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

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To William Wass Langford, British Consul General, Tripoli, from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

UNITED STATES FRIGATE *Constitution*  
23<sup>rd</sup> June 1804

SIR, I take the liberty to request that you will do me the favour, to take under your charge, a few Bales of clothing and some provisions and stores, for the unfortunate American Prisoners, in Tripoli — I should not trouble you with this business, if they were not almost Naked.

I wish the clothing and stores to be delivered to Captain Bainbridge, if he is allowed to receive them, but if not, you will please to retain the whole under your protection, until he is: I also wish to send over some money to M<sup>r</sup> Nissen the Danish Consul, to repay the sums he has already advanced for them —



Your Freindly attention to our affairs, and any service you can render our Countrymen in Barbary, will ever be gratefully acknowledged —  
 [The Admiralty, London. NDA photostat.]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from Sir Alexander John Ball, Governor of Malta

MALTA *June 23<sup>d</sup> 1804*

SIR I am honored with your excellency's letter of this day's date expressing your desire to send some cloathing by the British Consul to the American Prisoners at Tripoly —

I have to regret that the British Consul sailed yesterday evening for Tripoly — He would have felt highly gratified in rendering this service to your unfortunate Countrymen —

If you can suggest any mode by which it can be conveyed I beg you to command me, and that you will be assured of the satisfaction I shall at all times feel in executing your wishes

I shall immediately comply with your wish, and release the Frenchman who was your Pilot and whom I intended to confine a short time to prevent his conveying Intelligence of the Trade carried on here —

P. S. I beg to thank you for the French Papers — I am surprized at the report from Tunis & unless it were well authenticated I should doubt it — Be assured we do not interfere with the internal affairs of the Government, & I do not know of any English Party —

A, J, B

[LC. EPP, LB, April–Nov. 1804.]

To Nicholas C. Nissen, Danish Consul, Tripoli, from George Davis, U. S. Chargé d'Affaires, Tunis

TUNIS *June 23<sup>d</sup> 1804*

SIR, I avail myself of a Courier, which leaves this for Tripoli, to trouble you with a letter for Capt. Bainbridge. We learn through various channels, that the Emperor of Russia, has found his new created Government, to wit, the Republic of the Seven Islands; an impolitic establishment, and has taken possession of them. — He has also, placed an Arsenal at, and fortified Corfu: the fleet at Sea consists of forty three Sail, with ten thousand troops on board, intended for the Protection of Sicily, against all Powers. — It has been reported and correctly believed, that Algiers was in a state of revolution; the Dey assassinated, and most of the influential Jews. — I received last evening an express from Algiers, in twelve days; by which I learn there is no truth in the report. — The Jews, are much Alarmed, at the approaching visit of the English; whom it is said, are resolved to make a severe & decisive attack — none of their Cruizers, have yet been out. — There is also a new Prophet arisen, who has an immense Army of Bedouins; has actually made himself Master of Bona, and is marching towards the Capital. — I thus give you in detail, the only news we have at this Regency,

Begging you, to accept my best wishes for your health & happiness,

NB. Your Drafts on me for the use of the American Officers & Seamen at Tripoly, will ever be honoured.

*Sympathetic ink [Written in lime juice.]*

All your letters have been received, with their enclosures. — I send you this by a Courier express, whom you may expedite at your pleasure — he is to receive no pay until he brings your answer. — The letter for Capt. B. under the Commodore's cover is of great importance. — Should not the offer Capt. B. is empowered to make be accepted, you may daily expect a warm attack — God bless you, and believe me,

Yours with the highest regard and esteem,

G. D.

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

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

TUNIS June 23<sup>d</sup> 1804.

MY DEAR SIR, Since I had this pleasure, I have been confined to my bed, almost constantly, with a violent fever; my health, Suffered much during the last warm Season, and have much more to dread from the approaching one. — I should solicit for an immediate removal from this Regency; did I not still cherish the hope of rendering myself serviceable to yourself and officers — rest assured, that those who have been kind to you in your distress, will ever have a Sincere and grateful friend in me — it is however, certain, that Political and interested motives, seems to have blocked up every avenue, to the humane, and Sympathising feelings of most of those Christians, who surround you.

\* \* \* \* \*

*Sympathetic ink [written in lime juice.]*

Your letters to the Commodore, who, left this Bay, on the 20<sup>th</sup>, have been rec<sup>d</sup> and forward you by a Courier express his answer, together with letters from M<sup>r</sup> O'Brien, and Consul Lear. — In case the offer, you are authorized to make, should not be accepted, keep a good look out; and prepare yourself to profit of any advantages, that may present themselves — for you may expect every hour after the receipt of this letter, a warm attack, and in Such a way as may induce the Bashaw, & Court to look for a little country air — Should you have any thing to communicate, the Courier will not make a detention of more than three days. — I have no recent news from the U. States; but shall hear something from the New Squadron, which we have reason to Suppose has arrived at Gibraltar. —

God prosper you in all your projects, and believe me Your affectionate friend G. D.

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

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[23 June 1804]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from the Wardroom Officers of the U. S. Frigate *Constitution*

The Gentlemen of the Wardroom present their most respectful compliments to Commodore Preble, and request the pleasure of his Company to dine with them tomorrow.

SATURDAY EVENING 23<sup>rd</sup> June 1804

[LC. EPP, Vol. 11, April-June 1804.]

Extract from journal of U. S. Brig *Argus*, Master Commandant Isaac Hull, U. S. Navy, commanding, Saturday, 23 June 1804

at midnight moderate breezes Pantalaria bore W  $\frac{1}{2}$  N at  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 3 saw Cape Ruxo bearing N E b N Pantalaria W N  $\frac{1}{2}$  N At  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 9 the Commod<sup>o</sup> Spoke us and ordered us to proceed to Malta

[NDA photostat.]

Extract from Diary of Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, Commodore of U. S. Squadron in the Mediterranean, Saturday, 23 June 1804

A description of the Tunisian Frigate which we left at anchor in Tunis Bay the 21<sup>st</sup> ins<sup>t</sup>, Viz<sup>t</sup> darke coloured yellow sides with two White mouldings above, stern almost perpendicular with an upright Lion head painted yellow, Quarter galleries shaped like a poop Lantern with green Venetian blinds and white mouldings, upright stern with Crescent Tafferel, two large plain white mouldings, green Venetian blinds to all the Cabbin Windows, — 26 Ports but only 24 guns on the main deck, the 2 Cabbin guns are Brass & Painted Green, 8 Guns on the quarter deck, and two on the Fore castle, — no quarte[r]s on the Spar deck except a Strip of Canvas painted Black, Mizen mast shorter than common, very short Royal masts, Spritsail & Spritsail topsail yards, — Inside work of the ship painted red the Boat over the Stern has a White Bottom green wales and Red Gunwale strait, moderate Breezes & pleasant weather steering to the E S E, 2 leagues to the N W of Pantalaria, — at 2 P M Calm, — we were then 2 miles from the Town which is situated in a small Bay on the N W side of the Island, it is defended by a Castle in the Center and a Battery of five guns at each extreme of the Town the Bay is sheltered from S E & S W, winds, — at 3 P M a light breeze sailing along side the North of the Island, — at 8 P M the East point bore W N W 9 miles, — at 8 A M it Bore W N W, 11 or 12 leagues saw the Island of Sicily bearing from N to N E, *Argus* in company at noon, Latitude Observed 36° 29' N, Gozo bears S E B E 15 leagues

[LC. EPP, Diary, 1803-1804.]

Extract from journal of Midshipman F. Cornelius deKrafft, U. S. Navy, in U. S. Brig *Siren* of 18 guns, Master Commandant Charles Stewart, U. S. Navy, commanding, Saturday, 23 June 1804

At  $\frac{1}{2}$  past Meridian, saw the afore mention'd sail Standing in for Tripoli, made all sail in chace of her again. At 2 in stay sails & royals up courses & down flying jib. the *Vixen* bro<sup>t</sup> the chace too with a shot. fill'd away. At 3 L<sup>t</sup> Smith came on board. At 4 set courses & Tk<sup>d</sup> to the E<sup>d</sup>.  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 4 haul'd up courses & brail'd after main sail. At 6 Tripoli bore S. by E. 2 leagues.  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 6 wore to the NW<sup>d</sup> At 7 back'd the main topsail. At  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 7 L<sup>t</sup> Dent came on board fill'd away. —

[NDA.]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from Don Joseph Noguera, Spanish Consul General, Tunis

TUNIS 24th June 1804.

SIR Instructed by the Charge d'Affaires of your Nation to this Bey, that in future the passports given by the Agents of Your Government to Enter Tripoly will not be considered of any force without

your Special permission, and the Spanish Brig or Courier called *S<sup>t</sup> Ferdinando* Joseph Carera Master being here with the Ministerial Correspondance aboard of the Regencies of Tunis and Tripoly: I think that my duty is to address you that he may ask your permission to go into the Port of Tripoly to fulfil his mission, which is to deliver the dispatches of Government to my Colleague in Tripoly, and to return immediately with the Answers —

I dare flatter my-self Sir that this permission which I take the liberty to solicit with such earnestness will be accorded and will be in no shape prejudicial to your Undertaking as the captain assures me that he has nothing on board but the dispatches and some trifles which are of Very little consequence & which he brings from Spain by Order of the Consul my Colleague and of some Spanish Individuals residing in Tripoly which you can Verify; and farther I make bold to hope that your goodness will not refuse what M<sup>r</sup> Davis has almost assured me will be Granted, and that he would Support my pretensions by his good Offices —

I profit also by this Occasion to thank you for the liberty which M<sup>r</sup> Davis tells me you had Granted to Cap<sup>t</sup> Torres taken by one of your Squadron in coming out of Tripoly in consequence of transgressing the Passports given him.

Be pleased Sir to recieve my expressions of the most profound respect & highest consideration with which,

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

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Extract from journal of U. S. Brig *Argus*, Master Commandant Isaac Hull, U. S. Navy, commanding, Sunday, 24 June 1804

at 1 let go the small bower Carried out a Kedge Anchor ahead hove up the Anchor and Warped into the harbour of Malta at ½ past 2 came too with the Small bower in 13 f<sup>m</sup> Water soft muddy bottom

[NDA photostat.]

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Extract from Diary of Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, Commodore of U. S. Squadron in the Mediterranean, Sunday, 24 June 1804

Wind N W steering to the S E B E, at 3 P M saw Gozo, by 9 P M we were abreast of Gozo, bearing W S W 4 miles, steering for Malta, at midnight abreast of Valetta Harbour the light House bearing West half a mile distant, the *Argus* entered the Harbour, — at 8 A. M. hoisted a signal [a yellow flag] for quarantine having been at Tunis & Tripoly, — at 10 had a muster of the ships company by divisions and an examination of their cloathing &c, — at a 11 went on shore and gave orders for a supply of Provisions & Stores for the *Argus*, wrote to Governor Ball for the release of the Pilot we discharged when last here which he granted at noon I returned to the ship to get under way, —

[LC. EPP, Diary, 1803-1804.]

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To Anthony Merry, British Minister to the United States, from Secretary of State

DEPARTMENT OF STATE, June 25<sup>th</sup> 1804.

SIR, I have had the honor to receive and have laid before the President your letter dated on yesterday, complaining of the steps taken at New York for detaining certain British Ships of War, until

24 hours should have succeeded the departure of certain French Ships; notwithstanding the desire of the British Commander to proceed to Sea, before the time notified by the French Commander for the Departure of the French Ships.

The rule established by the United States, in conformity to general usage, is that no armed Vessel of a belligerent power, shall proceed to Sea within less than 24 hours after the departure from the same Port of Vessels armed or unarmed belonging to an adversary power. We readily concur therefore in the general positions, that Vessels hostile to each other in the same Port at the same time, are equally free to proceed to Sea in the order of time they may deem proper; the restraint of the rule falling on the armed vessels which may happen to be the followers. You are equally well founded, Sir, in the justice you do to the disposition of the U States to maintain the rule with a sincere impartiality. They will be equally impartial in protecting within their jurisdiction, the hostile Vessels, each against the other; and in maintaining the rights of their own jurisdiction against either. And the communications which will be made to the proper Officers at New York will not lose sight of these just principles.

Having premised these observations, I am to subjoin that the real cause of the proceedings of which you complain, does not warrant the inferences into which you have been led.

It appears that on the 17<sup>th</sup> instant prior to the outrage committed by the British Commander in the American jurisdiction, the Mayor of the City of New York on the application of the French Consul there, requested of the British Consul, that the British Ships of War might not sail until the expiration of 24 hours after the departure of the French Vessels; which according to the notification given was to take place with the first fair wind. It does not appear, or rather the contrary may be inferred, that the Mayor had either notice or knowledge of any intention in the British Commander to proceed immediately to Sea.

On the morning of the 18<sup>th</sup> the Mayor became officially acquainted with the violent proceedings of the British Commander, within the Port of New York, and suspecting that he would be as ready to insult the authority of the laws in one case, as he had been in another and that he actually meditated a violation of the rule of 24 hours, addressed on the same day a request to the Wardens of the Port, that the Pilots might be prohibited from conducting the British Ships out of the Port, until the French Ships should have had the benefit of the rule. This request is founded expressly on his suspicion that the British Ships would follow the French Ships within less than 24 hours after the departure of the latter. And it cannot be d[o]ubted, that after what had passed, he was fully justified in such a suspicion.

It cannot be improper to add, Sir, that whether the measure taken to prevent the departure of the British Ships had or had not any other object, than that of enforcing the rule of 24 hours, it is certain that those who had so flagrantly violated our laws, might well be suspected of an intention to elude the punishment to which they had subjected themselves; and that in that point of view also, every regular step which might contribute to secure the execution of the laws against the Offenders was strictly justifiable.

To Tobias Lear, U. S. Consul General, Algiers, from Secretary of State

DEPARTMENT OF STATE, *June 25<sup>th</sup> 1804.*

SIR. I have the honor to enclose a list of the articles which it is intended to send to Algiers with the brass Cannon requested by the Dey. They will follow after the timber &<sup>c</sup> which is immediately to be shipped to replace the loss of the *Sally's* cargo. It would be convenient to us in collecting the Maritime stores for Algiers to have a table of the dimensions most in use for the Navy of that Regency, as well as the tariff according to which the price exclusive of freight at which they are received is regulated, and I request you to endeavour to obtain and forward them to this Office.

Eastwardly winds having prevailed for many days, the Squadron which has proceeded towards the Capes of the Chesapeake has probably been detained in the Bay. Their orders were forwarded this day week.

[NA. SDA. Despatches to Consuls, Oct. 1800-Feb. 1817.]

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Extract from journal of U. S. Brig *Argus*, Master Commandant Isaac Hull, U. S. Navy, commanding, Monday, 25 June 1804

[At anchor in Malta Harbor.] These 24 hours Commences with Pleasant breezes and Clear Weather the health Officer Came off and informed us we could not obtain Pratique hoisted the Yellow flag Observed the brigs draught of Water to be 13 feet Aft and 9½ feet forward Crew Employed Watering Rowed Guard during the night —

At meridian fine Weather Variously Employed

[NDA photostat.]

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Extract from Diary of Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, Commodore of U. S. Squadron in the Mediterranean, Monday, 25 June 1804

Fresh Breezes from the Westward, at ½ past 12 weighed & sailed steered N E for Cape Passaro, the S E point of Sicily, — at ½ past 7 we passed the Cape within half a mile & steered on to the N E for Cape Porcha, wind variable, — at midnight boarded an English Privateer from malta & her Prize, — at 11 A M anchored in Syracuse Harbour in 7 fath<sup>s</sup> Water all over this Harbour is soft Bottom and good holding ground light house bears E B S ¼ mile, met here the six gun Boats and the *Enterprize*, — commenced filling water and taking off provisions & Stores, —

[LC. EPP, Diary, 1803-1804.]

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Extract from journal of U. S. Frigate *John Adams*, Master Commandant Isaac Chauncey, U. S. Navy, commanding, Monday, 25 June 1804

Begins with light Airs from the Southward and Westward with Clear Weather. At 5 A. M hove short, and at seven weighed with a light Wind, from the S. W:

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

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Extract from journal kept by Purser John Darby, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. S. *John Adams*, Master Commandant Isaac Chauncey, U. S. Navy, commanding, Monday, 25 June 1804

[Several lines of manuscript mutilated] equal number of stripes along side of each Ship. being five in the Squadron now laying in

Hampton Road. they both receid their proportion along side of the *President*. and were towed by a boat from each ship along side the *Congress*. where the Mutineer [Robert Quinn] after receiving 12 Stripes. fainted. he was then put into a boat, and caried onboard of the *President* to receive the balance of his punishment as soon as he was able to bare it. the Deserter [John Kirkpatrick] being a strong Irishman, he was able to stand the whole of his punishment and was taken from ship to ship untill he recev<sup>d</sup> the whole. Our ship was the last that he came to. and I think a more Distressful sight I never experianced: but I must confess that I was more distressed [several lines of manuscript mutilated] The Procession was as follows: —

They ware both striped with a sheet thrown over their backs, each of them had a White Cap on, the Words MUTINY wrote on one & the Words, the REWARD OF DESSERTION wrote on the other. they ware both tied in a boat caled a Launch, under a Gallows which was Erected for the Purpose, and towed from ship to ship with five armed boats. the desserter after receiving his punishment was returned to the ship again. but the Mutiner was to be set on shore after receiving his full punishment. With the Words MUTINY branded in his forehead — but I have no Idea that he could survive the whole of it. but must die under the operation. It is to be sure most cruel punishment. but the very existence of the Navy require it —

[NDA original. Miss Camilla S. McConnell.]

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

U. S. SHIP *John Adams* 26<sup>th</sup> JUNE 1804

*The Light-House on Cape Henry bearing  
South, Distant 2 Leagues. —*

SIR I had the Honor of writing you on the 21<sup>st</sup> Inst<sup>l</sup> since which Time I have been lying at a single Anchor, Wind-bound, which has continued blowing with but little Variation from N. E to E. S. E untill this Morning, when we weigh'd with a light Air from the Westward, that however soon left us, and we drifted down some Distance with the Ebb-Tide untill we got a Breeze from about S. E by which we are standing to sea and hope it will not Eastern upon us before we clear the Land, the Pilot will leave us in about half an hour by whom I forward this Letter.

It was extremely mortifying to me to have been detained so long in Hampton Roads; but I assure you that it was unavoidable, which I believe the Commodore, and the other Captains of the Squadron can testify.

[NDA. MC LB, 1804-5.]

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

U. S. SHIP *Constitution*

*Malta June 26th 1804*

SIR I had the honor to write you by M<sup>r</sup> OBrien on the 13th Inst: but as you did not please either to see him or write me an answer, I have reason to expect that you would not give yourself any concern in our Affairs at Tripoly — I have recieved your letter by the master of the Ligurian Prize, and although I find her under Spanish Colors

with 1650 Spanish dollars belonging to residents in Tripoly; yet such attention have I paid to your declaration that I have released the Vessel and Property, and have put the Frenchman M<sup>r</sup> [space] in quiet possession of both — I have sent the Cloathing & some Stores for the American Prisoners over in a Neutral Vessel, and have consigned it to his Excellency Sidi Mahomet D'Ghies requesting him to permit them to be delivered to the Danish Consul presuming that it would not be agreeable to you to receive them — If I am wrong in my conjecture, you cannot convince me of it more fully than by prevailing on his Excellency to allow the Cloathing & Stores to be delivered to Cap<sup>t</sup> Bainbridge Himself —

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

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Extract from journal of U. S. Brig *Argus*, Master Commandant Isaac Hull, U. S. Navy, commanding, Tuesday, 26 June 1804

At Anchor in Malta Harbour at ½ past 10 Weighed Anchor Carried a Kedge ahead and Warped some distance out of the harbour of Malta at 12 let go the Anchor Crew Emp<sup>d</sup> Watering

At 7 P M. Weighed anchor and stood out of the harbour of Malta

[NDA photostat.]

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Extract from Diary of Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, Commodore of U. S. Squadron in the Mediterranean, Tuesday, 26 June 1804

Wind from the Eastward, ordered a Boat to row Guard to prevent surprize, sent six boats to bring off Water & provisions, — Ordered fresh Beef & Vegetables for the ships Crew, — Surgeons report 9 sick & 10 convalescent, — I this day released a Ketch sent in by the *Argus* & *Vixen*, from Tripoly bound to this place, it appeared by her Papers, among which was a Certificate from all the Consuls that she was a French Vessel carried into Tripoly by a corsair & detained two years, — and lately released in consequence of a demand of her by the French Government, —

[LC. EPP, Diary, 1803-1804.]

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Extract from log book kept by Sailing Master Nathaniel Haraden, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Tuesday, 26 June 1804

Light airs from the Eastward — At single anchor in Saragosa — *Enterprize* & six Gun boats in company. Employed making the necessary arrangements for watering ship & receiving provisions —

Unbent the Mainsail to repair

At 8 P. M. armed a boat which continued outside of the Harbor during the Night as a Guard boat

At day light six shore boats came and took away ten Gang Casks each to be employed in watering ship Rec'd fresh beef and a Quantity of Vegetables for the ships company. employed receiving in water & provisions

Surgeons report 9 sick, 10 convalescent.

Noon moderate breezes from the Eastward

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



Extract from journal of U. S. Frigate *John Adams*, Master Commandant Isaac Chauncey, U. S. Navy, commanding, Tuesday, 26 June 1804

First Part frequent and heavy Squalls of Rain — At 6 P M passed Cape Henry — At 8 the Light House bore S W  $\frac{1}{2}$  W dist 6 Miles from which I take my Departure — detained the Pilot untill Midnight, my Reason for doing this was that the Wind was falling light and scant — At 11 the Wind hauling to about S. W. and a fine Breeze I discharged him Ends with moderate Gales and hazy. — Wind South.

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

Extract from journal kept by Purser John Darby, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. S. *John Adams*, Master Commandant Isaac Chauncey, U. S. Navy, commanding, Tuesday, 26 June 1804

[Several lines of Manuscript mutilated.] *Congress Essex & Constellation* to sail in a few days. — at 7. P. M. Cape Henry bore S. W. b S. Dist.  $4\frac{1}{2}$  miles Cape Charles N  $\frac{1}{2}$  E Dis<sup>t</sup> 13 miles — at 8. Cape Henry bore S. W.  $\frac{1}{2}$  W. Dis<sup>t</sup>  $2\frac{1}{2}$  Leagues. — at 11 P. M. the Pilot left the ship. and we all delivered our letters for our friends. I set up untill about 12 OClock at night. the Wind continuing light. at the Southw<sup>d</sup> & Westw<sup>d</sup> —

[NDA original. Miss Camilla S. McConnell.]

Extract from journal of Midshipman F. Cornelius deKrafft, U. S. Navy, in U. S. Brig *Siren* of 18 guns, Master Commandant Charles Stewart, U. S. Navy, commanding, Tuesday, 26 June 1804

The *Scourge* in Co. Midnight moderate breezes & clear.  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 9 the land in sight, heard the report of Cannon call'd all hands, made all sail & stood for Tripoli. At 10 discover'd the *Vixen* off our weather bow & a large ship at anchor off Tripoli. At  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 10 the *Vixen* made the signal that the strange ship was a friend —  $\frac{3}{4}$  past 10 saw the ship had English colours flying. At 11 TK<sup>d</sup> to the N N E. —

Latt: Obs:  $33^{\circ}$   $13'$  N.

[NDA.]

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

U. S. SHIP *Constitution*

June 27th 1804

His Excellency SIDI MAHOMED DGHIES

Prime Minister to His Excellency the Bashaw of Tripoly —

SIR — When I was off Tripoly on the 13th Inst — You consented that some cloathing & other necessaries might be sent on shore for the use of the American prisoners in your regency, But the white flag on the castle was hauled down before we could get them out of the Ship — and I am now induced to send them in a Neutral Vessel as before suggested by yourself — I have taken the liberty to consign them directly to you, to be delivered into the charge of M<sup>r</sup> Nissen the Danish Consul, unless your Excellency could find it consistant to permit them to be delivered directly into the charge of Capt Bainbridge — Your Honorable & humane treatment of my countrymen, heretofore, Justifies the confidence I now place in you, and rest as-

sured Sir, that my Government as well as all Europe must admire & applaud the finer feelings of humanity, more especially when exerted to alleviate the sufferings of those which were thrown into your power by the Chances of War.

The Vessel which carries these over is an English Vessel and has my passport. If you wish to send Dispatches to any of the European Powers or Elsewhere, I promise you, that they shall be considered as Sacred —

The enclosed letters to Cap<sup>t</sup> Bainbridge & Consul Nissen I beg you will permit to be delivered to these Gentlemen.

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

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To Captain William Bainbridge, U. S. Navy, from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

U. S. SHIP *Constitution*  
*June 27th 1804*

Dear Sir

\* \* \* \* \*

[First four paragraphs are the same as the letter to Captain Bainbridge dated 19 June 1804.]

I have forwarded to you in an English Vessel from Malta 14 Bales of cloathing & provisions & stores as p<sup>r</sup> Invoice and have consigned the whole to Sidi Mohammed Dghies and requested him to permit M<sup>r</sup> Nissen the Danish Consul to take charge of them for you as it will relieve his Excellency from any trouble respecting them and I hope M<sup>r</sup> Nissen will excuse my troubling him with this commission & he may rest assured that it will afford me the highest Satisfaction to have it in my power to make him grateful returns — I feel sensible I am under great Obligations to his Excellency the Bashaw for his goodness in permitting me to send you, these necessary articles in a Neutral Vessel —

Attend Particularly to this letter & all its contents as it may be interesting to you — I have sent the Winter as well as the Summer Cloathing —

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

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

U. S. SHIP *Constitution*  
*Syracuse June 27th 1804*

DEAR SIR I enclose you a copy of an Invoice of 14 Bales of Cloathing & Sundry Stores to be sent to Tripoly for the use of the Officers & Crew of the *Philadelphia* — I have consigned them to the Prime Minister His Excellency Sidi Mahammed DGHies and have requested him to permit them to be delivered to the Danish Consul or to Cap<sup>t</sup> Bainbridge — Such of the Stores as I have put on board the *Argus* I have marked with a A in the Margin — the remainder I wish you to procure so as to conform exactly with the Invoice, & mark them "Cap<sup>t</sup> Bainbridge" — You will please to hire a Felucca or large Sparonaro with English Colors and send them over immediately — Cap<sup>t</sup> Hull is to convoy her to Tripoly — I wish you to prevail on Sir A Ball to send two thousand Doll<sup>s</sup> to the British Consul with orders to supply Cap<sup>t</sup> B. with that amount, but let the money go over from

the Governor in his own name, and you replace it in Malta, & I will give you bills for the amount when I arrive —

I enclose you a letter for Gov<sup>r</sup> Ball which you will seal & then deliver —

Please to have all the cloathing marked “Cap<sup>t</sup> Bainbridge” You must not regard the Price of freight but procure it as cheap as you can —

[LC. EPP, LB, April–Nov. 1804.]

Extract from journal of U. S. Brig *Argus*, Master Commandant Isaac Hull, U. S. Navy commanding, Wednesday, 27 June 1804

at ½ past 8 hove too and hoisted in the boats at 9 filled away and made all sail by the wind the harbour of Malta bore S S W dist<sup>t</sup> 2 miles

At midnight fine W<sup>r</sup> ½ past Committed the body of W<sup>m</sup> Adams (Sea<sup>r</sup>) to the deep several Strange sail in Sight

[NDA photostat.]

Extract from log book kept by Sailing Master Nathaniel Haraden, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Wednesday, 27 June 1804

Light airs from the Westward —

At Anchor in Saragosa — *Enterprize* & 6 Gun boats in company. At 9 P. M. the Guard boat reported the arrival at this Port of the Brig *Argus* which we left at Malta on Monday last.

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

To Captain Daniel Carmick, U. S. Marine Corps, New Orleans, La., from Secretary of the Navy

NAVY DEPM<sup>t</sup> 28 June 1804. —

SIR, Previous to the receipt of your's dated at New Orleans 13<sup>th</sup> May, the requisite arrangements had been made relative to the rank of the respective Officers, and the necessary orders from Gen<sup>l</sup> Wilkinson had been forwarded.

It is directed that the Officers of the Marine Corps and those of the Army shall take rank of each other agreeably to grade and the dates of their commissions without reference to the particular services to which they may have been originally designed, bearing in recollection that the first consideration is concord and a desire to further by every laudable and honorable means the good and prosperity of the Country. —

I am sorry to learn so many of the troops are in bad health. The utmost attention from the officers as well as from the Surgeons is absolutely necessary on this subject.

The letter which you make mention of from D<sup>r</sup> Rogers has not come to hand.

[NDA. USMC, LB, 1804–1820.]

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

NAV. DEP<sup>t</sup> June 28<sup>th</sup> 1804

I enclose you a list of Timber Plank Spars &<sup>c</sup> which with 10 brass 24 pounders and 5. Brass Eighteen pound Cannon with carriages &<sup>c</sup>

complete will compose a second cargo to be sent to the Dey of Algiers —

You will immediately take measures for procuring the timber &<sup>o</sup> agreeably to the list enclosed and will use every exertion to have it completed in the shortest period possible —

The cannon will be procured at this place as soon as it is ready and you shall have provided the Timber plank &<sup>o</sup> a Vessel must be chartered for the Voyage suitable for the Cargo but you will not enter into contract for one until you have received directions from me

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

To Joshua Wingate, Hallowell, District of Maine, from Secretary of the Navy

NAV. DEP.<sup>t</sup> June 28<sup>th</sup> 1804

It is intended to send to the Dey of Algiers a cargo of Timber plank &<sup>o</sup> of the quantity and Kind specified in the enclosed list —

As it can be advantageously procured on the Kennebeck River and it having been intimated to me that it might probably be convenient for you to attend to the Shipment during your stay in that Quarter, I take the liberty to Request that you will procure it on the best terms in your power and with all practicable dispatch it being desirable that the shipment be made as early as possible —

You may not be able to procure the Timber of the exact dimensions stated in the list without losing much time — some latitude must therefore be allowed you not supposing that a perfect attention can be given to the list so as to make a correspondence in inches in every respect It is desirable however that the list be attended to as nearly as possible and that if there be any Variation from it it be an increase rather than a decrease in size —

You will also charter a Vessel for the cargo as soon as you shall have procured it on the best terms in your power —

The necessary monies for the purchase of the Timber &<sup>o</sup> and payment of freight will be supplied on your Requisition and instructions to the Captain of the Vessel will be given as soon as she is ready to sail —

Should you not be able to attend to this Business during your stay you will please offer it to your Father who I am informed is in that line — the usual Commission will be allowed — Please to let me hear from you as soon as convenient —

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

To Lieutenant Peter S. Ogilvie, U. S. Navy, Washington, D. C., from Secretary of the Navy

NAV. DEP. 28<sup>th</sup> June 1804. —

You will immediately repair to Baltimore and open Rendezvous, and use every exertion to procure 10 able, and 16 ordinary Seamen to man the Gun-boat N<sup>o</sup> 1, building at this place: they must be entered to serve two years. Allow to able seamen 12 dollars, and to ordinary seamen 8 dollars P<sup>r</sup> month, and make them 4 months advance, on receiving responsible security that they will be delivered to your Officer, who will be charged to conduct them to this place.

Colonel Stricker, Navy Agent at Baltimore, will supply the necessary monies, and will direct you how far to go, should you find it impracticable, to enter the men on the Terms here stated. —

Blank shipping papers are enclosed. One of the able seamen you may enter as a Boatswain, and one as a Gunner. —

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

To Josiah Fox, Washington, D. C., from Secretary of the Navy

NAV. DEP: 28. June 1804

It has been determined to build 2 other Gun Boats at the navy yard at this place agreeably to the draft which you have furnished with such improvements as we may from time to time suggest —

You will take immediate measures for procuring the materials that may be necessary in the construction of these Boats by contract on the best terms in your power, and build them under your Own Superintendance and with your Own men

Ascertain in the first instance what materials not applied to other Purposes the yard can afford you and then make your contracts for the remainder — The Kind of materials to be used is Submitted to your own Judgment let them however be so prepared as to ensure the duration of the Boats — much loss has been heretofore experienced by inattention to this Subject

In the present instance I expect that Every injury from that Source will be cautiously guarded against by your Knowledge of the Business —

Your Acquaintance with the Timber Business will, I hope, enable you to make contracts to advantage both with respect to quality of the materials and the men who may offer to contract for them — Be careful that the persons to whom you give the preference be fully able to perform all they undertake for

The whole Business may else be Submitted to delay and loss — Money will be deposited with Cap<sup>n</sup> Tingey subject to your Orders on account of the Contracts you may make and you will draw on him in favor of the contractors agreeably to your Contract.

Small advances may be made should you be of Opinion it would serve to Expedite the fulfilment of the contracts on their part

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

Extracts from a letter from Midshipman Henry Wadsworth, U. S. Navy

UNITED STATES BRIG *Scourge* 16,  
June 28th, 1804, off Tripoli.

DEAR JACK, Let me now continue for your information the history of the War — for to my friends everything which concerns the honor of the Nation is interesting.

It is two months since the *Scourge* left Syracuse; I have not since leaving America been so lengthy a cruise.

10 days ago the Commodore arrived here and supplied the *Siren Vixen* and *Scourge* with water and provisions: We came to anchor within gunshot of Tripoli and rec'd on board our Stores.

\* \* \* \* \*

While we were fitting out the *Scourge* at Syracuse a Tuniseen cruiser of 4 guns, came in the harbor in the afternoon. Tacked & stood out again & the same evening landed about 4 miles above the Town and took off some of the Inhabitants. —

The Tuniseens, Tripolines and Algerines with whom they are at war, come into their harbors in neutral Bottoms & walk publicly about their streets. — The Commodore asked the governor why he did not seize a number which were at Syracuse he answered that he was afraid of offending the Minister, Sig. Acting.

\* \* \* \* \*

*Scourge* July 16, 1804. The Squadron which has been cruising off the Port of Tripoli during the Summer has consisted of the *Siren*, *Argus*, *Vixen*, *Enterprise*, & *Scourge*. The Com<sup>re</sup> has supplied them all with Water & Provisions to prevent their going into Port. The *Vixen* and *Enterprise* are now in Port. The *Argus* has lately been in to Malta and convoyed a Ketch chartered for the purpose to Tripoli with stores for the officers: the cargo amounted to 7000\$, which I fear has been siezed by the Bashaw, as the officers do not mention their arrival in their prison: the Ketch returned yesterday & I rec'd a letter from M<sup>r</sup> Jones Mid<sup>ny</sup> who was with me in the *Chesapeak*. The inhabitants of Tripoli, the skipper of the Ketch says are all moving out of the City: Famine rages & no supplies can be obtained.

The other morning we discovered a large Sparonao to whom we gave chase & she ran on shore a few miles West of the Town. The *Vixen* anchored close in and made a riddling sieve of her in a short time: she was laden with wheat which they got on shore, the Musketry from shore fired thro the *Vixen's* sails & 4 men were killed in the *Siren's* boat: being the only men in uniform they were picked out for officers by the Tripolines: The shore being rocky they had good hiding places to ply their musquetry from: by the Ketch we learn that there were 150 killed & wounded on shore.

The Boats of the squadron frequently go on shore at a distance from the Town for Sand to scrub our decks: & for amusement, to chase & be chased by the Natives, but they always retire before the people begin to collect. The Gun Boats in number 18 often get under way & work about the Harbor & the Bank to the Eastward, where the *Philadelphia* ran on shore & once or twice we have been at it with long shot, — but this the commodore has now forbid as it practices them in firing.

\* \* \* \* \*

[H. W. L. Dana Col.]

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Extract from journal of U. S. Brig *Argus*, Master Commandant Isaac Hull, U. S. Navy, commanding, Thursday, 28 June 1804

Came too in the harbour of Syracuse found here the U. S. Ship *Constitution* Schooner *Enterprise* and Six Gunboats — Our boats emp<sup>d</sup> Watering and Shore boats bringing Off Provisions —

[NDA photostat.]

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Extract from Diary of Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, Commodore of U. S. Squadron in the Mediterranean, Thursday, 28 June 1804

Wind, S E, *Argus*, *Enterprise* & Gun Boats in company, — at A M the *Enterprise* sailed for Massina, sent the 14 Bales of Cloathing received at Naples, on board the *Argus* to be carried to Malta, and wrote orders to Mr Higgins to charter a small Vessel send them together with a quantity of Stores as pr order Book, to Tripoly for

the use of the Prisoners, — I wrote to the Bashaws Prime minister & consigned the whole to him, I also wrote Captain Bainbridge & sent him Two Thousand dollars in Cash & wrote the Danish & French Consuls, —

[LC. EPP, Diary, 1803-1804.]

Extract from journal kept by Purser John Darby, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. S. *John Adams*, Master Commandant Isaac Chauncey, U. S. Navy, commanding, Thursday, 28 June 1804

The Weather [s]till continues moderate and very pleasant Wind still fare at the south<sup>d</sup> & West<sup>d</sup>. in Latitude 36. 34, Long. 72. 11. found the Temperature of the air at Noon 78. Water 77 — the sea has a very pleasant appearance to me, and have no symptoms of sea sickness — this day about half past Six in the evening M<sup>r</sup> John D. Sears a Midshipman. fell over board every exertion was made to save him but to no effect. He was seen swimming some distance a stearn of the ship. the boat was immediately sent in search of him and picked up his hat and an oar which was thrown to him. but could see nothing [Manuscript mutilated] His death is much [Manuscript mutilated] officers on board. It is said that he is the only child of a Widow Lady who lives at Hever De Grace in the State of Maryland — Her feelings no doubt must meet with a severe shock on hearing this unfortunate news — and can better be imagined than described — saw several strange Sail to day but did not speak any of them —

[NDA original. Miss Camilla S. McConnell.]

Extract from journal of U. S. Frigate *John Adams*, Master Commandant Isaac Chauncey, U. S. Navy, commanding, Thursday, 28 June 1804

First part Strong Gales and Pleasant — At  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 6 P. M M<sup>r</sup> John D. Sears Midshipman, unfortunately fell overboard, and altho' every exertion was made Use of to save him it proved ineffectual — Ends with pleasant Weather Wind N. W

[[Left Cape Henry 26 June 1804.]

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

Extract from journal of Midshipman F. Cornelius deKrafft, U. S. Navy, in U. S. Brig *Siren* of 18 guns, Master Commandant Charles Stewart, U. S. Navy, commanding, Thursday, 28 June 1804

$\frac{1}{2}$  past Mer<sup>n</sup> came too with the Stream in 60 fathoms, Tripoli bearing S. by W 4 leagues dist<sup>t</sup> — At 6 Cap<sup>t</sup> Smith came on board  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 7 Tripoli bore S  $\frac{1}{2}$  W 3 leagues.  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 7 parted the cable in heaving up. At  $\frac{1}{4}$  past 8 set courses & main top mast stay sail & stood to the N E

Latt: Obs: 33° 17' N.

[NDA.]

To Secretary of the Navy from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

U. S. SHIP *Constitution*

Messina June 29th 1804

SIR, Some few days ago I recieved a letter from Mess<sup>rs</sup> J. Mackenzie & A. Glennie in London in answer to mine advising them of the bills

for £4000 under date of the 27th September last being a Forgery — as also a letter I some time since recieved from John Gavino Esquire — and am sorry I cannot throw some light on this Villainous transaction I have but little doubt however but that the matter will be so far traced as to leave it out of the Power of Caprice to attach any censure or suspicion on any officer of this Ship or Squadron — I could not but feel a little hurt at the insinuation of Mess<sup>rs</sup> M & G. knowing as I do the impracticability of any of my Officers having it in their power to be accessory to a fraud which must have required time and the deepest artifice —

The letter of Credit I delivered into M<sup>r</sup> Gavino's hands on board this Ship about the 15th or 16th September advising him of its contents, and requesting that it might be sent by the first safe conveyance — In doing this I think I was correct, as there was a better chance of it's meeting a safe conveyance from Gibraltar than from any other Port in the mediterranean — And Surely I am justified in giving it in charge of the *American Consul* at that place for the Purpose of transmitting, more especially as the business with Morrocco at that time scarcely admitted of my being on shore and entirely precluded me from an opportunity of finding a conveyance for it — When we consider all the circumstances of the letters & Bills arriving at the same time in London, and the letter endorsed by M<sup>r</sup> Gavino we have strong grounds to suspect that the fraud originated in M<sup>r</sup> Gavino's office, but by whom time alone can develope — Certain it is that no person in my Squadron could have negotiated bills for £4000 in Gibraltar had I absolutely drawn them without my having been consulted, being as it were on the spot — Indep[en]dant of which my Officers had no communication with the Office of M<sup>r</sup> Gavino or, scarcely, with the Shore —

Mess<sup>rs</sup> M & G. are pleased to observe that “had I enclosed the letter of Credit informing them that I had Specie on board” &<sup>ca</sup> the fraud had not happened — How was I to foresee the necessity of informing them that I had cash on board? In truth it would seem that these Gentlemen would justify their having accepted those bills at an *unusual Sight*, at the Expence of my prudence and the honor of My Officers — But I hope & trust we shall all stand justified in your Opinion: for Certain it is that every man who has a Credit abroad is every day liable to the same Misfortune — If a Villain is disposed to make use of anothers name, he can never want an opportunity —

I regret sincerely that this Fraud has taken place — The Duties of my Office fall sufficiently heavy on me without the anxiety which must necessarily attend even a possibility of being censured for an act of Villainy which human wisdom could not foresee — I have the honor to be with the highest consideration

N. B. In Mess<sup>rs</sup> Mackenzies and Glennie's letter you'll observe that they have substituted Laurent Brown for Laurent Roberts I conclude this is merely a clerical mistake —

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



To James Mackenzie and A. Glennie, London, England, from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

U. S. FRIGATE *Constitution*

Messina June 29th 1804

GENTLEMEN I am honored with your favor of 8th May 1804 acknowledging the Receipt of mine of 7th March last —

You are pleased to suggest that had I enclosed the letter of Credit in one of my own, and advised you of the Circumstance of my having brought Specie with me, the Fraud had not happened — I would ask you Gentlemen, was it for human wisdom to see the necessity of such a communication? And if we freely indulge and express our suspicions, where may they not rest? We may as soon suspect the Clerks in your Office as the Officers on board my ship: and when I inform you that I delivered this letter of Credit into M<sup>r</sup> Gavino's hands about the 15th or 16 Septem<sup>r</sup> last, and that my Officers had no communication with his Office or the Shore (being at that time before Tangier) you will acknowledge the propriety of the remark.

As I have no clew whereby I can investigate this affair and as you have honored these bills at an *unusual Sight*, I trust you will spare no pains in tracing this Villainous transaction to its Origin that the baneful breath of Suspicion may not fall upon the innocent —

It is a great Source of regret to me that this Fraud has happened, but I cannot but believe however that you will be able to bring its author to light —

In your letter advising me of your having honored my bills, you mentioned their having been drawn in favor of Laurent Roberts — In your letter of the 8th May you call him Laurent Brown — I wish that in your next you will advise me whether his name is Laurent Roberts or Brown, as it is of importance to know in any enquiry I may have it in my power to make — I should like to be informed also of the firm of the house which these Bills went through at Lisbon, and by whom presented in London — Of this however I may expect to be informed when you have made the necessary investigation —

[LC. EPP, LB, April–Nov. 1804.]

To Robert R. Livingston, U. S. Minister to Paris, France, from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

UNITED STATES SHIP *Constitution*

Messina 29th June 1804

SIR — I had the honor to write you the 15th May last — After having delivered the letter of M<sup>r</sup> Talleyrand to the French Commissary General [Beaussier] at Tripoly — It was then my opinion that he was too much in the Interest of the Bashaw to render us any service, and I think the enclosed letter from him will convince you I was right; he wrote me a letter in which he Observed that he had been very attentive to our unfortunate Countrymen, for which I returned him thanks in a letter, a copy of which accompanies this — But M<sup>r</sup> Beaussier deceived me He has not, I believe ever seen Cap<sup>t</sup> Bainbridge, or his Officers, or rendered them any assistance — Indeed I believe he is our Enemy, and urges the Bashaw to keep up the War — that he and his Brother who is a Speculating Merchant at Tripoly may be benefited by it — I am told by our Consular Agent at Tunis that M<sup>r</sup> Beausier has lately contracted with the Bashaw of

Tripoly to furnish him with 500 Barrels of Gun Powder, besides other military stores to come from Marseilles — this I think looks rather hostile than friendly; I understand he intends to land it in that part of the Regency of Tunis nearest Tripoly to be transported by Land to avoid our Cruizers —

If France inclines to act as Mediator — The Emperor must send a Man from France for that Purpose. I did not suppose that when France was to act as Mediator, that we were to pay half a million of Dollars for the Ransom of Prisoners and a Peace, for if we should incline to accede to the Bashaw's demands, we may have Peace whenever we choose without the assistance of any other agent than our Dollars —

I have borrowed Eight Gun & two Mortar Boats from the Neapolitan Government — The Gun boats are in the Port of Syracuse, and I came here yesterday to take the Bomb Vessels to join them, and shall proceed with the whole for Tripoly, which town I intend to bombard & cannonade untill I can bring the Bashaw to reasonable terms — We continue to keep his Ports, closely blockaded —

When I wrote you last from Naples, I expected to have been off Tripoly with the Gun boats immediately, but they have required more repairs than I expected —

Tunis threatens, but I do not believe will make war against us while we have a respectable naval force in these seas —

Spain is hostile in her conduct towards us — There are now, in Tripoly 14 Spanish Ship Carpenters sent from the King's Yards to build Gun Boats for the Bashaw — they wear the Spanish Cockade, and I am well informed are regularly paid once a week by the Spanish Consul — I am told that they went to Tripoly with the Passport of M<sup>r</sup> Pinckney our Minister at Madrid — If so, I fancy he has been deceived —

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

To Thomas Appleton, U. S. Consul, Leghorn, from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

U. S. SHIP *Constitution*  
Messina June 29th 1804

SIR I am honored with your much esteemed favor of the 21<sup>st</sup> Ult<sup>o</sup> — be asured I value your correspondance too highly to have neglected writing you from Naples, as I am sorry you suppose. Many of my friends, no doubt, think the same, and are justified in the supposition from an unaccountable fatality attending letters either to, or from me. I have not recieved a letter from the Navy department but what bears date early than Intelligence of the loss of the *Philadelphia* was recieved in the United States, although it is eight months since that event — . At Naples I applied to the Neapolitan Government for the loan of Six Gun, and two Mortar boats, and for 6 long battering cannon with Powder Shot & shells and all the necessary Military and Naval Stores for an attack on Tripoly with them — this request was immediately, and in a handsome manner complied with, and I am now in possession of the whole, and sail immediately for Tripoly to commence an attack which I hope will bring the Bashaw to such terms of Peace as we shall not blush to accept of. His Harbour & Coast is at present closely block-

aded — I left Sight of it the 14th: Inst: since which I have visited Tunis —

His Tunisian Majesty threatens but I do not believe he will declare war against us while we have a respectable force in these Seas —

Please to forward the letter for M<sup>r</sup> Livingston as soon as possible — The Mediation of France through their Consul at Tripoly will be of no use, but rather a disadvantage to us, as he is altogether in the Bashaw's interest

[LC. EPP, LB, April–Nov. 1804.]

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Extract from Diary of Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, Commodore of U. S. Squadron in the Mediterranean, Friday, 29 June 1804

Wind S W at anchor in Syracuse Harbour, since our arrival here we have taken on board five months provisions & stores & filled up all our water Casks, — at 9 weighed & sailed for Messina, left the Gun Boats at Anchor and the *Argus* ready for sea with orders to proceed to Malta & Convoy over to Tripoly the Vessels with the clothing & Stores for the American Prisoners, and to remain at the Blocade of that Port, —

[LC. EPP, Dairy, 1803–1804.]

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Presumably to Secretary of the Navy from Captain John Rodgers, U. S. Navy  
U. S. FRIGATE *Congress*  
*Hampton roads June 30, 1804*

DEAR SIR At last I have the pleasure to inform you the Squadron is ready for Sea, and that we shall sail tomorrow. — The Ships all look extremely well, and I am in hopes the manner in which they will be employ'd, will retract no merit from their appearance; either in the Eyes of our own Countrymen, or nations less interested. It is impossible for me to express the concern, which I feel for the Fate of the Expedition; feeling as an *American*, that if we act like such, in deserving the confidence our Government has deposed in us; that we will not only receive the thanks of our Country (and command the respect of our Enemys) but deserve its protection —

In fine I feel sensible that if our operations are compleatly successful and decisive, we shall command the respect and admiration of all the Civilized part of the World, but if not successful (which I flatter myself there is but little fear of) we shall stamp a character derogatory to the honor of our Country (and ourselves) which ages of success will not completely remove. —

I feel a confidence that I shall always do my duty, so far as my abilities will admit, in every situation my country may think proper to honor me with, and I should think it unjust if nature had deprived me of that susceptibility of Heart and Intellectual discernment which alone makes Man superior to the commonality of other Animals; In tendering you my most sincere thanks, for the Interest you have always appear'd to take in my Welfare, my ambition will never Know any full period on this side the Grave, yet believe me it will never soar higher than *deservingly* to merit the *compleat* approbation of such Men as yourself; and so long as Honor, Virtue, Gratitude and aspiration to glorious actions, shall be deem'd Laudible companions for the Souls of Men, be assured that the recollection of yourself will ever prevent my doing wrong —

I beg you to present my most dutiful respects to your amiable Lady, for whose happiness as well as yours, I hope the alwise ruler of the Universe will continue to be bountiful —

If it should be my fate never to see you again, and the cause such as to make my Picture worthy of a Corner in your House, I beg of you to accept it as the greatest proof of the high respect, friendship and Esteem of your,

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

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from James Simpson, U. S. Consul, Tangier, Morocco

TANGIER 30<sup>th</sup> June 1804. —

DEAR SIR I had the pleasure of writing you 22<sup>d</sup> Feb<sup>y</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> May both in duplicate to guard against miscarriage — but I have not yet had the satisfaction of hearing from you. —

The Emperours three Ships have been fitted out & are in readiness to put to Sea —

<i>Maimona</i>	30 Guns & 70 Men	Commanded by Arraez Sebrah
<i>Maimona</i>	32 Guns 80 Men	----- Arraez Auwed
<i>Mirboha</i>	14 Guns 50 Men	----- Arraez Lubarez

this is the same Ship he commanded last Cruize —

You will observe the compliment of Men of all these Vessels are considerably reduced, which makes it be imagined they may be destined on some special Service, and not to Cruize. —

Reports have gone abroad that Muley Soliman wishes to yield one of these Ships to the Tripolines in lieu of the *Meshouda* — if that plan be pursued I think it very probable she may be left for them at Algiers or Tunis. —

Alcayde Hashash has nothing to do with the Armament of this year — on the contrary in other respects he has lately felt the Emperours displeasure. —

JAMES SIMPSON

Affairs are so far arranged between the Emperour of Germany and Muley Soliman that these three Ships are provided with Imperial Passports issued by the Spanish Consul, who has been the Mediator on this occasion.

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

Extract from journal of U. S. Brig *Argus*, Master Commandant Isaac Hull, U. S. Navy, commanding, Saturday, 30 June 1804

at 5 Cap<sup>t</sup> Hull with Consul OBrien came onboard with a Sicilian Gentleman and 2 Servants Passengers At 6 weighed Anchor for Malta At ½ past 6 the main topsail Tye parted by which accident Tho<sup>s</sup> Merry W<sup>m</sup> Clark & James Wilson fell the latter overboard and the 2 former on deck badly Wounded made all Sail at 9 tho<sup>s</sup> merry died of his wounds at 4 AM Committed the body to the deep At 7 boarded an English privateer from Malta on a cruise At 10 Cape Passora bore N ½ E Emp<sup>d</sup> Occ<sup>y</sup>

[NDA photostat.]

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

CIRCULAR

U. S. FRIGATE *President*  
*Hampton roads July 1. 1804*

SIR In case of Separation you will proceed to Gibraltar, and there wait the arrival of the Squadron — If circumstances make it absolutely necessary to proceed a loft, you will exercise your judgement in this case, leaving for me all the information in your power —

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

[1 July 1804?]

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

U. S. FRIGATE *Congress*  
*Hampton roads July*

SIR, I have the honor to Enclose you a Muster Roll of this Ships Crew, including every Person, which left Washington in her, with those shipp'd since, & a separate roll of those turn'd over to other ships & sent to the Hospital at Washington, with such remarks as have occur'd — Many of the Men (ship'd in Balt<sup>o</sup>) that stand charged in the shipping articles with four Months advance, complain of not receiving a single dollar, & no officer that recruited at that place, Except Lieu<sup>t</sup> Evans, has produc'd a single Voucher to prove the contrary —

M<sup>r</sup> Nicholson inform'd me that he took receipts for all the Moneys he advanc'd, but the *John Adams* has sail'd without his producing any —

M<sup>r</sup> Gardiner acknowledges, that he never took any receipts, and has nothing to prove the complaints of a number of men *False*, or without Foundation, further than his own Word; M<sup>r</sup> Gardiners conduct as well as the Surgeons Mate, who attended the rendezvous, I think highly reprehensible, having Shipp'd a Number of Miserable, useless unsound wretches, perfectly unqualified for any Service —

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

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

U. S. FRIGATE *Congress*  
*H. Roads July 1, 1804*

SIR, The Spare Deck of this ship is so extremely lumberd with Spars & Plank, that it is impossible to Stow the Launch without great inconvenience; and as she is an unweildy, unservicable Boat that will not carry a bower Anchor; I have thought proper to leave her at Norfolk —

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

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from Captain Thomas Briggs, R. N., of  
*H. B. M. S. Agincourt*

*Agincourt, MALTA, July 1<sup>st</sup> 1804*

SIR I take the liberty of sending you a line by M<sup>r</sup> Lewis who will acquaint you how far we have been able to assist him in forwarding your Dispatches. Still I cannot help expressing to you our regret at parting with him as he is an Active Excellent young man, and I most sincerely hope his passage being delayed will not interfere with

any preferment he might otherwise have met with: as every exertion on his part was used to facilitate the Service you were pleased to send him on and he expressed the greatest anxiety to rejoin your Squadron.

Wishing you health & Success against your Enemies the Barbarians,  
Signed THO<sup>t</sup> BRIGGS

N B — M<sup>r</sup> Thompson Midshipman belonging to your Squadron availed himself of this Opportunity for Malta in the *Agincourt* T B

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

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from Midshipman William Lewis, U. S. Navy

MALTA July 1<sup>st</sup> 1804

SIR I arrived here yesterday in the *Agincourt* after a passage of 5 weeks from Gibraltar — She Sailed two days after the *Constitution* left this place (the 18th March) with Stores on board for the Fleet off Toulon — Owing to this circumstance we did not arrive at Gibraltar untill the 5th May. On the 7th May, a brig arrived there 22 days from Boston — She brought Intelligence of 5 Frigates fitting out for the Mediterranean Viz, the *United States*[\*], the *President*, *Constellation*, *Congress* and *John Adams* — I could only learn that Cap<sup>t</sup> Ja<sup>s</sup> Barron Commanded the *United States*[\*]

On the 9th I sent N<sup>o</sup> 3 of your dispatches to Cadiz by an American Gentleman going there, with a letter to M<sup>r</sup> Iznardi, and on the 17th I recieved his answer stating that he had forwarded it by an American Ship bound to Alexandria in Virginia. The 13th May the *True American* (ship) of New York & Brig *Harriot* of Beverly sailed for these places — I sent N<sup>os</sup> 1 & 2 with the private letters by those conveyances — The 22<sup>d</sup> I recieved several packets by the way of Lisbon. One is directed to yourself; the others to Cap<sup>t</sup> Bainbridge & Lieut<sup>t</sup> Comm<sup>d</sup> Stewart & Decatur — I believe they are from the Naval Department I have no other letters except one from M<sup>r</sup> Gavino to yourself but I collected all the Newspapers which fell in my way according to your Orders — M<sup>r</sup> Gadsden who was charged with your dispatches for Government had a passage of 76 days — The Intelligence of the loss of the *Philadelphia* arrived before him and I understood had caused Universal Concern throughout the United States — On the 24th May the *Agincourt* sailed for Gibraltar with a convoy for this place — We had Easterly winds untill we made the S W End of Sardinia —

The *Argus* came in here this morning — Cap<sup>t</sup> Hull advises me to remain here with your letters untill your arrival from Messina —

I have thus Sir as briefly as possible given an account of my conduct since leaving the Ship; and I hope you will be pleased to think I have executed your commands as strictly & speedily as was in my power —

[\*The *United States* was not one of Commodore Barron's squadron.]

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

Extract from journal of U. S. Brig *Argus*, Master Commandant Isaac Hull, U. S. Navy, commanding, Sunday, 1 July 1804

At 3 made the Island of Malta bearing S W b W dist<sup>t</sup> 5 or 6 Leagues  
At 8 the harbour of Malta bore W S W dist<sup>t</sup> 4 miles set and took in Sail as Necessary

At midnight came to in the harbour of Malta in 13 f<sup>m</sup> Water —

[NDA photostat]

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Extract from Diary of Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, Commodore of U. S. Squadron in the Mediterranean, Sunday, 1 July 1804

at 1 P M anchored in 24 fathoms hard sandy Bottom in Massina Roads abreast of the quarantine ground or Lazaretto and moored with a Stream Cable on shore made fast to a tree, established a guard Boat to prevent surprize or desertion, the *Nautilus* & *Enterprise* here, —

[LC. EPP, Diary, 1803-1804.]

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Extract from journal of William Eaton, U. S. Navy Agent for the Barbary Regencies, from 1 July to 5 July 1804

July 1. [On board U. S. Frigate *President*.] The Commodore embarked for sea [from Cape Henry] —

2<sup>d</sup> Becalmed.

3<sup>d</sup> 5. a. m. weighed — Becalmed came to at 8. a. m.

4. 4. a. m. got under way — Becalmed at 12. Came to within Cape Henry —

5. Put to sea. Fair wind —

Nothing remarkable on this passage except the multitudes of black skins and black coats, negroes and methodist preachers, which infest this state; and which will revolutionize it —

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

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Extract from journal of U. S. Frigate *John Adams*, Master Commandant Isaac Chauncey, U. S. Navy, commanding, Sunday, 1 July 1804

I find that the Ship steers extremely bad owing I presume to her being so very deep in the Water. — Ends with strong Gales and hazy Weather. — Wind S. W.

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

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To James Maury, U. S. Consul, Liverpool, England, from Secretary of State

DEPARTMENT OF STATE *July 2<sup>d</sup> 1804.*

SIR. I have received your letter of the 4<sup>th</sup> May last. By a law passed during the last session of Congress, which will be transmitted to you as soon as the volume is printed, a naturalised Citizen returning to the Country from which he originated, and residing there a year is disqualified to hold a registered Vessel. But this as well as the position stated in my circular of the 1<sup>st</sup> of October do not affect the case you put for solution respecting itinerant or temporarily resident Citizens, holding as American property Vessels not registered. In fact as the laws now stand it is a mere question of National character; and whenever you can satisfy yourself of an individual being bona fide a Citizen, it follows that you ought to attest his property as such; leaving it to those, who are so disposed, to contest in any particular case the relation existing between the asserted owner and the Vessel as affected by his residence in a belligerent Country.

[NA. SDA. Despatches to Consuls, Oct. 1800-Feb. 1817.]

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Extract from journal of U. S. Brig *Argus*, Master Commandant Isaac Hull, U. S. Navy, commanding, Monday, 2 July 1804

These 24 hours Commence with moderate breezes Obtained Pratique —

At 8 Consul OBrien with the Sicilian Gentleman went on Shore at 10 Weighed Anchor and Warped up the harbour [of Malta] at 12 brought too and moored ship —

[NDA photostat.]

Extract from Diary of Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, Commodore of U. S. Squadron in the Mediterranean, Monday, 2 July 1804

Wind East, received a complimentary visit from the General of Marines and from the Governor through his aid de Camp, I find one of the Bomb Vessels loaned us by the King of Naples nearly ready for sea, the other is not yet launched, but will be in a few days 9 sick & 7 convalescent is Reported, —

[LC. EPP, Dairy, 1803-1804.]

To William Wass Langford, British Consul General, Tripoli, from Sir Alexander John Ball, Governor of Malta

MALTA, 3<sup>d</sup> July 1804

SIR, I have the honor to inclose a Bill of Lading for One hundred and twenty five (125) Doublooms shipped on board the English Bombard called the *Eliza*, Captain Francis Gilio to your address, by order of Commodore Preble, Commander of the United States Squadron for the use of Captain Bainbridge, and the unfortunate American Prisoners in Tripoly.

Inclosed is a letter from the Commodore to you which I suppose expresses his wish upon this subject, and I likewise forward a letter to your address which having been brought with a number of others directed to me was inadvertently opened but not read —

The Admiralty, London, NDA photostat.]



[3 July 1804]

Concerning American Ship *Eltza*

*SHIPPED, by the Grace of God, in good Order and well Conditioned, by Mess<sup>rs</sup> John Ross & C<sup>o</sup> for His Excellency Sir alexander Ball Baronet &c<sup>s</sup> in and upon the good Ship called the ELIZA whereof is Master, under God, for this present Voyage, franc<sup>o</sup> Gilio — and now riding at anchor in the harbour of Malta and by God's Grace, bound for Tripoly to say,*

W. W. LANGFORD Esqu<sup>t</sup>  
English Consul  
Tripoly

} a Sealed Bag Containing One hundred & twenty five Spanish Dubboons in Gold —

*being marked and numbered as in the margin, and are to be delivered in the like good Order and well Conditioned, at the aforesaid Port of Tripoly — (the Act of God, the King's Enemies, Fire and all and every other Dangers and Accidents of the Seas, Rivers, and Navigation, of whatever Nature and Kind soever excepted) unto W<sup>m</sup> W. Langford Esqu<sup>t</sup> English Consul — or to his Assigns, he or they paying Freight for the said Goods gratis — with Primage and Average accustomed. In Witness whereof the Master or Purser of the said Ship hath affirmed to three Bills of Lading, all of this Tenor and Date; the one of which three Bills being accomplished, the other two to stand void. And so God send the good Ship to her desired Port in Safety. Amen. Dated in Malta 3. July 1804*

Per Pad:

Francesco Gilio Io Ignazio Cammilleri suo Scriuano

[Translation: For the Master Francesco Gilio, I Ignazio Cammilleri his Mate]

[Maine HS. NDA photostat.]

WARS WITH BARBARY POWERS

[3 July 1804]

Stores and Provisions Shipped on board the *Eliza*

Shipped by the Grace of God in good Order and well conditioned by W<sup>m</sup> Higgins American Naval Agent, in & upon the good ship called the *Eliza* whereof is master under God for this present Voyage Franc<sup>o</sup> Gilio, & now riding at Anchor in the Harbour of Malta, & by God's grace bound for the Squadron of the United States under the Command of Commodore Preble off Tripoly. The goods or Stores as particularized on the back hereof being American Property & shipped for the use of said Squadron, being marked & numbered as in the Margin; and are to be delivered in the like good Order & well conditioned to commodore Preble (the Acts of God, the Kings enemies, Fire and all and Every other Dangers & Accidents of the Seas, Rivers & Navigation of whatever nature & Kind soever excepted unto [space] or his Assigns, he, or they paying freight for the said Goods nothing, (the Vessel being the property of the U. S. of America), with primage & average accustomed — In Witness Whereof the Master or Purser of the Said Ship hath affirmed to three bills of lading, One of which bills being accomplished, the other two to stand Void; And so God Send the good Ship to her desired Port in Safety. Amen —

(Signed) Cross of X Cap<sup>t</sup> GIGLIO

Endorsed on the back as follows

- 15 Baskets fruit & Vegetables
- 2 Sacks Melons
- 8 barrels cont<sup>s</sup> 24 doz<sup>s</sup> Porters
- Forty Sheep
- 20 Cantars Onions
- 100 bundles Hay
- half a Salm of barley
- 20 pesati of Wood or about 103 English Cw<sup>t</sup> &
- 133 Iron bound Puncheons full of Water.

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

Extract from journal of U. S. Frigate *Congress*, Captain John Rodgers, U. S. Navy, commanding, Tuesday, 3 July 1804

[At Hampton Roads, 1 and 2 July 1804.] A. M. at  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 4 the commodore made The Signal N<sup>o</sup> 1205, at  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 5 weighed And made sail the *President Essex* and *Constellation* in company.

At 6 light airs inclining to calm came too with our Larb<sup>d</sup> bower in  $\frac{1}{4}$  less 6 fath<sup>m</sup>s water P<sup>r</sup> Signal old point comfort bearing N E  $\frac{1}{2}$  N Distance 4 miles

[USNA.]

Extract from Diary of Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, Commodore of U. S. Squadron in the Mediterranean, Tuesday, 3 July 1804

Wind N E *Nautilus* & *Enterprize* in company, at 8 A M a strong breeze from N B E, waiting for the Bomb Vessels, —

[LC. EPP, Diary, 1803-1804.]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from John Gavino, U. S. Consul, Gibraltar

GIBRALTAR 4th July 1804

DEAR SIR. I have none of your favors since my last p<sup>r</sup> duplicate under 4th Ult<sup>o</sup> One Via Leghorn, the other p<sup>r</sup> Palermo covering dispatches from Consul Simpson —

Yesterday the [American] Schooner *John Adams* Cap<sup>t</sup> Ramsdel from Philadelphia touched into this bay and delivered the Health Office boat a packet for me from the Navy dep<sup>t</sup> & went immediately without; Sailing for Leghorn — The Honb<sup>l</sup> Sec<sup>y</sup> of the Navy inclosed me triplicate letters to be forwarded you; One by Cap<sup>t</sup> Hull, the other two by different conveyances. Wherefore, I now enclose you One, by Post Via Leghorn, having no Sea conveyance for any Port in Italy, or the Islands — It informs you of four frigates coming to reinforce you, besides the *John Adams* armed en flute with Provisions — We have nothing new, nor have I heard any thing as yet from Mackenzie & Glennie regarding the Bill affairs —

P. S. Two Portuguese Vessels of the line are gone to cruize in the Mediterranean — Herewith a dispatch from Consul Simpson — A convoy of Victuallers & Store Ships have just arrived from England for this place and Malta —

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

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

[Malta] At 5 P, M, Dan<sup>l</sup> Williams Seam<sup>n</sup> deserted from the launch When on Duty at 6 Warped out from our moorings Weighed Anchor and stood out under easy Sail at 8 Calm got out the Sweeps and sent the Jolly boat and barge to Assist the Spanish Ketch which we had taken under Convoy with Cloathing &c for the Prisoners in Tripoli At 2 AM the boats returned hoisted them At 6 AM saw 3 Strange sail took the Ketch in tow At Meridian fine W<sup>t</sup> Variously Emp<sup>d</sup>

[NDA photostat.]

Extract from journal of U. S. Frigate *Congress*, Captain John Rodgers, U. S. Navy, commanding, Wednesday, 4 July 1804

A. M. commences with hazey weather

At  $\frac{1}{4}$  past 3 the commodore made The Signal N<sup>o</sup> 1205 at  $\frac{1}{4}$  past 3 Weighed and made sail the *President Essex* and *Constellation* in company.

at  $\frac{3}{4}$  past 7 old point comfort light bore west Distance 8 Miles cape Henry Light E. b S. Distance 4 leagues and cape Charles N E b N Distance 7 Leagues at 10 calm Let go our larb<sup>d</sup> bower anchor in 7 $\frac{1}{2}$  Fathoms water cape Henry bearing S S E 5 Miles Wind E S. E.

[USNA]

Extract from Diary of Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, Commodore of U. S. Squadron in the Mediterranean, Wednesday, 4 July 1804

Wind N E, at Anchor in Messina, *Enterprize & Nautilus* in company, sent [a boat] and an Officer with a party of men to the arsenal to bring off Shells for the Bomb Vessels, one of those Vessels got under way and exercised by throwing three undischarged shells their first range appeared to be about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  mile with Neapolitan Powder which is not so strong by one third as ours, each of the bomb Vessels carries a 14 In Brass mortar cast in a solid brass Bed, — elevation of  $45^\circ$  from a Horizontal plan on which the Bed slides & recoils, — the Gun Boats carry each a 26 pounder forward sliding on a horizontal plan when used in action, but when wanted to be secured in Bad weather, it slides into the Hold on an inclined plan & the Hatches are secured over it, This day being the anniversary of American Independence, I ordered a salute of 13 Guns to be fired in honor of that great event, —

[LC. EPP, Diary, 1803-1804.]

To Sailing Master John P. Lovell, U. S. Navy, Washington, D. C., from Secretary of the Navy

NAVY DEPT: 5 July 1804 —

You will take the command of Gun Boat N<sup>o</sup> 1, and give every requisite attention to her equipment.

You will in due season receive from me such further instructions as may be deemed expedient. —

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

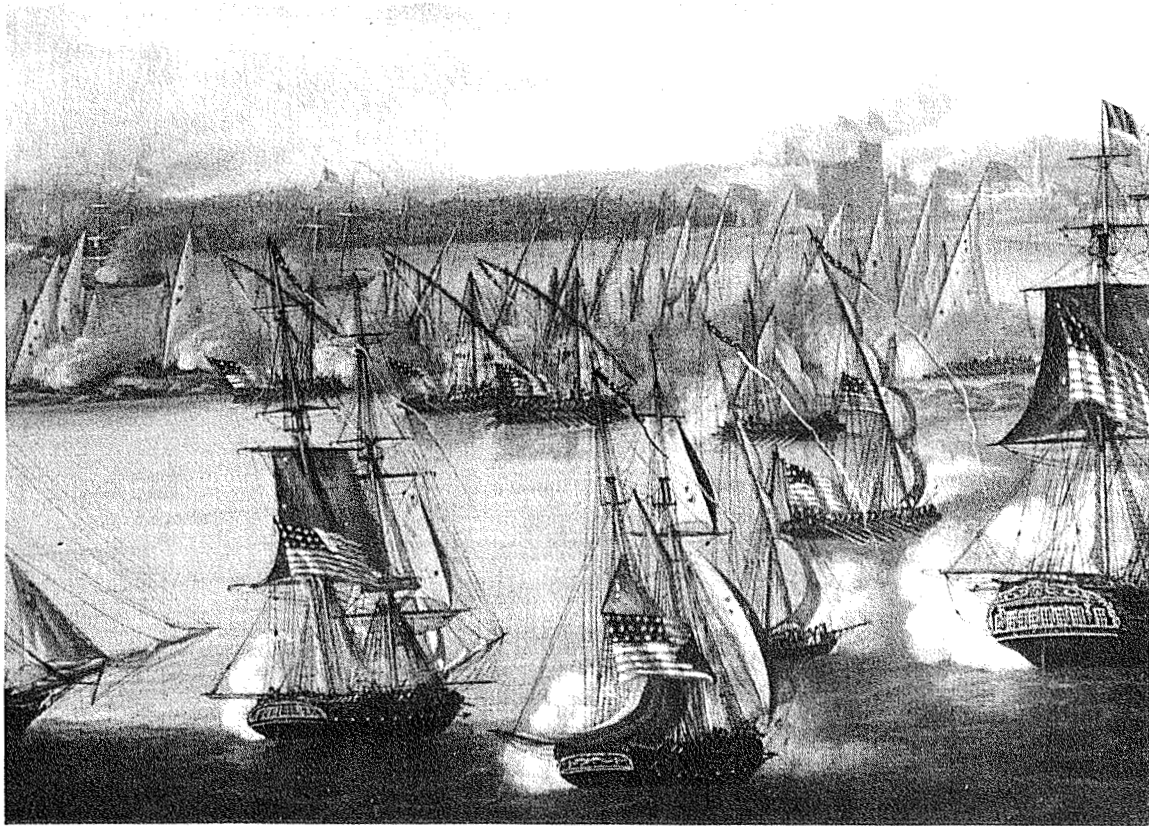
To James Leander Cathcart, Leghorn, from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

UNITED STATES FRIGATE *Constitution*

Harbor of Messina 5<sup>th</sup> July 1804

DEAR SIR, I arrived here the 1<sup>st</sup> instant, and received your letter of the 11<sup>th</sup> Ult<sup>o</sup> with its several enclosures. I know not what reason you have to suppose that my sentiments of your exertions in favor of the Prisoners at Tripoli have altered. I was somewhat cautious in writing the Receipt I gave for the clothing: and you well know that an invoice must be necessary to enable the Pursers to make their charges against the people — But my sentiments of your humane exertions are still the same. I enclose you a Copy of my letter to General Acton, and his answer respecting the Gun Boats &c<sup>s</sup> &c<sup>s</sup>. I am sensible however that your exertions were well intended, and that they had a good effect —

M<sup>r</sup> Beaussier is a Friend of the Bashaw of Tripoly's, but no friend of ours — I sent M<sup>r</sup> Obrien on shore at Tripoli the 14<sup>th</sup> Ult<sup>o</sup> to procure permission to land clothing and stores for the Prisoners but could not obtain it: He was not permitted to see the prisoners or, either of the Consuls — I authorised him to offer the Bashaw two hundred Dollars for each of the prisoners, and to say that I would not give a Cent for peace or, Tribute — these terms he refused and I am now determined to beat him into better humour: The Mortar boats were completed yesterday, and I sail with them tomorrow morning — the Gun boats join me off Syracuse — I have 700 Bomb Shells and plenty of shot to amuse the Bashaw with —



GUNBOAT ACTION OFF TRIPOLI, 3 AUGUST 1804.



No re-inforcement has yet arrived from America as expected, I however think with you that we shall succeed, and the less force we have the more honor —

I have rec<sup>d</sup> your plans of the Gun & Mortar Boats and thank you for them, It is probable I can accomodate you with a passage home in some public Vessel in the Autumn if your business detain you till then.

I have sent a small Vessel from Malta with all the clothing you provided, and a quantity of Stores &c<sup>s</sup> consigned to Sidi Mahomed D'Ghies, as he wrote me that I might send them in a Neutral Vessel

[Boston PL. NDA photostat.]

To Frederick Degen & Co., Leghorn\*, from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

UNITED STATES SHIP *Constitution*

*Messina July 5th 1804*

GENTLEMEN, I arrived here a few days since from the Blockade to take away the Bomb Vessels which are now ready; tomorrow I sail again for Tripoly to commence an attack on the Town and Harbor, and I hope in my next communication to acquaint you of Our Success — I beg you to do me the favor to forward the Packet which accompanies this by the first Vessel that sails direct for America, excepting however the vessel of M<sup>r</sup> Gorham's which is now here, and goes to Naples in a few days, as he has a duplicate of the same —

I beg you to accept my best wishes for your health & happiness and am respectfully Gentlemen

[\*Degen, Purviance & Co., were U. S. Agents in Leghorn, and Frederick Degen was U. S. Agent in Naples.]

[LC. EPP, LB, April–Nov. 1804.]

Extract from log book of U. S. Brig *Argus*, 18 Guns, presumably kept by Sailing Master Samuel B. Brooke, U. S. Navy, Master Commandant Isaac Hull, U. S. Navy, commanding, Thursday, 5 July 1804

Commences with mod<sup>e</sup> Breezes & Pleasant W<sup>t</sup> a Sail in sight on the lee bow, cast off the Ketch bore away made sail in chace, at ½ past 2 came up with her, she proved a Ragusan Brig from Smyrna to Leghorn with a Cargo of 180,000 Dollars filled away for the Ketch, at 10 saw a sail to windward, tacked and made sail in chace, fired a Gun at her backed the main topsail & lowered down the Jolly boat, she proved a Regusan, from Smyrna bound to Marsailles, permitted her to pass, at ½ past 7 AM filled away to the S W, saw the Ketch to Leward, bore away and took her in tow, set the Stay-sails, at ½ past 9 in Royals, and Top Gall<sup>s</sup> Staysail

At Meridian fine W<sup>t</sup> Emp<sup>d</sup> as Necessary —

Lat<sup>e</sup>. Obs<sup>d</sup> 33° 39' N.

[LC. EPP, *Argus*, 1804.]

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

P M pleasant breezes and clear weather A. M. D<sup>e</sup> W<sup>t</sup> at 4 the commodore Made the Signal N<sup>o</sup> 1205 at ½ past 4 weighd and made sail the *President Essex* and *Constellation* in comp<sup>y</sup> Made and shortened sail occasionally

250 NAVAL OPERATIONS, APRIL-SEPTEMBER 6, 1804

At  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 6 discharged the pilot cape Henry Light house. bearing  
S W  $\frac{1}{2}$  W Distance 3 miles

At 7 Cape Henry bore West 3 Leagues Distance From which I take  
my departure it being In latitude  $36^{\circ} 57' N$  Longitude  $75^{\circ} 56' W$

[En route to the Mediterranean, in company with the above ships, Maderia  
was sighted 28 July 1804.]

[USNA.]

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Extract from journal of William Eaton, U. S. Navy Agent for the Barbary Regencies,  
from 5 July to 12 August 1804

[On board the U. S. Frigate *President*.] From July 5, the day of  
leaving cape Henry, to the 21. day we made Pico the winds were  
constantly strong and fair from the Southwest; & from this date till  
making cape Spartel on the 12. August they were as constantly  
strong and contrary; from the East, varying a little northerly and  
southerly — The first 15. days we considered our passage more than  
two thirds made; the other third was gained with difficulty in 21 days.  
During the whole passage the weather was extremely fine; not a  
day but a ship's barge might have lived at sea without danger —

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

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To Josiah Fox from Secretary of the Navy

NAV. DEP<sup>t</sup> July 6<sup>th</sup> 1804

M<sup>r</sup> JOSIAH FOX

*Naval Constructor,*

I intend to build at this Place under your Superintendance a Brig of  
the following Dimensions Viz —

64 feet Keel for Tonnage

30 feet Beam Moulded Breadth

$13\frac{1}{2}$  feet Hold

Agreeably to the Model furnished by yourself with such improve-  
ments as we may from time to time Suggest —

It is only necessary to say to you that we wish to have this Brig  
built of the best materials and in the shortest Practicable period —

You will therefore take immediate measures for procuring the  
Timber and geting the different artificers and Workman together

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

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[6 July 1804]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from Lieutenant Samuel Elbert, U. S. Navy

SIR In consequence of some of my friends dineing at our Table  
on the fourth of July I drank more Wine than I otherwise should  
have done, and their being an alteration in the Watches that night  
did not recollect of promissing to stand the first Watch —

This is the first time sir that you have had reason to be displeas-  
ed withe me on this head therefore I beg you will look over it, promissing  
you it shall be the last

*Constitution* JULY 6<sup>th</sup> 1804

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



To Lieutenant Samuel Elbert, U. S. Navy, from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy  
*Constitution* JULY 6th 1804

SIR The Charge of the ship & responsibility for whatever may take place resting with you when in Command of a Watch, and the General printed instructions absolutely forbidding the deck ever to be left without a Lieut<sup>l</sup> &<sup>ca</sup> Should impress your mind strongly with the imp[r]opriety of being absent when it is your tour of duty — The Apology you have made for your neglect the 4th is however satisfactory — You will therefore return to your duty

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

Presumably to Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from Monsieur Beaussier, French Chargé d'Affaires, Tripoli

TRIPOLY of BARBARY 17 *Messidor* Year 12.

6 July 1804 —

SIR By the arrival this morning of the English Bombard Bearer of the Necessaries for the Prisoners I received the letter which you have done me the honor to write under date the 27 last Month.

I do not know to what nor to whom to attribute the prejudices which have been given to you against me they appear so deeply rooted that it would be in vain to attempt doing them away. — Your harsh and disobliging language towards the Agent of a respectable Nation have filled me with wonder, not having neglected any thing within my power to induce the Reagency to listen to reasonable proposals —

The Offer which has been made by M<sup>r</sup> OBrien and which has been renewed thro' Capt<sup>n</sup> Bainbridge is too extravagant to be listened to unless you put yourself in a situation to distress very sensibly this town and its Inhabitants and in this case I ought to advert to you that in all probability the Prisoners will, for greater precaution, be sent into the Interior

You will have perceived by my letter of the 3 June, via Tunis, that I had not either time to see M<sup>r</sup> OBrien or to reply to you in consequence of his p[r]ecipitate return on board — I wrote you immediately after the receipt of yours, but the landing of the Necessaries not having taken place I could not forward my reply.

Whatever may be your Error Commodore I shall nevertheless continue my endeavours to find out, and to create opportunities of being of service directly or indirectly to your unfortunate Countrymen, I have engaged the Pacha to permit that the Necessaries be deposited in the American Consular house of which the key has been given to M<sup>r</sup> Spence who will dispose of the same according as Capt<sup>n</sup> Bainbridge may direct him

I owe you many thanks for liberating without loss of time in Malta the Legurien Prize, french Property — I did not think it necessary to make mention neither in my letter nor in my Certificate of the 1650 Spanish Dollars which was the Amount of the Cargo restored, that in reality never existed, had been sold and belonged to the same Proprietors, but never to Tripoleene Subjects, nor persons resident in Tripoly I cannot think that these last would have incurred Confiscation under such circumstance — It would have been more agreeable that the Officer Commanding the Blockade had not carried the Vessel to an Enemies Port when the Simulation might have discovered.

The Pacha has sent from his Service Sixty Turkish Soldiers, he has received the balance of the 80,000 Dollars agreed to be paid him by Admiral De Minter as likewise the two Annuities of 5,000 Dollars each — he expects daily from Algiers Capidge Bachi, Officer of Consideration sent by the Grand Signor to confirm him in his title of Pacha, which is renewed every five Years, it is likely he will come by Sea —

I beg you will accept the homage of my high Consideration & ca —

(Signed) BEAUSSIER

*Chargé d'Affaires de His Majesty  
the Emperor of the french*

A true translation Malta 20 July 1804

W<sup>m</sup> Higgins

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

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

the Ketch in tow saw a sail on our lee bow cast off the Ketch made Sail in Chace at 7 backed the main topsail Spoke the U. S. Brig *Scourge* Cap<sup>t</sup> Dent Came on board he ret<sup>d</sup> at 9 P. M.

At 7 AM Cap<sup>ts</sup> Smith & Dent came on board at 8 Cap<sup>ts</sup> Hull Smith and Dent went on board the *Syren* Tripoli bore SbE dist<sup>t</sup> 10 or 11 miles At Meridian fine W<sup>t</sup> Emp<sup>d</sup> as Necessary

[NDA photostat.]

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Extract from Diary of Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, Commodore of U. S. Squadron in the Mediterranean, Friday, 6 July 1804

Wind N & E and pleasant weather, took on board two 9 inch howitzers 100 shells & 100 Rounds of grape shott for the same, borrowed from the Neapolitan Government, took off several spare yards, Anchors &c for the Boats the *Enterprize* sailed for Syracuse, —

[LC. EPP, Diary, 1803-1804.]

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

Throughout those 24 hours light airs, the *Vixen* in co: At 4 L<sup>t</sup> Stewart went in the Launch & exercis'd the men. At 6 the launch return'd hoisted in the boats. At 4 hoisted out the boats.

Midnight light airs & pleas<sup>t</sup> ½ past 4 discover'd 3 sail to leward call'd all hands & made sail in chace, hove out a signal for the *Vixen* to Chace a Ketch in the S E. At 6 made the signal of the day which was answer'd by 1 of the strange sails. ½ past 6 spoke the chace, prov'd to be the *Argus* & *Scourge*. —

Meridian lying bye the *Scourge* & *Argus* to windward; the *Vixen* in chace of the Ketch

Lying Off & on Shore abrea[s]t Tripoli. —

Latt: Obs: 33° 15' N.

[NDA.]

To Archibald S. Bullock, Savannah, Georgia, from Secretary of the Navy

NAV. DEP<sup>t</sup> July 7<sup>th</sup> 1804

The practice of other nations in adapting the use of Gun Boats as a means of Defence to Sea ports together with the opinion of their efficacy held by professional men has induced the Government of the United States to make the Experiment in our own Country. Directions have accordingly been issued to agents at different places for this purpose and copies of the enclosed draft forwarded with such directions.

You will take immediate measures for Building at Savannah a Gun Boat agreeably to the draft which you will herewith receive, of the most durable materials that can be procured and of materials so prepared as to ensure this object — Different Kinds of Timber may be required for different parts of the Boat: on this point you will consult with persons qualified to Judge advise —

You will Build by contract — Be careful that the person to whom you give the preference be qualified to execute his contract perfectly both with respect to Workmanship and Materials In deciding your Choice you will not be so much governed by a regard to the lowest terms that may be offered as by the capability of the Contractor to fulfil his engagements — At the same time you will bear in mind that throughout this Business every attention must be paid that no unnecessary expence whatever be incurred.

It is presumed that you will meet with no difficulty in contracting with a person to undertake the Business altogether — But Should you meet with difficulties, you must then procure the materials yourself and appoint a person to Superintend the Work — In Case you are compelled to adopt this method, let your Superintendant be qualified for the Duty — as the faithful execution of the Work will in a great measure depend upon him. I request that you will be particularly careful to select a man upon whom in this respect an entire reliance may be had —

The Draft now sent must be closely adhered to and as the instructions by M<sup>r</sup> Fox which accompany the draft are very plain and particular no misconception I presume can take place and no alteration must be made

Instructions for Rigging and Equipment will be forwarded to you in time —

Make your requisitions upon me for monies as you may want it and let an estimate of the cost as near as you can ascertain it accompany your first requisition —

Let me hear from you immediately upon this subject and let me know from time to time the progress you may be making in the execution of these instructions —

I have already informed you that Orders have been given at other Seaports for Gun Boats to be built upon the draft enclosed to you.

I indulge a hope that the one committed to your direction will not be inferior in any Respect to those which may be built under the direction of other agents —

The same to W<sup>m</sup> Smith Sen<sup>r</sup> Charleston SC

John Beekman New York

20 July 1804 George Harrison Phil<sup>a</sup>

24 “ “ John Stricker Baltimore

20 July 1804 Sam<sup>l</sup> Brown, Boston  
 27<sup>th</sup> " " Woodbury Langdon Portsmouth [N. H.]  
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[NDA. GLB, Vol. 7, 1803-1805.]

[7 July 1804]

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

*Syren* Off TRIPOLY 8th July 1804

SIR Yesterday morning at day break a large Galliot was discovered standing in for Tripoly: Chace was immediately given by the *Argus*, *Vixen*, *Scourge* & *Syren* with a fine breeze from North: they put immediately before the wind and stood for the shore At 5<sup>hr</sup> 30<sup>m</sup> I made the Signal for the *Scourge* to haul her wind — At 6 the wind left us, then about gun shot from the chase which we Observed them hauling on shore: Several shot were fired, but without producing any effect, and they continued unloading her I then made the Signal for Armed boats, and immediately dispatched the *Syrens* launch with a 12<sup>lb</sup> Carronade, and barge with a heavy swivel under the command of L<sup>t</sup> Caldwell & M<sup>r</sup> Dorsey Midshipman who advanced with the Greatest Expedition & Spirit to the reef where they both grounded and were momentarily exposed to a severe fire from the Enemy (who were posted in great numbers behind the rocks and ridges of Sand hills) however, they soon extricated themselves & took a position from whence they kept up a brisk fire with the Caronade & Swivel untill the schooner *Vixen* by the Assistance of some boats towing & her Sweeps gained a position to cover them.

The Rocks formed too Strong a breast work to admit of the Enemy's being Dislodged, but from the fire of the *Vixen* & boats the Vessel was cut to pieces — Seeing nothing farther could be effected I made the Signal of recall that the boats might return to tow off their respective Ships —

I feel a particular degree of satisfaction in announcing to you, Sir, the Great bravery and Exertions displayed by the Officers and men employed in the boats & entertain no doubt but they would have brought off the Vessel had they not been prevented by the reef on which the Enemy had hauled her and on which our boats grounded, notwithstanding the superior numbers of the Enemy (at least 1000 Men) and the Strong positions they had taken — Enclosed you have a return of the killed & wounded on our side, but the Enemy must have suffered severely from their great Numbers

(Signed) CHA<sup>s</sup> STEWART

P. S. They ran the Vessel on shore about 9 Miles to the Westward of Tripoly abreast of the Second Tower

RETURN OF KILLED & WOUNDED EMPLOYED IN THE BOATS 7TH JULY 1804

William Williams, Marine,	killed —	<i>Sirens</i> launch
Thomas Riveness — D <sup>o</sup>	Wounded — D <sup>o</sup>	barge
Samuel Henzie — D <sup>o</sup>	D <sup>o</sup> — D <sup>o</sup>	launch
William Cooper — D <sup>o</sup>	D <sup>o</sup> — do	do

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

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from William Wass Langford, British Consul General, Tripoli

TRIPOLI in the West *July 7<sup>th</sup> 1804*

SIR On the receipt of your letter of the 3<sup>d</sup> ins<sup>t</sup> I dispatched my Drogerman to the Castle to inform the Bashaw that the Cargo of the Vessel Just arrived consisted of Clothing &c &c for the use of the American Prisoners; and further to say that I should be much obliged to His Highness for His permission that the same should be immediately delivered to Capt<sup>n</sup> Bainbridge. — I was much surprised, soon after this step had been taken, to learn that M<sup>r</sup> Higgins had consigned the Cargo to Sidi Mahomet Dghize, a circumstance that, had the Bashaw denied my request, would have prevented me the pleasure of complying with your wishes in taking the same under my protection —

Enclosed I beg to transmit You a receipt of Consul Nissen's for the Cash I delivered to Him, (& which I received from the Master of the *Eliza* Bombard), as also Capt<sup>n</sup> Bainbridge's note relative to the Articles I brought with me, whose directions expressed therein were immediately observed. — It is with concern that I inform You that Capt<sup>n</sup> Bainbridge & His Officers are kept close Prisoners, & that it is probable I may not be allowed to visit Him or to have the pleasure of seeing Him at my House. —

The Men whom I daily meet in the streets complain heavily of bad living & hard work. —

Beleve me, Sir, I am ever ready at the call of humanity; & on that account alone I was induced to assure You at Malta that it would at all times afford me pleasure to alleviate the unfortunate situation of your Brother Officers & Countrymen in this place by shewing them every attention in my power; & I again beg to repeat that assurance, & have the honor to be Sir,

Your most Obedient Humble Servant  
WILLIAM WASS LANGFORD

[LC. EPP, Vol. 12, June–August 1804.]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from Captain William Bainbridge, U. S. Navy

TRIPOLY — BARBARY *7th July 1804*

DEAR SIR Your favors, duplicates of the 12th Ult<sup>o</sup>: and your last letter without date this moment reached me, the reception of which gave me much pleasure as I had not heard from you since the 27th March — The Cloathing &<sup>ts</sup> I presume will be delivered as requested in your letter, to Sidi Mohammed DGhies minister of foreign affairs to his Excellency the Bashaw of Tripoly, to whose politeness Myself and Officers feel much indebted. Please to send the Invoice of all the Articles, that the Purser may be enabled to make the respective charges: We have not yet recieved the Invoice of the first Articles sent by M<sup>r</sup> Higgins The want of those prices greatly deranges the Pursers accounts, particularly in cases of loss of Acc<sup>ts</sup> which may take place, and by having the charges he would be enabled to close each Officers Acc<sup>t</sup> Monthly, and place them in a Depot — Excuse this much on Invoices — It is to request your reminding M<sup>r</sup> Higgins of what I have in Several letters done without effect —

M<sup>r</sup> Pulis's Account was sent you in the letter advising the same, but, as our letters recieve an Overhauling before they can clear out from the Custom house here, I expect it was mislaid — I will make it out again, and forward it by this Conveyance —

I left a Uniform Coat with M<sup>r</sup> Pulis to have the Button holes Worked: I wish you would receive it from him: It is a handsome Cut Coat & I believe it will fit you: If so, please use it as your own: for God only knows when I shall have an Occasion to appear in full Uniform.

There has been no changes in Our Situation since my letters of the 4th, 14th, & 22<sup>d</sup> Ultò.

*Secret Communication under same date — [Written in lime juice.]*

D<sup>r</sup> SIR — In my letter of the 4th Ins<sup>s</sup> I informed you that an attempt had been made to escape by Seizing a Merchant Vessel's boat in the Harbour, but it was found to be impracticable to get from our Prison undiscovered: We are so closely watched that the most daring attempt cannot avail any thing, you need not therefore send a boat for us —

I have received no letters from Tunis or any since the 29th March before this day; the letters which M<sup>r</sup> O'Brien brought were delivered me but none from you or Col<sup>o</sup> Lear — there was none for any of my Officers — We have received no news from America since our unfortunate Captivity — I cannot account for the Silence of my friends — You do not mention in your letters, whether you have received dispatches from Government: I presume you have —

I hope you will make Tripoly feel the Effects of your preparations. Until she does I believe that the Bashaw will not accept of the terms offered — I shall wait on the Minister, but I expect without effect — The bribe should come through a negotiator sent here and not from me: As I cannot let the Minister into the secret of the *Juice* I cannot shew him any authority, and I am convinced he will not treat in any manner with me being a prisoner. He feels his Consequence — I wish you had mentioned in Lime Juice whether the force mentioned in your public writing is really coming or not. In my letter of the 14th Inst. I gave you my opinion that firing Shells into this town, if it was only done in the night would drive all the inhabitants out into the Country where there are not habitations to receive them, and by continuing to heave them from time to time for a month or two, the distress that the People would be in by being kept out of the town would make them clamorous, and would have a tendency to incline the Bashaw to come to moderate terms — He must certainly feel the Effects of the War before he will accept any thing like the Sum mentioned

I hope to God that you will have it in your Power to bring him to moderate terms — You say that "I think you ought not to suffer my "passion to injure the friendship between us, by prematurely censuring "my friend" — I have never Entertained a thought that you was not doing every thing in your power for us; but must certainly say that I have been: and shall continue to be always anxious to hear from you, but whenever I do not, I shall attribute it to other causes than neglect — I hope that Mr. Higgins will not send us anything from Malta with out we demand it: We wish to live cheap. as in fact we have lost all relish for dainties except books which we are supplied with — Our prison represents a College of Students — Your triangles would fly a long time before we would see them — I have seen the Sea four times in 5 Months — Close kept under lock & key.

All honor attend you, prays

signed W B

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

*Syren* and *Scourge* in Company at 4 Tk<sup>d</sup> Ship to the Northw<sup>d</sup> and Westward Tripoli bore S  $\frac{1}{2}$  W at  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 9 Sounded in 50 fathoms water the *Scourge* made Sig<sup>t</sup> N<sup>o</sup> 440 made Sail in Chace at 8 saw a Latteen boat standing in for the land at 8 she ran on Shore but found it impossible to get her off it being Calm the boats took the *Vixen* in tow and towed her within gun shot of her fired Several shot at her and Stood off Employed as Necessary

[NDA photostat.]

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

Moderate breezes from N N E. We are necessarily detained at Messina in fitting out the two bomb Ketches *Nautilus* in company — Recieved this Afternoon from the Ordnance, ten small brass carriage guns with all the Apparatus belonging to them — Also some cannisters of shot — This afternoon a party of Officers & men were sent from the *Constitution* to the Bombards to assist in warping them off and to navigate them to Saragosa where they are to join our Squadron of Gun boats.

Deserted from the cutter while on duty John Fitzgerald & Ja<sup>r</sup> Eaton Seamen — A. M. Employed in supplying the Bombards with provisions & in working up Junk Rec'd ten bbls Powder — Surgeons report 5 sick and seven convalescent —

Noon moderate breezes from N N E.

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

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

Gentle breezes & pleasant standing off & on shore under easy sail, the *Argus*, *Scourge* & *Vixen* in Company. Tripoli bearing South 6 miles dist<sup>t</sup>. At 5 back'd the main topsail & sent the launch to exercise. At 7 fill'd away to the N<sup>o</sup> hoisted in the boats. At  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 5 saw a small sail close in shore, call'd all hands & made sail in chace. At 6 arm'd the boats & sent them after her, (under the command of L<sup>t</sup> Caldwell & Jn<sup>o</sup> Dorsey)  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 6 saw the *Argus's* boats standing in for the shore. At 10 the Launch commenc'd a brisk fire on the Inhabitants ashore, which was return'd by them, they being very numerous & conceal'd behind the rocks, & a number in the sail keeping (with the rest of turks) a constant fire.  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 10 sent the cutter with ammunition for our boats. At 11 seeing the Inhabitants increasing very fast, made signil for our boats to return on board, finding it was impossible to destroy the vessel. At  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 11 the boats return'd with 4 marines wounded. At Meridian 1 of the wounded marines by the name of W<sup>m</sup> Williams died of his wound which was in his shoulder. —

Marines Wounded

Thom<sup>o</sup> Rivenness

W<sup>m</sup> Cooper

Sam<sup>l</sup> Henry

W<sup>m</sup> Williams

[NDA.]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from Captain William Bainbridge, U. S. Navy

BARBARIE TRIPOLI 8<sup>th</sup> July 1804.

D<sup>r</sup> SIR I wrote you yesterday acknowledging the *contents* of your letter received with the cloathing and stores from Malta — I now take further *notice* of it — I this morning sent our Chief Guard to Sidi Muhammed Dhgies to inform him that I wished an Audience he returned with an answer that the Minister was disposed. I shall therefore not have an oppertunity of seeing him to day and fearful that the Vessel may Sail — I write these lines and enclose M<sup>r</sup> Pulis's Acco<sup>t</sup> — he had blended a private charge with a public one which I have seperated and hope that you will be so good, as to discharge and place it to my private Acco<sup>t</sup> — I have not received any letters from you before this arrival, since the 27<sup>th</sup> of March — I mention this to let you know if any of your letters have miscarried —

We find close confinement more disagreeable every day on acco<sup>t</sup> of hot weather —

*Secret Communication under same date. [Written in lime juice.]*

DEAR SIR — I wrote you fully yesterday in lime juice examine all my letters for secret writing — Since the 30th of April, except the letter acknowledging the receipt of yours, conveying the Presidents thanks, I believe I have wrote all with juice, and shall continue to do so —

From the message that the Minister sent me I think it probable that he will have nothing to say to me on the business of Peace, or Ransom, situated as I am, a *Prisoner* —

Business of bribes should be conducted by a Negotiator sent for the express purpose of treating, who ought to remain some days, on shore and would be able to have private audience with the Minister which I never can have: For I am only permitted to leave our Prison when business requires it, and then under a very vigilant Guard, who always remains with me in the presence of the Minister — And if Sidi Mahommed was to send him away, it would immediately create suspicion against him in the mind of the Bashaw, on whose good opinion his existence, as well as all other Tripolitans depends — I am certain that I shall not be able to effect any thing with the Minister, and I firmly believe that the Bashaw must receive a severe blow before he will negotiate for the Sum offered and the sooner he receives it, the better for us unfortunate Prisoners —

I believe he expects an attack for he has moved his family to the Gardens, and comes in every Evening to remain the night in Town — In two former letters I have mentioned that we find it from experiment impracticable to get from our Prison undiscovered: therefore you need not send a Boat — A few days since our Boats[wain] and Sail Maker were taken from our Prison to other Appartments, and made to work — I have not forbid the crews working, as I have strong reasons to beleive, it would only be attended with unpleasant consequences without the desired effect.

The Men are comfortably lodged, and we are very badly: We feel it extremely this hot weather — I impute their rigour to us is in expectation of making our Country come to terms — However you may be assured that we shall [conduct] ourselves [like] Americans by bearing with fortitude every rigour of our captivity —



I hope to God that you will be enabled to reduce this place; but don't you think that ships boats would answer better than Gun boats? they would be more wieldy for attack in the Harbour which must be sudden & furious — I build my hopes on the effects of Bomb Vessells — I wish to God our Country would send troops to take the place — Pray inform me what effect the loss of the Frigate *P[hiladelphia]* had in America.

May prayers attend you for Success, on account of our liberation & from yourself, & squadron — Cursed fate! which deprives me from sharing the danger & glory —

[LC. EPP, Vol. 12, June–August 1804.]

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

The *Nautilus* sails for Syracuse with two bomb vessels under convoy.

[LC original.]

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Extract from Diary of Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, Commodore of U. S. Squadron in the Mediterranean, Sunday, 8 July 1804

at anchor in Messina, *Nautilus* in company, sent four Midshipmen and sixteen men on board the two Bomb Vessels, we have besides our own men sixteen Bombardiers or Gunners and seamen on board each of the Bomb Vessels & Gun Boats shipped by permission of their government, — at 8 A M the Bombs being ready ordered them to weigh with the *Nautilus* & sail for Syracuse to join the Gun Boats, — The settlement of accounts & passing receipts for military stores detains me here, —

[LC. EPP, Diary, 1803–1804.]

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

Moderate breezes from N E. At Anchor in Messina. The *Nautilus* & two bombards in company. We this afternoon recieved 120 bbls powder — Sent two Marines to each Bombard

A. M. at 8 we made the Signal for the *Nautilus* & the two Bombards to weigh & at 9 they sailed from hence for Saragosa.

Rec'd a boat load of wood supposed to be nearly 4 cords of wood —

At Day light made the necessary arrangements for sailing — Farther communication with the shore detained us — Surgeons report 5 sick 4 conv<sup>at</sup> Noon moderate breezes from N N E.

In the morning we supplied the Bombards with twenty bbls Powder

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

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

Standing off & on shore in sight of Tripoli

Midnight moderate breezes & pleasant wore to the N. E<sup>s</sup> At 10 unbent the Old fore topsail & bro<sup>t</sup> a new one to the yard At 11 saw a large latine rigg'd boat at anchor in shore made all sail & stood for her the *Vixen* in Co: the *Argus* & *Scourge* a great distance to

260 NAVAL OPERATIONS, APRIL-SEPTEMBER 6, 1804

leeward.  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 11 shorten'd sail saw the boat to be the same that we engag'd Yesterday. —

Meridian gentle breezes & pleas<sup>t</sup> call'd all hands to quarters, cast loose the guns & prepar'd to fire at the boat. —

[NDA.]

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

Standing in for old Tripoli fired 2 Shot at the fort hauled our wind and stood off in Company with the *Scourge* heard a number of heavy guns to the Southw<sup>d</sup> Tk<sup>d</sup> to the S<sup>d</sup> & E<sup>d</sup> set and took in Sail Occas<sup>r</sup> At midnight fine W<sup>t</sup> The *Syren* and *Vixen* in Sight to the Westw<sup>d</sup> at 7 AM, Tk<sup>d</sup> to the SE and backed the M.T. Sail at 9 filled away standing in for Tripoli —

[NDA photostat.]

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Extract from Diary of Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, Commodore of U. S. Squadron in the Mediterranean, Monday, 9 July 1804

wind N E Fresh, at 3 P M weighed & sailed for Syracuse, at 5 spoke the *Bittern* Sloop of War steered to the S S W all night under easy sail, — at day light Syracuse Light house Bore S W distan[ce] 2 leagues, the *Nautilus* & two Bombs to the Southward made them a signal to haul on a wind to the northward, — at 8 A M anchored in Syracuse Harbour with the *Nautilus* & Bombs in company in found here in safety the *Enterprize*, six gun Boats with the Ketch *Intriped* which I have converted into an hospital ship for the sick, ordered off five shore Boats to Water us, —

[LC. EPP, Diary, 1803-1804.]

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

[Standing off and on Tripoli.] Light winds & pleas<sup>t</sup> all hands at quarters Standing for the small sail at anchor.  $\frac{1}{2}$  past Mer: back'd the main top sail, the *Vixen* came too & commenc'd a heavy fire on the vessel & the Inhabitants, which had collected to the amount of 1 or 2 thousand  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 1 the *Vixen* made signal for one of our boats, arm'd the barge in readiness. At 2 commenc'd a brisk fire on the vessel & castle  $\frac{1}{4}$  past 2 haul'd off shore & was follow'd by the *Vixen* having damaged the boat considerably & wounded several of the turks, (seeing them led off across horses) at 3 saw the turks assemble in great bodies wore round & stood in shore — At 4 wore to the NW<sup>d</sup> & single reef'd the topsails, Tripoli bearing E S E 3 leagues.  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 4 set main sail. At  $\frac{1}{4}$  past 7 Sam<sup>l</sup> Macey, a marine fell over board & was drown'd. —

Midnight light airs & pleas<sup>t</sup> handed top gall<sup>t</sup> sails.  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 6 bore down on the *Vixen* & *Argus*, hoisted out the boats & set top gall<sup>t</sup> sails.  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 9 back'd the main topsail & spoke the *Argus* at 10 fill'd away. At 11 fill'd away — Meridian light winds & pleasant all sail set the *Argus* & *Vixen* in Co: —

Latt: Obs: 33° 14' N.

[NDA.]

To Secretary of State from James Simpson, U. S. Consul, Tangier, Morocco

N<sup>o</sup> 79 — Triplicate

TANGIER 10<sup>th</sup> July 1804. —

SIR I avail of the opportunity of a Schooner for Boston has put in here to take Water, to acquaint you that the Emperours three Ships have been fitted out,

*Maimona* of 30 Guns & 70 Men at Sallé —

*Maimona* 32 Guns & 80 Men } at Larach —

*Mirboha* 14 Guns & 50 Men }

you will observe the number of Men has been considerably reduced from what they usually carry, which marks their being more probably intended for a special Service than for a Cruize. — Some time since an Embassy arrived at Mequinez from Algiers bringing various articles of considerable value from the Dey for the Emperour. — Permission has been granted to the Chief of that mission to load four hundred Quintals of Copper and the like quantity of Saltpetre at Mogadore duty free. — The *Maimona* sailed last week from Sallé for that Port, its said to load those Articles and to take on board the Ambassador and his Suite, with such return of Present as the Emperour may have to send. —

It is very generally supposed here that the Larach Ships are intended to accompany the *Maimona* to Algiers. — I have acquainted Commodore Preble of all this and of my suspicion that the Emperour may have a design of leaving at Tunis or Algiers one of these Ships for the Tripolines in lieu of the *Meshouda*. — My perfect knowledge of these people makes me sensible that what they cannot do openly in aid of each other against every Christian Nation, they will endeavour to accomplish by Stratagem. —

The Spanish Consul General here by orders from his Court has mediated with Muley Soliman on behalf of the Emperour of Germany and obtained an assurance that he will ratify the Peace made between his Father & that Power so soon as an Ambassador shall be sent to him for that effect, in consequence of which that Gentleman has granted Austrian Passports for the Salle and Larach Ships.

Two Brigs of War under that Flag have been in this neighborhood during the negotiation. —

The Batavian Consul General having been referred by His Majesty to Alcayde Hashash for the final arrangement of his Nation's concerns with this Country, went yesterday to Tetuan on that busyness. —

My next will advise the result, which I still apprehend will not be very pleasant for the Republic, altho' the consideration of their having no Commerce whatever to this part of the World at this time, may prevent an immediate open rupture. —

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

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

Copy

TUNIS July the 10<sup>th</sup> 1804 —

SIR, The affair of the Tunisien Sandal captured by the U. States Brig *Syren*, as stated in the last I had the honor to address You, has not since been made the subject of further discussion; but am well convinced, that this trifling occurrence will be hereafter the basis of an extravagant demand: a similar circumstance happen'd to the Swedes, who took a Sandal of the Island of Jerba, entering

the Port of Tripoli, when blockaded by that Power: — no mention was made of the circumstance here, until the Swedes had concluded their peace, and withdrew their forces from Tripoli; when restitution was demanded by the Tunisien Government; and who also, insisted that the Cargo on board said boat, was valued at 30,000, Piastres, which Sum & for said demand has actually been paid. I state this circumstance merely to shew, how far so trifling a pretext is made the subject of serious difficulties; but am far removed from supposing that one cent should ever be paid by us — On the contrary it is of the first importance, particularly at this moment, not only to assume, but support that decision, which is necessary to convince this Regency of Our determination, not to permit any farther abuses or violation of the Laws of Nations, even by His Excellency's Subjects, in order that the measures in prosecution for the perfect humiliation of our Enemy may not be thwarted. — this shall be advanced by me when necessary, and supported with as much energy, as discretion, and the position of Affairs will permit.

A new Prophet, whom it is said is revolutionizing Algiers, and is at this moment Master of Costantine, has given much uneasiness to this Government: — he is accompanied by an immense Army of Bedouins, & declares himself the enemy alone of the Turks & Jews.

But there is a more serious evil, which calls for the full attention of His Excellency, and Council. The almost total loss of the last year's Crop, has so far increased the price of Grain & consequent misery of the People, as to threaten not only a famine, but a civil comotion; which has evinced itself lately, by numbers being robbed, and assassinated near the City. — (Grain is at this moment 150, Piastres the Caffice — the general price, 50,) As yet no measures have been taken by the Gov<sup>t</sup> to calm the clamours of the People. We are still left in the field of conjecture as to the real intentions of Russia & the Grand Signior, with respect to Barbary; but most combine in the opinion, that an unpleasant visit will be made to the different Regencies, should not the comotions of Europe draw their attention from the first object.

At length Naples has felt a Spasm of energy; and its Squadron for the first time made a visit to this Port; but we cannot imagine the reasons which prevented the Admiral's making himself Master of the whole Naval force of this Regency. — On the 26<sup>th</sup> ultimo, one Ship of the line and three frigates, entered the road of the Gouletta, shewing English Colours; (most of the Corsairs were ready for Sea, and anchored at a considerable distance from the Batteries) a frigate laid along aside of the Tunisien frigate, and commenced the attack by a general discharge of Musketry, shewing at the same time the Neapolitan flag; some of the Tunisiens on board the frigate instantly cut her Cables, while others endeavoured to make their escape by Swimming to the Shore; the Tunisien frigate, drifted under the forts, receiving, without any resistance, the full force of the Enemy's great Guns — She was completely equipped and ready for sea; nine of her Crew were killed, about twenty wounded; and an equal number of Prisoners made, which were taken up by the boats of the Neapolitans: She is considerably damaged in her hull, has two shot between wind & water, and her foremast, somewhat injured. There were no Soldiers in the forts, except a few moors, who were not Sufficient to man half a Dozen Guns — they notwithstanding kept up a tolerable

brisk fire for nearly two hours after the Neapolitans had ceased, & untill they stood out of the Roadsted. — No damage was done to any of the other Corsairs, and not one Captured, except a small Galiotte off Porto farine.

[LC. EPP, Vol. 12, June–August 1804.]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from Captain William Bainbridge, U. S. Navy

TRIPOLI BARBARY 10<sup>th</sup> July 1804

DEAR SIR, I wrote you on the 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Instances, which will go by this conveyance. The Articles you sent to the care of Sidi Muhammed Dghies, Minister of Foreign affairs to His Excellency the Bashaw, are landed, and the Minister has had them put very carefully in a house and politely subjects them to my direction: this peice of politeness is conformable to the tenor of his conduct towards myself and officers, & his general character.

We are now largely supplied with every thing, and I hope that you will not trouble yourself to send any thing more until I solicit the same from you.

Please to send the Invoice by the first conveyance: I hope you will find opportunities to forward us our letters from America.

*Secret communication under same date. [Written in lime juice.]*

D<sup>r</sup> SIR — I this day saw the Minister of Foreign affairs for this Regency — I wrote to you on the 7 & 8 ins<sup>t</sup> giving my opinion fully on the effect of your offer and my suspicion that the Minister would not treat, and to day's interview has confirmed them fully: he told me that I was a Prisoner and that Tripoli would not treat with none but a person sent expressly by the Government of the U S and that the Bashaw was determined not to have any more communication with you: that you may threaten, but will never convince, and says from your threats he believes that you have no force: for if you but finally offer 50 thousand dollars, and if you knock every house in Tripoly down, this Government will not accede to your present offer — Holland he says gave 80 thousand dollars, & Denmark 40 thousand to keep the friendship of Tripoli neither of them having a Prisoner, and America only to give 50 for 300 Citizens & nothing for Amity! and much more too tedious & trifling to mention — What I have related is verbatim of what he gave me — I hope you will have it in your power to give the town a severe blow; but I am doubtful if any attack but by land can force terms on the Bashaw — Whenever a person comes here to negotiate, he should previous to his coming, obtain permission from this Government to remain on shore several days for the purpose of negotiating —

When you do commence bombarding the Town, I hope that you will continue the operation throughout the Autumn & Winter, by getting a good Bomb Vessell, large enough to keep the Coast throughout the year; and frequently to heave shells on the Town at night, must inevitably greatly distress the Inhabitants.

Tripoli is much more vulnerable on the land side than it is to Seaward: Would you not think it policy to let Lord Nelson claim the English Subjects among our Crew? —  $\frac{1}{4}$  of them are of that Nation —

I have informed you that you need not send a boat — It is impracticable for us to leave our prison —

God bless you, and Success attend your undertaking prays your friend

W B

P. S. Your letter from Tunis this moment came to hand.

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

To Tobias Lear, U. S. Consul General, Algiers from Captain William Bainbridge,  
U. S. Navy

TRIPOLI BARBARY 10 July 1804  
rec<sup>d</sup> Aug<sup>t</sup> 19 1804.

DEAR SIR, I have not had the pleasure of hearing from you since the 24<sup>th</sup> of February. — I have wrote you many letters since that date, and hope they have reached you.

In my last of the 17<sup>th</sup> ult<sup>o</sup>, I mentioned that we were much in want of cloathing for our seamen; on the 7 inst. a vessel arrived from Malta with a large quantity shipped by M<sup>r</sup> Higgins to the care of Sidi Muhammed Dghies, minister of Foreign affairs to His Excellency the Bashaw, who has politely had them landed and delivered to my charge. We are under many obligations to the above Minister.

I have nothing new since my last letter, but what I presume you are informed of thro' Commodore Preble. I hope it will not be long before I shall hear from you

The Copy of the Hon'ble C. Pinkney's letter to you I have received; I have written and thanked him for his attention, and informed him that through you we are fully supplied: I have written to my friend Consul Kirkpatrick to the same effect.

Please to present my respectful compliments to M<sup>rs</sup> Lear, and believe me to be with esteem

[*The following was written in lime juice and copied from photographs or photostats of the original.*]

D<sup>r</sup> SIR I have long been expecting the pleasure to [hear] from you and must impute my not having that pleasure to miscarriage of your letters

No doubt before this comes to your hands but that you will be informed of Com Preble's sending Mr OBrien on here to offer 50/m[?] dollars this offer as you might conclude was rejected with disdain Mr OB came on shore very unexpectedly and with[out?] requesting Permission to land and he made the offer directly on his landing — I do not mean to censure him But it appears to me an irregular proceeding — The Signal established between the Bashaw & Com. was merely for sending the Boat on shore and M<sup>r</sup> OBrien might have done better to have waited until the Boat returned with permission for him to land, but his coming in the first boat subject him to a disgraceful detention on the beach [or "in the boat"] and kept him [?] for upwards an hour and instead of going immediately to the Bashaw's Palace it would have been better for him to have gone to the Ministers house and had some private talks with him — I have received letters from the Com [?] authorizing me to renew the offer he makes very severe threats *which I hope he will be able to execute* in case the Regency does not comply. I have this day waited on the Minister

of foreign affairs for this Regency on the subject of the Com. letter and received the answer that I expected which was I was a prisoner therefore must have nothing to say [word illegible] on the bussiness and that the Bashaw had signified [?] his determination of not having any more communication with the Com. or any Person that he might send and that this Regency never would treat, only with a Person sent direct from the Government of the U States for that purpose, and then to receive a proper sum something [?] like 150/m [?] dollars — I endeavoured to find out the demands of the Bashaw but could not — The Com appears sanguine on his arrangements [2 words illegible] I hope it may prove successful But I am of an opinion that the Bashaw of Tripoli cannot be forced into terms except by landing troops he is much more vulnerable by land than by sea Nevertheless a harrassing bombardment will no doubt tend to make the terms more moderate there is not a Consul of humanity or Principle or principle in the place except the Danish who desires me to request that you will not send [one line illegible] [un]fortunate Citizens. Believe me my dear Colonel that threats will never do — I greatly respect Com Preble but I imagine that he is not [word illegible, familiar?] with national Character of Barbary I love my Country sincerely feel for its honor and independence yet may view this Regency in a different light and my opticks are not influenced by my situation. I trust that I have fortitude to bear my lot be it what it may. Do not [word illegible] impression. It was necessary to say this much ----- that I am not ----- by self [motives]

[About two lines ending this letter were illegible. In fact the entire portion of the letter written in *lime juice* was read with great difficulty, some of it being written over the writing in *visible ink*.]

[Stephen Decatur Col.]

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

[Off Tripoli] *Syren* and *Vixen* in Company fired a Gun at the fort and stood off the Shore —

[NDA photostat.]

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Extract from Diary of Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, Commodore of U. S. Squadron in the Mediterranean, Tuesday, 10 July 1804

Wind E S E, at anchor in Syracuse Harbour, *Enterprize Nautilus*, six gun & two Bomb Vessels in company, this day completed our water & five months full allowance of Provisions Anchored here the *Jalouse* British Brig of War Cap<sup>t</sup> Strachey from a Cruize, we are now loading a Neapolitan ship (which I ordered our agent to charter) with water & provisions for our Squadron off Tripoly, two Midshipmen & 10 men have been put on Board to Navigate her, ships draft of water abaft 23 feet, forward 21 feet 8 Inches, —

[LC. EPP, Diary, 1803-1804.]

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

Moderate breezes from the Eastward At Anchor in Saragosa — *Enterprize*, *Nautilus* Six Gun boats & two bombards in company The Old Ketch now the *Intrepid* which was employed in the Service

of burning the *Philadelphia* remains here under charge of a midshipman & 2 seamen

Recieved this afternoon from the Navy Agent at Saragosa 1373 Gall<sup>o</sup> of Rum, 772 Gall<sup>o</sup> Wine in nine of the ships water casks, and 3 loads of Wood supposed to be 5 Coards We also recieved by three shore boats 82 Gang Casks of water

Anchored here H B M. Brig *Jalouse* from a cruize At Sun down hove up & down in order to keep a clear anchor —

Calm through the night

At day light the three shore boats came along side & took away Empty water casks

By 10 A. M. we recieved 40 Gang casks which complete our water Ships draft abaft 23 feet

forward 21 feet 8 Inches } difference 16 Inches

Sailed H B M Brig *Jalouse* — An imperial ship [*St. Guisseppe*] of nearly two hundred tons is employed in the U. S. Service to carry water to our Squadron stationed off Tripoly

This forenoon sent Officers with empty water casks to assist in watering her

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

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Extract from journal of William Eaton, U. S. Agent for the Barbary Regencies, 10 and 12 July 1804

[On board U. S. Frigate *President*.] July 10. Lat. 36° 46'. lon. 53 —

[12 July] The *Congress*, taking a reef in her main top sail, lost five men overboard — The ship had eleven knots way upon her — Every exertion was made to save the poor fellows; but in vain: they all perished — A painful sight

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

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Extract from journal of U. S. Frigate *John Adams*, Master Commandant Isaac Chauncey, U. S. Navy, commanding, Tuesday, 10 July 1804

First and Middle Part of these 24 Hours strong Gales and hazy Weather, attended with frequent heavy Squalls — found for these last 24 Hours that the Ship had made much Water, and on Examination find that the Oakum is out of a Number of her Seams in the Counter and that whenever she sends aft' that the Water Rushes in in great Quantities in the Wooden End of the Whales on the Larboard Side aft, and under the Stool of the Gallery on the same Side, therefore judge that the Oakum is out there also or that the Ends of her Whales are rotten Wind S. W. b S.

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

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To Samuel Brown, Navy Agent, Boston, Mass., from Secretary of the Navy

NAV DEP<sup>t</sup>

July 12. 1804

You will be pleased to charter a Vessel on the best terms in your power of a size sufficient to carry to the mediterranean the articles mentioned in the following list —



450 Barrels of beef  
 360 D°----- pork  
 125 D°----- flour  
 1626 D°----- bread abt 125,000 lb<sup>a</sup>  
 150 D°----- rum  
 15 D° butter about----- 3000 lb<sup>a</sup>  
 30 barrels of melasses abt 1500 Gall<sup>a</sup>  
 50 Barrels of Cheese abt 10000 lb<sup>a</sup>  
 600 Bolts of Rusia Duck & Canvass  
 40 Boxes of Spermacite Candles  
 10 Tons of assorted Cordage  
 2 Anchors Weighing from 4 to 5000  
 about 100 Barrels of powder  
 a Bowsprit for the Frigate *Constitution*  
 in four pieces and a few Spare Spars  
 300 Bushels Peas or Beans —

and you will also purchase all the above articles on the best terms in your power excepting the following which we have on hand and shall have at Norfolk ready for the Vessel to Receive when she shall arrive there Viz

3166 lb Cheese  
 125 B<sup>a</sup> flour  
 600 bolts of Rusia Duck & Canvas.  
 40 boxes of Spermacite Candles —  
 10 Tons of assorted Cordage  
 30 Barrels of Melasses  
 1626 D° — of Bread  
 100 D° — of Powder  
 a Bowsprit & Spare Spars  
 2 Anchors w<sup>t</sup> from 4 to 5000 lb<sup>a</sup>

If you should not be able to procure a Vessel of a size exactly suitable to the Cargo it is not Very material so you can get one larger in which case you will increase proportionally the quantity of articles to be purchased and give me timely advice that we may make our arrangements here accordingly —

The Vessel so soon as she shall take in all that part of her cargo which she is to receive at Boston must be sent to Norfolk directed to Daniel Bedinger Esq navy agent who will deliver to her Commander the Residue of her cargo — Let me know what Insurance is at Boston — the Vessel must be engaged to go to Gibraltar, thence if required by the Consul there to proceed aloft as far as Syracuse or Malta. Let me hear from you as to your Prospect of engaging a Vessel without delay

[NDA. GLB, Vol. 7, 1803–1805.]

To Commanders of any U. S. Ships of War arriving at Syracuse, from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

U. S. SHIP *Constitution*  
 July 12th 1804

SIR I sail tomorrow morning for Tripoly with the *Enterprize Nautilus*, 6 Gun & two bomb Vessels, the *Syren Argus Vixen & Scourge* are now blockading that Port — I shall attack the Town & Harbor immediately after my arrival and hope to succeed in bringing the Bashaw to an honorable peace — I have long been expecting a re-inforcement to the Squadron and have been extremely anxious for an arrival from the U. S. to know if my expectations have been well founded — Having no vessel in the Squadron excepting this ship

whose cannon can make any Impression on the Bashaw's Walls I expect we may suffer much. Of course you will see the necessity of sailing immediately to our assistance after your arrival here without waiting to land any thing you may have brought out for the Squadron

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

Extract from journal of U. S. Frigate *Congress*, Captain John Rodgers, U. S. Navy, commanding, Thursday, 12 July 1804

[In company with the *President*, *Essex* and *Constellation*, en route to the Mediterranean.] P M fresh breezes and pleasant weather at  $\frac{1}{4}$  past 12 the commodore made the signal N<sup>o</sup> 48. call'd all hands to make sail set stay sails and starb<sup>d</sup> studding sails at  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 1 Down stay Sails & in top G<sup>t</sup> Studding Sails at  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 6 P. M. the Commodore made the signal N<sup>o</sup> 571 call'd all Hands to reef top sails 6 of the main top men in Laying out on the main top sail yard to reef the Top sail caught hold of the points the sail being Slack, the sail fill'd they broke their hold and fell 3 of Them over board and 3 on deck rounded the ship too and clear'd away the stern cutter but seeing nothing of them from the mast head fill'd & made sail. the 3 that fell on deck 2 expired Immediately the other is in a fair way to recover

At Midnight fresh breezes and hazy weather From 12 till 4 made and shortened sail Occasionally to Keep our station with the Commodore

At  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 7 set top G. sails at 9 set top mast & top G. studding sails

At Meredian frish breezes and clear weather Temperature of air 75° Water 72° Sick 28.

Longitude Observed 50° 03' W.

Latitude Observed 36° 44' N.

[USNA.]

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

Moderate breezes from S W. At Anchor in Saragosa *Nautilus*, *Enterprize*, Six Gun boats and two Bombards in company. Employed in watering the Store Ship & clearing the Squadron for Sea M<sup>r</sup> Haswell Midshipman was this day sent on board the Imperial Store Ship [polacre *St. Guisseppe*] which is to be navigated under Imperial colors Completed her water this afternoon within 1500 Gall<sup>s</sup>

Recieved from the Arsenal a kedge anchor with a stock W<sup>t</sup> 920 lb Sent Six seamen to the Imperial Storeship exclusive of the two Officers

At day light made Signal to the Squadron to Weigh.

At 6 A. M we weighed & stood out to Sea with the *Enterprize* *Nautilus*, Gun boats & bombards in company in order to proceed to Malta

By 9 A M we had strong breezes from W S W. Made Signal to the Squadron to return to Port Bore up for Saragosa, & made the *Enterprize* and *Nautilus* signal to examine three strange sail to the S. E —

At  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 10 A. M. when nearly in the Act of coming to in Saragosa the wind shifted from W N W to N E. Made Signal to the Squadron

to follow the Commodore and stood out in order to lead the Gun boats & Bombards —

In working round the outer extreme (Cape Pork) the store ship carried away her Main top gall<sup>t</sup> Mast. At this time the N N E wind had increased to a strong breeze & the gun boats being unable to weather Cape Pork, we made the signal for Anchoring in Saragosa At Noon came to in Saragosa — All the Squadron except the *Nautilus* & *Enterprize* in company Winds strong from E N E —

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

To Captain Daniel Carmick, U. S. Marine Corps, New Orleans, La., from Secretary of the Navy

NAVY DEPMT. 13 July 1804 —

SIR, I have rec<sup>d</sup> your letter dated 27<sup>th</sup> May 1804.

I am sorry that any difficulties should have arisen between you and other gentlemen on the subject of your relative rank. It has been determined that the Officers shall rank agreeably to date of Commission. You therefore rank all Captains whose Commissions are dated subsequently to yours and you are ranked by all Captains having senior Commissions to you.

[NDA. USMC, LB, 1804-1820.]

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

Strong breezes from N E. At anchor in Saragosa Gun boats bombards & store ship in company At 1 P. M. made signal for all commanding Officers of the Gun boats —

On anchoring we immediately employed three shore boats & supplied them with 29 casks to complete the water of the store ship — We also sent an Officer & a party of Men to assist in repairing her damages —

At 3 P. M. the *Nautilus* & *Enterprize* reanchored they report the chases to be three Tunisians on a cruize at Sun down Moderate, hove up and down — Towards day light a breeze sprang up from N W — At 5 A. M. made Signal for the Squadron to weigh & proceed to Sea. At 6 weighed & stood to Sea in order to proceed to Malta —

In passing Cape Pork which is nearly 4 miles from Saragosa we observed a small Xebeck under French colors — We brought her to with a shot in consequence of the report of a Pirate cruising about here — She was commissioned by the French Consul at Tunis

At 9 A. M. took the store ship in tow

All this forenoon we have had light breezes and Variable between N N W & S E.

Transported for the purpose of Trimming ship 10 Tons of cannister shot from between Decks into the Gun Room, and about 12 Tons of Shells from the forehold to between decks abreast of the Main Mast —

Noon light breezes from S S W

Cape Pork N E b N 3 leagues — Cape Passari S W b S five Leagues *Nautilus* *Enterprize*, Six Gun boats & two bombards in shore of us to the Westward

Surgeons report 3 sick & 7 convalescent

Latitude Observed 37° 1' N.

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

270 NAVAL OPERATIONS, APRIL-SEPTEMBER 6, 1804

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

[Three lines of manuscript mutilated.]

PM At 1. Pleasant Weather With moderate Breezes from the S<sup>d</sup> & W<sup>d</sup> at 4 Air 74½ Water 72½ at half past 5 Discovered Land bearing S. E b E. It being the Island of Sai<sup>t</sup> Maria. or Sai<sup>t</sup> Marys. one of Western Islands at 8 the S. E. part of S<sup>t</sup> Marys bore S. dist. 2½ Leagues. The Center of the Isl'd S W. 4 miles the N W P<sup>t</sup> W ½ S. dist. 3. leagues. the Air 73½ Water 72. at 12 Midnight air 73½ Water 72. —

The Island of S<sup>t</sup> Maria or S<sup>t</sup> Marys is one of the Azories or Western Islands situated in the Atlantic Ocean between 25 and 32 degrees of W. Lon and between 37 & 40 N Lat 900 miles W. of Portugal and as many E: of Newfoundland — [Several lines of manuscript mutilated.] There are nine of the Western Islands in Number Viz<sup>t</sup> S<sup>t</sup> Maria, S<sup>t</sup> Michael, Terceira, St. George Graciosa Fayal, Pico — Flores. and Corvo. the two Westernmost were named Flores and Corvo from the abundance of Flowers on the one, and of Crows on the other —

This being the 17<sup>th</sup> day since we took our departure from the Capes of Virginia nothing to me cou'd have been more pleasing than the sight of land once more. this being the first time I ever left my native Country. as we passed it several of the Gentlemen took the different Views of the Island as presented to us —

[NDA original. Miss Camilla S. McConnell.]

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Extract from Memorandum Book of Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, 14 July 1804

Sailed for the seige of Tripoly with 2 bomb vessels 6 gun boats and the *Nautilus* and *Enterprise* in company.

[LC original.]

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Extract from Diary of Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, Commodore of U. S. Squadron in the Mediterranean, Saturday, 14 July 1804

Wind S S W working to windward along shore with the *Nautilus Enterprise*, Store Ship, 2 Bomb & 6 Gun Boats in company, — at ½ past 6 P M made the Signal for the fleet to Prepare to Anchor And the *Enterprise* a signal to tow the rear Boat of the 2<sup>d</sup> division, at ½ past 7 P M anchored in 10 fathoms water hard Bottom 2 miles off shore, Cape Passaro bearing by compass South 9 miles made the Signal for the Squadron to close & anchor to prevent separation, at day light weighed with the Squadron wind N E, at 7 A M passed Cape Passaro, at noon 20 miles from the Cape, —

[LC. EPP, Diary, 1803-1804.]

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Extract from journal kept by Purser John Darby, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. S. *John Adams*, Master Commandant Isaac Chauncey, U. S. Navy, commanding, Saturday, 14 July 1804

[Several lines of manuscript mutilated.] Course S. E b E ½ E. [mutilated] morning the Temperature of Air was 73½ Water 73. at 8 Air 73½ Water 72¼. at Meridian Air 74¼ Water 73½ — Wind W. b N.

Wind W. N. W.  
 Course E S. E.  
 Distance p<sup>r</sup> Log. 174

Latitude in ----- 36. 49  
 Long in by acct. -----  
 Long in by observ -----  
 Variation -----

P M

at. 1. Oclock this day Weather pleasant and light breezes at. 4. air 74¼ Water 73. at 6. Air 74 Water 73. at 8 Air 73½ Water 74. at 12. Midnight Air 71. Water 74¼ I was very much astonishd at finding the Temperature of the Air so much colder than the Water we have had cooler pleasant weather — and by no means as hot as I expected —

[NDA original. Miss Camilla S. McConnell.]

Extract from log book kept by Sailing Master Nathaniel Haraden, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Sunday, 15 July 1804

Light airs from S E. We take our departure for Malta from Cape Passari bearing N E b N 20 Miles The Wind was Very light and variable all the afternoon — Towards evening signal was made for the Squadron to close. In order to prevent Separation we took four of the gun boats and the two bombards in tow — The *Enterprize* was ordered by signal to take the other two gun boats, and the *Nautilus* the store ship.

Departed this life by falling from the Booms into the hold, David Darling, boy. In the first watch committed his body to the deep.

At Sundown Malta was in sight through the Haze bearing from S W to S W b W 30 Miles Dist Light airs or calms through the night till 4 A M when we had a breeze from S E.

At ½ past 4 A. M. Saw Malta S W nearly 24 Miles

Kept the 4 gun boats & two bombards in tow all the forenoon standing in for Malta with light breezes Veering between S E & S S W — As we drew in with the land we saw several strange sail in shore — Among them two English Frigates

At Noon 10 Miles from the Harbor of Malta Squadron in company Winds light from S W b S

Surgeons report 4 sick & 7 convalescent.  
 Latitude Observed 36° 08' N.

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

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

TUNIS July 16<sup>th</sup> 1804.

SIR, I had this pleasure on the 23<sup>d</sup> ult<sup>o</sup>, enclosing you letters from Consul Lear, OBrien, &c. &c. all of which I trust have come to hand, as I find you have really a sincere friend in the Prime Minister Sidi Deghies — *his attentions will not go unrewarded.*

I regret not being able to give you any news from America, but wait with anxiety equal to your own, to hear something from that quarter; the last papers, that fell into my hands, were forwarded you without a perusal here; since when, all is silent as the Grave. You desired to know whether the President, had confirmed me at Tunis: the Hon<sup>ble</sup> the Sec<sup>y</sup> of State, writes, that he has not yet decided on my appointment, or of any other Person; in fact, I wish

to be differently placed, and where I may be more immediately useful to yourself and officers — I shall know ere long — and if my wishes are confirmed, you will be made sensible, that the U. S. does not possess an individual, who will so cheerfully Sacrifice private views, ease and comfort, for the benefit of our enslaved Countrymen, as myself. — I cherish the hope of giving you in Person, convincing proofs of the honesty of my heart, in these declarations, and can only add my prayers for your health &c. &c. —

Believe me Y<sup>r</sup> faithful friend

GEORGE DAVIS

Capt. W<sup>m</sup> BAINBRIDGE, *Tripoli* —

N. B. I enclose a line for my friends Porter & Hunt —

*Sympathetic ink [Written in lime juice.]*

D<sup>r</sup> SIR, Your ransom might be effected here on admissible terms, if our affairs were brought to a decision; but the pretensions of this Regency, are beyond any thing the Gov<sup>t</sup> will acquiesce to — I however have reduced them much, but have no authority to proceed in such a manner, as would bring them to a final conclusion. — I made application to Consul Lear, & OBrien, by letters bearing date Feb<sup>y</sup> 18<sup>th</sup> to let me come, and reside at Tripoli, under the protection of some Powerful Nation — I have the means of ensuring a favorable reception; prudent and discreet deportment would prevent difficulties, and my head shall be sacrificed; if I would not open your Prison doors, in three months; and with your assistance, place our affairs in such a train as to ensure a Speedy peace — a dispatch to the Sec<sup>y</sup> of State, (of same date) states the absolute necessity of a similar measure — and for such powerful political reasons as induces me to hope something of the kind will be done — the only motive which can induce me to remain in Barbary, is the hope of unfettering your chains; and to accomplish which, I know no danger — scorch all my letters — And place full confidence on the eternal tho' feeble exertions, of your friend. GEO. DAVIS —

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

[16 July 1804]

[NOTE: Attention is invited to the diaries kept by Tobias Lear, U. S. Consul General, Algiers, 1 January 1804 to 16 July 1804, to be found in the National Archives, State Department Records, Consular Letters, Algiers, Vol. 7, Part I, January 1804 to November 1805.]

Extract from Memorandum Book of Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, 16 July 1804

Anchd with the squadron at Malta.

[LC original.]

Extract from Diary of Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, Commodore of U. S. Squadron in the Mediterranean, Monday, 16 July 1804

Wind Southerly; — at 4 P M entered the harbour of Valetta in the Island of Malta, and Anchored with the Squadron, — at 7 A M the *Vixen* arrived to repair damages sustained in an action with Tripoline Troops, Captain Smith brought me a letter from Captain Stewart of the *Siren* wherein he observes that on the 7<sup>th</sup> ins<sup>t</sup> the

*Siren* & *Vixen* chased a Tripoline Galliot on shore about 9 miles to the Westward of Tripoly, that the Boats of the *Siren* was manned, armed & dispatched with orders to take her off, that they accordingly approached the shore under a heavy fire of musketry from 1000 or more Tripolines, that the *Vixen* was ordered in shore to support the boats which had grounded on a Reef and with difficulty was got off after having lost 1 marine killed & 4 wounded, the *Vixen* opened a Galling fire of Cannister shott on the Troops which did great execution among them, but owing to the Reef over which the Barbarians had hauled the Galliot after having taken every thing out of her, they could not bring her off, he says the Officers & men behaved well, — ordered the Boats to be employed to fill up our water, —

[LC. EPP, Diary, 1803-1804.]

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Extract from logbook kept by Sailing Master Nathaniel Haraden, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Monday, 16 July 1804

Moderate breezes from S S W.

Standing in for the Harbour of Viletta which bears S W b W 9 Miles — As we drew in to the land the wind became favorable. One Mile without the harbour we cast off the Gun & bomb vessels —

At 4 P. M. we came to in the Harbor of Vilette with the Squadron in company in 14 fath<sup>s</sup> Water The Gun boats are moored within us with a fast on shore —

Towards evening ran the stream anchor out to the Eastward in order to keep clear of the Bower In this situation we are one & a half cables length from shore —

Moderate through the night.

Armed a boat as a guard boat through the night

At 7 A. M. anchored here the U. S. Schooner *Vixen* from a cruize off Tripoly — She reports some damages sustained in a small action with one of the boats off Tripoly —

At 10 A. M. recieved the *Madrass'*, & *Alexander's* launches to complete our water —

Ships company watering & cleaning ship —

Surgeons report 4 sick 7 conv<sup>es</sup>t

Noon fresh breezes from S W.

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

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Extract from journal of Midshipman F. Cornelius deKrafft, U. S. Navy, in U. S. Brig *Siren* of 18 guns, Master Commandant Charles Stewart, U. S. Navy, commanding, Monday, 16 July 1804

[Lying off and on Tripoli since 9 July.] Midnight fresh gales & clear. At 1<sup>h</sup> wore to the S. W<sup>d</sup> ½ past 9 saw a Ketch Standing out of Tripoli ¼ past 9 spoke the afore said Ketch. hoisted out the barge & sent her on board. ½ past 10<sup>h</sup> she return'd dismiss'd the Ketch & fill'd away rec<sup>d</sup> from her a quantity of letters from our prisoners. —

[NDA.]

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To James Bazen, Newark, N. J., from Secretary of the Navy

NAV. DEPAR<sup>t</sup> July 17, 1804

I have received your letter of the 10. ins<sup>t</sup> — Captain Bainbridge has not forwarded to us a muster roll of the *Phil<sup>a</sup>* after her capture

by the Tripolitans, and as you state your son to have joined her at Malta it is not in my power to inform you whether he was on board at the time of the capture or not —

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

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Extract from Diary of Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, Commodore of U. S. Squadron in the Mediterranean, Tuesday, 17 July 1804

Wind S W at anchor in Malta, ordered some Provisions shipped on board the Store Ship for the Squadron off Tripoly, — M<sup>t</sup> Lewis Midshipman joined this ship, I dispatched him on the 17<sup>th</sup> of March last for Gibraltar with letters for the Navy department to be forwarded from thence & return, and to Return to the Squadron, Governor Ball called on board, as did Cap<sup>t</sup> Somberg & Cap<sup>t</sup> Strac[h]ley of the Royal Navy, and some Officers of the army, among which was General Ramsay

[LC. EPP, Diary, 1803-1804.]

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Extract from log book kept by Sailing Master Nathaniel Haraden, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Tuesday, 17 July 1804

Fresh breezes from S W. At Anchor in Valette *Nautilus Vixen*, *Enterprize*, 6 Gun boats & two Bombards in company.

Recieved this afternoon the 6 Guns 24 P<sup>dr</sup>s which we landed here some time ago, also their carriages Recieved also from the Navy agent for the use of the Squadron off Tripoly 92 bbls bread, 6 bbls flour 7 bbls Pork, 3 bbls suet, 20 kegs of cheese, 11 casks of Peas, 1 Puncheon of Molasses or 122 Gall<sup>s</sup> & one pipe of Vinegar of 130 gallons — We rec'd also 57 gang casks of water which completes our quantity Towards evening Moderate breezes from the South continued the guard boat thro' the night.

M<sup>t</sup> Lewis Midshipman who was sent to Gibraltar four months ago rejoined the ship — Our carpenters & armorers fitting gun carriages to our boats.

Yesterday Morning Sir A. J. Ball governor of Malta waited on the Commodore.

Our Warrant Officers are Ordered on shore to select such articles as are wanted in their several departments

Surgeons report 5 sick, 7 conv<sup>er</sup>s<sup>t</sup>

Noon fresh breezes from S. W.

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

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Extract from journal of U. S. Frigate *John Adams*, Master Commandant Isaac Chauncey, U. S. Navy, commanding, Tuesday, 17 July 1804

Throughout these 24 Hours moderate Gales and Cloudy Weather — At 4 A. M. saw a Sail to the Southward of us standing to the Southward. — At 4 saw a Fleet bearing East standing to the S. W. — At 9 saw a Frigate to the N W. standing after the Fleet, supposed it to be one of the Convoy — At 10 saw another Ship of War lying to, to the Windward of us soon after observed her speak a Merchantman and make sail after us — At 11 we made the Private Signal of the Day established between the British Ships of War and our own, kept it abroad 30 Minutes, but it not being answered hauled it down — soon after the Ship to Windward made a Signal, but not being under-



stood by us, she hauled it down — she then shewed English Colours, which we answered by shewing ours — At Meridian spoke his Majesty's Sloop of War *King Fisher* Capt. Crippen from Cork to the West Indies with the Convoy to Leeward, who also inform'd me that the Man of War a stern was his Britanic Majesty's Frigate the *Diana*, also one of the Convoy he sent his Boat on Board to ask for News &c the Officer of which informed me that they had been 15 Days from Cork but no News — Ends with Pleasant Weather.— Wind N. N. E

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

To Don Joseph Noguera, Spanish Consul General, Tunis, from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

U. S. SHIP *Constitution*  
Malta July 18th. 1804

SIR I am honored with your letter of the 24th Ultio: and have to inform you that the Critical Situation of our affairs with Tripoly at the present moment renders it impossible for me consistent with prudence to permit the Courier *S<sup>t</sup> Fernando* to proceed to Tripoly; I have therefore warned the Master of that Vessel not to attempt it, particularly as he has Articles in charge for our Enemies the *Spanish subjects who are building Gun boats for the Bashaw of Tripoly*

The Spanish Vessel, Cap<sup>t</sup> Torres has been liberated agreeable to the information given you by M<sup>r</sup> Davis, notwithstanding the Violation of her Passport, but no indulgence of the same Nature will again take place —

[LC. EPP, LB, April–Nov. 1804.]

To Tobias Lear, U. S. Consul General, Algiers, from George Davis, U. S. Chargé d'Affaires, Tunis

TUNIS July 18<sup>th</sup> 1804  
rec<sup>d</sup> 19<sup>th</sup> Aug<sup>t</sup> 1804

SIR I had this pleasure on the 22<sup>nd</sup> ultimo of which a duplicate is enclosed; since that period no direct conveyance has offer'd for your place. — Your favor of the 2<sup>nd</sup> inst was received on the 15<sup>th</sup> — I most sincerely regret the recent visit of the *Superb* to your Regency; or that any similar occurrence should tend to confirm my opinion, on the probable result of the difficulties in question it strikes me as an opening plague, the baneful effects of which will not be confined, to the local situation, that gave it birth; but will infect the Neighbouring Regencies; *where those, who have the least political health must expect a serious and menacing attack.* — While the great Powers continue to suffer with impunity such indignities; what are the Secondary Nations to expect?

Our affairs here are in *Statu quo*: no farther mention has been made of the Captured Sandals &c<sup>ca</sup> for your information on that point & others, I have the honor to enclose you a Copy of my last to the Hon<sup>ble</sup> the Secretary of State, His Excellency's silence on this Subject, augurs more than his threats; of which we shall soon discover the motive. — *Every thing depends on the result of our summer campaign against Tripoli.* — it is from thence we are either to assume and support a National Character with these States; — or bow the neck and

answer to the eternal cry of give. — The season for operation is all ready far advanced; that passed; and its effects known; we may prepare ourselves for a decisive arrangement here — Whatever lays within the exertions of one possessing so little influence; *and with such partial authority*, shall be done by me. — my health, is still delicate, which adds much to the irksomeness of a Post; at no period agreeable. —

I am this moment favored with Letters from Tripoli, and have the pleasure to enclose you two from Capt<sup>n</sup> Bainbridge. — M<sup>r</sup> Nissen's last communication, has renewed a Subject which I presumed, was finally closed; to wit; the non payment of a bill of Exchange for one thousand dollars forwarded 24<sup>th</sup> March 1804. particularly so, as his former letters gives me to understand, that all difficulties were done away; and that from Capt<sup>n</sup> Bainbridge, acknowledge the receipt of the money. — I enclose you N<sup>o</sup> 2, a Copy of the correspondence on this subject — It is unnecessary to say, that no decisive measures can be taken by me for the recovery of the money, untill a protest is forwarded, and even then it should be done by His Danish Majesty's Consul here, who appears on the face of the Bill as the purchaser. — this precaution was taken from the advice that all letters to the American prisoners as well as to M<sup>r</sup> Nissen, were opened by the Bashaw, as also from a knowledge of his Character; confident that he would not hesitate to seize on the Bill, and enforce the payment *thus in voiding Sylla, we are nearly on Charibdis.* —

I am informed here, that the Bill has been paid to the Bashaw, who, has credited the Danish Consul with the amount, to be deducted from their Biennial Cash payment due in January next; and which information has some credit with me, as M<sup>r</sup> Holek the Danish Consul for this Regency, assures me officially that the Bill will be paid: I however, shall apply to the Commercial Agent, for his interference; and endeavour to close the business amicably. This circumstance will shew how far I was correct in my letter to the Sec<sup>y</sup> of State of the 17<sup>th</sup> Nov. 1803. — when assigning my reasons for addressing M<sup>r</sup> Beaussier in behalf of our unfortunate Countrymen. —

"I am not ignorant that M<sup>r</sup> Nissen, His Danish Majestys Consul "was charged with our affairs by M<sup>r</sup> Cathcart; but as his Government "was fearful that their affairs might be embroiled in consequence of "the information, he might give of the Bashaw's movements; the only "communication I have ever received from that quarter, was his "regrets at not being able to fulfill the charge — *It is also of importance that our officers, should be placed under the protection of such a "Representative as is respected & feared &ca &ca* — As an Individual this Gentleman's, honourable, humane & friendly exertions, can never be sufficiently recompensed by our Government, and for which reason I have not yet insisted on his sending me the Bill regularly protested; but as a Public Agent in all such instances, he wants, that *Political Health*, which is necessary to give energy, to his actions. — *the error is not with the man.* —

Be pleased to give your orders on this point, and accept the assurances of the high consideration & profound respect, with which I have the honor to be, Sir

(Copy)

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

*Constitution MALTA July 18 [1804]*

DEAR SIR I am hon<sup>d</sup> with your favor of the 23<sup>d</sup> Ult<sup>o</sup> the present situation of our affairs renders it impossible for me to suffer any Vessel to proceed to Tripoly particularly as I sail this day with Bomb & Gun Vessels &c to attack that place, I have therefore advised the Master of the Spanish Vessel to return to Tunis, particularly as I understand she has articles on board for our worst enemies the *Spanish carpenters* who are *building Gun Boats for the Bashaw*

I will endeavour to obtain and destroy the pasport you mention. —  
\* \* \* \* \*

I have not time to write Col<sup>o</sup> Lear at this moment but shall as soon as I return and send a Vessel down to carry the letters and shall order her to touch at Tunis for yours. —

[LC. EPP, Vol. 12, June–August 1804.]

To Archibald S. Bullock, Savannah, Ga., from Secretary of the Navy

NAV. DEP. 18<sup>th</sup> July 1804.

The President of the United States has deemed it expedient to send to the coast of South Carolina & Georgia — Gun-boat N<sup>o</sup> 1, under the command of Lieu<sup>t</sup> Command<sup>t</sup> John P. Lovell. —

You will be pleased to furnish upon M<sup>t</sup> Lovells requisitions supplies of provisions &c and render him every other necessary assistance in your power.

[Similar letter to Mr. William Smith, Sr., Charleston, S. C.]  
[NDA. Off. Comg. Gunboats, 1803–1808.]

To Sailing Master (acting as Lieutenant Commandant) John P. Lovell, U. S. Navy,  
from Secretary of the Navy

NAV: DEP. 18 July 1804.

L<sup>t</sup> Comm<sup>d</sup> JN<sup>o</sup> P. LOVELL.  
*Command<sup>r</sup> Gun-boat N<sup>o</sup> 1.*

You will forthwith proceed with Gun-boat N<sup>o</sup> 1 to the Port of Charleston in the State of South Carolina, and after reporting yourself to the Governor of the State, and to the Collector of the Customs, you will thence proceed to Savannah in the State of Georgia, where you will also report yourself to the Governor of that State, and to the Collector of the Customs. These two Ports you will consider as the principal places of Rendezvous, and the Coast between Savannah and George Town as your Cruizing station. You will however repair to any other part of the coast of South Carolina & Georgia, where your services may be necessary. —

Within the territorial jurisdiction of the United States, i. e. within a marine league of the margin of our coast, you will by all the means in your power protect all vessels whatever as well neutrals as American, against the aggressions of the armed ships of any nation whatever, and you will repress all infractions of Law which may be attempted by any such armed vessel; but in all such cases, when ever the opinion of the Governor of the State, wherein you may be, can be previously obtained, you will not act but upon his requisition. —

Any pirate that may be found cruising on our coast to the annoyance of our commerce, either within or beyond our Jurisdictional limits, you will take into some [port] of the United States for trial.

You will afford all practical aid to the enforcing of the revenue Laws of the United States, and of the Health Laws of the States or of the United States on such requisitions as from time to time shall be made by a Collector of the Customs of either of the aforementioned States. —

You will without delay communicate to this Department a copy of every requisition that may be made as aforesaid by a Governor of a State, or by a Collector of the Customs.

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

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To Lieutenant Colonel Commandant Franklin Wharton, U. S. Marine Corps, from  
Secretary of the Navy

NAV. DEP. July 18<sup>th</sup> 1804

The Gun-boat N<sup>o</sup> 1 under the command of Lieu<sup>t</sup> Command<sup>t</sup> Jn<sup>e</sup> P. Lovell, requires a Guard of Marines to consist of a Serjeant a Corporal and 12 privates.

You will be pleased to supply this Guard without delay. —

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

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Extract from journal of U. S. Frigate *John Adams*, Master Commandant Isaac Chauncey, U. S. Navy, commanding, Wednesday, 18 July 1804

First and Middle Part of these 24 Hours fresh Breezes & flying Clouds — At 2 Saw a sail to the Eastward standing to the S. W. At ½ past 2 saw another Sail standing to the Eastward at 3 the Ship we first saw standing to the S. W. passed to Windward of us with a heavy press of Sail, she appeared to be a ship of war but shewed no Colours or any Disposition to speak us At 4 passed to Windward of a Brig standing to the Eastward — Ends with pleasant Weather — Wind N. N. E.

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

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Extract from journal kept by Purser John Darby, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. S. *John Adams*, Master Commandant Isaac Chauncey, U. S. Navy, commanding, Wednesday, 18 July 1804

[Several lines of manuscript mutilated.] a Frigate to the N. W. standing after the fleet. supposed to be one of the convoy at 10 saw another ship of War lying too to, Windward. of us. soon after observed her. speak. a Merchantman, and make sail after us. at 11. we made the private Signal of the day. established between the British ships of War. and our own. Kept it abroad 30 minutes, but it not being answered, hauled it down soon after the ship to Windward made a Signal. but it not being answered by us. she hauled it down she then shewed English colours. which we answered by. shewing ours. — Took in Top gall<sup>s</sup> Sails and hauled the courses up — at Meridian Spoke his Britanic Majestys Sloop of War. *King Fishers* Capt. Crippen, from Cork bound to the West Indies with the convoy to Leward, Who also informed us that the Man of War a stern was his Britanic Majestys [manuscript mutilated.]

at half past 12 the boat returned to her own ship — from this during the whole day we discovered several sail one of which appeared to be a frigate or Sloop of War but she discovered no inclination to speak us as she might easily have done it she being to Windward of us. and we close hall at Midnight fresh breezes & cloudy Weather Air 72 Water 73 —

[NDA original. Miss Camilla S. McConnell.]

[18 July 1804]

Resumé, presumably prepared in Navy Department about 1806 or 1807, concerning the U. S. Gun Boat No. 1

GUN BOAT N<sup>o</sup> 1. —

Ordered to be built at Washington 21 Dec<sup>r</sup> 1803.

Launched . . . . . & ordered to sail to Southw<sup>d</sup> for the purpose of protecting the rights of the United States within their Jurisdictional Limits 18 July 1804. Sailed 26<sup>th</sup> — Arrived at Charleston S. C 14 August. At Savanna 3: Sept<sup>r</sup> While waiting to hear from the Governor of Georgia were driven from moorings by a dreadful Storm & at length left dry in a Corn-Field on Whitemarsh Island 8 Sept<sup>r</sup> Got off 1 November. Lieu<sup>t</sup> Lovell gave up command to Lieu<sup>t</sup> Magrath 22 Nov<sup>r</sup> From this Time Lieu<sup>t</sup> Magrath acted under orders of Lieu<sup>t</sup> Murdoch Commanding N<sup>o</sup> 2 until N<sup>o</sup> 1 was ordered to Charleston to undergo repair's for a voyage to the Mediterranean if she was capable of performing it. N<sup>o</sup> 1 continued to cruise in Company with N<sup>o</sup> 2 between Savanna & G<sup>o</sup> Town S. C until 22 March 1805 then arrived at Charleston. Reported as not fit to cross the Ocean 28 March. Lieu<sup>t</sup> Magrath relieved by Lieu<sup>t</sup> Fanning May 6, 1805. — Repaired & the Fixture of the Gun altered and the Boat pronounced by Lieu<sup>t</sup> Fanning to be a safe Boat without the Bars of our Harbours 8 July. Continued off Fort Johnston enforcing the Quarantine Laws of the State, & making short cruises till Sept<sup>r</sup> 30 — 1805 when L<sup>t</sup> Fanning died at Charleston. — Oct<sup>o</sup> 11 — L<sup>t</sup> Ja<sup>s</sup> Biddle was ordered to Charleston to take command. —

COMMISSION AND WARRANT OFFICERS. —

Station	Names
Commander	Jn <sup>o</sup> Pittman Lovell
"	Humphrey Magrath
"	Nathaniel Fanning. —
2 <sup>d</sup> Officer.	Peter S. Ogilvie.
"	John Mott. —
Purser	John Carr
"	Abraham Cordrey
Surgeon	Alex <sup>r</sup> M <sup>o</sup> Williams.
Gunner	William Taylor.
	James A. Miller.

[NDA. Ships' Service, 1801-1809.]

To Sailing Master John P. Lovell, U. S. Navy, Eastern Branch, Potomac, from  
Secretary of the Navy

NAV: DEP. 19<sup>th</sup> July 1804.

It has been found impracticable to procure in time a Surgeon to join Gun-boat N<sup>o</sup> 1 at this place. D<sup>r</sup> J Schoolfield of Portsmouth Virginia, has been ordered to join you off Norfolk, where you will stop for the purpose of receiving him on board. —

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

To William Kirkpatrick, U. S. Consul, Malaga, from Tobias Lear, U. S. Consul  
General, Algiers

ALGIERS July 19<sup>th</sup> 1804.

DEAR SIR I had the pleasure of writing a few line to you on the 27<sup>th</sup> of April, a Copy of which is enclosed. Since that time I am without any of your esteemed favors.

I enclose also extracts from letters of Commodore Preble & M<sup>r</sup> Davis to me, dated 19<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>d</sup> of June, which will shew you the situation of our affairs with Tunis & Tripoli, so far as they have come to my knowledge. — Also the copy of a letter from our unfortunate & worthy friend Capt<sup>n</sup> Bainbridge of the 20<sup>th</sup> of May which will inform you of his situation at that time.

The Cruizers of this Regency have not been out this Season, owing to the situation of their affairs with the British

On the 10<sup>th</sup> of June arrived here the British ship of war *Superb*, the Hon<sup>ble</sup> Cap<sup>t</sup> Keets, with a tender Brig. In her came M<sup>r</sup> Bryan M<sup>r</sup>Donough, late from Tripoli. — They remained here till the 18<sup>th</sup> of June; had several conferences with the Dey; but departed without doing any thing effectual. On the 5<sup>th</sup> Ins<sup>t</sup> came a British Sloop of War, with M<sup>r</sup> M<sup>r</sup>Donough again; from Lord Nelson, of Toulon, She remained till the even<sup>g</sup> of 7<sup>th</sup> and then sailed, it is said, for Gibraltar. It is now *thought* that matters are in a train of accomodation between G. B. and this Regency; and that a new Consul will be sent here.

A Moor, who calls himself a Marabout, has lately made his appearance in the neighbourhood of Constantine, drawn together many Carbiles, and Captured 54 frenchmen, who were fishing for Coral on the Coast, and Carried them into Captivity. Report says he has attacked the City of Constantine with 30,000, Carbiles, and been repulsed with considerable loss Other reports say he is still very strong. On the 27<sup>th</sup> of June the Dey sent out two Schooners of 14 & 16 Guns to get this Marabout; or at least to prevent him from Capturing Vessels on the coast, They have not yet returned; but their Commander has come back and bro<sup>t</sup> with him two prisoners, who are said to be officers of the Marabout. Report now says the Marabout is attached to the Interest of France; and that those Frenchmen, said to be Captured, were sent over to assist him as Engineers &<sup>g</sup>

Two Portuguese ships of war have been cruizing off this place for some time past; but they have not prevented the enterance of Vessels. Very few, however, arrive.

I have not rec<sup>d</sup> a line from the U. S. since the Gov<sup>t</sup> must have heard of the Captivity of our Citizens. I have rec<sup>d</sup> a special Commission to negotiate with Tripoli; but it was sent before they had heard of that event I shall hold myself in readiness to go to Tripoli by the first Am. Vessel which comes here.

We have had, of late few arrivals, and still fewer opportunities which could be relied upon, going to Europe, which will account for your not having heard from me lately.

The attention of our mutual friend Montgomery in sending me the Gazetts to the 28<sup>th</sup> of May, has given me information of the important Change in the Gov<sup>t</sup> of France & of the Change of the Ministry in G. B. what events these changes will produce between the two Countries, we are anxious to learn.

We continue to enjoy good health here and the weather has been, as yet, very temperate. Our Garden is pleasantly situated on the Side of the Bay, about two miles Nort[h] of the City, which gives us a fine view of the sea & a pleasant air.

M<sup>rs</sup> Lear unites with me in respects & best wishes for the re-establishment of M<sup>rs</sup> Kirkpatrick's health, and for all felicity to yourself and family. —

[Stephen Decatur Col. NDA photostat, Book A.]

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

(Copy)

TANGIER 19<sup>th</sup> July 1804

DEAR SIR As I have heard you may probably be soon at Gibraltar, I think well to hand you Copy of my last Letter to Commodore Preble for your Information

The Ship from Sally arrived at Mogador on the 30<sup>th</sup> June to take on board an Ambassador, come from Algiers to Mully Suleman and his Suit on their return to that Port with 20 Tons of Salt Petre and the like Quantity of Copper which he had obtained permission to load Duty free

By the last Advices the Larach Ships had not sailed. Two Gallies at Tituan are fitting and will be ready for Sea about the End of this Month,

[NDA. MC LB, 1804-5.]

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Extract from log book kept by Sailing Master Nathaniel Haraden, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Thursday, 19 July 1804

Fresh breezes from E N E. At Anchor in Vallette Squadron in company

By 2 P. M. frequent Squalls & rain. Down royal & top gall<sup>t</sup> Yards. We brought home the stream anchor — By 3 P. M. it became Moderate — Ran out a kedge to the Southward in shore, and sighted the small bower which we found foul cleared it, and let it go.

Towards Evening the wind shifted in a squall from E N E to N b W. — Let go the best bower and veered to one third of a cable on the small bower

At Sundown sent two boats with Hawsers to assist the *Enterprize* in proceeding to Sea. The wind being strong from N b W, her signal was made to re-anchor By 9 P. M. it became moderate & continued so during the night —

A. M. Sailed the U. S. Schooner *Enterprize*

At 10 weighed the kedge & the best bower

Ships company Employed as necessary

Rec'd Boatswains, Gunners & Carpenters Stores which will be hereafter mentioned

Discharged to sick Quarters M<sup>r</sup> P Leonard Chaplain & Doctor Simm Surgeons Mate

Surgeons report 3 sick, 5 convalescent.

Loosed the staysails & studding sails to dry

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

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To Captain Thomas Briggs, R. N., commanding H. B. M. S. *Agincourt*, from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

*Constitution* JULY 20th 1804

DEAR SIR I am honored with your much esteemed favor of the 1<sup>st</sup> Ins<sup>t</sup>, and beg you to accept my warmest thanks for your very polite attention to M<sup>r</sup> Lewis and M<sup>r</sup> Thompson. I shall recollect with satisfaction the favor you have conferred on me by the ready accomodation you afforded them, and be assured it will afford me sincere pleasure to have it in my power to reciprocate your good Offices — I am much gratified that M<sup>r</sup> Lewis' good conduct while in the *Agincourt* has impressed you with an opinion of him correspondent to my own — With wishes for your health & prosperity

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

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Report of Survey of U. S. Provisions in care of William Higgins, U. S. Navy Agent, Malta

MALTA July 20th 1804

We the undersigned as p<sup>r</sup> order of Commodore Preble to survey the Provisions belonging to the United States in the Stores of M<sup>r</sup> William Higgins Agent for the United States at Malta have carefully surveyed & examined the following provisions & find them not fit for use Viz

fifty Seven casks Butter

Three casks cheese

Three Barrells Beef

Six casks Bread

Four Barrells flour

Signed, RICH<sup>d</sup> SOMERS

Signed, JAMES B DECATUR

Signed, CHA<sup>s</sup> L RIDGELY

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

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Extract from Diary of Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, Commodore of U. S. Squadron in the Mediterranean, Friday, 20 July 1804

Wind N W fresh Breezes, the Bombard which carried over to Tripoly the cloathing & Stores for the Officers & Crew of the *Philadelphia* arrived the whole was landed & left at the disposal of Cap<sup>t</sup> Bainbridge, I received a receipt from the Danish Consul Mr Nissen for 125 spanish doubloons sent by me through the good Offices of Governor Ball to the British Consul to be delivered to the Danish Consul at Tripoly for Captain Bainbridge, receiving in Stores, at noon a strong head wind from S S W, prevents our sailing, received letters from Cap<sup>t</sup> Bainbridge & the French Consul, —

[LC. EPP, Diary, 1803-1804.]



Extract from journal kept by Purser John Darby, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. S. *John Adams*, Master Commandant Isaac Chauncey, U. S. Navy, commanding, Friday, 20 July 1804

[Manuscript mutilated.] this morning discovered a Brig on our Larboard bow standing to the W<sup>d</sup> at half past 4 she passed us at half past 7. discovered another sail on the lar bow standing to the N<sup>d</sup>. at 8 Air 78¼ Water 71½ at Meridian Air 69. Water 71 Latitude in 35. 16.

At. 4. this evening Air 69½ Water 70½. at 6 Air 68 Water 71 at 12 Midnight the Temperature of the Air Was 65½ & Water 69. Wind N. N. E. & Variable —

[NDA original. Miss Camilla S. McConnell.]

To Robert Montgomery, U. S. Consul, Alicante, from Tobias Lear, U. S. Consul General, Algiers

ALGIERS July 21<sup>st</sup> 1804.

DEAR SIR I had the pleasure of receiving your acceptable favor of the 19<sup>th</sup> Ult<sup>o</sup>, by the Courier, on the 28<sup>th</sup> Your letters of the 3<sup>d</sup> of June & 24<sup>th</sup> of April Via Oran did not get to my hands 'till the 19<sup>th</sup> ins<sup>t</sup>

In the first place let me beg you to accept my most cordial thanks for the Gazetts, which you was so good as to forward me They were the latest we had rec<sup>d</sup> here, and the important information contained in them was very interesting. So few arrivals as we have had of late from Europe, has made all here interested in the events of that quarter, very anxious for news; and the still fewer opportunities which we have had of late of transmitting letters, safely, to that quarter, will account for your not having heard from me for some time.

M<sup>r</sup> Foley's letter from Oran, enclosing yours was dated the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. I shall write to him in a few days, by a Courier which will go for that place, and shall feel very happy if it should be in my power to be of Service to him, from your recommendation. Should an agent be necessary for our affairs there, I shall not be inattentive to your request. At present it will not be in my power to furnish cash to M<sup>r</sup> Foley, as the supplies which I have been obliged to send to our unfortunate Citizens in Captivity at Tripoli, & a cash Payment on Account of Annuities, which I effected here in March have drained me very much; but I shall inform him that I will accept his bills here & draw upon you for a reinbursement, which I presume will answer every purpose

To give you all the information which has come to me of late, respecting our affairs in Tunis & Tripoli; I enclose Extracts from the letters of Commodore Preble & M<sup>r</sup> Davis to me under date of the 19<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>d</sup> of June, also a Copy of a letter from Capt<sup>n</sup> Bainbridge of the 20<sup>th</sup> of May. [See letter to William Kirkpatrick of 19 July 1804.]

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P. S. I trouble you as usual with packages to forward Viz<sup>t</sup> one for the Secretary of State, by the earliest safe conveyance, one for Consul Kirkpatrick, and One for Consul Gavino, I will not add to your trouble by any apology I shall only say, that any expence incurred by my letters is a very fair charge against the Governm<sup>t</sup> and will be paid. —

[Stephen Decatur Col. NDA photostat, Book A.]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from James Simpson, U. S. Consul, Tangier, Morocco

TANGIER 21<sup>st</sup> July 1804. —

DEAR SIR My last respects to you was the 30<sup>th</sup> June. —

I have now to advise that the Emperours Ship *Maimona* of 30 Guns sailed from Salle for Mogadore where she takes in an Algerine who came by land to the Emperour on busyness, and now returns to that Port with twenty Ton of Copper and the like quantity of Salt petre purchased at Mogadore with funds provided by the Dey of Algiers. — The other *Maimona* of 32 Guns sailed some days ago from Larach to the Southward, some say for Salle & others pretend destined to join Arraez Sebrah & that they are to proceed together to Algiers. —

The *Mirboha* Arraez Lubarez three days ago was outside of Larach Bar waiting to receive one thousand Fanegnes Wheat destined for the poor of Tripoly from the Emperour, — whether it be meant to attempt to introduce this Wheat at that Port, or if it is to be left at one in the Neighborhood I have not been able to discover. —

In my Passports for these three Ships, entrance into Ports blockaded by the Ships of War is expressly excepted & all the three Captains have been personally told by my Agents at Larach & Salle that by the latest advices Tripoly continued to be blockaded by a Squadron of Vessels of War of the United States.

The two Tetuan Galleys will be ready for Sea by the end of this Month. —

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

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Extract from Diary of Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, Commodore of U. S. Squadron in the Mediterranean, Saturday, 21 July 1804

Wind S S W, still at anchor waiting a change of wind, William Curtis Able Seaman deserted, He went on board the *Enterprize* on Liberty from Lieutenant Robinson and left her in a shore Boat, — I have thought it prudent to procure here 4 or 5 Hawsers and two additional Kedge Anchors for warping as they will probably be necessary in case of an attack on Tripoly, — at 8 wind E N E made the signal for sailing, weighed & warped out of the Harbour, ordered a common spy glass for each Bomb & gun Vessel, to enable them to distinguish signals at Noon made sail & Brought to, to wait for the Boats, ships draught 23 feet 3 inches abaft, 22 feet Forward, —

[LC. EPP, Diary, 1803-1804.]

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Extract from log book kept by Sailing Master Nathaniel Haraden, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Saturday, 21 July 1804

Moderate breezes from S S W. At Anchor in Valetta. At 3 P. M. weighed the stream — Towards evening fresh breezes from S W. W<sup>m</sup> Curtis Seaman deserted from the *Constitution* Recieved from the Dock Yard 2 small kedges — One has a wooden stock marked 631 lb, the other is iron stocked & is marked 557 lb — Continued the guard boat during the night.

At day light hove short; Weighed and warped out of the Harbor at 8 A. M. — Made signal for the Squadron to sail Viz 6 Gun boats, 2 bombards, the store ship, *Vixen* & *Nautilus* — In warping out we were obliged to slip a Hawser & kedge: The cutter & Barge were sent to weigh it.

At noon we brought to, One Mile without the Harbor in order to take up our boats. Winds S S E with a swell from E N E.

Additional Signals were sent to the Gun boats & bombards, and they each recieved from the *Constitution* One small Spy Glass

Ships draft Ft	In	
Abaft 23	—	3
Forward 22	—	—

1 — 3 Difference

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

Extract from journal of William Eaton, U. S. Navy Agent for the Barbary Regencies, 21 July 1804

[On board U. S. Frigate *President*.] 21. Saturday. At Meridian, made Pico — One of the Azores, or western Island — The winds had been constantly fair —

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

Extract from journal of U. S. Frigate *John Adams*, Master Commandant Isaac Chauncey, U. S. Navy, commanding, Saturday, 21 July 1804

First Part of these 24 Hours fresh Breezes and fine clear Weather— At 8 saw a Latteen rigged Vessel to leeward of us bore up to speak her — call'd all hands to Quarters and got the Guns clear, she proved to be a Portuguese Fishing Boat, at 9 made Sail — At 4 A. M. saw the Land bearing from S. E to N. E. — At ½ past 4 saw Cape Spartel bearing E b. S. about 6 Leagues Distant, Cape Trafalgar bearing N E ½ N saw a Brig in Shore of us standing in — At 11 Mustered the People and read the Articles of War. Wind N. N. W.

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

Extract from journal kept by Purser John Darby, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. S. *John Adams*, Master Commandant Isaac Chauncey, U. S. Navy, commanding, Saturday, 21 July 1804

[Manuscript mutilated.] Discovered a sail on our la bow [manuscript mutilated] At 5 the sail passed to the Windw<sup>d</sup> of us [manuscript mutilated] colours. she hoisted Danish at 7 Discovered a sail ahead at ½ past 7 discovd another ½ p[ol]int on the lar<sup>d</sup> bow at 8 saw another at Maridian Air 67 Water 71½ at ¼ past Eight this Evening saw a sail on our Star<sup>d</sup> bow at ½ past 8. calld all hands to quarters. bore up and gave chace to the sail to the Leward at ½ past 8 fired a musket to bring her too spoke her and found her to be a Portugea Latteen boat from the Straits. at 9. filed away the Top-sails and gave the ship her course —

[NDA original. Miss Camilla S. McConnell.]

Extract from journal of U. S. Frigate *Congress*, Captain John Rodgers, U. S. Navy, commanding, Sunday, 22 July 1804

P M First part fresh breezes and Cloudy weather. — at 1 saw the Island of pico bearing N E ¼ E. Made and shortened Sail occasionally —

At ¼ past 5 the commodore made the Signal N<sup>o</sup> 572 soon after made the signal N<sup>o</sup> 1139 — at ½ past 6 tack<sup>d</sup> ship — at ¾ past 6

P. M. the west end of the Island of Fayal bore N  $\frac{1}{2}$  W. Distance 6 leagues — the East end N E b N 5 Leagues the Senter of Pico bore E b N  $\frac{1}{2}$  N. Distance 3 Leagues

At midnight fresh breezes and cloudy —

A. M. made and shortened sail occasionally To keep our station with the squadron —

From 8 to 12 Squally with rain at intervals

at 7 P M — Finding my reckoning to be 50 miles ahead of The ship I take a fresh departure from Pico It being in lat 38. 29 N Long 28. 20 W it bearing from me E b N  $\frac{1}{2}$  N Distance 9 miles —

Longitude Observed 27° 57' W. Latitude Observed 37° 14' N.

[USNA.]

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Extract from log book kept by Sailing Master Nathaniel Haraden, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Sunday, 22 July 1804

Moderate breezes from S E b E — We are laying to without the harbor waiting the Squadron to Join company and the barge & cutter to return —

We took in tow the 2 bombards & 3 of the Gun boats The *Nautilus* & *Vixen* were ordered p<sup>d</sup> Signal to take the other three boats in tow —

At 3 P. M. bore up to the N W in order to pass to the Westward of Gozo & proceed off Tripoly

By Sun down the wind had shifted by degrees to N E b N. Tacked with the Squadron off shore to the Eastward — The N E extreme of Gozo N W. 7 miles The land to the South<sup>d</sup> of Valetta S S E 4 leagues —

At 12 Midnight we had strong breezes from N E. Double reefed the Topsails in order to ease the Gun boats

At 2 A. M. the East part of Malta bore S W two leagues Bore up S. & S S W. in order to pass<sup>d</sup> to the Eastward of Malta —

This is our last bearing from which we take our departure.

At Day light All the Squadron in Sight

At 8 A. M we suppose the East part of Malta bears (Variation corrected) N N E. 19 Miles — We had a leading breeze till 10 A. M. at which time it fell calm From this time till noon light airs & Variable

Punished cha<sup>d</sup> Staples Seaman with 36 lashes for drunkenness breach of Trust & theft

Surgeons report 2 sick & 5 convalescent.

Noon calm.

East part of Malta supposed to bear N E b N  $\frac{1}{4}$  N. 32 Miles —

Latitude Observed 35° 23' N.

[L.C. EPP, Log *Constitution*, 1803-1804.]

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Extract from journal of William Eaton, U. S. Navy Agent for the Barbary Regencies, 22 July 1804

[On board U. S. Frigate *President*.] 22<sup>d</sup> Winds shifted ahead — Stood in near the Islands [Azores] —

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

Extract from journal of U. S. Frigate *John Adams*, Master Commandant Isaac Chauncey, U. S. Navy, commanding, Sunday, 22 July 1804

First Part of these 24 Hours light Airs from the Northward and fine Pleasant Weather — At 1 P M. bent the Cables — At 4 Tangiers bore S. W. Ape's Hill E b S. Gibraltar N E b E — At 9 Light Airs and variable standing into Gibraltar Bay At 11 took in Sail and anchored with the Starboard Bower in 9 Fathoms Water — At 9 went ashore with Letters and to make Arrangements to fill up our Water. found laying at Gibraltar H B. M. Frigates *Meduza*, *Fish Guard* — *La Provoyant* and *Termagant* Sloop also 7 sail of American Merchantmen but not one of them bound to the United States

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

Extract from journal kept by Purser John Darby, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. S. *John Adams*, Master Commandant Isaac Chauncey, U. S. Navy, commanding, Sunday, 22 July 1804

At four Oclock this morning we discovered [manuscript mutilated] bearing E. S. E. & Cape Trafalgar bearing [manuscript mutilated] we stood along up the Mediterranean near the Barbary shore at 12 Meridian Cape Spartel bore E. by S — Cape Trafalgar E. by N. Air 71½ Water 72¼. we still continued to stand along the Barbary shore. had a fine View of the Town of Tangiers and several small Towns on the Spanish side. at 4. in the evening Tangers bearing S. W. Aps Hill E. b S. Gibraltar N. by E. Distance 5 Leagues. as we approached Europea Point we had a fine View of Aps Hill which is said to be one of the Pillars of Hercules. We also had a handsom View of Ceuta on the Barbary shore to the S. E. of Gibraltar, and a view of Algesirus and St. Rooke, on the Spanish Shore. at. half past 11. we came to an Anchor in Gibraltar Bay. Europea Point bore South Mo: Castle S. E. ½ E. Town of S<sup>t</sup> Rooke N. by E. Town of Algesirus W. by N — found here Majestys Ships *Madusa* & *Fishgard*, & *Termion* Sloop of War.

[NDA original. Miss Camilla S. McConnell.]

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

U. S. SHIP *John Adams*  
*Gibraltar Bay 23<sup>d</sup> July 1804*

SIR I have the honor of informing you that I arrived here in the *John Adams* last Evening after a passage of 26 Days I shall fill my Water tomorrow and proceed for Algiers and from thence to Malta agreeable to Orders from Commodore Preble. It appears by the last Accounts that we have nothing to apprehend from Tunis, tho' in Commodore Preble's Letter of the 19<sup>th</sup> March to M<sup>r</sup> Gavino he was very apprehensive of a Rupture with that Regency, but in another Letter to the same Gentleman on the 22<sup>d</sup> April he is silent on that head, and desires M<sup>r</sup> Gavino to direct me to proceed to Malta, where I wou'd meet his Orders for the Government of my future Conduct, therefore I presume if Commodore Preble had an Idea that there was any thing to be apprehended from the Tunissians he wou'd not have ordered me to Malta without a sufficient Protection more over some Officers who have gone home in the *Woodrough Sims* informed M<sup>r</sup> Gavino that Commodore Preble had settled every thing amicably

with the Bey of Tunis, therefore combining all these Circumstances, I presume that you will approve of my proceeding aloft without waiting for the Squadron, I however shall guard against Accident as much as possible, in Consequence of which I am taking down those Temporary Births that were put up for the Officers on the Gun Deck, and shall mount those Guns that I have now in the Waist on the Spar Deck in their proper places on the Gun Deck where they can be managed with more Advantage. I have wrote Commodore Preble by a British Man of War bound to Malta, advising him of my Arrival, also Commodore Barron, Copies of both Letters I have the honor of inclosing you.

The Moors appear well disposed towards the Americans as yet, they are however equipping all their Force their Object is not known — I also inclose you Copies of two Letters from M<sup>r</sup> Simpson the one to Commodore Barron the other to Commodore Preble, but which he requested the first American Commander that arrived to peruse and take Copies. M<sup>r</sup> Gavino shewed me two Letters that he has just received one from Malaga the other from Cadiz mentioning that it was confidently reported that Spain was on the Eve of a Rupture with the United States but what Foundation they have for the Report he does not know nor does he place any Confidence in the Report, as M<sup>r</sup> Pinckney has not wrote him on the Subject. Capt. Gore of the *Madusa* who is stationed off Cadiz told me today that within the last two Months he had boarded a great Number of Spanish Transports full of all kinds of warlike Stores, bound to the spanish Settlements in America, combining these Circumstances with the Reports, to Use M<sup>r</sup> O'Bryan's Expression it looks a little *Squally*

The *John Adams* behaved very well on the Passage except in her steering which was owing I presume to her being so deep in the Water, she also leaked more than I cou'd have wished her, she made when it blew hard from 6 to 8 Inches Per Hour; but I am in Hopes that she has not damaged any Part of the Stores, the Crew has continued remarkably healthy; I am sorry however to be obliged to announce to you the Loss of Midshipman Sears who unfortunately fell overboard the 29<sup>th</sup> June, and notwithstanding every Exertion was made Use of to save him it proved uneffectual, the Ship was going nearly ten Knotts at the Time, and a considerable Sea on — I feel particularly for the Loss of M<sup>r</sup> Sears, as he bid fair to have made a valuable Officer, and I understand that he was an only Son to a fond Mother.

The other Officers have conducted themselves with as much propriety as cou'd be expected considering their Ignorance of the Duties of their Present situation

[NDA. MC LB, 1804-5.]

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

U. S. SHIP *John Adams* GIBRALTER BAY

23<sup>rd</sup> July 1804

SIR I have the honor of informing you that I arrived here last Night in 26 Days from Hampton Roads in the United States Ship *John Adams* under my Command with Stores for the Squadron a list of which I have the honor of inclosing you — I shall fill my water (which is nearly out) and proceed to Algiers agreeable to Orders from the Secretary of the Navy, where it is probable that I shall not be

detained but a few Hours, and then I shall proceed to Malta — agreeable to your Orders to M<sup>r</sup> Gavino I shall not be detained here to exceed 48 Hours and shall use every Exertion to get to Malta as early as possible.

The other Parts of the Squadron [of Commodore Barron] consisting of the *President*, *Congress*, *Constellation* and *Essex*, wou'd leave Hampton Roads in all probability on or before the 1<sup>st</sup> Ins<sup>t</sup> therefore may be hourly expected I have the honor to be

[NDA. MC LB, 1804-5; and LC. EPP, Vol. 12.]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from Master Commandant John Smith,  
U. S. Navy

U. S. SCHOONER *Vixen* JULY 23<sup>d</sup> 1804

SIR Conformable to a requisition of Lieut<sup>t</sup> W<sup>m</sup> Crane, I have arrested Lewis Warrington, Midshipman, for having treated him in an insulting and disrespectful manner when in the execution of his duty.

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

Extract from Diary of Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, Commodore of U. S. Squadron in the Mediterranean, Monday, 23 July 1804

Wind variable from East to N W, *Nautilus*, *Vixen*, Store ship, Bombs and Gun Vessels in company, — at 7 P M Observed the north limbs of the moon to be eclipsed, but a thick cloud covering soon after, we could not see the ending of it, — at 10 P M the wind shifted to the N E carried a light at the mizen Peak during the night, — The larboard Bower Cable was reported to be much worn and injured by severice [examined & found it not trustworthy, ordered 20 fathoms cut off, and turned into the Boatswains Stores as Junk, — our Carpenters are fitting small Brass carriage guns for our Boats, — I have ordered one Iron 4 pound Carronade, and a 4 pound Brass gun for the Cutter, a Brass 4 pounder for the Barge, a Brass 1½ pounder for the Pinnacle, a Brass 1½ pounder for the small Cutter and an Iron 4 pound Carronade for the Jolly Boat, — at Noon Observed in Latitude 34° 30' N<sup>o</sup> Tripoly Bearing S S W 94 miles distance, —

[LC. EPP, Diary, 1803-1804.]

Extract from log book kept by Sailing Master Nathaniel Haraden, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Monday, 23 July 1804

Light airs & variable —

*Nautilus*, *Vixen*, 6 Gun boats, 2 bombards & the store ship in company.

Wind light & Variable all the afternoon

Employed in making & shortening sail in order to keep clear of the Gun boats & bombards which we have in tow:

Towards<sup>3</sup> Sun down it became cloudy and Overcast weather with light airs & hazy weather This Evening there was an Eclipse of the moon part Visible here —

At 10 P. M. the wind shifted to N N E — carried a light during the night in order to prevent separation

At day light saw all the Squadron.

The Clew of the Main Topsail gave way this morning — Unbent the sail, and bent another cut 20 fath<sup>s</sup> from the small bower, that quantity being unserviceable, for which the boatswain is charged a Ton of Junk.

Carpenters are employed in fitting bow chasers to the cutter, Barge, Pinnace, and to the boat recieved in Messina.

Sail Makers repairing the main topsail

Ships company cleaning ship, making wads, & bending the small bower cable —

All these 24 hours a rough Sea, & light wind

Our observation & dead reckoning agree

Noon Tripoly supposed to bear S W b S  $\frac{1}{4}$  S. 100 Miles

Surgeons report 4 sick, 4 convalescent.

Latitude Observed 34° 30' N.

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

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Extract from journal of U. S. Frigate *John Adams*. Master Commandant Isaac Chauncey, U. S. Navy, commanding, Monday, 23 July 1804

Throughout these 24 Hours strong Gales from the West and fine Weather — At 6 A. M. Two Lighters came alongside for Water Casks; filled them with empty Casks and sent them on Shore with Officers and Men to fill Water — H. B M Frigate *Fish Guard* went to sea bound to the Eastward. —

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

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Extract from journal kept by Purser John Darby, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. S. *John Adams*. Master Commandant Isaac Chauncey, U. S. Navy, commanding, Monday, 23 July 1804

[Manuscript mutilated.] early this morning had a ful View of the Town and Harbour — and the Spanish shore. Algeisirus and St: Rooke laying on the oposite side of the bay. being garrisoned Towns. there are a number of shiping laying in here. some British men of War. and a Portugal seventy four. gun ship laying at Algeisirus — at 8. Oclock this morning we saluted the Town of Gibraltar and the Salute was returned from the British fort. at. about 10 Oclock Doct<sup>r</sup> Griffin and my self went on shore. at the Rock. took a View of the town and fortifications. It is certainly the strongest garrison'd place in the world. and is made so much so by Nature and art that it may bid defiance to all the World. it is said that there are. about. 5,000 Regular British troops here and the best disciplined of any Troops in the World. It is astonishing to behold the work done here by the British. it is impossible [manuscript mutilated] of assending the top of the Rock [manuscript mutilated] ashore so late prevented my Visiting the [manuscript mutilated] as I was informed. that it would take at least a day to assend it and take a View of all the Gallerys & chambers excavated out of the Rock. —

Here. I met with several Americans. We learned here that Bonaparte had declared himself Emperor of the Gauls and that one of his brothers is to be King of the Scicilys: there is also a report here that there is a prospect of Rupture between Spain and the United States. If this be true there can be no doubt but what Bonaparte is at the bottom of it. We are informed here that Tunis is at peace with us. none of our Mediterranean Squadron is here all of them being up a





LIEUTENANT STEPHEN DECATUR AND MIDSHIPMAN THOMAS MACDONOUGH BOARDING A TRIPOLITAN GUNBOAT.



Loft, as the Phrase is. — the Doct<sup>r</sup> and myself Returned on board of the ship about 9. Oclock. that being the hour which the gates closes. after which no person can get in or out of the Garrison —

[NDA original. Miss Camilla S. McConnell.]

To Captain Samuel Barron, U. S. Navy, from Master Commandant Isaac Chauncey, U. S. Navy

U. S. SHIP *John Adams*  
Gibraltar Bay 24<sup>th</sup> July 1804

SIR I have the pleasure of informing you that I arrived here late in the Evening of the 22<sup>d</sup> Ins<sup>t</sup> after a Passage of 26 days. Yesterday was so boisterous that we cou'd not Water, but will compleat watering to Day, and tomorrow Morning proceed for Algiers. From the Tenor of Commodore Preble's last Letter, and from Information received from some Officers bound home, I presume there is nothing to apprehend from the Tunissians; with that Impression and agreeable to his Orders to M<sup>r</sup> Gavino I shall proceed from Algiers to Malta. H. B. M. Frigate *Fish Guard* sailed Yesterday for that Place, by which Opportunity I wrote Com<sup>d</sup> Preble advising him of my Arrival here, a Copy of which Letter I have the honor of inclosing you. —

The *John Adams* behaved as well during the Passage as I had any reason to expect, tho' from her being so very deep, she steered very bad when it blew hard, and made from 6 to 8 Inches of Water P<sup>r</sup> Hour. I met with no Accident during the Passage, nor have I lost any Men except M<sup>r</sup> John D. Sears Midshipman who fell overboard on the 29<sup>th</sup> June and was lost, altho' every Exertion was made to save him. Our Crew continues very healthy, and are generally very good Men, my Respects to your Brother

Com<sup>d</sup> SAMUEL BARRON.

[NDA. MC LB, 1804-5.]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from John Gavino, U. S. Consul, Gibraltar

GIBRALTAR — July 24<sup>th</sup> 1804

DEAR SIR, Since my last to you p<sup>r</sup> the Schooner *Commodore Barry*, 20th Inst, I received p<sup>r</sup> Malaga post your duplicate of 22<sup>d</sup> April last — Yesterday arrived the U. S. Ship *John Adams* when gave Cap<sup>t</sup> Chauncey the perusal of your above letter & will be the bearer of this.

The Schooner *Eleonora*, Cap<sup>t</sup> Grayson arrived from Alexandria with a cargo of Stores p<sup>r</sup> note at foot — the directions from the Sec<sup>y</sup> of the Navy regarding the same was that the Squadron should take on board the cargo, but if they were not here, to unload her, which am doing, as the *J. Adams* is so lumbered that she cannot take any thing in — I look every moment for the Reinforcement & referring to Cap<sup>t</sup> Chauncey, I am with respect

THE *Eleonora's* CARGO —

260 Barrells beef  
83 D<sup>o</sup> Pork  
190 Barrels Bread 16.505 lb  
46 Boxes Spermaceti Candles 1, 4, 20 $\frac{3}{4}$  lb  
50 Boxes Mould d<sup>o</sup> 1993 lb  
3 Bales Russia duck of 20 p<sup>r</sup> each &  
200 bolts Russia duck. —

[LC. EPP, LB, April–Nov. 1804.]

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Extract from journal kept on board the U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, by Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, Tuesday, 24 July 1804

Light Airs from the Westward, Squadron in comp<sup>y</sup> At 10 pm fresh Breezes from S E which soon chang'd to the S W, AM ordered all the water casks on board the Gun Boats and Bomb-Vessels to be filled from this ship, it is a necessary precaution in case of separation as they carry only six days allowance of that article. at Noon Tripoly bore S W b S 60 miles. —

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

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Extract from journal kept by Purser John Darby, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. S. *John Adams*. Master Commandant Isaac Chauncey, U. S. Navy, commanding, Tuesday, 24 July 1804

I set up late last night. I got up about Nine O'clock. and after attending to the business of the ship. Doct<sup>r</sup> Griffin and myself went on shore again to day we landed about 1 O'clock and amused our selves. by looking at the town again and purchasing some few things. We waited on M<sup>r</sup> Gavino. the American. Consol. I had some business with him to get. some Spanish gold changed for Dollars. which he. cou'd not conveniently do — and got it done. by. a Cap<sup>t</sup> Leigh. an American by giving him rather better than one and a half per cent. We dined on shore, and when the Signal Gun at sunset fired we repaired to the place appointed for our boat to meet us. but on getting down to the shore we discovered our boat. going off to the ship and out of hail. We returned into the town again left our servants to watch for the boat and let us know if they shoud discover her returning [manuscript mutilated] on board of an American Brig [manuscript mutilated] and that they supposed we had gone, [manuscript mutilated] as he was on shore and had dined with [manuscript mutilated] We were not satisfied with this as we were very much aversed to staying on shore particularly as we had not obtained permission from the Capt. We went again down to the shore and remained there untill a few minutes before nine, finding our servants there and no appearance of the boat. we. immediately. returned with our servants with in the Gates. otherwise we should have been compeled to have remained on the beach all night. the gates shut a few moments after we got with in them. We then went to Bonards Tavern and staid all night.

[NDA original. Miss Camilla S. McConnell.]

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

U. S. SHIP *John Adams*  
*Gibralter Bay 25<sup>th</sup> July 1804*

SIR I had the honor of writing you on the 23<sup>d</sup> Ins<sup>t</sup> the Day after my Arrival, wherein I stated to you my Intention of proceeding to Algiers and Malta, I am now getting under way with the Wind from the Eastward for that Purpose.

[NDA. MC LB, 1804-5.]

Extract from journal of U. S. Brig *Argus*, Master Commandant Isaac Hull, U. S. Navy, commanding, Wednesday, 25 July 1804

[Off Tripoli] A, M, at 4 saw the Commodore with a Squadron of Gunboats and the rest of the American Squad<sup>a</sup> made sail for him at 5 Spoke him Cap<sup>t</sup> Hull went on board and returned at 11 took 2 of the Gunboats in tow fresh breezes and Clear Emp<sup>d</sup> as Necessary

[NDA photostat.]

Extract from journal kept on board the U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, by Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, Wednesday, 25 July 1804

Wind E N E, we compleated watering the Bombs, & Gun Boats, at 2 AM fell in with the *Syren* at 4 saw the *Argus* & *Enterprize* at 6 AM wore ship off shore with the wind S E. — a heavy sea heaving on the coast. Tripoly in sight bearing by compass S W dis<sup>t</sup> 15 Miles. at 8 the *Argus* & *Enterprize* join'd comp<sup>y</sup>, made the following disposition for towing Gun Boats, & Bombs. — Viz. *Constitution* the 2 Bombs, *Argus* N<sup>o</sup> 2 & 3 Gun Boats *Syren* N<sup>o</sup> 5. *Vixen* N<sup>o</sup> 6. *Nautilus* N<sup>o</sup> 1 *Enterprize* N<sup>o</sup> 4. with this arrangment I presume we shall be able to tow them off shore in case of a Norther. —

Made signal for all Captains and delivered them the Orders of Sailing.

Lat<sup>d</sup> Obs<sup>d</sup> 33° 10' N. —

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

[25 July to 10 September 1804]

Naval Operations against Tripoli

8th Congress.

2d. Session.

COMMUNICATED TO CONGRESS, FEBRUARY 20, 1805.

To the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States:

I communicate, for the information of Congress, a letter of September 18, from Commodore Preble, giving a detailed account of the transactions of the vessels under his command, from July the 9th, to the 10th of September, last past.

The energy and judgment displayed by this excellent officer, through the whole course of the service lately confided to him, and the zeal and bravery of his officers and men in the several enterprises executed by them, cannot fail to give high satisfaction to Congress and their country, of whom they have deserved well.

TH: JEFFERSON.

February 20, 1805.

To Secretary of the Navy from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

SIR: I had the honor to write you from Messina under date of the 5th of July. I then, expected to have sailed the day following, but was detained by bad weather until the 9th, when I left it with two small Bomb Vessels under Convoy, and arrived at Syracuse; where we were necessarily detained four days. On the 14<sup>th</sup> I sailed, the Schooners *Nautilus* and *Enterprize* in company, with six Gun Boats and two Bomb Vessels, generously loaned us by His Sicilian Majesty. The Bomb Vessels are about thirty Tons, carry a 13 Inch Brass Sea-Mortar and 40 men; the Gun Boats 25 Tons carry a long Iron 24

pounder in the bow, with a complement of 35 Men; They are officered and manned from the squadron, excepting twelve Neapolitans bombadiers, gunners, and sailors, attached to each boat, who were shipped by permission of their Government. This step I found necessary, as every vessel in the squadron was considerably short of complement. The gunboats are constructed for the defence of harbors; they are flat bottomed and heavy, and do not sail or row even tolerably well. They were never intended to go to sea, and, I find, cannot be navigated with safety, unless assisted by tow ropes from larger and better sailing vessels, nor even then, in very bad weather; however, as they were the best I could obtain, I have thought it for the good of our service to employ them, particularly as the weather in July and August is generally pleasant, and, without them, my force too small to make any impression on Tripoli.

On the 16th of July we arrived at Malta, where we were detained, by contrary gales, until the 21st, when we left it, and arrived in sight of Tripoli the 25th, and were joined by the *Syren*, *Argus*, *Vixen*, and *Scourge*. Our squadron now consisted of the *Constitution*, three brigs, three schooners, two bombs, and six gunboats, our whole number of men one thousand and sixty. I proceeded to make the necessary arrangements for an attack on Tripoli, a city well walled, protected by batteries judiciously constructed, mounting one hundred and fifteen pieces of heavy cannon, and defended by twenty-five thousand Arabs and Turks; the harbor protected by nineteen gunboats, two galleys, two schooners of eight guns each, and a brig mounting ten guns, ranged in order of battle, forming a strong line of defence, at secure moorings, inside a long range of rocks and shoals, extending more than two miles to the eastward of the town, which form the harbor, protects them from the northern gales, and renders it impossible for a vessel of the *Constitution's* draught of water to approach near enough to destroy them, as they are sheltered by the rocks, and can retire under that shelter to the shore, unless they choose to expose themselves in the different channels and openings of the reefs, for the purpose of annoying their enemies. Each of their gunboats mounts a heavy eighteen or twenty-six pounder in the bow, and two brass howitzers on their quarters, and carry from thirty-six to fifty men. The galleys have each one hundred men, schooners and brigs about the same number. The weather was not favorable for anchoring until the 28th, when, with the wind E.S.E. the squadron stood in for the coast, and, at 3 P.M. anchored, per signal, Tripoli bearing S. two and a half miles distant. At this moment the wind shifted suddenly from E.S.E. to N.N.W. and from thence to N.N.E. At 5 o'clock it blew strong, with a heavy sea, setting directly on shore. I made the signal to prepare to weigh. At 6, the wind and sea having considerably increased, the signal was made for the squadron to weigh and gain an offing: the wind continued veering to the eastward, which favored our gaining sea-room, without being obliged to carry so great a press of sail as to lose any of our gunboats, although they were in great danger. The gale continued varying from N.E. to E.S.E. without increasing much, until the 31st, when it blew away our reefed foresail, and close reefed main-topsail; fortunately the sea did not rise in proportion to the strength of the gale, or we must have lost all our boats. AUGUST 1ST, the gale subsided, and we stood

towards the coast; every preparation was made for an attack on the town and harbor.

AUGUST 3D, pleasant weather, wind East; stood in with the squadron towards Tripoli. At noon we were between two and three miles from the batteries, which were all manned, and observing several of their gun-boats and galleys had advanced, in two divisions, without the rocks, I determined to take advantage of their temerity. At half past 12, I wore off shore, and made the signal to come within hail, when I communicated to each of the commanders my intention of attacking the enemy's shipping and batteries. The gun and mortar boats were immediately manned, and prepared to cast off, the gunboats in two divisions of three each; the first division commanded by Captain Somers, in No. 1, Lieutenant [James] Decatur in No. 2, and Lieutenant Blake, in No. 3: the second division commanded by Captain [Stephen] Decatur [Jr.], in No. 4, Lieutenant [Joseph] Bainbridge, in No. 5, and Lieutenant Trippe, in No. 6. The two bombards were commanded by Lieutenant Commandant Dent, and Mr. Robinson, First Lieutenant of this ship. At half past 1 o'clock, having made the necessary arrangements for the attack, wore ship and stood towards the batteries. At 2, signal made to cast off the boats; at a quarter past 2, signal for bombs and gunboats to advance and attack the enemy. At half past 2, general signal for battle. At three-quarters past 2, the bombs commenced the action, by throwing shells into the town. In an instant the enemy's shipping and batteries opened a tremendous fire, which was promptly returned by the whole squadron within grape-shot distance; at the same time the second division, of three gunboats, led by the gallant Captain Decatur, was advancing, with sails and oars, to board the eastern division of the enemy, consisting of nine boats. Our boats gave the enemy showers of grape and musket balls as they advanced; they, however, soon closed, when the pistol, sabre, pike, and tomahawk, were made good use of by our brave tars. Captain Somers being in a dull sailer, made the best use of his sweeps, but was not able to fetch far enough to windward to engage the same division of the enemy's boats which Captain Decatur fell in with; he, however, gallantly bore down with his single boat on five of the enemy's western division, and engaged within pistol shot, defeated, and drove them within the rocks, in a shattered condition, and with the loss of a great number of men. Lieutenant Decatur, in No. 2, was closely engaged with one of the enemy's largest boats of the eastern division, which struck to him, after having lost a large proportion of men, and, at the instant that brave officer was boarding her to take possession, he was treacherously shot through the head by the captain of the boat that had surrendered, which base conduct enabled the poltroon (with the assistance he received from other boats) to escape. The third boat of Captain Somers' division, kept to windward, firing at the boats and shipping in the harbor; had she gone down to his assistance, it is probable several of the enemy's boats would have been captured in that quarter. Captain Decatur, in No. 4, after having, with distinguished bravery, boarded and carried one of the enemy of superior force, took his prize in tow, and gallantly bore down to engage a second, which, after a severe and bloody conflict, he

also took possession of.<sup>1</sup> These two prizes had thirty-three officers and men killed, and twenty-seven made prisoners, nineteen of which were badly wounded. Lieutenant Trippe, of the *Vixen*, in No. 6, ran along side of one of the enemy's large boats, which he boarded with only Midshipman John Henley and nine men, his boat falling off before any more could get on board; thus was he left, compelled to conquer or perish, with the odds of *thirty-six to eleven*. The Turks could not withstand the ardor of this brave officer and his assistants; in a few minutes the decks were cleared, and her colors hauled down. On board of this boat fourteen of the enemy were killed, and twenty-two made prisoners, seven of which were badly wounded.<sup>2</sup> The rest of their boats retreated within the rocks. Lieutenant Trippe received eleven sabre wounds, some of which are very severe: he speaks in the highest terms of Mr. Henley, and those who followed him. Lieutenant Bainbridge, in No. 5, had his latteen yard shot away early in the action, which prevented his getting alongside the enemy's boats, but he galled them by a steady and well directed fire, within musket shot; indeed he pursued the enemy until his boat grounded under the batteries: she was, fortunately, soon got off. The bomb vessels kept their stations, although covered with the spray of the sea occasioned by the enemy's shot. They were well conducted by Lieutenants Dent and Robinson, who kept up a constant fire from the mortars, and threw a great number of shells into the town. Five of the enemy's gunboats, and two galleys, composing the centre division, and stationed within the rocks, as a reserve, joined by the boats that had been driven in, and supplied by fresh men from the shore to replace those they had lost, twice attempted to row out, to endeavor to surround our gunboats and their prizes: I as often made the signal to cover them, which was promptly attended to by the brigs and schooners, all of which were gallantly conducted, and annoyed the enemy exceedingly, but the fire from this ship kept their flotilla completely in check. Our grape shot made great havoc among their men, not only on board their shipping, but on shore. We were several times within two cables length of the rocks, and within three of their batteries, every one of which, in succession, were silenced, so long as we could bring our broadside to bear upon them; but the moment we passed a battery, it was re-animated, and a constant, heavy fire kept up from all that we could not point our guns at. We suffered most when wearing or tacking; it was then I most sensibly felt the want of another frigate.

1 \* \* \* one of the enemy having a fair chance at captain Decatur's head, made a blow at him with all his force. His object was discovered by a young man of the name of Daniel Frazier, who nobly rushed between Decatur and his foe, and received on his own head the blow destined for Decatur. [Naval Chronicle, Vol. 1.]

<sup>2</sup> A more extraordinary action was probably never recorded. The commander of the enemy's gun boat, was a remarkably athletic, gallant man, about twenty-four years of age: his height considerably exceeded six feet. Before he engaged in battle, he swore upon the Koran that he would conquer or die. Trippe was under size, though well set, and extremely active. He and Henley, perceived the gigantic stature of their foe, yet unappalled, made at him. The gallant Turk sustained the conflict, with a firmness worthy of a better fate. — Trippe and Henley admiring his extraordinary courage, were anxious to spare his life, and gave him repeated intimations of their wishes; he, however rejected, indignantly, every overture of the kind, and fought with increased fury. He, it was, who gave lieutenant Trippe eleven wounds. Trippe's life was only saved by his great activ-



At half past 4, the wind inclining to the northward, I made the signal for the bombs and gunboats to retire from action, and, immediately after, the signal to tow off the gunboats and prizes, which was handsomely executed by the brigs, schooners, and boats of the squadron, covered by a heavy fire from the *Constitution*. At three-quarters past 4, P. M. the light vessels, gunboats, and prizes, being out of reach of the enemy's shot, I hauled off to take the bomb vessels in tow. We were two hours under the fire of the enemy's batteries, and the only damage received in the ship is, a twenty-four pound shot nearly through the centre of the mainmast, thirty feet from the deck; main royal yard and sail shot away; one of our quarter-deck guns damaged by a thirty-two pound shot, which, at the same time, shattered a marine's arm; two lower shrouds and two backstays were shot away, and our sails and running rigging considerably cut. We must impute our getting off thus well to our keeping so near that they over-shot us, and to the annoyance our grape shot gave them: they are, however, but wretched gunners. Gunboat No. 5 had her main yard shot away, and the rigging and sails of the brigs and schooners were considerably cut.

Lieutenant [James] Decatur was the only officer killed, but in him the service has lost a valuable officer. He was a young man who gave strong promise of being an ornament to his profession. His conduct in the action was highly honorable, and he *died nobly*.

The enemy must have suffered very much in killed and wounded, both among their shipping and on shore. Three of their gunboats were sunk in the harbor, several of them had their decks nearly cleared of men by our shot, and a number of shells burst in the town and batteries, which must have done great execution. The officers, seamen, and marines, of the squadron behaved in the most gallant manner. The Neapolitans, in emulating the ardor of our seamen, answered my highest expectations.

I cannot but notice the active exertions and officer-like conduct of Lieutenant Gordon, and the other Lieutenants of the *Constitution*. Mr. Harriden, the master, gave me full satisfaction, as did all the officers and ship's company. I was much gratified with the conduct of Captain Hall and Lieutenant Greenleaf, and the marines belonging to his company, in the management of six long twenty-six pounders, on the spar deck, which I placed under his direction.

Captain Decatur speaks in the highest terms of the conduct of Lieutenant Thorn, and Midshipman McDonough, of No. 4, as does Captain Somers of Midshipmen Ridgely and Miller, attached to No. 1.

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ity, and perfect self-possession: Finding that the Turk would not yield, although he had received many wounds and bled freely, lieutenant Trippe and midshipman Henley were at length compelled, in self-defence, though with great reluctance, to inflict the mortal wound. The Turk reeled and fell: just before he expired midshipman Henley, supposing him to be dead, stepped over his body. In the agonies of death, he was sensible of this indignity, seized midshipman Henley by the ankle, gave it a violent twist, and expired!

Lieutenant Trippe during his whole life, regretted the necessity he was under of putting this Turk to death. Years after the event had occurred, so great was his sensibility on the occasion, that he shed tears in reciting to us the circumstances. Noble, generous spirit — conspicuous alike for his humanity and his chivalry. [Naval Chronicle, Vol. 1.]

Annexed is a list of killed and wounded; and, enclosed, a copy of my general orders on this occasion.

*Killed.* Gun-boat No. 2 — Lieutenant James Decatur.

*Wounded.* *Constitution* — One marine.

Do. Gun-boat No. 4 — Captain Decatur, (slight) one sergeant of marines, and two seamen.

Do. Gun-boat No. 6 — Lieutenant Trippe, severely, one boatswain's mate, and two marines.

Do. Gun-boat No. 1 — Two seamen.

Do. Gun-boat No. 2 — Two seamen.

Total — one killed, thirteen wounded.

AUGUST 5TH. We were at anchor with the squadron about two leagues north from the city of Tripoli; the *Argus* in chase of a small vessel to the westward, which she soon came up with, and brought within hail; she proved to be a French privateer, of four guns, which put into Tripoli a few days since, for water, and left it this morning. I prevailed on the Captain, for a consideration, to return to Tripoli, for the purpose of landing fourteen very badly wounded Tripolitans, which I put on board his vessel, with a letter to the prime minister, leaving it at the option of the Bashaw to reciprocate this generous mode of conducting the war. The sending these unfortunate men on shore, to be taken care of by their friends, was an act of humanity, on our part, which I hope will make a proper impression on the minds of the Barbarians, but I doubt it.

All hands were busily employed in altering the rig of the three prizes, from latteen vessels to sloops, and preparing for a second attack. Observed one of the enemy's schooners and the brig, (two corsairs in the harbor) to be dismasted. Was informed by the French captain, that the damage these vessels received in the action of the third had occasioned their masts being taken out.

AUGUST 7TH. The French privateer came out, and brought me a letter from the French Consul, in which he observes, that our attack of the third instant has disposed the Bashaw to accept of reasonable terms, and invited me to send a boat to the rocks with a flag of truce, which was declined, as the white flag was not hoisted at the Bashaw's castle. At nine A.M. with a very light breeze from the eastward, and a strong current which obliged the *Constitution* to remain at anchor, I made the signal for the light vessels to weigh, and the gun and bomb boats to cast off, and stand in shore towards the western batteries; the prize boats having been completely fitted for service, and the command of them given to Lieutenants Crane, of the *Vixen*, Thorn, of the *Enterprise*, and Caldwell, of the *Syren*, the whole advanced with sails and oars. The orders were for the bombs to take a position in a small bay to the westward of the city, where but few of the enemy's guns could be brought to bear on them, but from whence they could annoy the town with shells; the gun-boats to silence a battery of seven heavy guns which guarded the approach to that position, and the brigs and schooners to support them, in case the enemy's flotilla should venture out. At half past one P.M. a breeze from N.N.E. I weighed with the *Constitution* and stood in for the town, but the wind being on shore, made it imprudent to engage the batteries with the ship, as, in case of a mast being shot away, the loss of the vessel would probably ensue, unless a change of wind should favor our getting off. At half past two P.M. the bomb and gunboats

having gained their station, the signal was made for them to attack the town and batteries. Our bombs immediately commenced throwing shells, and the gunboats opened a sharp and well directed fire on the town and batteries, within point blank shot, which was warmly returned by the enemy. The seven gun battery, in less than two hours, was silenced, except one gun; I presume the others were dismounted by our shot, as the walls were almost totally destroyed. At a quarter past three P.M. a ship hove in sight to the northward, standing for the town; made the *Argus* signal to chase. At half past three one of our prize gunboats was blown up by a hot shot from the enemy, which passed through her magazine: she had on board twenty-eight officers, seamen, and marines, ten of whom were killed, and six wounded; among the killed were James R. Caldwell, First Lieutenant of the *Syren*, and Midshipman John S. Dorsey, both excellent officers; Midshipman Spence, and eleven men, were taken up unhurt. Captain Decatur, whose division this boat belonged to, and who was near her at the time she blew up, reports to me, that Mr. Spence was superintending the loading of the gun at that moment, and, notwithstanding the boat was sinking, he, and the brave fellows surviving, finished charging, gave three cheers as the boat went from under them, and swam to the nearest boats, where they assisted during the remainder of the action.<sup>1</sup> The enemy's gun-boats and galleys (fifteen in num-

<sup>1</sup> There is a circumstance with regard to midshipman Spence, not known, it is presumed, to commodore Preble, at the time he wrote his despatch. — The commodore states that Mr. Spence was superintending the loading of the gun, at the time the boat was blown up by a hot shot from the enemy — that “notwithstanding the boat was sinking, he, and the brave fellows surviving, finished charging, gave three cheers as the boat went from under them, and swam to the nearest boats.” Midshipman Spence did *not know how to swim* — fortunately he got hold of an oar, by which he kept himself from sinking. — Another circumstance — the gun was actually *fired*, and then the three cheers were given. These facts appear to us to increase essentially the merit of Mr. Spence's conduct on the occasion.

Captain Decatur, in his official communication to commodore Preble, written on the day of the action stated: “It is with regret I have to inform you of the loss of No. 8[9], which was blown up by a hot shot from the enemy. After the smoke cleared off, I found all abaft the mast was under water; the gun and bow being the only part out. Mr. Robert T. Spence, midshipman, was the officer superintending the gun, who, at the time of the explosion, was in the act of loading her: after which accident, he, and the brave fellows left, completed the loading of the gun before she sunk, and then swam to the nearest boat, where they assisted during the engagement.” From this letter it would seem that the fact of the gun having been actually fired, and that of midshipman Spence being ignorant of the art of swimming, was unknown to captain Decatur also, on the day of action. He soon after, however, became apprized of these circumstances; and so highly did he think of Mr. Spence's conduct, that he warmly urged his promotion; and commodore Preble accordingly conferred upon him the appointment of an acting lieutenant, which was sanctioned and confirmed by the government.

The father of this young officer, Keith Spence, esq. a gentleman justly held in high estimation for his probity, intelligence and nice sense of honor, was then a prisoner in Tripoli. He was the bosom friend, the mentor, of Decatur. Drawing invaluable lessons of wisdom from the precepts of the father, Decatur, by his example, produced a spirit of emulation in the son, to which may, in a great degree, be attributed that utter disregard of self, that heroic devotion to the honor of the service, manifested by him on this occasion.

Mr. Edmund P. Kennedy (now a master commandant in the navy,) then gunner's mate of the brig *Siren*, was captain of the gun on this occasion. His gallant conduct attracted the attention of commodore Preble, who made him an acting midshipman; and Mr. Secretary Smith, upon being informed of the circumstances, sent him a warrant as midshipman. [Naval Chronicle, Vol. 1, p. 228.]

ber) were all in motion close under the batteries, and appeared to meditate an attack on our boats; the *Constitution*, *Nautilus*, and *Enterprise*, were to windward, ready, at every hazard, to cut them off from the harbor, if they should venture down; while the *Syren* and *Vixen* were near our boats, to support and cover any of them that might be disabled. The enemy thought it most prudent, however, to retire to their snug retreat behind the rocks, after firing a few shot. Our boats, in two divisions, under Captains Somers and Decatur, were well conducted, as were our bomb vessels, by Lieutenants Dent and Robinson. The town must have suffered much from this attack, and their batteries, particularly the seven gun battery, must have lost many men. At half past five P.M. the wind began to freshen from the N.N.E.; I made the signal for the gun and bomb boats to retire from action, and for the vessels to which they were attached to take them in tow. The *Argus* made signal that the strange sail was a friend.

In this day's action No. 4 had a twenty-four pound shot through her hull; No. 6, her latteen yard shot away; No. 8, a twenty-four pound shot through her hull, which killed two men; some of the other boats had their rigging and sails considerably cut. We threw forty-eight shells, and about five hundred twenty-four pound shot into the town and batteries. All the officers and men engaged in the action behaved with the utmost intrepidity. At half past six all the boats were in tow, and the squadron standing to the northwest. At eight the *John Adams*, Captain Chauncey, from the United States, joined company. At nine the squadron anchored, Tripoli bearing southeast, five miles distant. Gunboat No. 3 was this day commanded by Mr. Brooks, master of the *Argus*, and No. 6 by Lieutenant Wadsworth, of the *Constitution*.

Annexed is a return of our loss in this attack.

*Killed* Gunboat No. 9 — One Lieutenant, one midshipman, one boatswain's mate, one quarter gunner, one sergeant of marines, and five seamen.

*Do.* Gunboat No. 8 — Two seamen.

*Wounded.* Gunboat No. 9 — Six seamen, two of whom mortally.

Total — twelve killed, six wounded.

Captain Chauncey brought me the first positive information that any reinforcement was to be expected. By him I was honored with your letters of the 7th, 22d, and 31st of May, informing me that four frigates were coming out, under Commodore Barron, who is to supersede me in the command of our naval forces in these seas, at the same time approbating my conduct, and conveying to me the thanks of the President for my services. I beg you, sir, to accept my warmest thanks for the very obliging language in which you have made these communications, and to assure the President that to merit the applause of my country is my only aim, and, to receive it, the highest gratification it can bestow.

Captain Chauncey informed me that the frigates might be expected every moment, as they were to sail from Hampton Roads four days after him. In consequence of this information, (and as I could not bring the *John Adams* into action, she having left all her gun carriages for her gun deck, except eight, on board the *Congress* and *Constellation*, a day or two previous to her sailing) I determined to wait a few days for the arrival of Commodore Barron, before another attack, when,

if he should arrive, the fate of Tripoli must be decided in a few hours, and the Bashaw completely humbled. Had the *John Adams* brought out her gun carriages, I should not have waited a moment, and can have no doubt but the next attack would make the arrival of more ships unnecessary for the termination of the Tripoline war. I gave Captain Chauncey orders to remain on the station, that we might be benefited by the assistance of his boats and men, as nearly half the crews of the *Constitution*, brigs, and schooners, were taken out to man the bombs, gun boats and ship's boats, when prepared for an attack.

AUGUST 9TH. We were engaged supplying the bomb and gun-boats with ammunition and stores, and getting every thing in readiness for an attack, the moment Commodore Barron should arrive and make the signal. I cannot but regret that our naval establishment is so limited as to deprive me of the means and glory of completely subduing the haughty tyrant of Tripoli, while in the chief command; it will, however, afford me satisfaction to give my successor all the assistance in my power. At three P. M. I went on board the *Argus*, for the purpose of reconnoitering the harbor of Tripoli; we stood in towards the town, and were near being sunk by the enemy's fire; one of their heaviest shot, which struck about three feet short of the water line, raked the copper off her bottom under water, and cut the plank half through. In the evening the wind blew strong from the N. N. E.; the squadron weighed, and kept under sail all night. The day following we anchored, Tripoli bearing S. S. W. six miles distant. At ten A. M. the French consul hoisted a white flag at his flag staff, under the national colors, which was a signal that the Bashaw was ready to treat. I sent a boat into the harbor, and took this opportunity to forward Captain Bainbridge, and his officers, letters from their friends. The boat was not allowed to land, but returned in the afternoon and brought me a letter, advising that the Bashaw was ready to receive five hundred dollars for the ransom of each of the prisoners, and terminate the war, without any consideration for peace or tribute. This is three hundred and fifty thousand dollars less than was demanded previous to the action of the third instant. These terms I did not hesitate to reject, as I was informed by Captain Chauncey that it was the expectation of our Government, on the arrival of four frigates, to obtain the release of the officers and crew of the *Philadelphia* without ransom, and dictate the terms of peace. I enclose you copies of our correspondence, which will convince you that our attacks have not been made without effect.

AUGUST 16TH. No news of the frigates, and but short allowance of water in the squadron. I sent the *Enterprise* to Malta, with orders to the agent there to hire transports, and send off immediately a supply of fresh water, provision, and other stores which have become necessary, as some of the squadron have now been upwards of five months in sight of this dismal coast, without once visiting a friendly port. Those vessels, as well as the gun-boats, received their supply of water and provisions from the *Constitution*.

AUGUST 18TH. As the season is fast approaching when we may expect bad weather, and no news of the frigates, I have determined to make an attack as soon as the wind proves favorable. At eight P. M. I sent Captains Decatur and Chauncey, in two small boats, to reconnoitre the harbor, and observe the disposition of the enemy's flotilla at night. They returned at midnight, and reported that they

were anchored in a line abreast, from the mole to the Bashaw's castle, with their heads to the eastward, for the defence of the inner harbor. At daylight the wind shifted suddenly from northeast to north north-west, and brought a heavy sea on shore, which obliged us, for greater safety, to weigh, and stand to sea.

[AUGUST] 20TH. We had gained an offing of nine or ten leagues; still blowing hard. We met with the ketch *Intrepid*, from Syracuse, with a cargo of fresh water, stock, and vegetables, for the squadron.

[AUGUST] 22D. Fell in with a ship from Malta, with water and live stock for the squadron. These cargoes arrived very opportunely, as we have for some time past been on short allowance of water. The wind having moderated, we stood in and anchored with the squadron, six miles northeast by north from Tripoli. All the boats were engaged in discharging the transports. The *Enterprise* arrived from Malta, but brought no intelligence of the long expected frigates.

[AUGUST] 24TH. With a light breeze from the northeast, we stood in with the squadron, prepared for action, intending to attack the town and shipping in the night. At eight in the evening, anchored about two and a half miles from the batteries. At midnight it fell calm; I sent the bomb vessels, under the protection of the gunboats, to bombard the town; the boats of the squadron were employed in towing them in. At two, A.M., the bombardment commenced, and continued until day-light,<sup>1</sup> but with what effect is uncertain. At six, all the boats joined us, and were taken in tow by the squadron, which was under weigh and standing off. At seven, anchored four miles north of the town. The weather, for several days, proved unfavorable for approaching the shore.

[AUGUST] 28TH, we were favored with a pleasant breeze from the eastward; at three, P.M., we weighed, and stood in for Tripoli; at five, anchored the *Constitution*, two miles north by east from Fort English, and two miles and a half from the Bashaw's castle; the light vessels ordered to keep under way; we were employed until eight, P.M., in making arrangements for attacking the town; a number of the officers, and many of the seamen, of the *Constitution* being attached to the bomb, gun, and ship's boats; Captain Chauncey, with several of his officers, and about seventy seamen and marines, volunteered their services on board the *Constitution*. All the boats in the squadron were officered and manned, and attached to the several gunboats. The two bomb vessels could not be brought into action, as one was leaky, and the mortar-bed of the other had given way. The *John Adams*, *Scourge*, transports, and bombs, were anchored seven miles to the northward of the town. Lieutenant Commandant Dent, of the *Scourge*, came on board the *Constitution*, and took charge on the gun-deck. Lieutenant Izard, of the *Scourge*, also joined me. Lieutenant Gordon commands gunboat No. 2, and Lieutenant Lawrence, of the *Enterprise*, No. 5; these are the only changes. At half past one,

<sup>1</sup> During this attack an accident occurred which was very near proving fatal to captain Bainbridge. A thirty-six pound ball, from commodore Preble's squadron passed through the wall in the apartment of the prison where captain Bainbridge was sleeping, struck against the opposite wall, rebounded, and in its fall, took part of the bed clothes from him and passed within a few inches of his body. In its passage through the first wall, it knocked out a cart load of stones and mortar, under which captain Bainbridge was buried until the officers relieved him. He was considerably bruised by the rubbish, and received a cut, in the right ankle, which occasioned a lameness for months. [Naval Chronicle, Vol. 1.]

A.M., the gunboats, in two divisions, led by Captains Decatur and Somers, were ordered to advance and take their stations close to the rocks at the entrance of the harbor, within grape-shot distance of the Bashaw's castle. The *Syren*, *Argus*, *Vixen*, *Nautilus*, *Enterprise*, and boats of the squadron, accompanied them. At three, A.M., the boats anchored with springs on, within pistol shot of the rocks, and commenced a brisk firing on the shipping, town, batteries, and Bashaw's castle, which was warmly returned, but not as well directed. The ship's boats remained with the gunboats, to assist in boarding the enemy's flotilla, if it should venture out, while the brigs and schooners kept under weigh, ready for the same service, or for annoying the enemy as occasion might present.

At day-light, presuming that the gunboats had nearly expended their ammunition, we weighed with the *Constitution*, and stood in for the harbor. Fort English, the Bashaw's castle, crown and mole batteries, kept up a heavy fire upon us as we advanced. At half past five, I made the signal for the gunboats to retire from action, and for the brigs and schooners to take them in tow. We were then within two cables' length of the rocks, and commenced a heavy fire of round and grape on thirteen of the enemy's gunboats and galleys, which were in pretty close action with our boats. We sunk one of the enemy's boats; at the same time two more, disabled, ran on shore to avoid sinking; the remainder immediately retreated. We continued running in until we were within musket shot of the crown and mole batteries, when we brought to and fired upwards of three hundred round shot, beside grape and canister, into the town, Bashaw's castle, and [Mole head] batteries. We silenced the castle and two of the batteries for some time. At a quarter past six, the gunboats being all out of shot and in tow, I hauled off, after having been three-quarters of an hour in close action. The gunboats fired upwards of four hundred round shot, besides grape and canister, with good effect. A large Tunisian galliot was sunk in the mole. A Spanish ship, which had entered with an ambassador from the Grand Seignior, received considerable damage. The Tripoline galleys and gunboats lost many men, and were much cut. The Bashaw's castle and town have suffered very much; as have their Crown and Mole [Head] batteries.

Captains Decatur and Somers conducted their divisions of gunboats with their usual firmness and address, and were well supported by the officers and men attached to them. The brigs and schooners were also well conducted during the action, and fired a number of shot at the enemy, but their guns are too light to do much execution. They suffered considerably in their sails and rigging. The officers and crew of the *Constitution* behaved well. I cannot, in justice to Captain Chauncey, omit noticing the very able assistance I received from him on the quarter-deck of the *Constitution* during the whole of the action. The damage which we have received is principally above the hull. Three lower shrouds, two spring stays, two top-mast backs stays, trusses, chains, and lifts of the main yard, shot away. Our sails had several cannon shot through them, and were besides considerably cut by grape; much of our running rigging cut to pieces. One of our anchor stocks, and our larboard cable, shot away, and a number of grape shot were sticking in different parts of the hull, but not a man hurt! A boat belonging to the *John Adams*, with a master's mate,

(Mr. Creighton) and eight men, was sunk by a double headed shot from the batteries, while in tow of the *Nautilus*, which killed three men, and badly wounded one, who, with Mr. Creighton and the other four, were picked up by one of our boats. The only damage our gunboats sustained was in their rigging and sails, which were considerably cut by the enemy's round and grape shot. At eleven, A. M., we anchored with the squadron, five miles northeast by north from Tripoli, and repaired the damage received in the action.

[AUGUST] 29<sup>TH</sup> AND 30<sup>TH</sup>, preparing the bomb vessels for service; supplying the gunboats with ammunition, &c.

[AUGUST] 31<sup>ST</sup>, a vessel arrived from Malta with provisions and stores; brought no news of Commodore Barron or the frigates. We discharged this vessel's cargo and ordered her to return.

SEPTEMBER 2. The bomb vessels having been repaired and ready for service, Lieutenants Dent and Robinson resumed the command of them. Lieutenant Morris, of the *Argus*, took command of No. 3, and Lieutenant Trippe, having nearly recovered from his wounds, resumed the command of No. 6, which he so gallantly conducted the third ultimo. Captain Chauncey, with several young gentlemen, and sixty men, from the *John Adams*, volunteered on board the *Constitution*. At four, P. M., made the signal to weigh; kept under sail all night. At eleven, A. M., a general signal to prepare for battle. A Spanish polacre in ballast came out of Tripoli, with an ambassador of the Grand Signior on board, who had been sent from Constantinople to Tripoli to confirm the Bashaw in his title; this ceremony takes place in all the Barbary regencies every five years. The captain of this vessel informed us that our shot and shells had made great havoc and destruction in the city, and among the shipping, and that a vast number of people have been killed: also informs us that three of the boats which were sunk by our shot in the actions of the third and twenty-eighth ultimo, had been got up, repaired, and fitted for service [action].

[SEPTEMBER] 3<sup>D</sup>. At 2, P. M., Tripoli bore south southwest, two miles and a half distant; wind east by north. At half past two, the signals were made for the gunboats to cast off, advance, and attack the enemy's galleys and gunboats, which were all under weigh in the eastern part of the harbor, whither they had for some time been working up against the wind. This was certainly a judicious movement of theirs, as it precluded the possibility of our boats going down to attack the town, without leaving the enemy's flotilla in their rear, and directly to windward. I accordingly ordered the bomb vessels to run down within proper distance of the town and bombard it, while our gunboats were to engage the enemy's galleys and [gun] boats to windward. At half three, P. M., our bombs having gained the stations to which they were directed, anchored, and commenced throwing shells into the city; at the same time, our gunboats opened a brisk fire on the galleys, &c. within point blank shot, which was warmly returned by them and Fort English, and by a new battery a little to the westward; but, as soon as our boats arrived within good musket shot of their galleys and boats, they gave way, and retreated to the shore within the rocks, and under cover of musketry from Fort English. They were followed by our boats, and by the *Syren*, *Argus*, *Vixen*, *Nautilus*, and *Enterprise*, as far as the reefs would permit them to go with prudence. The action was then divided. One division of our boats, with the brigs



and schooners, attacked Fort English, whilst the other was engaged with the enemy's galleys and boats. The Bashaw's castle, the Mole, Crown, and several other Batteries, kept up a constant fire on our bomb vessels, which were well conducted, and threw shells briskly into the town; but, from their situation, they were very much exposed, and in great danger of being sunk; I accordingly ran within them with the *Constitution*, to draw off the enemy's attention, and amuse them whilst the bombardment was kept up. We brought to within reach of grape, and fired eleven broadsides into the Bashaw's Castle, Town, and Batteries, in a situation where more than seventy guns could bear upon us. One of their Batteries was silenced. The Town, Castle, and other Batteries, considerably damaged. By this time, it was half past four o'clock; the wind was increasing, and inclining rapidly on the northward. I made the signal for the Boats to retire from action, and for the brigs and schooners to take them in tow, and soon after hauled off with the *Constitution* to repair damages. Our main-top-sail was totally disabled by a shell from the Batteries, which cut away the leech rope, and several cloths of the sail; another shell went through the fore-top-sail, and one through the jib; all our sails considerably cut; two top-mast backstays shot away; main sheets, fore tacks, lifts, braces, bowlines, and the running rigging, generally, very much cut, but no shot in our hull, excepting a few grape. Our Gun Boats were an hour fifteen minutes in action. They disabled several of the enemy's galleys and boats, and considerably damaged Fort English. Most of our boats received damage in their rigging and sails. The bomb vessel No. 1, commanded by Lieutenant Robinson, was disabled, every shroud being shot away; the bed of the mortar rendered useless, and the vessel near sinking; she was, however, towed off. About fifty shells were thrown into the town, and our boats fired four hundred round shot, besides grape and canister. They were led into action by Captains Decatur and Somers, with their usual gallantry. The brigs and schooners were handsomely conducted, and fired many shot with effect at Fort English, which they were [some time] near enough to reach with their carronades; they suffered considerably in their rigging, and the *Argus* received a thirty-two pound shot in the hull forward, which cut off a bower cable as it entered. We kept under weigh until eleven, P.M., when we anchored, Tripoli bearing south southwest three leagues. I again with pleasure, acknowledge the services of an able and active officer in Captain Chauncey, serving on the quarter-deck of the *Constitution*. At sun-rise, I made the signal for the squadron to prepare for action. The carpenters were sent on board the bombs to repair damages, and our boats employed in supplying the bombs and gunboats with ammunition, to replace the expenditures.

Desirous of annoying the enemy by all the means in my power, I directed to be put into execution a long contemplated plan of sending a fire ship, or *infernal*, into the harbor of Tripoli, in the night, for the purpose of endeavoring to destroy the enemy's shipping, and shatter the Bashaw's Castle and Town. Captain Somers, of the *Nautilus*, having volunteered his services, had, for several days before this period, been directing the preparation of the ketch *Intrepid*, assisted by Lieutenants Wadsworth and Israel. About one hundred barrels of powder, and one hundred and fifty fixed shells, were apparently judiciously disposed of on board her. The fusees leading to the magazine,

where all the powder was deposited, were calculated to burn for a quarter of an hour.

SEPTEMBER 4TH. The *Intrepid* being prepared for the intended service, Captain Somers and Lieutenant Wadsworth made choice of two of the fastest rowing boats in the squadron, for bringing them out, after reaching their destination, and firing the combustible materials which were to communicate with the fuses. Captain Somers' boat was manned with four seamen from the *Nautilus*, and Lieutenant Wadsworth's with six from the *Constitution*; Lieutenant Israel accompanied them. At eight in the evening, the *Intrepid* was under sail, and standing for the port, with a leading breeze from the eastward. The *Argus*, *Vixen*, and *Nautilus*, convoyed her as far as the rocks. On entering the harbor, several shot were fired at her from the batteries. In a few minutes after, when she had apparently nearly gained the intended place of destination, she suddenly exploded, without their having previously fired a room filled with splinters and other combustibles, which were intended to create a blaze, in order to deter the enemy from boarding while the fire was communicating to the fuses which led to the magazine. The effect of the explosion awed their batteries into profound silence with astonishment; not a gun was afterwards fired for the night. The shrieks of the inhabitants informed us that the town was thrown into the greatest terror and consternation by the explosion of the magazine, and the bursting and falling of shells in all directions. The whole squadron waited, with the utmost anxiety, to learn the fate of the adventurers, from a signal previously agreed on, in case of success; but waited in vain. No signs of their safety were to be observed. The *Argus*, *Vixen*, and *Nautilus*, hovered round the entrance of the port until sunrise, when they had a fair view of the whole harbor. Not a vestige of the ketch [*Intrepid*] or her boats was to be seen. One of the enemy's largest gunboats was missing, and three others were seen very much shattered and damaged, which the enemy were hauling on shore. From these circumstances, I am led to believe that these boats were detached from the enemy's flotilla to intercept the ketch, and, without suspecting her to be a fire ship, the missing boat had suddenly boarded her, when the gallant Somers and heroes of his party, observing the other three boats surrounding them, and no prospect of escape, determined, at once, to prefer death and the destruction of the enemy to captivity and torturing slavery, put a match to the train leading directly to the magazine, which at once blew the whole into the air, and terminated their existence. My conjectures respecting this affair are founded on a resolution which Captain Somers, Lieutenants Wadsworth and Israel had formed—neither to be taken by the enemy, nor suffer him to get possession of the powder on board the *Intrepid*. They expected to enter the harbor without discovery, but had declared that, should they be disappointed, and the enemy should board them, before they reached their point of destination, in such force as to leave them no hopes of a safe retreat, that they would put a match to the magazine, and blow themselves and their enemies up together; determined, as there was no exchange of prisoners, that their country should never pay ransom for them, nor the enemy receive a supply of powder through their means.<sup>1</sup> The disappearance of one of the enemy's boats, and

<sup>1</sup> [Attention is invited to a note concerning the bravery and sense of honor of Lieutenant Somers, which appears on pages 237 and 238 of "The United States' Naval Chronicle" by Charles W. Goldsborough, Vol. 1.]

the shattered condition of three others, confirm me in my opinion they they were an advanced guard, detached from the main body of the flotilla on discovering the approach of the *Intrepid*, and that they attempted to board her before she had reached her point of destination; otherwise, the whole of their shipping must have suffered, and perhaps would have been totally destroyed. That she was blown up before she had gained her station is certain, by which the service has lost three very gallant officers. Captain Somers and Lieutenants Wadsworth and Israel were officers of conspicuous bravery, talents, and merit. They had uniformly distinguished themselves in the several actions; were beloved and lamented by the whole squadron.

SEPTEMBER 5TH. We were employed in supplying the gunboats with ammunition, &c. and repairing the bomb vessels for another attack, but, the wind shifting to the N. N. E., a heavy swell setting on shore, and other indications of bad weather, determined me, for greater safety, to take the guns, mortars, shot, and shells, out of the boats, into the *Constitution* and *John Adams*, which was accordingly done. The weather continuing to wear a threatening aspect until the 7th, and our ammunition being reduced to a quantity not more than sufficient for three vessels to keep up the blockade, no intelligence of the expected reinforcement, and the season so far advanced as to render it imprudent to hazard the gunboats any longer on the station, I gave orders for the *John Adams*, *Syren*, *Nautilus*, *Enterprise*, and *Scourge*, to take the bombs and gunboats in tow, and proceed to Syracuse with them. The *Argus*, and *Vixen* to remain with the *Constitution*, to keep up the blockade.

SEPTEMBER 10TH. The United States' ship *President*, Commodore Barron, and *Constellation*, Captain Campbell, hove in sight, and soon joined company, when the command of the squadron was surrendered to Commodore Barron, with the usual ceremony. I continued in company with the squadron until the 12th, when three strange ships came in sight, standing direct for Tripoli. Chase was given, and two of them boarded and taken possession of by the *Constitution*, the *President* in company, about four leagues from Tripoli, but not more than five miles from the land, while the *Constellation* and *Argus* were in chase of the third. The two boarded by the *Constitution* were loaded with about sixteen thousand bushels of wheat. Tripoli is in a state of starvation, and there can be no doubt but these cargoes were meant as a supply and relief to our enemies.

Considering the season too far advanced, and weather too uncertain, to hazard any further operations against Tripoli, at present, Commodore Barron determined that the prizes should be sent to Malta, under convoy of the *Constitution*, it being necessary she should go into port to be re-caulked and refitted. I notified Commodore Barron that it was my wish to return to the United States, in the frigate *John Adams*, Captain Chauncey; this, readily, and in the handsomest manner, met his acquiescence. I shall accordingly return in that ship.

The service in this quarter cannot suffer from this arrangement, as Captain Decatur is at present without a ship, and my return will place him immediately in the exercise of the duties attached to that Commission which he has so gallantly earned, and his Country generously bestowed. I shall feel a pleasure in leaving the *Constitution* under the command of that officer, whose enterprising and manly conduct I have often witnessed, and whose merits eminently entitle him to so handsome a command.

The other commanders merit the highest commendations for their prompt obedience to orders, on all occasions, and for the zeal, spirit, and judgment, which they displayed in the several attacks on the enemy's shipping and batteries, as well as for the general good order and discipline at all times observed on board their respective vessels.

The officers of the squadron have conducted themselves in the most gallant and handsome manner; and the conduct of the different ships' companies has merited my warmest approbation since I have had the honor to command them.

It affords me much satisfaction to observe that we have neither had a duel nor a court martial in the squadron since we left the United States.

I most sincerely regret the loss of our gallant Country Men, who have sacrificed their lives to the honor of the Service, and that it has not been in my power, consistent with the interest and expectation of our Country, to liberate Captain Bainbridge and the unfortunate officers and crew of the *Philadelphia*. Be assured, sir, I have incessantly endeavored to effect this desirable object. I have no doubt but my successor will be able to effect their release, and establish peace, on such terms as will reflect the highest honor on himself and his Country.

SEPTEMBER 17TH. Arrived at Malta, with the two detained Greek vessels. We experienced very bad weather, but had the satisfaction to learn that the bombs and gunboats had arrived safe at Syracuse the 15th instant, without accident. Each of the Tripoline gunboats which we have captured has two brass howitzers abaft, and a handsome copper gun in the bow, which carries a twenty-nine pound shot, is eleven and a half feet long, and weighs six thousand six hundred pounds.

I send you a plan of the Town and Harbor of Tripoli, with the disposition of our squadron and the enemy's flotilla, at the time of the several attacks, with sundry other papers.

EDWARD PREBLE,

U. S. SHIP *Constitution*, MALTA HARBOR,

18th. September, 1804.

[LC. EPP, LB, 1804-1805.]

[Enclosure]

Names of the Officers, Seamen & Marines, Killed & Wounded on board the Squadron of the United States under command of Commodore Edward Preble in several attacks made on the City & Harbour of Tripoli in Barbary in July, August, & September 1804 with the names of the Vessels they belonged to.

KILLED.

July 7th. <i>Syren</i> .	William Williams	Seaman
August 3rd. <i>Nautilus</i>	James Decatur.	Lieut <sup>t</sup>
	{ James R. Caldwell	Lieu <sup>t</sup>
	{ John S Dorsey.	Midship <sup>n</sup>
	{ W <sup>m</sup> Davis	Boats <sup>n</sup> Mate
August 7 <sup>th</sup> <i>Syren</i>	{ James Farrell	Q <sup>r</sup> Gunner
	{ John Spear	Q <sup>r</sup> Master
	{ John Robinson.	Seaman
	{ John Holmes	Seaman

August 7 <sup>th</sup>	<i>Syren</i>	{ George Irving Jona <sup>s</sup> Meridith Nath <sup>l</sup> Holmes	Seaman Serg <sup>t</sup> Marines Private D <sup>o</sup>
August 7.	<i>Vixen</i> -----	{ John Brown John Jones	Seaman Seaman
August 28.	<i>John Adams</i>	{ Thomas Macdonough. W <sup>m</sup> Fountain John Bartlett	Seaman Seaman Seaman
Sept <sup>r</sup> 4.	<i>Nautilus</i>	{ Richard Somers James Simms Th <sup>s</sup> Tompline James Harris W <sup>m</sup> Keith	Capt. Seaman Seaman Seaman Seaman
Sept. 4.	<i>Constitution</i>	{ Henry Wadsworth. Jos: Israel W <sup>m</sup> Harrison Rob <sup>t</sup> Clark Hugh MacCormick. Jacob Williams Peter Penner Isaac W. Downs	Lieu <sup>t</sup> Lieu <sup>t</sup> Seaman Seaman Seaman Seaman
Total 30 Killed.			

WOUNDED.

July 7 <sup>th</sup>	<i>Syren</i> -----	{ W <sup>m</sup> Cooper Tho <sup>s</sup> Riveness Sam <sup>l</sup> Henry (Mortally, since dead)	
August 3 <sup>rd</sup>	<i>Enterprize</i> ---	{ Stephen Decatur. Thomas James Dan <sup>l</sup> Frazer Solomon Wren	Captain Seaman Seaman Seaman
August 3rd.	<i>Vixen</i>	{ John Trippe C. Allen. M: Carmon. [or Cannon] J. Ryan.	Lieut. Boat <sup>s</sup> Mate Priv <sup>e</sup> Marine Ditto.
August 3rd.	<i>Constitution</i> --	{ Charles Young.	Ditto
August. 3.	<i>Nautilus</i>	{ Sam: Rodner A Neapolitan. Two Seamen	Ditto Seaman
Francis Rodgers (Mor- tally — Since dead)			
August 7.	<i>Syren.</i>	{ James Desney Anth <sup>r</sup> Currin Thomas Deven W <sup>m</sup> Mitchell John Lamott Antonio Morrell	Seaman Seaman Seaman Seaman Seaman Seaman
August 28 <sup>th</sup>	<i>John Adams.</i>	{ Isaac Happs	Seaman

Total Wounded, 24. — Total Killed & Wounded 54 —

[LC. EPP, LB, Nov. 1804—Mar. 1805.]

[Enclosure]

Force of the Tripoline batteries —	
Fort English.....	7 Guns
Fort American, so called from its having been built by the American Prisoners.....	7 “
Palace.....	10 “
Between the Palace & Mole Head.....	14 “
Mole Head & Crown Battery.....	19 Guns
Foot-Way.....	11 “
Two small Batteries between Foot Way & Malta Battery.....	9 “
Malta Battery.....	9 “
Half Moon.....	10 “
West Diamond Battery.....	9 “
Battery with Arched Embrazures.....	3 “
Western Battery without the City walls called the VIXEN Battery from having fired the first shot at that Vessel.....	7 “

[LC. EPP, LB, Nov. 1804–Mar. 1805.]

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Extract from log book kept by Sailing Master Nathaniel Haraden, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Wednesday, 25 July 1804

Light airs from E N E. Squadron in company This afternoon supplied the Gun & bomb vessels with 900 Gall<sup>s</sup> water — At 2 P. M. Made the Gun & bomb boats signal to set their lateen sails — This afternoon for the first time the Marines were exercised at the great Guns — Towards evening Moderate breezes from S E — We reduced our Sailing to 4 knots which will run us in with the land by Morning —

At 2 A. M. brought to. At 2½ saw two strange sail to the S S W. Filled & spoke the U. S. Brig *Syren* in company with the *Enterprize* — The *Syren* informs us that Tripoly bears S S W — 18 Miles — Wore & brought to off shore. — At day light wore in shore — Saw the high land or Mountains of Garfan situated inland of Tripoly bearing by compass S S W.

At ½ past 6 A. M. wore off shore — Tripoly in sight from the mast head bearing by compass S W —

The *Argus*, *Syren* & *Enterprize* joined company. The *Scourge* not in sight.

Made the signal for all Captains — Lieut<sup>s</sup> Stewart Hull & Decatur waited on the Commodore Continued with the main topsail to the mast all the forenoon — Ships head N W b N.

Sent to the *Argus* two brass 12 p<sup>dr</sup>s with their shot & all the other articles belonging to them which were recieved in Malta on Friday last.

M<sup>r</sup> Brooks master of the *Argus* who was recieved from sick quarters at Syracuse some time ago rejoined the *Argus*, & M<sup>r</sup> Robertson Purser of the *Enterprize* who was recieved at Malta rejoined the *Enterprize*.

Fresh breezes from N E & cloudy all forenoon. Employed making the necessary arrangements for a general attack on Tripoly.

In the course of the forenoon made the Store Ship, *Enterprize* & *Argus* signals to come within hail

At Noon we are 5 leagues N E b N from Tripoly — The Mountains of Garfan in sight from the Mast head bearing by compass S W b S ½ S. At 10 A. M. we cast off[ ] the three Gun boats which we have towed from Malta — The *Syren*, *Argus* & *Enterprize* were ordered to take them in Tow — We continued to tow the two Bombards —

Surgeons report 3 sick & 3 convalescent.

Latitude Observed 33° 10' N.

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

Extract from journal of U. S. Frigate *John Adams*, Master Commandant Isaac Chauncey, U. S. Navy, commanding, Wednesday, 25 July 1804

Commences with light Airs from the Eastward and pleasant Weather — At 4 P. M. hove short — At 9 weigh'd and got the Boat a head (it still being Calm) and towed out of the Bay At 11 a light Air sprung up from the Northward — made Sail — At 9 A. M. Malaga bore North — Saw a Number of Sail beating to the Westward — Ends with fresh Gales & Pleasant. — Wind W b N

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

Extract from journal kept by Purser John Darby, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. S. *John Adams*, Master Commandant Isaac Chauncey, U. S. Navy, commanding, Wednesday, 25 July 1804

Doct<sup>r</sup> Griffin and myself having been left on shore last night we got up early this morning and sent our boys down to the two landing places. to see if our ships boat had come on shore they returned and informd us that. it had not. we then met with the boat belonging to the American Brig Capt. Leigh. went off in her and went on board of him. apologised for our not coming off the evening before to tea: stayed to breakfast with him, then went on board of our own ship, and inquired of Lieu<sup>t</sup> Higenbothom why we had been left on shore last evening. he said he had understood from the Gentlemen who come off in the boat that we had gone on board of the American Brig. and that he concluded that the Cap<sup>t</sup> wou<sup>d</sup> send us on board —

We then went into the Cabin and reported ourselves to the Cap<sup>t</sup>, and informed him of the circumstance of our having been left on shore he informed us that as it was a mistake he cou<sup>d</sup> not attach any blame to either us or the officer of the boat — [Manuscript mutilated] under way that evening. to sail for [Manuscript mutilated] from thence to Malta where we should [manuscript mutilated]

We immediately commenced writing to [manuscript mutilated] informed them of what News we had which could be contained in the space of a letter and our destination. — We put our letters and dispatches in the hands of Cap<sup>t</sup> Grayson of the Schooner *Eleanor* — who was bound for Washington City and who. brought out. Stores for our Mediterranean Squadron Capt. Leigh came on board and dined with us to day and brought onboard the Silver which he had changed. for gold — At about 4. Oclock. a Very heavy firing commenced from. the. Portugueas ship laying at Algeirus & the Spanish fort. there. it being some saints day. and I am told it is their custom to salute on every saints day — at. 9 Oclock at night we got the ship under way and stood out of the Bay with a light air of wind. having been very much fatigued and slep but little the two nights before this, I went to bead about 10. Oclock —

[NDA original. Miss Camilla S. McConnell.]

Extract from journal of Midshipman F. Cornelius deKrafft, U. S. Navy, in U. S. Brig *Siren* of 18 guns, Master Commandant Charles Stewart, U. S. Navy, commanding, Wednesday, 25 July 1804

Light winds & pleas<sup>t</sup> the *Enterprize* in sight  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 2 K<sup>q</sup> to the N<sup>d</sup> L<sup>t</sup> Carrol went in the barge a small distance to the E<sup>d</sup> of Tripoli to sound.  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 3 K<sup>q</sup> to the S. E handed top gall<sup>t</sup> sails. At 5 K<sup>q</sup> to the N E & spoke the *Enterprize*.  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 5 back'd the main top

sail & sent the launch along side the *Enterprize* for water. At 6 Single reef'd the topsails the barge return'd, At 9 the launch return'd with 6 casks of water, hoisted them in & stow'd them. ½ past 9 fill'd away N E. —

Midnight fresh breezes & clear At 1 saw a sail to leeward bore away for her ½ past 1 spoke her prov'd to be the *Constitution*, with the *Vixen Nautilus*, six gun boats & two bumbards At 2 made sail & stood to the S. W.

(Lying bye astern of the Commodore.)

Latt 33° 11' N.

[NDA.]

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To Lieutenant John B. Cordis, U. S. Navy, Washington, D. C., from Secretary of the Navy

NAVY DEP<sup>t</sup>. 26 July 1804

The President has appointed you a Lieutenant in the Navy of the United States, and a Commission will in due season be forwarded to you. You will take the enclosed Oath and return it to this office with a letter accepting this Appointment, and you will without delay proceed to Hampton and take command of the Gunboat recently built by M<sup>r</sup> Hope at that place. Her hull is to be completed at Hampton and she is to be brought here to be rigged and equipped for service. You will engage a sufficient number of men, to enable you to bring her to this place and you will call on Daniel Bedinger esquire for any other necessary assistance.

Let me hear from you on your arrival at Hampton and state to me the situation in which you may find the Gun Boat, and when you will probably be here with her.

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

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Extract from journal kept on board the U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, by Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, Thursday, 26 July 1804

Wind N N E to N E and a heavy sea setting on shore which makes it imprudent to approach near the coast. Tripoly bears S S W about 5 Leagues, at 5 p m saw the *Scourge* in the SW. We stood to the Eastward by the wind all night at 9 AM wore & bore up to the W S W. The *Syren* Joind comp<sup>d</sup> our Squadron now consists of one Frigate three Brigs & three Schooners, Men of War, two Bombs, and Six Gun Boats, in all 15 Sail, besides the store ship, the whole are now in company. — At noon the Squadron becalm'd 8 miles from the land and about 5 Leagues to the Eastw<sup>d</sup> of Tripoly. a heavy Sea setting on shore.

Lat<sup>d</sup> Ob<sup>d</sup> 33° 07' N.

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

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Extract from journal of U. S. Frigate *John Adams*, Master Commandant Isaac Chauncey, U. S. Navy, commanding, Thursday, 26 July 1804

First Part strong Gales from the Westward and Pleasant — At 2 P M. took down the Births of the Officers on the Gun Deck and struck down the Six 12 Pounders that were mounted in the Waist of the Spar Deck, and mounted them on the Gun Deck where they can be managed



to much greater Advantage — At Sunset the Extremities of the Land bore from E. N. E. to N W.  $\frac{1}{2}$  W. Dist<sup>o</sup> off shore about 10 or 12 Leagues — Wind West

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

Extract from journal kept by Purser John Darby, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. S. *John Adams*, Master Commandant Isaac Chauncey, U. S. Navy, commanding, Thursday, 26 July 1804

[Manuscript mutilated] of Gibraltar bore. W. by N. distance about 35 Miles. Cape Mariano. in Spain N. E. about 20 Miles. at. 9. discovered several. Sail we continued to stand along the Spanish shore. at about 10 was abreast of Granada a considerable Province in Spain with a Title of a Kingdom. bounded on the North by Andalusia. on the East. by the Kingdom of Murcia and on the South by the Mediterranean Sea. it is about 175 Miles in Length and 75 in Breadth: the City of Granada large handsom & delightful being the Capital of the Kingdom. in Which. are the Tombs of Ferdinand & Isabella. who took this place from the Moores in 1492. on the Top of the Granada mountain we discovered large quantities of Snow. Thermomenter now stands at  $75\frac{1}{2}$ . I am told that the Snow remains on these mountains all the Year. We this day passed the town of Malaga about 60 miles from Gibraltar it is a large town in the Kingdom of. Granada —

[NDA original. Miss Camilla S. McConnell.]

Extract from journal of Midshipman F. Cornelius deKrafft, U. S. Navy, in U. S. Brig *Siren* of 18 guns, Master Commandant Charles Stewart, U. S. Navy, commanding, Thursday, 26 July 1804

At 11 sent the launch on board the *Vixen* she return'd with 100 round 18 lb. shot. —

Latt Obs  $33^{\circ} 19' N$ .

[NDA.]

To Secretary of the Navy from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

*Constitution* off TRIPOLY JULY 27 1804

SIR, I have the honor to transmit to you a copy of a letter [7 July 1804] from Captain Stewart of the U. S. Brig. *Syren*.

I have received information by a Spanish Vessel detained by the Squadron, which left Tripoly a few days after the affair mentioned by Captain Stewart, that the fire from the *Vixen* and boats of the *Syren*, did the Enemy great damage; and that they lost upwards of one hundred men killed and wounded.

[LC. EPP, Vol. 12, June–August 1804.]

[27 July 1804]

Orders of Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy  
 ORDER OF ANCHORING BEFORE TRIPOLY.

Store Ship } to the North }	<i>Nautilus</i> —	<i>Argus</i> to the West
	— <i>Enterprize</i> —	<i>Constitution</i>
	<i>Scourge</i> —	<i>Vixen</i>
		<i>Syren</i> to the East.

The *Constitution* will stand in and anchor first: The other Vessels will then take their Stations conformable to the above arrangement — *Argus* to the Eastward, *Syren* to the Westward — The line parallel to the Shore: two cables length distance asunder  
*Constitution* July 27th 1804.

Signed EDWARD PREBLE

To Cap<sup>t</sup> STEWART  
*Syren*

N. B. One of the above was sent to each of the Cap<sup>ts</sup> of the Squadron

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

COMMON ORDER OF SAILING

<i>Enterprize</i>	<i>Argus</i>	<i>Nautilus</i>
	<i>Constitution</i>	
	<i>Vixen</i>	
	<i>Scourge</i>	
	<i>Syren</i>	

The *Argus* is to keep well ahead but within Signal distance The Other ships are to consider two cables length to be sufficiently open, and One Sufficiently close — Unless Signal be made to close more

ORDER OF SAILING ABREAST.

<i>Argus</i>	<i>Scourge</i>	<i>Enterprize</i>	<i>Constitution</i>	<i>Nautilus</i>	<i>Vixen</i>	<i>Syren</i>
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The *Enterprize* & *Nautilus* are to keep within hail in fine weather.

Signed EDWARD PREBLE

*Constitution* July 27th 1804 — [Copy also dated 25 July 1804, to Lieutenant John H. Dent, U. S. Navy.]

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

To Midshipman John M. Haswell, U. S. Navy, from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

SIR You are hereby advised to take command of the Pink S<sup>t</sup> *Guiseppe* laden with water and Provisions the Property of the United States, and proceed in company with the *Constitution* off Tripoly for the purpose of Supplying ships of the United States blockading that Port — You are not to supply any Ship without my written Orders for so doing. — Attend to the Signals this day delivered you

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

Extract from journal kept on board of the U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, by Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, Friday, 27 July 1804

Wind N E Light Breezes Squadron in comp<sup>y</sup> hoisted out the large cutter Rigged and Armed her, Beat to quarters, to scrape & black-lead the axle trees and trucks of the Gun-Carriages. continued to steer for Tripoly, 'till 7 oClock when we shortened sail & brought to 4 miles from the land. — Tripoly bearing by compass W b S. about 5 Leagues. Sounded 55 faths sandy bottom, Wind E N E to S E all night lay with Main Topsails aback head off shore. at ½ past 4 AM wore & stood to the S W for Tripoly, Land in sight to the Eastward of the Town 7 or 8 Leagues, we have had a strong Easterly current all night, At noon wind E N E Tripoly bearing S W ½ W 4 Leagues dis<sup>t</sup> a heavy swell heaving towards the land. Surgeons Report 1 Sick 3 Convalescent, 1 discharg'd from sick list. Delivered to each Commander the<sup>l</sup> orders for Anchoring before Tripoly on our arrival off the Town. Viz. the fleet to anchor in two Columns, in lines parallel with the shore which trends about east & west. — the inshore column to consist of the *Argus*, *Constitution*, *Vixen* & *Syren*, at two cables length asunder the *Argus* to the East. & *Syren* to the West of the line. the outer column, two cables to the South, & to consist of the *Nautilus* to the West *Enterprize*, center, and *Scourge* to the Eastw<sup>d</sup> — store ship 4 cables length to the Southward of the outer line, the *Constitution* to lead in and anchor first. —

[LC. EPP, Vol. 12, June–August 1804.]

Extract from journal kept by Purser John Darby, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. S. *John Adams*, Master Commandant Isaac Chauncey, U. S. Navy, commanding, Friday, 27 July 1804

I got up this morning about 8 Oclock. after a good nights rest. the sea having very smoth and a fine fresh breeze we still continue to stand up the Mediterranean along the Spanish coast. the Barbary shore not being in sight. we have seen a number of strange Sails but have not spoke any. of them we passed Cape De gat. last night about [space] Oclock. — Nothing particular having ocured to day — We had all our staterooms taken down to day and our guns mounted on our Gun deck. — at. 6. Oclock all hands were ordered to quarters and exercised the guns. about 10 Oclock I went to bead. and had a tollerable nights rest. —

[NDA original. Miss Camilla S. McConnell.]

Extract from journal of U. S. Brig *Argus*, Master Commandant Isaac Hull, U. S. Navy, commanding, Saturday, 28 July 1804

At ½ past 2 PM came to in 20 f<sup>m</sup> water the town of Tripoli bore S ½ E \* \* \* the Commod<sup>e</sup> made Sig<sup>l</sup> N<sup>o</sup> 1205 weighed anchor and made sail the Commod<sup>e</sup> still at Anchor the rest of the Squadron under way At midnight light winds and a heavy swell from the Northw<sup>d</sup> set and took in Sail Occas<sup>y</sup> At 10 AM the Commod<sup>e</sup> made a Sig<sup>l</sup> N<sup>o</sup> 605 Cap<sup>t</sup> Hull went on board of him —

[NDA photostat.]

316 NAVAL OPERATIONS, APRIL-SEPTEMBER 6, 1804

Extract from journal of U. S. Frigate *Congress*, Captain John Rodgers, U. S. Navy, commanding, Saturday, 28 July 1804

At 7 AM. discovered the Island of Madeira \* \* \* distance 10 leagues.

At Meridian the East end of the Island of Madeira bore E b N½ N — Distance 8 leagues

Latitude Observed 32° 20' N Longitude Observed 17° 44' W.

[USNA.]

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Extract from Memorandum Book of Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, 28 July 1804

Anchored the squadron near the batteries when a N. E. gale soon obliged us to go to sea again.

[LC original.]

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Extract from journal kept on board the U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, by Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, Saturday, 28 July 1804

Moderate Breezes from the S E & pleasant Standing in for Tripoly at 1 pm observed the Batteries manned an Encampment of Troops along the South side of the Bay and 19 Gun Boats in motion all pulling out of the Harbour towards us ¼ past 1 the wind shifted suddenly from the S E to North at 3 pm we came to with the small Bower in 20 fath<sup>s</sup> Water 2½ miles from the shore the round Water Battery in Range with the Bashaws Castle. the Boats all under way but the wind blowing directly on shore and increasing they returned into port, the squadron all came in and Anchored in order, with the Gun Boats made fast to their sterns, at 5 the wind & sea increasing so much as to make it dangerous riding. made signal for Captains, they all came on board. at 6 the Cap<sup>ts</sup> all return'd to their respective ships as it was thought prudent to get under way, made the signal to prepare. — at 7 pm sign<sup>d</sup> to weigh by ½ past 7 they were all under way. at 8 we weighd and stood to the N N W Wind N E and more moderate but an increasing sea, at 10 pm several of the fleet in sight Stood off to the N N W all Night at day light wore & stood for Tripoly Wind E N E. at 11 hauld off to the Northward & brought to, to discharge the Store Ship of Water & provisions, and to supply the Squadron with Powder shot & other Military, and Naval stores.

Lat<sup>d</sup> Obs<sup>d</sup> 33° 3' N<sup>o</sup>

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

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Extract from log book kept by Sailing Master Nathaniel Haraden, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Saturday, 28 July 1804

Moderate breezes from S E — We are 4 or 5 leagues N E of Tripoly running in for it with the Squadron in company —

At 1¼ P. M. the wind shifted in a light squall from S E to N N W At 3 P. M. we came to (as did the Squadron) in 21 fath<sup>s</sup> nearly 2½ Miles North from Tripoly by compass. We now displayed before the walls of Tripoly all our Squadron consisting of one Frigate 3 Brigs, 3 Schooners, 6 Gun boats & 2 bombards, exclusive of the Store ship — The Enemy's batteries appear all manned, & shew 67 cannon pointing Sea-Ward. We can see at Anchor one Brig, one schooner, 13 Gun boats & 12 Row boats under their Batteries.

By 4 P. M. we had strong breezes from N b E which heaves in a rough sea, direct on shore — The Gun boats & Bombards are all riding by the Squadron — By 5 the *Syren* & *Vixen* let go their second anchor — We disarmed the large cutter & hoisted her in — Down Royal Yards & pointed all the yards to the wind. Towards Evening it moderated —

Lent the *Syren* a 7½ Inch Hawser of 108 fath<sup>s</sup> & a wooden stocked kedge of 638 lb. At sun set the weather became cloudy, and a little overcast — Made signal for the Squadron to weigh & work off shore — By 7 P. M. the Squadron Was all under way At 8 we weighed & filled to the N W, Tripoly bearing S. 3 or 4 Miles By 9 P. M. the weather was moderate. Wind N E.

Made & shortened sail as necessary to keep an Offing and have the Squadron in sight during the Night.

Our soundings round Tripoly 4 Miles from the shore are tolerably regular between 20 & 25 fathoms — Five leagues from the shore (Tripoly bearing S b W, South, S b E or S S E) the soundings are Very irregular, sometimes 30 & sometimes 65 fath<sup>s</sup> — On the different parts of the coast, particularly round Tripoly we have found gravelly or sandy bottom.

At Day light we wore to E S E with fresh breezes from N E. Squadron in Sight. Tripoly bearing South, 4 leagues.

By 8 A. M. the weather was Moderate & pleasant. Winds from E N E — Bore up to the West<sup>d</sup> and steered along paralel to the coast. —

At 11½ brought to with the main topsail to the mast, as did the Squadron — Out large Cutter & sent her with an Officer & a party of Men to assist in discharging the store ship. — Employed this forenoon sending powder to the Bombards &c Noon — Laying to: Squadron in company 4 leagues N E b N ½ N from Tripoly.

Winds moderate from N E b E. Ships head to N N W.

Depth of water 34 fath<sup>s</sup> hard bottom.

Made this forenoon the *Enterprise* Signal N<sup>o</sup> 600 & the general Signal N<sup>o</sup> 605.

Latitude Observed 33° 3' N.

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

Extract from journal of William Eaton, U. S. Navy Agent for the Barbary Regencies, 28 July 1804

[On board U. S. Frigate *President*.] 28 — Saturday. Constant head winds.

At 12 oclock, signal from the *Congress*, discovered Madeira

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

Extract from journal kept by Purser John Darby, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. S *John Adams*, Master Commandant Isaac Chauncey, U. S. Navy, commanding, Saturday, 28 July 1804

[Manuscript mutilated] this morning about 8 Oclock found the Ship to be. close in with the Barbary shore. off Cape Tennis [?] in Lat. 36. 35 N Long. 1. 12. E. distance from Algiers [space] Miles at Meridian Cape Coxine bore E S E 8 or 9. leagues Cape [word illegible] S W. Distance about 5 or 6. Leagus. at Six Oclock in the Evening all hands was ordered to quarters. this is done to give the men practice & to let them know their stations —

[NDA original. Miss Camilla S. McConnell.]

Extract from journal of Midshipman F. Cornelius deKrafft, U. S. Navy, in U. S. Brig *Siren* of 18 guns, Master Commandant Charles Stewart, U. S. Navy, commanding, Saturday, 28 July 1804

Light breezes & pleas<sup>t</sup> in Co: with the fleet At 2 came too with the larboard bower in 24 fathoms, same time all the squadron came too Tripoli bore S S E 2 leagues. At 7 the Commodore made signal to get under way, hove up made sail & stood to the N W<sup>d</sup> at 9 made sail. —

Latt: Obs: 33° 7' N.

[NDA.]

Extract from journal of U. S. Brig *Argus*, Master Commandant Isaac Hull, U. S. Navy, commanding, Sunday, 29 July 1804

the Commodore and Squadron in Comp<sup>y</sup> hoisted out the launch and Sent her on board the Store Ship for Provisions At ½ past 4 Tripoli bore South Dist<sup>t</sup> 4 leagues Received Sundry provisions from the Store Ship set and took in Sail as Necessary at 5 AM the Commod<sup>r</sup> made Sig<sup>t</sup> N<sup>o</sup> 1260 Wore to the Southw<sup>d</sup> and Westward

[NDA photostat.]

Extract from journal kept on board the U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, by Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, Sunday, 29 July 1804

Wind N E, lying to with the squadron, discharging the Store ship, Tripoly bearing S S W dis<sup>t</sup> 4 Leagues, the sea too rough to approach the Town with our Bombs, or Gun Boats, at 7 pm closed the Squadron. Tripoly in sight bearing S ½ W 6 Leagues Hoisted our Boats in, lay to all night wind strong from E b S. and a very rough sea. the Weather we have experienced for several days past has been uncommonly tempestuous for the season, at 5 am made the signal to wear ship & bring to the wind on the Larbord tack, we wore and 3<sup>d</sup> Reef'd the Topsails, Wind S E b E. at 10 AM land about Tripoly in sight S b E 5 or 6 Leagues dis<sup>t</sup> at 11 the wind abated took the store ship in tow to facil[i]tate the discharging her cargo, Brought to with the Squadron, sent Boats with Officers & men to assist furnishing the necessary supplies for the men of war. at noon wind E b S strong breezes Observed in Lat<sup>d</sup> 33° 9' N<sup>o</sup> suppose Tripoly to bear S<sup>o</sup> 5 Leagues, but the Atmosphere so close & thick that we cannot see the land. —

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

Extract from log book kept by Sailing Master Nathaniel Haraden, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Sunday, 29 July 1804

At Sun set bore up & ran a mile to the N W. in Order to close the Squadron & take up our boat At this time Tripoli was in sight from the Tops bearing by compass. S ½ W. nearly 8 leagues — At 8 p. m. in large cutter which has been employed carrying shot & powder to the Gun boats & bombards — The two bombards are towed by the *Constitution* — Two Gun boats by the *Argus*, *Syren* one, *Nautilus* one, *Vixen* one, & *Enterprize* one —

Lay to (with strong breezes from E b S. & a rough Sea) during the night for the ease of the Gun boats — At 5 A. M. Made signal for the Squadron to wear, & come to the wind on the larboard tack —

Latitude Observed 33° 9' N.

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

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

[On board U. S. Frigate *President*.] 29. Beat within 3 miles of Funchal, the capital of the Island —

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

Extract from journal of U. S. Frigate *John Adams*, Master Commandant Isaac Chauncey, U. S. Navy, commanding, Sunday, 29 July 1804

First Part of these 24 Hours fresh Breezes and Pleasant — At 4 P. M. the City of Algiers in Sight Hoisted our Colours with the Union Jack at the Fore, and fired a Gun as a Signal for the Consul in 15 Minutes fired a Second Gun — soon after saw the American Colours hoisted at a House in the Country, therefore fired Signal Guns every half Hour to signify to the Consul that I wished Dispatch — half past 5 saw a Boat leave the Mole with the American Colours hoisted — At 6 Col<sup>l</sup> Lear the American Consul General resident at Algiers came alongside; but before I permitted him to come on board, I asked him if he cou'd not do his Business with me without putting the Ship in Quarantine as I thought it a Matter of some Consequence to keep the Ship from Quarantine if Possible as I had Stores for the Squadron, and the Commodore might want immediate Communication — he however answered me that his Coming on board was indispensable for he shou'd take Passage with me to Malta — I therefore permitted him to come on board and saluted him with seven Guns — it was then too late for him to return to the Shore, he therefore sent in his Boat and Drogarman on Shore, and stayed with me all Night — Col Lear then desired me to anchor as he cou'd not get ready in less than 48 Hours — At  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 10 anchored with Starboard Bower in 21 Fathom Water the light on the Marine bearing N W. Dist 3 Miles Cape Metaphor E b S. — furl'd sails and set the Watch — At sun rise the Castle fired a Salute of 21 Guns which we answered with the same Number — At 6 got the Barge out and Col. Lear and myself went on Shore; on our Landing they saluted me with 5 Guns which was answered from the Ship with the same Number — Waited on the Minister of Marine, who received us very graciously and treated us with Coffee, and offered any Assistance that we stood in Need of — took our leave and went to the Councillor House where the Prime Minister soon sent his Comp<sup>ts</sup> with permission to take off any Thing we stood in need of — The Dey was at his Garden in the Country therefore did not see him — Ends with fresh Breezes from the N E. and fine Weather. Wind West.

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

Extract from journal kept by Purser John Darby, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. S. *John Adams*, Master Commandant Isaac Chauncey, U. S. Navy, commanding, Sunday, 29 July 1804

This day commenced with pleasant [manuscript mutilated] light breezes. I got up about 8 O'clock [manuscript mutilated] and dressing. all hands was mustered found at Meridian by observation that we were about 30 miles from the Town of Algiers. about half past four we discovered the town and the breeze increasing we came up with it very fast. about five we fired a gun and discovered the American

Flag flying on. the Top of our Consuls Country house which is about three Miles from the Town house. and about a mile and a half from the sea shore Near the top of the Mountain. Capt. Chauncey being very desirous for the Consul to come off immediately, having a fine fresh breeze and fare, and wishing to proceed on to Malta as fast as possible, provided it was not necessary for him to detain us — he continued to fire [manuscript mutilated] we got in oposite the Mole where [manuscript mutilated] and nearly abreast of the Deys pallace we hove the ship in stays fired a gun and Stood off[f] and on. a short time afterwards we discovered a gally rowing off[f] with 16 oars & the American flag. flying in the bow of it. which was a signal to us that our Consul was onboard. When the boat had got about half way off we recognized the Consul with our Glasses. there being several of us who were pursonally acquainted with him. — He was attended with three of the Deys Officers. Cap<sup>t</sup> Chauncey spoke to the Consul before he came on board and requested that. he would not come on board unless he thought it absolutely necessary as he wou'd compel us to perform quarentine. when we arrived at Malta. by having any communication with the Barbary Shore. he informed the Captain that it was absolutely necessary for him to come on board he [manuscript mutilated] came on board and [manuscript mutilated] We came to [manuscript mutilated] bay at half [past] 10 Oclock. in 21 fathoms of Water [manuscript mutilated] Algiers bearing N W by N  $\frac{1}{2}$  N

[NDA original. Miss Camilla S. McConnell.]

To Captain Samuel Barron, U. S. Navy, Commodore of U. S. Squadron in the Mediterranean, from Tobias Lear, U. S. Consul General, Algiers

ALGIERS, July 30<sup>th</sup> 1804.

SIR, In a letter which I had the honor to receive from the Secretary of State, by Capt Chauncy, of the U. S. Frigate *John Adams*, I was informed of Your appointment to command our Squadron in this sea, and that you would, at a proper time, send for me if a negociation should be opened at Tripoli. I assure you, Sir, it will give me great satisfaction to co-operate with you in this business so interesting to our Country, and will be ready to go up whenever you may send. I would suggest the good effect it might have to send more than one Vessel here, if it can be done without injury to the service.

At present we *appear* to stand well here. As I cannot detain Capt Chauncy one moment more than is necessary, I hope you will pardon the brevity of this letter, and be assured of the high respect & esteem with which \* \* \*

[Mrs. James S. Barron original; and Stephen Decatur Col., Book A.]

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

U. S. SHIP *John Adams*  
Algiers Bay 30<sup>th</sup> July 1804

SIR I have the honor of informing you that I arrived here Yesterday in a passage of 3 Days from Gibralter, on my approaching the Bay, I made the signal for the Consul which was answered, and Col<sup>l</sup> Lear came on board about 6 °Clock in the Evening, but previous to



my admitting him on board I asked him if his Bussiness was such, that it was requisite to put me in Quarantine as I thought it might be of Importance for me to have immediate Communication on my Arrival at Malta, he told me that he shou'd proceed to Malta with me, therefore desired me to anchor, and he wou'd be ready to depart in 48 Hours, I accordingly anchored; but when Colonel Lear perused his Dispatches from Government, he told me that he found that it was unnecessary for him to go to Malta at that Time, but wou'd dispatch me as soon as he cou'd go on Shore and write to Commodore Preble, and enclose him Copies of some Communications that he wished to make, I therefore waited untill 5 P. M. when I received his Dispatches and got under Way for Malta,

[NDA. MC LB, 1804-5.]

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To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from Tobias Lear, U. S. Consul General,  
Algiers

ALGIERS July 30<sup>th</sup> 1804.

DEAR SIR I have but barely time, by this opportunity to acknowledge the receipt of your acceptable favor of the 19<sup>th</sup> of June with its enclosures, and to assure you its contents shall be attended to. — As I have nothing special to communicate from this place, and Capt<sup>n</sup> Chauncely can inform you of every thing from hence, I sh<sup>d</sup> not have occasion for a long letter. — I must sincerely pray that you may have effected your Object at Tripoli before *this* time. — I know to a mind of sensibility like your's how it must feel, in not having it in your power to accomplice so glorious an undertaking as you have commened, while you may be in the Chief Command; if it sh<sup>d</sup> not be done before the arrival of Commodore Barron: But I know also, my dear Sir, that your Patriotism will conquer your personal feelings when you consider that the force sent out could *not* have been equip'd without employing the Old Commanders.

I have rec<sup>d</sup> orders from home to repair to Tripoli whenever the Comma[n]der shall inform me that there is a prospect of Negotiation, and shall hold myself in readiness accordingly

Capt<sup>n</sup> Chauncy will inform you of the state of things here, which so far as relates to us, is still favorable and will therefore only add, that I hope shortly to have the happiness of a personal interview.

M<sup>rs</sup> Lear send her best regards & wishes for your health, happiness & prosperity, in which she is most cordially joined by me

P. S. I take the liberty to enclose a Letter for M<sup>r</sup> OBrien, w<sup>h</sup> you will be so good as to deliver if he is with you; if not please to direct it to him wherever he may be. —

[Stephen Decatur Col. NDA photostat, Book A.]

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To Captain William Bainbridge, U. S. Navy, from Tobias Lear, U. S. Consul General,  
Algiers

ALGIERS July 30<sup>th</sup> 1804

MY DEAR SIR I have but a moment to acknowledge the rec<sup>t</sup> of your welcome favors of the 3<sup>d</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> of April & 20<sup>th</sup> of May; and to tell you how glad I was to learn that you were in health. — I hope, ere this something has been done to releive your situation; or if not that it will be shortly done

I can only add, in the moment of hurry that I pray God to keep & bless you, and to assure you that *you & our unfortunate fellow Citize[n]s shall not be forgotten by me*

M<sup>r</sup> Lear sends her best regards & wishes united with those of, my dear Bainbridge,  
Your Sincere friend,

TOBIAS LEAR. —

[Stephen Decatur Col. NDA photostat, Book A.]

To Richard O'Brien, from Tobias Lear, U. S. Consul General, Algiers

ALGIERS, July 30<sup>th</sup> 1804

DEAR SIR I have but one moment to acknowledge the rec<sup>t</sup> of your acceptable letter of the 19<sup>th</sup> of June, and the interesting detail of your audience with the Bashaw of Tripoli. — Things remain here as when I wrote you last, as relates to our affairs. It is *thought* that the British affaires are in a train of settlement. M<sup>r</sup> M<sup>r</sup>Donough has been here twice, and is said to have gone to London. I think it probable I may have the pleasure to See you before you leave this part of the World

The French Lady & Children have gone to France. The Dutch Consul is very sick. Every thing else in the Consular line as when you left us.

I enclose a duplicate rec<sup>t</sup> for the Articles you left in my hands.

We were very glad to hear of the health of M<sup>r</sup> OBrien, and your fine Children, which we pray God to preserve. M<sup>r</sup> Lear unites with me in best wishes for you & them, as do all our family.

RICHARD OBRIEN Esq<sup>t</sup>

P. S. I wrote you on the 8<sup>th</sup> of June, via Tunis.

[Stephen Decatur Col. NDA photostat, Book A.]

Extract from journal of U. S. Brig *Argus*, Master Commandant Isaac Hull, U. S. Navy, commanding, Monday, 30 July 1804

[Off Tripoli] at 4 Cap<sup>t</sup> Hull went on board the Commod<sup>r</sup> rec<sup>d</sup> Water from the Victualler at ½ past 6 Cap<sup>t</sup> Hull returned on board hoisted in the launch at ½ past 7 filled Away and wore Ship to the Northw<sup>d</sup> & Eastward set & took in Sail Occasionally at 11 backed the the main Yard for the Commodore to Come up at ½ past wore Ship to the Southward —

[NDA photostat.]

Extract from journal kept on board the U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, by Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, Monday, 30 July 1804

Wind E S E. Moderate but a heavy swell, the Boats of the Squadron Employd in discharging the store ship, but the sea so rough as to render our progress rather slow, sent fuses Clay putty qu[i]ck match for the shells on board the Bombs, and shott on board the different Vessels to which the Gun Boats are attach'd, at 7 pm it blew a fresh gale cast off the store ship & in Boats, filled away to the Southward at 8 pm wore with the squadron & stood to the N N E wind East, under double reef'd Sails, stood off all night at 5 AM wore to the Northward & stood for the land wind from East to S E Variable. at Noon obs<sup>d</sup> in Lat<sup>d</sup> 33° 10' N° — Tripoly bearing S b E, 6 Leagues dis<sup>t</sup>

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

Extract from journal of U. S. Frigate *John Adams*, Master Commandant Isaac Chauncey, U. S. Navy, commanding, Monday, 30 July 1804

Fresh Breezes from the N. E and pleasant Weather At 6 P. M. embarked from the Marine, Col. Lear having informed me that he had received such Information from America that superceded the Necessity of his going to Malta, therefore I was at Liberty to depart when I thought proper — he delivered me his Dispatches for Commodore Preble, and I embarked for the Ship — On my stepping into the Boat I was again saluted with five Guns which was returned by the Ship; this Practise of Saluting Captains of Men of War appears to be invariable and they conceive it as a Marked Insult if it is not instantly answered At  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 7 weigh'd and made Sail with the Wind at E. N. E which is Dead in the Bay — At 11 A. M. a light Breeze from the Northward & Westward — Received from Col. Lear Yesterday a Quantity of Stock and Vegetables — Kill'd a Beef for People's Use. Wind Variable

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

Extract from journal kept by Purser John Darby, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. S. *John Adams*, Master Commandant Isaac Chauncey, U. S. Navy, commanding, Monday, 30 July 1804

[Manuscript mutilated] about sunrise this morning. the ship passed nearly oposite the Deys palace which is a few miles to the eastward of the Town [Algiers]. at sunrise we were saluted with 21 rounds from the Deys Grand battery. We immediately returned the salute after which. Capt. Chauncey invited Doct<sup>r</sup> Griffin and myself to go on shore with him & the Consul. We went on shore and on our landing we were conducted to the General of Marines place of residence which is a large Castle situated immediately on the Mole. We walked up under a la[r]ge covered way with our hats off. when we arrived at the outer court or large Saloon. we were seated on benches covered with rich carpets. immediately afterward the General of Marine made his appearance and after seating himself on a rich sofia in the Turkis fashion. with his feet drawn up under him, we were introduced to him [manuscript mutilated] Captain Chauncey shook hands [manuscript mutilated] myself only made our bow. [manuscript mutilated] General of Marine asked a few questions such as [manuscript mutilated] any News and what Vessels we had seen on our passage. and how many days passage &C. after this Coffee was served up to us in fine china Cups. set in gold baskets and a fine Napkin spread in our laps. — after Coffee the Napkins were taken from us and a few minutes afterwards they ha[n]ded each of us a Goblet of Sherbet & presented us with another fine Napkin. the Consul being engaged in conversation with the General and not Noticing the Servant holding the Goblet of sherbet to him. we were at a loss to know what to do with it. Capt. Chauncey supposed from their handing a napkin with it, that it was intended for us to wash our hands in, and diped his fingers in it. but the servant made signs that we were to drink it. he then drank some of it [manuscript mutilated] We drank but very little. which the General of Marine observed and mentioned it. we observed to him that we had drank. a sufficiency of it —

We set about 20 Minutes longer, when we all rose, except the General of Marine who kept his seat. the Consul bid the General of

M[ar]jine good morning we followed his example by bowing we then walked out of the covered way with our hats off until we had cleared the entrance we then put our hats on and walked up through the City to the Consular Town house. which is situated nearly in the Middle of the Town. We were preceded by the Consuls Drogerman. who went before us to announce our approach and to make every person give way to us. We arrived at the Consuls house about 9 O'clock We entered a covered way which lead to the street about 30 feet [manuscript mutilated] M<sup>r</sup> Mumford & M<sup>r</sup> Hendley [manuscript mutilated] and a Midshipman in the United States [manuscript mutilated] a Turkish officer who was the Consuls [manuscript mutilated] we were introduced to them. and after setting a little while we were invited into the dining room — to breakfast where we had breakfast served up in the American stile with the addition of Red wine & fruit, Orrenges, Water mellons Musk mellons & dates —

After breakfast. the Consul took us through the different parts of the house to shew us the stile which it was built in — after viewing the house and some of the curiosities of the country which he had collected we were invited to go to the Consuls Summer house, that being about three Miles from the town house we were to ride — and each of us was provided with a mule, there being but one horse which belonged to the Consul which he insisted on Capt. Chaunceys riding, the Mules were saddled and caparisoned after the Turkish stile — [manuscript mutilated] we proceeded in this manner to the Consuls Country house in what is called with us, Indian file the streets being so narrow as not to permit two persons to ride abreast so as to leave room for one person to pass who was going the reverse way and many places not wide enough for that. after we left the town the road by which we assended the mountain was only a single trace and we were very often on the very Margin of the mountain not more than Twelve Inches space for the Mules to pass and below us was a precipice of at least Two hundred feet deep — as we passed along the streets the walls was lined with the natives viewing of us. We no doubt. attracted as much curiosity in them as they no doubt would have done had they have been in our Country and indeed had we have been in our own country and in one of our populus cities mounted in the manner which we were we shou'd have attracted the attention and curiosity [manuscript mutilated] the officer and our approach announced and they were compeled to give us the way and if the passage was not broad enough so as to admit of our passing they were compeled to turn back at the risk of their lives to a place sufficiently wide for our passing. —

When we arrived at. the consuls country house two Mooreish servants. (who had run all the way on foot after us.) attended us one to hold the Mule and the other to take our feet out of the sturrup, we were then conducted in to the Consuls house. which was a very elegant building situated on the side of the Mountain over looking the whole town and harbour the House has four Wings which strike of[f] at right angles. from the Main Wall which forms a large spacious court. in the center, open from top to bottom [manuscript mutilated] the Doctor & myself were introduced [manuscript mutilated] Capt. Chauncey being well acquainted with her before she and the Consul took us by the hand and expressed their Joy at seeing us there desired us to consider ourselves as at home. We were then conducted into a sitting room which frunted the sea, and seated our selves on sofa's

there being one on each side of the room & end, the floors are all laid with tile or marble. soon after we were seated. spirit and different kinds of wine was placed on a side Table and we were requested by Col<sup>o</sup> Lear to help our selves to what ever we preferred. when ever we choose and not to wait for a second invitation. We thanked him and assured him that we shou'd do so. & helped ourselves to some red wine & Water — M<sup>rs</sup> Lear is a fine handsome sweet little woman. possessing a fine lively disposition, and an easy elegant soft manners & person. she was borned near Williamsburg in Virginia a Daughter of M<sup>r</sup> Hendley [manuscript mutilated] beautiful orring grove leading to [manuscript mutilated] were not fully ripe, the orranges & Lemons were half grown. from there we went to his stable where he shewed us a fine Barb Horse. crossed with the Arabian blood. which was presented to him by the Dey of Algiers. and said to be the finest that ever was given to any of the Consuls: he was between three & four years old and upwards of fifteen hands high, from this we retired to the house went through every appartment of it and on the Terrace which over looks the town and into the Sea. — we then returned into the siting room. and loll'd on the Sofas and entertained ourselves in conversation. on various subjects. soon after the Sweedish Consul came in we were introduced to him. he asked some questions and soon entered into familiar conversation with us as he Spoke the English Language very well [manuscript mutilated] Dinner was announced [manuscript mutilated] conducted into the dining room [manuscript mutilated] excellent Dinner served up. [manuscript mutilated] Most choice meats fish and Vegetables which the country affords & the most choice wine after the cloth was removed we had all the delicious fruits of the season. Mellons. Pears apples. Dates grapes. raisins plums, figs. &C. —

I had like to have forgot to mention a Portugease officer who we found at Col<sup>o</sup> Lears. he was a prisoner and what is caled a christian slave to the Dey — he was permitted to reside in Col<sup>o</sup> Lears family and the other officers who was taken with him were distributed amongs<sup>t</sup> the other Christian Consuls. but. they are all some times ordered out to Work. when ever the Dey takes a freek in his head to do so. he was a very modist Genteel Man. and was treated with the utmost respect and attention. by Col<sup>o</sup> Lear & his Lady. We also saw two Neapolitan Women who was [manuscript mutilated] we rose from Table. took [manuscript mutilated] Col<sup>o</sup> Lear and the Sweedish Consul & Portugeas officer. [manuscript mutilated] Col<sup>o</sup> Lear accompanied us into Town. we went through all the same seremony in returning which we did in going. we stoped at the Consuls Town house. where we purchased a few Curiosities of the country which we had requested the Drogerman to have collected for us. It is necessary to observe here that the. Drogerman. never leaves the Town house except when he accompanys the Consul on foot and is his chief man in all official matters. after purchasing what curiosities we wanted. and geting our Bill of the Stock &c sent off for us. we left the Town House and walked down to the Marine. accompanied by the Consul & M<sup>r</sup> Mumford, his Secretary. preceeded by the Drogerman. when we arrived on [manuscript mutilated] he returned in a minute & informed us [manuscript mutilated] embark as soon as we pleased — [manuscript mutilated] the Consul M<sup>r</sup> Mumford & the Drogerman farewell and the moment we staped into the boat. they fired a salute of five

guns from the Battery which was answered gun for gun. from our ship we got on board the ship about 6 O'clock and immediately go[t] the ship under way for Malta. —

I have now to say something of the Town of Algiers. the appearance of the Sallirs [?] their dress habit customs &C. so fare as I cou'd form an opinion from small oppertunity which I had — the first part of which. that is to say the Geographical part I must borrow from Books. Gazetteer. Algiers is a Kingdom of Affrica. bounded on the E. by the Kingdom of Tunis on the N. by the Mediterranean Sea on the South by. Mount Atlas and on the W. by the Kingdom of Morocco [manuscript mutilated] The Kingdom is divided into three provinces. Namely Flemsan on the W. Titterie on the S. and Constantia on the E. of the City of Algiers

The Turks. who have the Government. in their hands are not above 7000 in Number as yet the Moores or natives of Affrica have no share in it. It is only a kind of Republic under the Protection of the Grand Signior who keeps a Bashaw or Viceroy there but he can do nothing of himself without the council of the Imissaries. the Arabs. who live in tents are a distinct people. governed by their own laws and Magistrates. though the Turks interpose as often as they please. the Dey of Algiers is an absolute Monarch but elected by the Turkish Soldiers and frequently deposed and put to death by them. they have Murdered four of their Deys. and deposed Two with in the space of Twenty years. the Revenues of [manuscript mutilated] the Dey has several [manuscript mutilated] Moores in his service both horse and foot. and the Deys or Viceroy's of the provinces have each an army under his command, their Religion is Mehometanism and their Language a dialect of the Arabic. they have likewise a Jargon composed of Italian French and Spanish called Lingua Franca that is understood by the common people and merch<sup>ts</sup> the complexion of the Natives is tawny and they are strong and well made — The Town of Algiers is the Capital of the Kingdom. large and well built and now strongly fortified. It is built on the Declivity of a mountain and is in the form of an amphitheatre next the harbour, in so much that the houses appearing one above another make a very fine appearance from the Sea. the Roofs of the houses are all flat. for which reason they walk upon them in the evening to take the air. besides they are covered with earth and serve for a sort of garden [manuscript mutilated] extremely narrow and serve to keep off [manuscript mutilated] heat of the sun the houses project [manuscript mutilated] forms a kind of arch. & there is only [manuscript mutilated] for one Mule to pass another. The Mole of the harbour is 500 paces in length extending from the continent to a small Island. where there is a castle and a large Battery of guns. the Island is now united to the main land by an emence labour having filed the passage up with stone. the Number of inhabitants are said to consist of 100.000 Mahometans. 1500 Jews. and 2000 Christian Slaves. chiefly Neapolitans. & Portugeas, their chief subsistance is derived from their Piracies for they make Prizes of all Christian ships who are not at Peace with them — The country about the Town of Algiers is adorned with gardens and fine Villas Watered With fountains and rivulets and thither the inhabitants who can afford it resort in the hot season. On the West of the Town stands an elegant country Seat and garden where the late Dey resided. on the east of The Town stands the Pallace & Gardens

of the Present Dey where he resides in the hot season [manuscript mutilated] Grand Battery stand to the Eastw<sup>d</sup> [manuscript mutilated] there was four frigates laying one of them was the *Creasant* which was given to them by the United States. another was a Portugees frigate which they had taken. they had also laying there several Xebecks. & gallys. they had a very large 44 Gun frigate on the stocks. which. about. half finished they compeled the Portugees & other Christian Slaves to work on her. It was Capt. Chaunceys opinion that she would be a very fine ship, — the Moores & Turks all wear Turburns. linen shirts with open sleeves the arms naked. a kind Petty coat. Trowsers reaching to the Knee, the legs & feet bare with a slipper down at the heel and under Jacket buttoned & belted round them. the Mooreish women which we saw were of the meaner kind. they had Linen drawers on reaching to their ancles. slip shod a piece of white cotton Cloth thrown over their head & shoulders reaching down nearly to their knees They [manuscript mutilated] like a caul over their face only shewing their eyes and the upper part of their nose which to us was a frightful appearance the Jews & Jeweses are all drest in Black the Jeweses shew their faces & I saw one that was a handsom woman. The Turkish women are never seen. when they ride out. they have a kind of a Box built up on a Mule which they sit in which prevents their being seen — The Mooreish women are considered even by their Husbands nothing more than slaves, and the Jewish married women do all the Menial services in their own familys as they are none of them admited to have servants let their fortune be what it will and their daughters are brought up in the same way —

[NDA original. Miss Camilla S. McConnell.]

Extract from journal kept on board the U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, by Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, Tuesday, 31 July 1804

Wind E S E to N E very Variable and a rough sea Standing to the Southward by the Wind, under double Reef'd Topsails, Squadron all in sight, at 1 p m saw the City of Tripoly bearing S b E  $\frac{1}{2}$  E dis<sup>t</sup> 5 Leagues. — Stood in S<sup>e</sup> with the Wind E S E until 4 pm. then wore ship to the Northward, Tripoly S S E 3 Leagues at  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 6 pm the Wind shifted to the N E b N & blew a gale, split our Fore Sail & Main Topsail, send down Top Gall<sup>t</sup> Yards and made the signal for the Squadron to do the same Unbent the split Sails, and brought others to the Yards, by 8 pm we were under a Reef'd Fore Sail & close Reef'd M<sup>o</sup> Top Sail the Wind blowing very heavy, and a rough sea. from 8 pm to 2 AM the Wind veer'd round gradually to the S E until it got to E b S. then shifted suddenly in a squall to the N N E, stood to the N W until day light then wore to the S E. and made more sail the Squadron all in sight but much scattered at noon wind N E b E. steering S E b E. —

Lat<sup>d</sup> Obs<sup>d</sup> 33° 18' N<sup>o</sup> Tripoly bearing by calculation S S E  $\frac{1}{4}$  E 28 Miles, I ordered the Fore Sail & M<sup>o</sup> Top Sail which were split last night to [be] ripped out of the Bolt-rope, and turnd into the Sail maker as old Canvas, considering them not trustworthy. —

[LC. EPP, Vol. 12, June–August 1804.]

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

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

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

At Midnight strong gales from the Eastward.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

NAVY DEPM<sup>t</sup> 1 Aug<sup>t</sup> 1804.

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