

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

**Volume V  
Part 3 of 3**

**Naval Operations  
including diplomatic background  
from September 7, 1804 through April 1805**

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To Secretary of the Navy from Lieutenant James Lawrence, U. S. Navy

NEW YORK *March 1<sup>st</sup> [1805]*

SIR I have the honour to inform you that I arrived in the *John Adams* after an absence of upwards of three Years — as some material alterations have taken place in the family during my absence, I shall esteeme it a particular favour if you will grant me permission to visit my friends for a month, should the *John Adams* not go to Washington, — you will much oblige me by allowing the Agent at this place or Purser to pay my account with the *Enterprize*, as I am much in want of money and have none and have none due from this ship the account is approved by Capt<sup>r</sup> Decatur —

[NDA. Officers LB, 1802-1805.]

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

*Constitution MALTA*  
*March 1<sup>st</sup> 1805*

SIR I have the honor to make known to you that the *Constitution* is provisioned & ready for sea — She waits your orders

[Mrs. James S. Barron Col.]

To Captain William Bainbridge, U. S. Navy, from Captain John Rodgers, U. S. Navy

U. S. SHIP *Constitution*  
*Malta March [1] 1805*

MY DEAR SIR By this Vessel which brings you some Clothing &c, is the first opportunity I have had of dropping you a line since I left America, as I was but about three Weeks on this coast during the command of the *Congress*; since which, and since my command of the *Constitution*, I have the greater part of my time, been to the Westward. — I am now only thirty three days from Lisbon, from whence I wrote M<sup>rs</sup> Bainbridge; having heard through Commodore Barron, a few Days previous to my leaving Syracuse, 30<sup>th</sup> November, that you were well, about three Weeks prior to that date — Altho I am last from a quarter you might expect news from, America; I am sorry I cant afford you that pleasure; as the only thing new or interesting, is that two Brigs have been launched and the Keels of two 74<sup>s</sup> laid since the departure of the late Squadron. — Shaw commands one of the Brigs. —

I have seen the Presidents last speech to Congress, but it contained nothing particular or interesting. —

Chance has placed you in a situation which requires patience and fortitude to withstand! fortitude I know you possess and patience you must summons to her aid *a little longer* — The Officers of every denomination in the Squadron, participate in your sufferings, every nerve will be exerted in your behalf, and every face will beam with pleasure the Day that Fate shall decree you & your fellow suffers free Men. PATIENCE! Pray make my regards to Mess<sup>rs</sup> Porter & Renshaw, and be pleased to inform M<sup>r</sup> Renshaw that his friends in Philad<sup>a</sup> are well, as also those of M<sup>r</sup> Gibbon in Washington & Virginia — I have sent two Trunks containing wearing apparel — One for Doct<sup>r</sup> Ridgely & M<sup>r</sup> Harwood & the other for M<sup>r</sup> Gibbon, which were sent out from Washington in the *Congress* — These Trunks,

when it was determined I should remain on the Gibraltar station, I had put on board the *Constellation*, which after my arrival in this quarter, I took back again, but have not had an opportunity of forwarding them sooner —

With sentiments of regard & hoping ere long to have the pleasure of shaking you by the hand, I am very respectfully

P. S. Commodore Barron has been very ill, but is recovering fast. — J. R.

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

To William Eaton, U. S. Navy Agent for the Barbary Regencies, from Samuel Briggs,  
British Consul, Alexandria, Egypt

ALEXANDRIA 1<sup>st</sup> March 1805

SIR On receipt of the letter you did me the honor to address me under date of the 27 Feb<sup>r</sup> I intimated to M<sup>r</sup> R. Farquhar, to render a regular & just Account of the Expenditures of the Cash you advanced him for the service of the United States. — and as he has signified his intention of complying with that Order, & has since been wholly engaged in making up his Accounts, I hope it will prove unnecessary to take any compulsory measures against him — particularly as he asserts, that on a fair statement of his Acc<sup>ts</sup> it will appear that his expenditures have exceeded his Receipts & consequently that a Balance is forthcoming to him. This will be ascertained on production of the Acc<sup>ts</sup> which I expect will be deliver'd in, either this Evening or to morrow morn<sup>g</sup>

[H. E. Huntington L&AG, EA 44.]

[1 March 1805]

Muster Roll of men engaged for the service of the United States under William Eaton, U. S. Navy Agent for the Barbary Regencies

*Muster Roll Of Men Engaged for the Service of the United States*

Cairo 1804 Decem <sup>r</sup>		<i>Names</i>	<i>Rank</i>
No more than six men were reported to me at Cairo W. EATON	22	Eugine	Offic <sup>r</sup>
	23	Johana Tedesh	D <sup>o</sup>
	25	Romano	D <sup>o</sup>
	"	Deboa	D <sup>o</sup>
	"	Mustafá	D <sup>o</sup>
	"	Tambore	Private
	"	Joseph	"
	"	Abraham	"
	"	Abauof	"
	"	Sapin	"
1805 Roseta Jan <sup>r</sup>	3	Johan Tudre	Cap <sup>r</sup>
No more than three men can be borne on this roll as officers —	"	Dematre	Private
	"	Cristo	"
	"	Joseph	"
	4	Johan	"
	"	Vaselia	"
	"	Paolo	"
	5	Rocco	Offic <sup>r</sup>
	"	Giorgi	Private
	6	Cap <sup>r</sup> Luca	Offic <sup>r</sup>
	8	Luca Valenu	Private
	"	Spiro	"
	"	Johana	"
	"	Andria	"
	"	Cosma	"
No men by these names were engaged as officers at Cairo	8	Spiro 2 <sup>d</sup>	Private
	"	Giorgi	D <sup>o</sup>
	"	Michel	D <sup>o</sup>
	"	Giorgi Gago	D <sup>o</sup>
	"	Anastasi	"
	"	Danul	"
	"	Johana 2 <sup>d</sup>	"
	"	Cosma 2 <sup>d</sup>	"
"	Frane[u]? Giov <sup>r</sup> Milano	"	
1805 Alex <sup>r</sup> Jan <sup>r</sup>	11	Constanti Bart	Offic <sup>r</sup>
	19	Natal Marha	Private
	"	Spiro	"
	"	Petro	"
	"	Constantin	"
	"	Constantin 2 <sup>d</sup>	"
	"	Danele	"
	"	Cosmo	"
	"	Dimitri	"
	"	Dimitri 2 <sup>d</sup>	"
	"	Giorgi	"
	"	Pietro	"
	"	Giorgi	"
	"	Jerasimo	"

Alexandria March 1<sup>st</sup> 1805 RICH<sup>d</sup> FARQUHAR

Extract from journal of Surgeon Jonathan Cowdery, U. S. Navy, 1 March 1805

An American frigate appeared off the harbour. The Turks were all at their quarters, and were manning their gun boats.

The Bashaw was preparing an armament to go against some of his refractory tribes on the borders of Egypt.

[L.C. Rare Books, *American Captives in Tripoli or Dr. Cowdery's Journal*, Boston, 1806.]

Extract from journal of Hezekiah Loomis, Steward, U. S. Navy, in U. S. Brig *Vixen*, Master Commandant John Smith, U. S. Navy, commanding, Friday, 1 March 1805

Malta. This morning pleasant. We got underway at half past 8 o'clock and steered for the west point of Malta. Fresh breeze. On a cruise off Cape Bon Tripoli.

[L. F. Middlebrook. NDA copy.]

[2 March 1805]

[Note:—On the 2d March 1805, Robert Smith was appointed Attorney General and Jacob Crowninshield was appointed Secretary of the Navy. Both declined these appointments and Robert Smith was continued as Secretary of the Navy until the end of Thomas Jefferson's administration or until January 1809.]

To Doctor Samuel Brown, Lexington, Kentucky, from Secretary of the Navy

NAV DEP<sup>t</sup>

2 Mar 1805

M<sup>r</sup> Brown & M<sup>r</sup> Breckenridge of the Senate have informed me that you manufacture Gun powder of excellent quality — & they presume that you are disposed to make a contract for supplying a quantity for public use —

We have our powder put up in Barrels to contain 100 <sup>lbs</sup> each — & for navy use we require  $\frac{9}{10}$  to be cannon &  $\frac{1}{10}$  to be priming powder The Barrels are made very strong & Substantial and hooped with Copper hoops —

Will you be pleased to inform me on what terms, and by what period of time you would engage to furnish for the use of our navy a quantity of powder, deliverable either at this place or at Norfolk Virginia —

I will here inform you that the powder which we have generally used in the Navy has been materially defective in one respect — that I am very desirous of removing this defect — and I ask your aid to enable me to do it — The defect complained of is its imbibing a moisture in the course of a short cruise, which destroys all its active & efficient qualities From what cause this defect has proceeded we are yet uncertain — A Gentleman of Very considerable science has stated to me on this Subject that this defect ought not to be ascribed to the carbonic or sulphureous ingredients used in making the powder, because the Preparation of these ingredients is extremely plain & Simple and they do not possess the power of attracting moisture from the atmosphere in any memorable degree — The evil therefore must be supposed to exist in the Salt petre — the component parts of which have not been generally pure or if pure they have not been compounded in due proportion —

The beds in Kentucky from which Salt petre is taken are I am told remarkably free from lime — and I understand that the Salt Petre is of very superior quality — I therefore indulge the hope that you will be able to remedy the defect which we have heretofore experienced — It is from this expectation & a desire to encourage the domestic manufacture of the Very important article of powder that I now address you —

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

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Extract from journal of U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Captain John Rodgers, U. S. Navy commanding, Saturday, 2 March 1805

[Malta] At 6 [A. M.] cast off] the stern fasts from The shore at 7 weigh,d and made Sail at 8 the town of Malta Bore west the S E point S  $\frac{1}{2}$  W.

Latitude Observed  $35^{\circ} 19' N$ .

[USNA.]

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Extract from journal of William Eaton, U. S. Navy Agent for the Barbary Regencies, Saturday, 2 March 1805

Our provisions, which were embarked on board a Nile boat to be transported to the Marabout were arrested in the new port of Alexandria. — The lines which defend the city were manned, and orders given that no one, American Officers excepted, should depart. — The Bashaw's servants who were leaving town with sundry articles of baggage, were arrested and imprisoned. — Turkish guards and patrols advanced towards the Bashaw's camp. — He was alarmed, and with his people, was on the point of flying to the desert. The firm and decided conduct of M<sup>r</sup> OBannon prevented their movement.— We found the impediments raised to us were occasioned by influence of the supervisor of the revenue, who had not yet been bought. — The day was spent in accommodating the affair. The influence of the British Consul prevailed; — and we obtained the order of the Governor & Captain Bey for free passage.

[H. E. Huntington L&AG.]

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Extract from journal of Midshipman Charles Morris, Jr., U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *President*, Master Commandant George Cox, U. S. Navy, commanding, Saturday, 2 March 1805

1 [P. M.] Unmoored ship.

5. Weighed and sailed [from Malta]

7. the Light house bore W  $\frac{1}{2}$  N 2 leagues

8 $\frac{1}{2}$  the light bore W N W. 3 $\frac{1}{2}$  legues

Lat. Observed  $34^{\circ} 20' N$

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

[3 March 1805]

To the President of the United States Senate from Secretary of the Navy

NAVY DEP<sup>t</sup>  
Dec<sup>r</sup> 5, 1805.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE —

In obedience to the resolution of Senate of this day, requiring the Secretary of the Navy "to lay before the Senate, the reasons why an additional appropriation is required for the naval service of the current year" I have the honor to state,

That out of the sum appropriated for the support of the Navy for the year 1805, the sum of \$312,370 has been paid for extra expences, not contemplated in my Estimate for that year. Statement A. gives a view of these expences.

The sum of \$287,630, has moreover been paid out of the money appropriated for the support of the Navy for the year 1805, for expences incurred during the year 1804, by the Squadron fitted out under the Act entitled "An Act further to protect the Commerce and Seamen of the United States against the Barbary Powers" — & by Commodore Preble in his preparatory arrangements for attacking Tripoli. With respect to these last mentioned expences, it may be proper to observe that there existed at the time they were incurred an adequate appropriation made by the Act under which they were authorized, to pay them, if payment had been necessary during the year 1804, but it was not necessary to pay them until the year 1805 — and as the appropriation made by the Act above referred to was not, agreeably to the Treasury Construction, subject to my order at the time that payment of these expences was required, they were paid out of the money appropriated for the support of the Navy for the year 1805. —

From the preceding statements it appears that the following sums have been paid out of the money appropriated for the support of the Navy for the year 1805 for expences not contemplated in my Estimate for that year, viz<sup>t</sup>

For extra expences incurred during the year 1805 Per statement A.....	312, 370
For expences incurred during the year 1804 explained above.....	287, 630
Constituting a Total of.....	<u>\$600, 000</u>
which is the existing deficiency.	

A.

*Estimate of the extra expences of the Navy Department incurred during the year 1805*

For vessels & gun boats captured & put into commission in the Mediterranean by the Commd <sup>r</sup> officer.....	32, 000
For building the 2 vessels of war authorized by the Act entitled "An Act further to protect the Commerce & Seamen of the United States against the Barbary Powers" by which Act an adequate appropriation was made — but which appropriation was not subject to my order after the close of the year 1804.....	63, 120
For expenditures under the resolution of Congress of the 27 Nov <sup>r</sup> 1804, voting a Sword to Cap <sup>t</sup> Decatur, & 2 months' extra pay to each of the officers of the Ketch <i>Intrepid</i> — for which no appropriation was made.....	2, 000

For expenditures under the resolution of Congress of the 3 <sup>d</sup> March 1805, voting a Medal to Com <sup>rs</sup> Preble, a Sword to each of the Commissioned officers and Midshipmen who distinguished themselves in the attacks ag <sup>t</sup> Tripoli, and 1 month's extra pay to each of the petty officers, seamen & marines of Com <sup>rs</sup> Preble's Squadron, for which no appropriation was made.....	20, 000
For 6 months service of the Frigate <i>The Adams</i> , doll <sup>s</sup> 23,000, & 4 months' service of the Brig <i>Hornet</i> \$16,500, which vessels were put into commission for the protection of our commerce on the Coast.....	39, 500
For 9 months service of 8 gunboats having only men enough to navigate them across the Atlantic.....	35, 000
For 2 Bombards, purchased & fitted out by Com <sup>rs</sup> Preble and 7 month's service.....	47, 000
For 9 months' service of 400 extra men sent out in the <i>J. Adams</i> , to the Mediterranean.....	63, 750
For BOUNTY to Seamen which we were obliged to give to induce them to enter the service — the pay in the Merchant service being extravagantly high.....	10, 000
	\$312, 370

[NDA. Cong. LB, No. 1, 1798-1811.]

[3 March 1805]

To Hon. John C. Smith, Chairman of Committee of Claims, United States Congress,  
from Secretary of the Navy

NAVY DEP<sup>t</sup>

21 Dec<sup>r</sup> 1805.

In answer to your letter of the 18<sup>th</sup> ins, I have the honor to inform you.

That prior to the Burning of the Frigate *Philadelphia*, Silvado Catalona [Salvadore Catalano] was taken into the service of the Navy in the Mediterranean, as a Pilot at thirty Dollars per month — that as a Pilot he was ordered by Com<sup>rs</sup> Preble to attend Cap<sup>t</sup> Decatur in the Ketch *Intrepid* at the time the *Philadelphia* was burnt — That for the special service of piloting the *Intrepid* into and out of the Harbour of Tripoli, he was paid the sum of 100\$

That under the resolution of Congress of the 27 Nov<sup>r</sup> 1804, he has been paid the sum of — \$60

And that under the resolution of the 3<sup>rd</sup> March 1805 he has been paid the sum of \$30

He arrived in this Country a short time since in the Frigate *Congress* and was paid off with the rest of the Crew of that Frigate.—

[NDA. Cong. LB, No. 1, 1798-1811.]

To Captain James Barron, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. *Essex*, from Captain Samuel Barron, U. S. Navy

LA VALETTA (MALTA)

3<sup>rd</sup> March 1805

DEAR SIR, The several vessels of the U. States Squadron under my Command, having sailed compleatly fitted for Cruizing and being disposed along the Barbary Coast in such a manner as closely to blockade the Harbour of Tripoli and give us hopes so far as we are able to judge of uncertainties of intercepting the *Enemy's* Corsairs which have been seen at sea, I deem it expedient to dispatch the *Essex* Frig-



ate in a different direction, on a particular Object, which I consider of urgent importance to our affairs; independent of the possibility that some one or more of the Tripolines may have taken the rout here contemplated: you are therefore hereby directed to proceed with all due expedition to Venice, where your first Object will be to procure the loan from the Government of that place of two Bomb Vessels, to be employed in our operations against Tripoli during the approaching Summer.

From the want of Political connections between the Imperial Court & the U. States and the pacific relations of the former with the Barbary Powers, I cannot flatter myself with much prospect of Success in this application, but having experienced an unexpected disappointment in another Quarter, I conceive it my bounden duty to have no means untried for obtaining that description of *Force*, so essential to ensure the prosperity of our future plans, For the same reasons stated above, I cannot give you any precise instructions as to the mode of application; you will therefore in this particular be regulated by your own Judgement and the information you may collect on your arrival. — Should you find it impracticable to procure the loan of Vessels, your next object must be to purchase for account of the U. States & on the most moderate terms possible *Mortars & Shells*, in number and dimensions, such as you may think best suited to the service for which they are intended, taking them on board your Frigate or Chartering a Vessel to transport them hither as circumstances may direct.

You will afford to Captain Robbinson whom it is probable you will find at Venice whatever assistance he may stand in need of and recommend him to accelerate as much as possible the repairs of his Schooner, When these are compleated you will dispatch her direct to this port, or in case you should receive any information rendering it expedient — to give her a different destination. you are authorized to act therein at your discretion.

As you will require funds, as well to defray the conti[n]gent expences of your Ship, as for other arrangements, I have lodged a *Credit* on account of Government with their Agents at Naples Leghorn & London, as you will perceive by these letters address<sup>d</sup> to them respectively, accompanying these instructions, you will consequently draw on either of those places for the needful sums, accordingly as the Exchange or the opportunities of negotiating Bills may be most favourable taking care however when you draw to forward the necessary Letters of advice. — From the nature of the Service, on which you are destined, you are aware I cannot make any limitation as to time, but as you must feel equally with myself the value of *dispatch* to our affairs, you will use all the expedition which the nature of circumstances may admit of, In case you Succeed in obtaining Bomb Vessels, you are directed to have them compleatly equip<sup>d</sup> and fitted for service if it can be done with advantage at Venice and either take them under the Protection of your own Frigate or send them under convoy of the *Enterprise* to this Port. — Should the Vessels not be properly fitted it will be most advisable to send them to Syracuse — where they can be put in a State of action.

To M<sup>r</sup> William Riggins the American Consul at Triest you will apply for any information advice or assistance you may require all which will doubtless be chearfully granted, Having obtain<sup>d</sup> the object of your Mission, or if after waiting a sufficient Space of time to

give full effect to your application, you find them unattainable, you will return without delay to this Island.

I have thus explained my Ideas & Intentions with regard to the service on which you are bound; you will keep those steadily in view, considering them however, as subject to those changes and deviations which may result from the operation of circumstances unforeseen & not to be calculated upon, and in anticipation of which I leave you the utmost Latitude, to act in such instances as your own Judgment shall point out.

[NDA. Captain's LB, Vol. 1, 1805.]

To Monsieur B. Drovetti, French Chargé d'Affaires, from William Eaton, U. S. Navy Agent for the Barbary Regencies

ALEXANDRIA March 3<sup>d</sup> 1805

SIR, Learning by your letter of yesterday that you represent the french government here, candor obliges me to give you notice that my reports of transactions in this country since my arrival in it must go forward so arranged as to require your explanations to our respective governments and to the world, for the open indignity you have shown the flag of the United States in this port; for the singular and calculated insult you have offered the American character by your order that *French subjects in this city should have no intercourse, with Americans and for the more* extraordinary outrage towards the American nation by the insinuation you have propogated that Our flag in Egypt has humiliated itself to the purpose of covering espionage & fraud upon the crudelity of the ottoman Government represented here — Duty would compel this measure even if I had no national feelings on the subject —

[H. E. Huntington L&AG, HM 3538, Vol. VII.]

Extract from journal of William Eaton, U. S. Navy Agent for the Barbary Regencies, Sunday, 3 March 1805

Left Alexandria, and joined Hamet Bashaw at the Marabout. We had been several days delayed by the delinquency of Richard Farquhar, to whom I had entrusted the commisary's and quarter master's department, and to whom time to time I advanced a sum of \$1350. which he chiefly embezzled or misapplied. — In consequence of which I discharged him; — and was obliged to make myself the provisions for our passage through the desert.

[H. E. Huntington L&AG.]

Extract from journal of Midshipman Charles Morris, Jr., U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *President*, Master Commandant George Cox, U. S. Navy, commanding, Sunday, 3 March 1805

5 [A. M.] filled away. 6 Saw the land from South to S. W. Made sail

6½. Saw a Sail to the Southward & Westward made the Ship's Signal which was answered by the *Constellation*. laying too head to the Eastward

8½ Spoke the *Constellation*. Capt. Cox went on board.

9. Capt Cox returned

Noon the Town of Tripoli bore S W. 3 leagues.

20 men unfit for duty.

Latitude Observed 33° 10' N.

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

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To Secretary of the Navy from Midshipman George A. Marcellin, U. S. Navy

U. S BRIG *Scourge*

*Gosport March 4<sup>th</sup> 1805*

SIR Permit me to acquaint you with our proceedings respecting the Brig since the reception of your letter of the 19<sup>th</sup> of february.

Unfavourable weather prevented us from dismantling her with that expedition which might have been expected. The Spars, Rigging, Guns &c are, however carefully deposited in the Navy-yard, and accounts and receipts taken of them. The Boatswain and Seven Men, including the Marines, I have retained agreeable to your orders; but I must confess that I am ignorant how to act with respect to some circumstances of which I shall take the liberty to make mention. The Gunner and Carpenter I did not think proper to Discharge, as they come under the Denomination of Warrant officers I will thank you for instructions respecting them and the arrested officers, who are very anxious to learn their fate.

I am afraid, Sir, that you will think me presumptive when I ask your permission to proceed to Washington — As it is better than two years since I saw my Relations I hope I shall Succeed in soliciting your permission to pay them a short visit and if my services are not immediately wanted I flatter myself with hopes that it will be granted — The Boatswain is a good officer and will no doubt justify the Confidence you have been good enough to place in him —

[NDA. Officers LB, 1802-1805.]

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Extract from Memorandum Book of Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, 4 March 1805

Arrived at Washington and waited on the President.

[LC original.]

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Extract from journal of Surgeon Jonathan Cowdery, U. S. Navy, 4 March 1805

Hassan Bey, the Bashaw's chief mameluke, was appointed to command the expedition towards Egypt, on the borders of the dominions of Tripoli. Hassan and his officers were attended by the Bashaw and several stand of colours to a *Marabewt* about three miles from town, to receive absolution and assurances of victory in the intended expedition. A great part of our crew, and many Turks and Jews were employed in packing up ammunition, &c. for the camp.

[LC. Rare Books, *American Captives in Tripoli or Dr. Cowdery's Journal*, Boston, 1806.]

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Extract from journal of William Eaton, U. S. Navy Agent for the Barbary Regencies, Monday, 4 March 1805

Messrs Briggs, brothers, and Doctor Mendrici visited camp. — Witnessed the convention concluded with Hamet Bashaw on the 23<sup>d</sup> Feb. — liquidated the account of monies they had advanced for the

service of the U States, and took leave. Their whole am <sup>t</sup> of advances.....	\$16500. —
balance due them.....	12500. —
P <sup>o</sup> by Cap. Hull.....	4, 000 —

[H. E. Huntington L&AG.]

To Midshipman Benjamin Turner, U. S. Navy, from Captain John Rodgers,  
U. S. Navy

U. STATES SHIP *Constitution*  
off Tripoli March 5<sup>th</sup> 1805

SIR You are hereby appointed, for the present, to act as sailing Master of this Ship — You are therefore from the present Ins<sup>t</sup> to consider yourself responsible for the duty and every thing else thereto belonging. —

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

To Monsieur B. Drovetti, Alexandria, Egypt, from Samuel Briggs, British Consul,  
Alexandria

[Translation\*]

ALEXANDRIA

March 5, 1805

ILLUSTRIOUS SIR: I have the honor of answering your letter of the 8th Ventose, 13th year, not as Chargé d'Affaires of the United States of America to the Commissioner appointed by the general committee but as an ordinary private citizen to another private citizen not being invested by the government of the United States, nor permitted by my Government in public relations, according to our policy to have any official dealings with the official agents of France, and it is only because of the lack of a public American agent that I accorded the protection of my government to individuals of that Nation which claims such protection according to the agreement with Ottoman Porte and the good understanding which exists between the government of the United States and my own, but I have had no authority over the public officials of that nation these latter being only accountable for their acts to their own government.

Behind the idea that your excellency has connived that the fugitives sought by you may have taken refuge among the service personnel of the American commandant. I have communicated to him the contents of your letter, and from the well known sentiments of this same commandant, I am persuaded that a regular report directed to him will receive all the consideration that it merits.

If the fugitives mentioned above were found under my jurisdiction they would instantly be handed over to justice, my sentiments being perfectly in accord with those of your excellency in general principles as set forth in your letter.

I have the honor to salute your excellency with all distinction.

/s/ SAM BRIGGS

[\* Translated by Lt. Comdr. Edward Breed, U. S. N. R.]

[H. E. Huntington L&AG, EA 43.]

To Secretary of the Navy from Lieutenant Nathaniel Fanning, U. S. Navy

FAIR BANK NEAR CHARLESTON

March the 5<sup>th</sup> 1805

SIR — I have the honor of acquainting you that at Ten o'Clock yesterday Morning was Launched at this place the Gun Boat Built here. She is now safe on her destined Eliment. The most exalted praise has been bestowed upon her here by the best Judges of her description. She sets very Bouyant upon the Water and is in my opinion sufficiently large and Burthensome to bear on Board of Her, Two, Thirty Two pounders, as well as one. The Sparing, Rigging of Her, & Joiner work; are all in a train of progression; (and it appears to me to be necessary that Her Officers and Men ought to be appointed or engaged to serve on Board of Her, without delay.) however this is only a suggestion of mine; your better Judgment on this score I submit to; with the utmost deference and beg leave to subscribe myself —

[NDA. Misc. LB, Vol. 1, 1805.]

Extract from Memorandum Book of Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, 5 March 1805

Rec orders from Boston or Portsmouth to build 2 bombs and two gun boats.

Settled up to the 27 Feby. with the Navy Department as Comm. and recd. 3000 dollars in a draft.

[LC original.]

Extract from journal of Surgeon Jonathan Cowdery, U. S. Navy, 5 March 1805

Two frigates and a brig, supposed to be American, appeared off the harbour. The people of Tripoli were preparing and moving their effects into the country, expecting a seige by the Americans.

[LC. Rare Books, *American Captives in Tripoli or Dr. Cowdery's Journal*, Boston, 1806.]

Extract from journal of William Eaton, U. S. Navy Agent for the Barbary Regencies Tuesday, 5 March 1805

Freighted a caravan of 190 camels, as I supposed for the passage, @ 11 dollars p<sup>r</sup> head. —

The Chiek il Taib raised fresh demands for cash; — and seemed determined to retard the march until his pretentions were satisfied. — Pacified him with promises. —

[H. E. Huntington L&AG.]

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

NAVY DEP<sup>t</sup>

6 March 1805. —

The *John Adams* must be completely prepared for sea with all practicable dispatch. You will therefore without delay have all needful repairs done to the Ship and you will take all other necessary measures to prepare her for Sea.

It is my wish to send to the Mediterranean as many Men in the *John Adams* as she can conveniently carry thither. I want to send out 500 Men, of which number at least 200 must be Able Seamen. You will begin to recruit as soon as you conveniently can. Enter the Men to serve 2 years (although it is probable they will not be kept in the Mediterranean for 2 years). Allow Able Seamen \$12 per month — ordinary Seamen \$8, Boys \$6. Engage healthy, active men who can fight. Allow 2 or 4 months' advance on the Customary security. Let me know by return of Mail, or as soon as you can, how many Men you will probably be able to engage in New York and how many the *John Adams* will conveniently carry out.

I have ordered Lieu<sup>t</sup> Lee, of Boston, to report himself to you, and to open Rendezvous at Boston to enter 100 Men, 50 of which to be Able Seamen, the residue ordinary Seamen and Boys. He will report to you the progress he may be making, and you will report to me his progress and your own. When Lieu<sup>t</sup> Lee shall have entered 100 Men I shall order him to repair with them to Newyork & join the *J. Adams*. —

The Navy Agent upon whom you will make your requisitions will render you all needful assistance.

The necessary blank Shipping Papers are enclosed.

Commodore Preble thinks that the *John Adams* can carry out 500 Men. —

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

To John Gavino, U. S. Consul, Gibraltar, from Tobias Lear, U. S. Consul General, Algiers

MALTA, March 6<sup>th</sup> 1805

DEAR SIR, It was not untill the middle of January that I had the pleasure to receive your favors of the 8<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> of Nov<sup>r</sup> — and since that time we have had no *known* opportunity directly for Gibraltar till the present. —

Most Sincerely do I lament the General Calamity which you have experienced during the last season; and with the most unfeigned sympathy do M<sup>rs</sup> Lear and myself feel your particular afflictions. The Kind and Motherly attentions which M<sup>rs</sup> Lear experienced, during her illness in Gibraltar, from your lamented Sister, made a deep impression on her mind, and she considers her loss as that of one of her dearest relatives. — On Subjects like these the mind must find Consolation from that divine source which never fails to give it when we are properly disposed to receive it from thence. —

M<sup>r</sup> Mountford has informed me of the receipt of the articles which you were so good as to send to Algiers for me, and they are noted accordingly. I have not heard from him since the arrival of the ship with stores &c at this place; but I presume all is well there, as it relates to us; or I should have received due notice of any Change

Capt<sup>n</sup> Rodgers arrived here after an extraordinary passage of less than 5 days from Gibraltar. He w<sup>d</sup> have been here in four; but went off Syracuse, where he was informed that the Commodore was here, and came then to this place. —

When I left Algiers, I expected we should have settled our affairs with Tripoli to have allowed me to return thither again in about 6 or 8 weeks; but the season was too far advanced to admit of any active

operation before that place, after Commodore Preble's Attacks, untill the ensuing Summer; and in the mean while I remain here to receive propositions if the Bashaw sh<sup>d</sup> be inclined to send any which we may think proper to admit; before the season arrives for an attack upon him; which with the force we now have, he will find most serious

For three months past Commodore Barron's health has been such as not only to prevent him from taking any actual Part in our affairs in this Sea; but to make his life despaired of. He came to this place about a Month since, from Syracuse, and with the Medical aid which he finds here, I hope he may recover but he is still very low indeed

We have rec<sup>d</sup> information that two Cruizers have got out of Tripoli, and are in the Gulf of Genoa. Should this be true, I hope they will never be able to get home again, all our Vessels are now out, and so stationed as to destroy every chance of their returning, or sending in any prizes.

I shall probably be in this place till the month of June, and if any dispatches for me should come to your hands before that time I will thank you to forward them here

M<sup>rs</sup> Lear's health is much better than it was last Year. She is thankful for your kind remembrance and begs you to accept her best wishes for your health & happiness. — To Col<sup>l</sup> Fyer's family, and our other acquaintances who are left in Gibraltar, we send our best regards.

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

To James Mackenzie & A. Glennie, London, England, from John Gavino, U. S. Consul, Gibraltar

GIBRALTAR 6<sup>th</sup> March 1805

SIRS I hope we have at last found out the pretended Cha<sup>s</sup> Borney, as on comparing his handwriting with that of a young Italian who Com<sup>d</sup> Morris had for a short time as Clerk, they answer exactly, as does the description of the Person, he also spoke the several Languages which Borney did — Deserted Com<sup>d</sup> Morris in this Bay on the 23<sup>d</sup> Sept<sup>r</sup> 1803, and had the Copying of said Com<sup>r</sup>'s Orders, Instructions &<sup>s</sup> when gave up the Com<sup>d</sup> to Capt<sup>n</sup> Rodgers, he had been recommended by Mess<sup>rs</sup> Degan & Purviance of Leghorn as I am told to Capt Morris, so that I have sent said Letters &<sup>s</sup> to M<sup>r</sup> Purviance as Navy Agent to see & find him out that he may be secured, his handwriting when with Morris fell by Chance in my way. — It will give me pleasure that he may be detained — and am truly

[NDA. Misc. LB, Vol. 2, 1805.]

To whom not indicated from Dr. Francisco Mendrici

[Translation\*]

ALEXANDRIA

6 March 1805

RESPECTABLE FRIEND: Reasoning with the Messrs. Briggs Brothers we have considered that a ship will be of great use to you in Bomba, with such food stuffs as you might need in case the Brig should be late in coming. If you think our supposition logical you may commission the three good friends, the Messrs. Briggs Brothers, and they will see to chartering the ship and indicate some signal of recognition

for the Captain in some other Bay or Port before arriving in Bomba, it being probable that they will not furnish pilotage; according to the information that I have had from the British consul in Ragusa.

I have received the powder and render you infinite thanks, I beg you to compliment on my part of Bascia and renew my farewell to the most brave Captain O'Benan, remember me to Calvalier Filippo and all your suite individual particular.

Believe me always your best friend.

/s/ D. F. MENDRICE

P. S. Through persons in your suite, the Signor Drovetti, has obtained full information of your force, and I believe has sent a courier to inform Bascia. I hope all this chicanery and intrigue will not serve to torment him after the happy issue of your expedition. Good bye again Dear Friend, and a good voyage.

“Ca Ira” (French for “all will go well”).

[\*Translated by Lt. Comdr. Edward Breed, U. S. N. R.]

[H. E. Huntington L&AG, EA 365.]

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Extract from journal of William Eaton, U. S. Navy Agent for the Barbary Regencies,  
6 March 1805

Broke up camp & marched to Arab's tower, forty miles from Alexandria, — leaving part of our baggage behind. —

[H. E. Huntington L&AG.]

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Extract from journal of Hezekiah Loomis, Steward, U. S. Navy, in U. S. Brig *Vixen*, Master Commandant John Smith, U. S. Navy, commanding, Wednesday,  
6 March 1805

This day at 9 o'clock saw the land and found ourselves to the westward of old Tripoli. We wore and stood for New Tripoli which we made at 1 o'clock P. M. Saw 2 sails to the eastward, at 8 o'clock spoke one which we found to be the Frigate *Constellation* and the other we were informed was the *Constitution*.

[L. F. Middlebrook. NDA copy.]

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To George Harrison, Navy Agent and Superintendent of Navy Yard, Philadelphia, Pa., from Secretary of the Navy

NAV. DEP.

7 March 1805

The Gun-boat at Philadelphia which we will call N<sup>o</sup>. 5 [\*] must be prepared to sail for the Mediterranean with all practicable dispatch — I have this day written to Lieu<sup>t</sup>. Barden, and given him instructions on this subject. He will make his requisitions on you for every thing necessary to the equipment & preparations of the boat — pray let there be no delay, but further this business by every expedient in your power — and keep me informed of the progress that may be making

I have given similar orders for all the other Gun-boats in the Country to be prepared for the Mediterranean

[\*Letter to Levi Bardin, 15 December 1804, refers to this gunboat as No. 3.]

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



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

NAVY DEP<sup>t</sup>.

7 March 1805.

Commodore Preble having suggested to me the improbability of your procuring a sufficient number of Gun Boats to ensure success to your operations against Tripoli, I have ordered 10 Gun Boats to be prepared with all practicable dispatch to join you. I shall send them off as fast as they shall be prepared, and you may calculate that the whole Fleet will join you in all the month of June next. From the tempestuous weather which generally prevails in the Mediterranean in the earlier months of the year, we presume that you will not make any very serious attack on Tripoli till about the first of July. I hope therefore that these Gun Boats may join you in good season.

Presuming that the Squadron is in want of Men I shall send you in the *J. Adams* a Reinforcement of 500, if we can possibly procure that number in season. I shall also send you a supply of Powder and Shot. —

You may expect a supply of Provisions early in May next. —

The *John Adams* will probably join you in the month of May next. —

(Original to Phil<sup>s</sup>. Dupli: Balt<sup>o</sup>. Tripl — Boston. Quadr — N York. Cinque p<sup>t</sup>. provision vessel *Ceres*, Cap<sup>t</sup>. E. D. Brown, from Balt<sup>o</sup>.)

[NDA. LB, 1799-1807.]

To William Eaton, U. S. Navy Agent for the Barbary Regencies, from Briggs Brothers

ALEX<sup>s</sup> March 7 1805.

DEAR SIR We understand you commenced your march yesterday — & our best wishes accompany you — but to provide against all contingencies, our mutual friend D<sup>r</sup> Mendrice has suggested the plan of hiring a small vessel to be sent round to Bomba with such provisions as can be collected, & for the purpose of procuring intelligence of the designs or approach of your Enemy — & in the worst hypothesis, to afford a shelter in case of a reverse. — As the plan to us appears a very prudential one, we give it our support — tho' it is very doubtful what quantity of Provisions could be amassed with present scarcity. Rice might perhaps be procured from Rosetta, & for the other species we would do as much as circumstances would allow. —

M<sup>r</sup> Farquhar has hired a Greek Boat for 6 Mon<sup>s</sup> at 770 Turk<sup>h</sup> Pias<sup>r</sup> P<sup>r</sup> Mon<sup>s</sup> to go to any port in the Mediterranean, & he means to sail for Syracuse within 5 days.

[H. E. Huntington I.&AG, EA 42.]

To Briggs Brothers, Alexandria, Egypt, from William Eaton, U. S. Navy Agent for the Barbary Regencies

CAMP ARAB'S TOWER

March 7<sup>th</sup> 1805

GENTLEMEN The packet herewith enclosed I wrote this morning; it exactly fits circumstances — Yours by express came this evening. The plan you suggest of sending a small vessel to Bomba with pro-

vissions, is a good one, and can be done on safe grounds, whatever may be the issue of this expedition; as the articles suitable to be sent forward, may serve our Sq[ua]dron, and may be purchased at a better rate in your markets than any other in the Mediterranean — or than they can be brought from America —

It would be very apt to open an intercourse between the Squadron and your house mutually advantageous — I annex a list of necessary articles; which may go consigned to me at Bomba or Derne, or, in case of a reverse in my expedition before arrival thither, to the Commander in Chief of the United States forces in the Mediterranean at Syracuse — The articles may be augmented or diminished in quantity as suits your convenience — Payments will be made by remittances to you in cash, or by Drafts on London, as most agreeable —

Doctor Mendrici states that the French *Sous Commissaire* has obtained exact information of our force and dispatched advice to Joseph Bashaw. That zealous Agent must penetrate Tripoli to learn Hamet Bashaw's force, and traverse the desert to be informed exactly of that which will enter Derne — I shall leave this with about Three hundred men, — The information he sends forward of our movements, will be essentially serviceable to us; as it goes from a quarter which will attach full credit, and of course leave no doubt with the enemy of a coalition which he most dreads, and which he has used all possible means to counteract: it will through his Capital into convulsions — We shall leave this tomorrow morning —

List of articles of provisions to be sent forward agreeably to the foregoing letter.

300	Ardeps [ardebs]	rice
200	d°	Barley
200	Quintals	bread
10	D°	Coffee
4	D°	Sugar
2	Casks	Table wine. 32 Gall <sup>r</sup> each —
4	D°	brandy — And some small supplies for a Camp Table —

W EATON

NB — The Bashaw requests you will have the goodness to cause a sabre, carried away by a mamaluke Deserter who is with the Gov<sup>r</sup> of Alexandria, to be put on board the vessel, to his address — He begs that you will accept the assurance of his high Consideration, —

I have just found the key to Fauquhar's project of Chartering a Craft for any port in the Mediterranean — He has proposed to the Bashaw to take his Alexandria wife, child, and black slave to Derne — a speculation —

[H. E. Huntington L&AG, EA 270.]

Extract from journal of William Eaton, U. S. Navy Agent for the Barbary Regencies,  
7 March 1805

The rear of our baggage came up. —

[H. E. Huntington L&AG.]

Extract from journal of Hezekiah Loomis, Steward, U. S. Navy, in U. S. Brig *Vixen*. Master Commandant John Smith, U. S. Navy, commanding, Thursday, 7 March 1805

[Tripoli] This day pleasant. We made all sail and stood for the land. Saw 2 sail to the E. and W. Stood for the one to the E. and came up to her at 2 o'clock P. M. found her to be the U. S. *Constitution*. This day John Gerard, John Monson, Robt. Robinson and Timothy Hurley were taken out of irons and Gerard was flogged, the other three forgiven. They all had their grog stopped. Captain Smith went on board the Frigate. We stood off shore this night. John Gerard and Alex Jacks grog stopped.

[L. F. Middlebrook. NDA copy.]

To Secretary of the Navy from George Dyson, U. S. Navy Agent, Syracuse

SYRACUSE 8<sup>th</sup> March 1805

HON<sup>ble</sup> SIR It is with much concern that I am compell'd by duty as well as intrest to intrude a moment on your Valuable time in relating a circumstance that cannot be interesting to you, but I will be short as possible

When Commodore Preble did me the honor of recommending me to your notice by which I was appointed naval Agent to the United States Squadron at Syracuse, I was by Him allow'd the usual Commission of five p<sup>r</sup> Cent to provide fresh provisions and other articles which the ships of the Squadron when in this Port stand in Need of this is proportionably less than two p<sup>r</sup> Cent in a Commercial Port, as here an Agent must abandon every other Idea of Business to the service of the squadron this has been & must be the case if any degree of Justice is to be expected from Him; in order to explain this it is necessary to have a Knowledge of the Country which is peopled with Sicilian Nobility, Imposters, Beggars, & Theives, Consequently every transaction must be very minutely examin'd & Body & mind Kept on the Constant rack to avoid Impositions in every form. —

permit me Hon<sup>ble</sup> Sir to remark that I have on every occasion cheerfully attended the duties of the squadron, I have never witnessd the displeasure of any officer till a short time back, then, one whom I thought & esteem'd a Friend, (for reasons only Known to himself) is become my formidable Enemy — He this Day refuses to accept my account for supplies purchased & sent on board His ship at the usual Commission of five per Cent & insists on my reducing it to two, this I have declined and for ever must, as 2 p<sup>r</sup> Cent for my labour & trouble in procuring all articles that ships of war want in a place like this would leave me a Considerable Sufferer, & I am convinced it is not the wish or intent of the United States Navy department to accept of the whole of my time & exertions devoted to their service without a Just & reasonable recompence being made — this I mention'd to Commodore Preble on the arrival of my appointment and He had the goodness to promise me He wou'd explain the business to the Sec<sup>r</sup> of the Navy department on his arrival in America, mean time to continue my usual commission this prevented me troubling you at that time and as it may have escaped the Commodores memory, (having things of greater importance to attend, I now beg permission to refer you Him for a more particular account of my situation which He can give in few words, more than I should be able to explain in a whole Volume —

if on the whole it should appear that my claim of five p<sup>t</sup> Cent is Just & reasonable. I shall then be happy to Continue my exertions with unabated attention, & if on the Contrary it should be determined that a less Commission is sufficient for my services, I must then reluctantly resign an Employ that I accepted with so much pleasure & have hitherto fill'd with so much Satisfaction to myself & and the Squadron

[NDA. Misc. LB, Vol. 1, 1805.]

To Captain Samuel Barron, U. S. Navy, from George Davis, U. S. Chargé d'Affaires,  
Tunis

N<sup>o</sup> 6. (Duplicate)

TUNIS March 8<sup>th</sup> 1805.

DEAR SIR, Your favour of the 28<sup>th</sup> of January, did not reach me untill the 3<sup>d</sup> Inst. — the letter addressed to His Excellency the Bey, was delivered to his Minister on the 4<sup>th</sup> without any observations being made, relative to its contents; I am directed to appear at the Palace to morrow — Your answer is such as was expected; and Your well founded objections anticipated and stated to the Bey. — Your remarks relative to His Exc<sup>y</sup>'s menace, respecting the detention of Tunisien prizes, shall be fully entered into, on another occasion; I have only to observe that the granting of blank passports, as safe conducts for their prizes, would be attended with evils, infinitely greater than those we now labour under. —

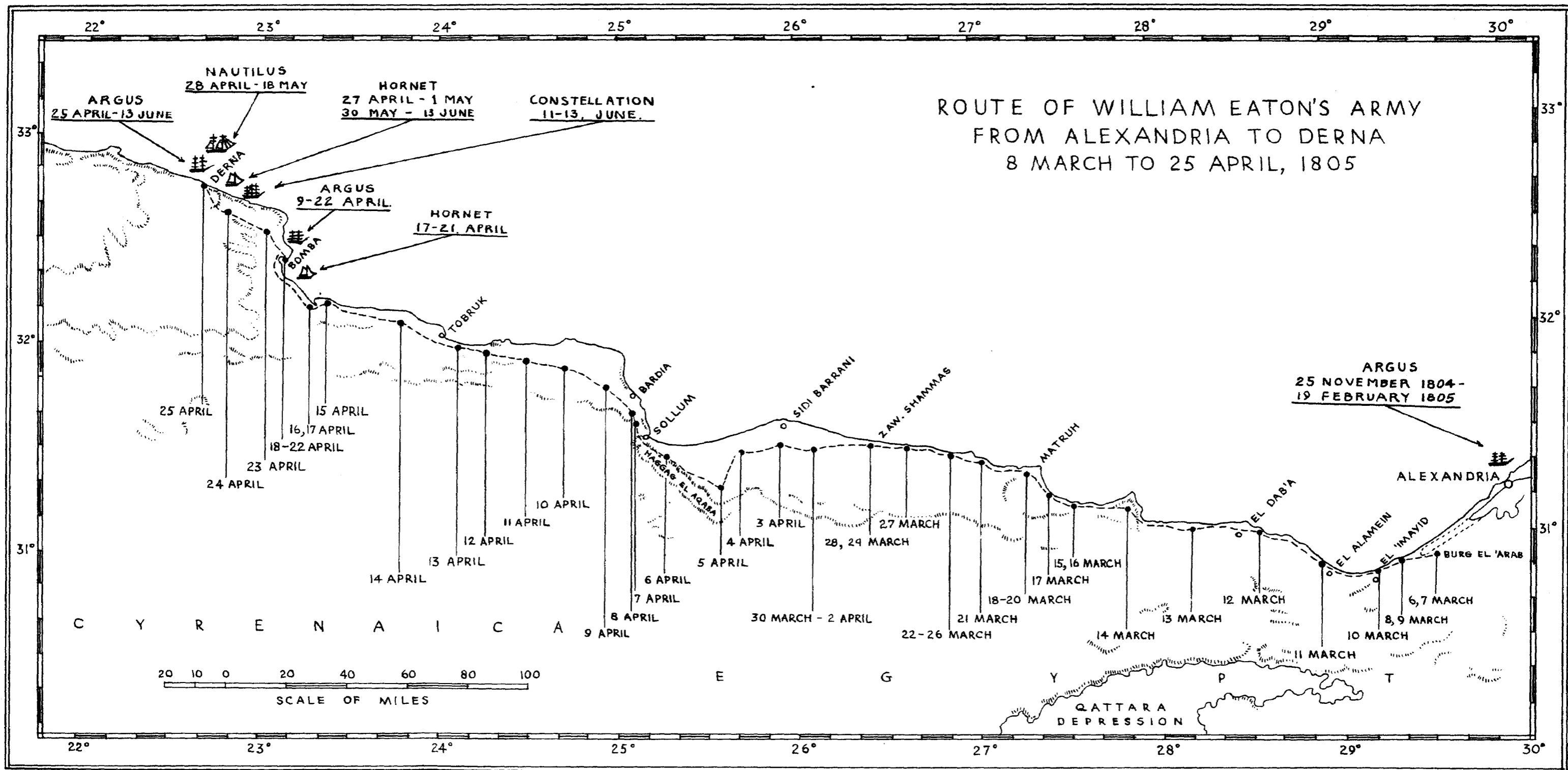
Two Tripolitan Corsairs are out; a Xebec of Six Guns, (off the Isle of Elba) and a Ketch of eight; the Xebec, has made four prizes, (Neutrals laden'd with grain) two Imperials, which have arrived at Bengaza — one Ragusean arrived on some other part of the Coast; and an Imperial, which anchored in this Bay a few days since, having on board a Rais & fifteen Tripolitans — they immediately embarked on board the Tripolitan Corsair, which has been so long detained at Tunis — they are fitting her out with all possible expedition, but cannot sail untill the arrival of the Imperial seamen detained on board the Xebec — if You could dispatch immediately a Vessel for this place, it is probable her destination would be changed — an express has this moment arrived from Susa, informing me of the arrival of the Tripolitan Xebec at that port — this letter will be sent you by an express from Messina: neither of the Tripolitan Corsairs can sail under fourteen days.

I sincerely rejoice at the recovering of your health, and wait with much anxiety the pleasure of seeing you at Tunis. — I have the honor to enclose you letters for Gov<sup>t</sup>, Col<sup>o</sup> Lear, & one for yourself from Capt. Bainbridge.

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

Extract from journal of William Eaton, U. S. Navy Agent for the Barbary Regencies,  
8 March 1805

Arranged our caravan and organized our force; — which now consisted of nine americans, including Lieu<sup>t</sup> OBannon and M<sup>t</sup> Peck, a noncommissioned officer and six private marines; a company of twenty five cannoniers, commanded by Selim Comb, & Lieu<sup>ts</sup> Connant and Roco; and a company of thirty eight Greeks commanded by Cap: Luco Ulovix and Lieu<sup>t</sup> Constantine. — The Bashaw's suit consisted





of about ninety men, including those who came from Fiaume and those who joined him since his arrival at Alexandria. — These, together with a party of Arab cavalry under the orders of the Chieks *à taib* and Mahomet, and including the footmen and camel drivers, made our whole number about four hundred. Our caravan consisted of one hundred and seven camels and a few asses. —

Marched at 11 a. m. fifteen miles. — Camped on an elevated bluff upon the sea board. — Good water near the shore. —

[H. E. Huntington L&AG.]

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Extract from journal of Hezekiah Loomis, Steward, U. S. Navy, in U. S. Brig *Vixen*, Master Commandant John Smith, U. S. Navy, commanding, Friday, 8 March 1805

Off Tripoli. This day commences with fresh gales. At 9 o'clock A. M. saw a sail to the windward. We made sail and gave chase. We soon found her to be the U. S. Frigate *Constellation*. We spoke her at half past 3 o'clock P. M. and stood in shore. The Frigate hauled close upon the wind. We kept away and stood within gun shot of their infernal forts, but we had such press of sail and went so fast through the water that they thought it useless to give up a shot. At sun set we were standing off shore with reefed topsails.

[L. F. Middlebrook. NDA copy.]

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To General Mason, from Captain Alexander Murray, U. S. Navy

PHI\* March 9<sup>th</sup> 1805

D<sup>r</sup> SIR After closing my last respects I am compelled to draw your attention to a disagreeable subject but I count upon the goodness of your heart to listen with a patient attention to observations arising from the enclosed copy of a Letter just rec<sup>d</sup> from my old antagonist Eaton & if proper beg as a favor that you will lay it at some leisure moment before M<sup>r</sup> Madison & the other Gentlemen of the Administration conscious of the unmerited system to destroy my reputation in the view [?] of my Country, if I have been the guilty wretch that he threatens to proclaim me, why have I not been called to account?

If this Letter is intended to awe me into a temper to mediate with Government in his behalf, he is mistaken, I am not of a temper to be intimidated by his threats & defy his utmost rancor, 'tho I confess I feel a remorse at being handed down to posterity (however infamous the Author) whose motives will be unknown to the World, as this Man is now in the service of Government —

The Sec<sup>y</sup> of the Navy well knows that I never had any instructions from him but in a subordinate stile to authorize this wanton abuse of my conduct while in the Mediterranean Seas, can an Officers merits be estimated in a proper scale who never had it in his power to act with energy? hard indeed is my fate never to have been entrusted with a Command and to bear all the malovelence of party rage in vain have I urged for an explanation on this head; have I not cause to conjecture that this Man hath been the cause of the many mortifications, I have experienced, & by his ingenuity prejudiced the Government against me? but we shall see the effects of imploing him again after what has pass<sup>d</sup> I well know that he has acted ungenerously by me in prejudicing many of the Officers ready to beleive his foul insinu-

ations & willing to put me out of the way with the same facility that *Morris* was, which would no doubt be a gratifying object with him & the most virtuous of Administrations may be deceived by malevolent Men — this Letter is not only levelled at me but at the few friends who have patronized me & am bold to say that I am not unworthy of such Patronage —

It now rest with the Administration to say whether I have merited this treatment & to be handed down to Posterity by the venomous Pen of this Miscreant, not but that I am capable of shielding myself from all personal attacks but where an Officer is unworthily traduced in the line of his duty Government ought to defend him in his reputation; you may remember the original cause of this persecution, which was owing to my discharging his Ship from Government service, which Cap<sup>t</sup> Barron ought to have done before my arrival, *but Eaton was his friend* I can send the whole detail of this business if necessary so anxious am I to support a fair & Honorable Name & if I do not ask too much of you & theres no impropriety in it I could wish at least to start fair with our new Sec<sup>y</sup> of the Navy on *this subject* as well as others that no undue prejudices may arise, but I presume he will revert to the correspondence of all the Officers to, & from, to investigate the merits & services of each such Letters being filed in the Office —

I have just rec<sup>d</sup> a Letter from Dan<sup>l</sup> Murray dated Malta 23<sup>rd</sup> Oct<sup>r</sup> who tells me Eaton is begining to shew his Cloven foot & is in Coventry but must know more of this at Washington — Adieu — A. M.

[NDA. A. Murray's LB, 1799-1805.]

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

NAVY DEP<sup>t</sup>

9 March 1805. —

You have been a long time in constant service and if Indulgences are allowed to Officers I know of no Officer who can more rightfully claim indulgence than yourself. I shall not therefore order you into service at present unless it should be your wish to return to the Mediterranean. Presuming that you wish a short respite, I shall order Cap<sup>t</sup> Shaw to the Command of the *John Adams*. But I wish you to continue in the Command, and I ask your best exertions to prepare her for Sea by superintending her repairs and recruiting men for her until you shall be relieved by Cap<sup>t</sup> Shaw which you will probably be some short time before the Ship shall sail. Cap<sup>t</sup> Shaw who is now in Baltimore, has been ordered to open rendezvous at that place to enter 50 able Seamen. As soon as he shall have procured them he will repair to New York by water.

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

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To Captain Thomas Tingey, U. S. Navy, from Secretary of the Navy

NAVY DEP<sup>t</sup>

9 March 1805.

You will ship to New York directed to John Beekman Esq<sup>r</sup> Navy Agent at that place, 130 Barrels of Beef, and 42,000 <sup>lbs</sup> of Bread. These Articles are intended for the *John Adams* now fitting for sea at



New York. M<sup>r</sup> Beekman will pay the freight agreeably to Bill of Lading which you will transmit to him. —

You will procure a Vessel or Vessels to transport to the Mediterranean, all the Articles mentioned in my letter to you of 16 January last & in addition to those articles we must also send from this place 400 or 500 Barrels of Beef, and considerable quantities of 32<sup>lb</sup> & 24<sup>lb</sup> & 18<sup>lb</sup> round Cannon Ball — and grape shot, and I have ordered Doctor Bullus to prepare 2 chests of Medicine which are also to be sent from this place to the Mediterranean. Charter the Vessel or Vessels to go first to Gibraltar — thence if required by the Consul there, to Malta or Syracuse. —

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

To Riddle and Bird, Navy Agents, Newcastle, Del., from Secretary of the Navy

NAV DEP

March 9<sup>th</sup> 1805

I have Understood that a Gentleman of the name of Dupong [Dupont] who resides in or near Wilmington, manufactures powder of very Superior quality —

Will you be pleased to make enquiry and let me know whether you can procure from him 300 barrels of good cannon powder & thirty Barrels of priming powder — & on what terms & in what time

I shall consider myself favored by a very early answer —

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

To Captain John Rodgers, U. S. Navy, from Captain Hugh G. Campbell, U. S. Navy

*Constellation*, OFF TRIPOLI March. 9<sup>th</sup> 1805

SIR Be pleased to inform me if it is your desire that I continue longer on this coast, or terminate my cruise in a rout by way of Cape Bon Tunis Bay &<sup>e</sup> &<sup>e</sup> my reason for mentioning The latter is, that we have Thirty of the Crew Innoculated for the small pox, and should we Experience bad weather their situation will be truly unpleasant

N B — Be pleased to Accept — Keg of Tongues —

[LC. JRP, Vol. 1, Series Two, Feb. 1775-May 1805.]

To Captain Hugh G. Campbell, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. Frigate *Constellation*, from Captain John Rodgers, U. S. Navy

U. STATES SHIP *Constitution*

off Tripoli, March 9<sup>th</sup> 1805

SIR In reply to your Letter of this Date, I beg leave to say that the services of the *Constellation* can be spared, provided you think their is a necessity for your going into Port, in consequence of the disease on Board; however as it is necessary that the Blockade should be kept up in a manner not to give one ship more service than another; (in order that the whole may be in perfect readiness when their combined services shall be wanting) If you have not Water & Provisions for at least a Month, it will be better for you to proceed to Malta, as soon as possible, taking Cape Bon in your way, agreeable to your Instructions, in order that you may be in readiness to relieve one of the Vessels here, before necessity shall compell their return. —

When I left Malta Commodore Barron expected me back in 15 Days, yet I shall not quit this coast until I am relieved by an adequate Force, to continue the Blockade in a proper manner — Two Vessels at least ought to be here. —

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

To Captain John Rodgers, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. Frigate *Constitution*,  
from Captain Hugh G. Campbell, U. S. Navy

U. STATES SHIP *Constitution* [*Constellation*]  
off Tripoli March 9<sup>th</sup> 1805

SIR In answer to yours of this date, respecting the Blockade of Tripoli I beg leave to state my opinion which is that we never should have less than three Vessels near that port, say one Easterly a second Westerly & a third in front of the Town — but unfortunately the present state and distribution of our Ships renders it Inconvenient to Establish that arrangement —

You observe that if the *Constellation* has not Water and Provisions for at least one Month I had better proceed for Malta as soon as possible taking Cape Bon in my way, Permit me to remark for your consideration that she has Provisions and Water for Two Months, which might Enable her to continue the Blockade for at least that time, a service I would cheerfully prefer were it not for the consideration of our Crew, Thirty three of which are Innoculated for the small Pox and as the season is advancing that their services and every Exertion on our part will be required I presume it advisable to have them recruited with all possible dispatch — With these considerations aided by conviction that your presence is required at Malta, I make no hesitation in saying that the service demands your Immediate return to that port. —

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

To Captain John Rodgers, U. S. Navy, from Captain Hugh G. Campbell, U. S. Navy

U. STATES FRIGATE *Constellation*  
off Tripoli March 9, 1805

SIR In reply to yours of this date, I have To inform you that the *Constellation* has on Board provisions and Water for at least two Months, which will enable her to continue the Blockade for that time, with these considerations aided by conviction that existing circumstances require your presents at Malta, I make no hesitation in saying that the latter should be preferred. —

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

To Captain William Bainbridge, U. S. Navy, from Lieutenant David Porter, U. S. Navy

TRIPOLI PRISON March 9<sup>th</sup> 1805

SIR After having deliberately reflected on the prospect of a change and the expected proposals; the probable evil consequences of my acting agreeable to my first determination and my present inclinations, I have considered it most proper to suffer myself to be governd in my actions by the Majority of my companions in misfortune, not that I am now convinced that their opinions are correct, But, the proba-

bility is that no separation can take place, (nor does my inclinations lead me to wish it) so that the consequence of my acting agreeable to my sentiments would be a continuation of the whole in our present situation; These reflections, the probable consequences of our remaining here, and a desire to accomodate those whose inclinations may lead them to wish a change on the suposed [?] conditions, has induced me to wave all personal consideration, and consent to join in a proceeding, on the propriety of which I cannot help differing with many.

[HS of Pa. Gratz Col. NDA photostat.]

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Extract from journal of William Eaton, U. S. Navy Agent for the Barbary Regencies, Saturday, 9 March 1805

Remained in camp. Some difficulties with the owners of the camels and horses hired for the passage. — They demanded advanced pay. — It was not safe to do it. — They became mutinous. —

[H. E. Huntington L&AG.]

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Extract from journal of Hezekiah Loomis, Steward, U. S. Navy, in U. S. Brig *Vixen*. Master Commandant John Smith, U. S. Navy, commanding, Saturday, 9 March 1805

Pleasant, fresh gales, and we stood off and on [Tripoli] until 4 o'clock when the *Constellation* and *Constitution* came up with us. We then stood off shore.

[L. F. Middlebrook. NDA copy.]

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To Captain Samuel Barron, U. S. Navy from Purser Robert W. Goldsborough, U. S. Navy

UNITED STATES BRIG *Argus*  
Malta March 10<sup>th</sup> 1805.

SIR, M<sup>r</sup> Eaton, in making a representation against me, upon which Capt Hull has thought proper to place me in arrest, has most unjustly injured my reputation, without giving me either the explanations, or satisfaction to which I conceived myself entitled. —

Permit me therefore to enclose you a statement of circumstances, in evidence of the grounds upon which his assertions have been built —

Whilst at Cairo in Egypt, being in the habit of resorting occasionally with several other American Officers to a Billiard Table in the neighbourhood of the English Consul, a misunderstanding arose one afternoon between M<sup>r</sup> Farquhar & myself, concerning the points at a Game of billiards, the consequence of which was a fight at fistycuffs — I am, Sir, far from advocating a habit which I have ever held in great contempt, & which at that time inspired sentiments of much uneasiness, nor should I have descended to this mode of redress for the insult I received, had it not been of the grossest nature —

On this occasion, M<sup>r</sup> Eaton thought proper to take exception at my conduct, and in a letter addressed to me the day following, recommended my return to Alexandria — I complied with his request, and in company with M<sup>r</sup> Farquhar two days afterwards embarked from Cairo, but in consequence of some expressions which came from M<sup>r</sup> Eaton in assertion of his right to order my return, did not take leave of him.

From this period, Sir, The arrows of his revenge poisoned by malice have been directed towards me.

Some weeks after my return to Alexandria, I was accidentally informed, that M<sup>r</sup> Eaton had given publicity at Cairo at the Consular Table, to the malevolent assertion which he has brought against me, Viz that of improper conduct at a Card Table.

I confess myself unable to express what were [my] feelings on the receipt of this information, of which I had never before been apprized, and of which untill that moment I had heard nothing of, and immediately resolved to seek an explanation on the return of M<sup>r</sup> Eaton who was then absent about 40 miles from Alexandria. —

On the return of M<sup>r</sup> Eaton, in order to a full investigation of the subject, I wrote to him the following Note.

M<sup>r</sup> Goldsborough begs the favor of M<sup>r</sup> Eaton's company in the ward room —  
U. S. BRIG *Argus*  
February 5<sup>th</sup> 1805.

With this request he complied, but on being asked by me whether he had made the assertion contained in his report, and what were the Grounds upon [which] his assertion had been formed, simply answered that it was not a proper time to give explanations, & left the ward room, much disconcerted, and the day following, after many abusive expressions uttered at the Consular house at Alexandria, which were afterwards told me, requested Capt Hull to have me arrested

Finding myself destitute of explanation, I determined to wait a day or two longer without resorting to further measures, impressed with a belief that he would certainly come forward, but perceiving on his part no other disposition than that of evasion, addressed to him a second Letter — Vz.

"SIR, You have accused me in a foreign country of a dishonest Act — you have given general publicity to this assertion, amongst the first characters of this place, without producing a single evidence of the fact —

I now call on you a second time, in the name of the Flag under which I serve, in the name of every American Officer, and as a duty due to an injured reputation, to produce your authority —

I consider there is no time nor place so proper for the adjustment of the injury I've received, as this — It is here it has originated, and it is here the consequences are felt. I call on you in the Integrity of my heart, to prove this assertion before you leave Alexandria. —

Sg<sup>t</sup> Rob<sup>t</sup> W. GOLDSBOROUGH  
U. S. B. *Argus*. Feb<sup>r</sup> 7. 1805.

M<sup>r</sup> WILLIAM EATON.  
Present."

I had not the most distant Idea he would longer evade the subject, but in place of giving it any consideration, the letter addressed to him was barely read, and returned by the Servant.

Finding every step I had taken ineffectual, I then resolved on a personal Interview; the consequences of which were a candid avowal of the contempt I felt for him, of the sentiments which actuated me to that confession, and of my fixed resolution towards him should we ever meet. —

It is impossible, Sir, to give you a minute account of every circumstance which formed the basis of his malevolence towards me; They are not within my immediate recollection —

I feel it a misfortune, that the imperious situation of circumstances should at this moment preclude the possibility of an immediate investigation of the subject, and hope Sir, that conduct so replete with malice & revenge will not be countenanced.

I will not presume to express an opinion, of the measures which have already been taken, to render my situation unpleasant, but will with pleasure submit the subject to your consideration —

[Mrs. James S. Barron Col.]

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Extract from journal of U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Captain John Rodgers, U. S. Navy, commanding, Sunday, 10 March 1805

At Sunset the town of Tripoli Bore S W  $\frac{1}{2}$  W distance 3 or 4 leagues  
At 10 hoisted out the 1<sup>st</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> 3<sup>d</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> cutters Armed & manned for the purpose of Cutting the guard boat out of the Harbour of Tripoli L<sup>t</sup> Evans commanded the 1<sup>st</sup> L<sup>t</sup> Henley the 2<sup>nd</sup> L<sup>t</sup> Allen 3<sup>d</sup> & M<sup>r</sup> Downs the 4<sup>th</sup> at 11 the boats Left the Ship — wore ship and stood in For the town of Tripoli. at 4 stood In to 17 fathoms water wore ship & Fired a broadside into the town the Bashaws castle bearing South distance  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile at  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 4 made the signal For the boats which they answerd to windward at 5 the boats came alongside hoisted Them in

Latitude Observed 33° 03' N.

[USNA.]

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Extract from journal of William Eaton, U. S. Navy Agent for the Barbary Regencies, Sunday, 10 March 1805

The camel drivers and footmen who followed the horses revolted and made a stand. — The Chiek il Taiib had insinuated a suspicion among them that if they performed their services before being paid the Christians would be apt to defraud them. The Bashaw seemed irresolute and dispondent. — Money, — more money was the only stimulous which could give motion to the camp. — The forenoon was consumed, and no appearances of a disposition to proceed ahead. I ordered the Christians under arms and feinted a countermarch; threatning to abandon the expedition and their Bashaw, unless the march in advance proceeded immediately. — This project took effect; the mutiny was suppressed; and we marched twelve miles. —

[H. E. Huntington L&AG.]

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Extract from journal of Hezekiah Loomis, Steward, U. S. Navy, in U. S. Brig *Vixen*, Master Commandant John Smith, U. S. Navy, commanding, Sunday, 10 March 1805

[Tripoli] Saw the 2 Frigates to the eastward. We stood for the town and at half past 11 A. M. we came within gun shot of the shore about 6 miles to the westward of the town. We discharged our bow gun which sent a shot among a drove of camels and mules which were driven by a large company of Turkish light horse. We then put about and stood for the frigates.

[L. F. Middlebrook. NDA copy.]

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To Secretary of the Navy from Captains Edward Preble and Thomas Tingey, U. S. Navy

WASHINGTON March 11<sup>th</sup> 1805

SIR, We take the liberty to recommend by way of experiment, that the Gun Boat at the N. Yard in this place be Sloop rigged, with the mast in the Centre. The Masts and Spars of the following dimensions

<i>Viz</i>	<i>Feet Inc[h]</i>
Main Mast whole length.....	57 "
Head.....	7 "
Diameter at the Partners.....	1 4
Main Boom to traverse within the extremes of the Deck.....	34 6
Main Gaff.....	25 "
Bowsprit to rig out through a clasp Boom-Iron without the Bows.....	15 "
Top mast whole length.....	24 "
Head.....	5 "
Top Sail Yard.....	23 "
Square Sail Yard.....	32 "
Jigger Mast for a Sprit-sail.....	18 "
Ditto — Boom Outboard.....	13 "
Sprit.....	19 "
Mainsail to be made of N <sup>o</sup> 3	
Foresail with a Bonnet —	
Head.....	N <sup>o</sup> 2
Bonnet.....	N <sup>o</sup> 3
A Small Storm Foresail of.....	N <sup>o</sup> 1
a Try-Sail of.....	N <sup>o</sup> 1
Jib.....	N <sup>o</sup> 5
Jigger — Canvass.....	N <sup>o</sup> 5
Gaff Top Sail — ".....	N <sup>o</sup> 7
Square Top-Sail ".....	N <sup>o</sup> 7
Square-Sail with a Bonnet —	
" Head.....	N <sup>o</sup> 3
" Bonnet.....	N <sup>o</sup> 6

To be rigged with 3 Shrouds on each side, middle one abreast of the centre of the Mast

[LC. Edward Preble LB, Nov. 1804—Mar. 1805.]

To Sailing Master Humphrey Magrath, U. S. Navy, from Secretary of the Navy

NAV. DEP

11 March 1805

You will without delay proceed with Gunboat N<sup>o</sup> 1 to Char[le]ston S. C. and there wait the further orders of this Department. On your arrival at Charleston, you will report yourself to this Department.

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

To Lieutenant Nathaniel Fanning, U. S. Navy, Charleston, S. C., from Secretary of the Navy

NAV. DEP.

11 March 1805

Gun-boat N<sup>o</sup> 9 (the number by which we distinguish the Gun-boat, the building of which you have been superintending) is to proceed to the Mediterranean as early as she can be equipped and prepared for sea. You will continue to pay every attention to her equipment and preparation with a view to this voyage until she shall be ready to receive her crew — by that time we shall require your services in New York.

When the Gun-boat shall be ready to receive her crew, you will be relieved in the command by Lieu<sup>t</sup> Elbert — and when Lieutenant Elbert takes the command you will proceed to New York, and on your arrival there you will report yourself to this Department. The rigging of Gun-boat N<sup>o</sup> 9 is left to yourself. Some material alterations, in the original plan (proposed with a view of her being employed in the land locked navigation & near the coast) will doubtless be

necessary — and you will make such alterations as shall appear to you necessary to fit her for crossing the Atlantic.

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

To Lieutenant Samuel Elbert, U. S. Navy, from Secretary of the Navy

NAV. DEP.

11 March 1805

You will repair to Charleston S. C. and when Lieutenant Fanning shall have completed the rigging and equipment of Gun-boat N<sup>o</sup> 9, you will take the command of her, and pursue such orders as you shall hereafter receive from this Department. I do not order you to the immediate command of Gun-boat N<sup>o</sup> 9 because it is due to Lieu<sup>t</sup> Fanning who has heretofore superintended her building, that he should complete her rigging & equipment. When you shall take the command of the Gun-boat you will report yourself to this Department. —

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

To William [Smith, Sr., U. S. Navy Agent, Charleston, S. C., from Secretary of the Navy

NAV. DEP.

11 March 1805

Lieu<sup>t</sup> Murdoch has been this day ordered to give up the command of Gun-boat N<sup>o</sup> 2 to L<sup>t</sup> Iazard, and to open Rendezvous in Charleston for the purpose of entering 40 or 50 able seamen for the *Jn<sup>o</sup> Adams* now at New York. Lieu<sup>t</sup> Elbert has been ordered to the command of Gun-boat N<sup>o</sup> 9 (the boat building under your superintendency) after L<sup>t</sup> Fanning shall have completed her rigging & equipment for sea. Lieu<sup>t</sup> Fanning upon being superceded in the command is to repair to N York where his services will be required. Gun-boats N<sup>o</sup> 1, 2 & 9 are all to be fitted for the Mediterranean — they will all Rendezvous at Charleston prior to sailing for that sea. I shall give the necessary orders to their respective commanders, and you will be pleased to render them every needful assistance. L<sup>t</sup> Murdoch will call on you for money to recruit, supply him, and assist him to procure the men, and procure a passage for them to N York.

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

To Lieutenant John Spriggs, U. S. Navy, Boston, Mass., from Secretary of the Navy

NAV. DEP.

11 March 1805

I have received your letter of the 27<sup>th</sup> ult. I wish the Gun-boat to be completed without delay. I have informed M<sup>r</sup> Brown that she is to be coppered. As I intend sending her to the Mediterranean, she must be so rigged as to be fit to cross the Atlantic. The rigging heretofore proposed was devised with the view of the boat being employed in our landlocked navigation only. As you are an experienced seaman I shall leave it with you to determine upon the most eligible plan of rigging the boat so as to fit her for crossing the Atlantic. Commodore Preble approves the idea of mounting a gun on each end of the Boat — this plan must therefore be pursued.

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

To Captain Samuel Barron, U. S. Navy, from Briggs Brothers, Alexandria, Egypt

ALEXANDRIA 11 March 1805.

SIR! We presume that Capt Hull of the U. S. Brig *Argus*, who sailed from hence on the 19<sup>th</sup> ult<sup>o</sup> must long since have arrived at the Rendezvous — and M<sup>r</sup> Eaton's Dispatches will consequently have made you acquainted with our Disbursements to him for Account of the United States, to the extent of Six Thousand Span<sup>n</sup> Dollars; which M<sup>r</sup> Eaton engaged should be refunded with all possible expedition. —

The Service he is employed on, has since unexpectedly required further supplies, and to promote its object, we have advanced him on Account of the U. S. Seven Thousand Span<sup>n</sup> Doll<sup>s</sup> more; making the whole of our actual disbursement \$13,000, for which we hold his Receipts. — In a Country of small resources like this where Banking operations are totally unknown & Specie is consequently the more valuable, you will easily conceive that it was not without considerable inconvenience, that at so short a notice we could collect, and dispose of this Sum M<sup>r</sup> Eaton stated to us, that to provide against all contingencies, he had recommended in his Dispatches by the *Argus*, that as much as \$20,000 should be sent up in the vessel which was to replace the first \$6000 we advanced — & he has assigned our reimbursement of the surplus on that fund — Tho' we do not apprehend any disappointment yet for the greater certainty, we deem it prudent to apprise you of the circumstance that every possible delay may be obviated

M<sup>r</sup> Eaton finally commenced his march with H. E. Ahmed Pacha, across the Desert to Bomba, on the 6 ins<sup>t</sup> — He has collected here about One Hundred Europeans & Greeks, & is accompanied by several Sheiks of the most powerful Tribes of Bedouins, with about Two Hundred Men, whose number will be considerably increased on their progress

We avail of this opportunity to tender you our best Services, whenever they can be useful to the Squadron under your command, & wishing every Success to the Expedition you are engaged in, we remain with the highest consideration,

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

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Extract from journal of William Eaton, U. S. Navy Agent for the Barbary Regencies, Monday, 11 March 1805

Marched twenty miles.

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

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Extract from journal of Hezekiah Loomis, Steward, U. S. Navy, in U. S. Brig *Vixen*, Master Commandant John Smith, U. S. Navy, commanding, Monday, 11 March 1805

This day standing off and on [Tripoli], the *Constellation* and *Constitution* in sight. At half past 4 o'clock P. M. stood off shore and hove to, the wind blowing very fresh and the sea beginning to rise.

[L. F. Middlebrook. NDA copy.]



To Captain Hugh G. Campbell, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. Frigate *Constellation*  
from Captain John Rodgers, U. S. Navy

U. STATES SHIP *Constitution*  
off *Tripoli* March 12, 1805

SIR In consequence of the authority Vested in me by Commodore Barron (as relates to the disposition of the different U. S. Vessels now on this Coast) I have to desire that you remain here in continuance of the Blockade until you are relieved by an adequate force to effect the same, without some precarious circumstance should oblige you to return sooner — An effectual Blockade cannot be maintained by less than two Vessels — When the *President* joins you I think it advisable that you send either her or the *Vixen* into Port (Malta) taking Cape Bon in her return, in order that a relief may be formed for the convenience of your own Ship, & which ever of these two Vessels you may think proper to detain, as also the general benefit of the service —

For your Information & Government, I do myself the pleasure to enclose you a Copy of the heads of Commodore Barrons instructions to the different Vessels now at Sea, as also Transcribe herein a paragraph of his orders to me. — “It is my wish that you enjoin upon the different commanders not to expose their Vessels unnecessarily to the Enemy's Battery's, as I cannot but deem it imprudent as well as detrimental to the service to hazard the loss of Masts, Spars &c — at a moment when neither the season nor our preparations permit us to act combinedly & offensively against the Place, unless some adequate object should present its self to justify the risk”. —

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

To Captain Samuel Barron, U. S. Navy, from Captain John Hall, U. S. Marine Corps

SYRACUSE 12<sup>th</sup> March 1805

SIR I have the honor of informing you of my return to Syracuse with the remainder of the Band enlisted in Catania by me, which in all are thirteen persons, and as there are at present none of our Squadron in Syracuse will be extremely obliged to the Comd<sup>re</sup> for Orders how I shall act — as House Rent &c<sup>t</sup> in Syracuse will be rather expensive —

I shall remain in this place Sir untill farther Orders from you — hoping you have recovered your health I have the honor to be with great esteem

[Mrs. James S. Barron Col.]

Extract from journal of William Eaton, U. S. Navy Agent for the Barbary Regencies,  
Tuesday, 12 March 1805

Marched twenty one miles.

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

To George Harrison, Navy Agent and Superintendent of Navy Yard, Philadelphia,  
Pa., from Secretary of the Navy

NAV DEP<sup>t</sup>  
Mar 13<sup>th</sup> 1805

By the enclosed copy of a Resolution of Congress you will perceive that the President has been requested to present a Gold Medal to Commodore Edward Preble emblematical of the attacks on the Town,

Batteries, and Naval forces of Tripoli and the Squadron under his command —

I am anxious that this medal should be executed in a masterly manner I understand that there is an engraver in Phil<sup>a</sup> of the name of Reich who is a very distinguished artist who can design with taste and execute with great skill —

Be pleased to apply to him and if agreeable to him ask him to make a device and know of him the terms upon which he will undertake to execute the medal — After he shall make and deliver such devise to you you will be pleased to forward it to the Secretary of the Navy for his consideration

As the medal is to be emblematical of the attacks on the Town &<sup>c</sup> of Tripoli it may be well to obtain from Commodore Preble information relative to these attacks, I mean the great outline of the Order of attack so as to make the devise as descriptive as possible of its Object —

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

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To Secretary of the Navy, from Messrs. Riddle and Bird, Navy Agents, Newcastle, Delaware

NEW CASTLE 13<sup>th</sup> March 1805

SIR, Yours of the 9<sup>th</sup> instant came duly to hand. In reply thereto we have to say, that we can procure the *Powder* warranted to be of the best quality from the manufactory of M<sup>r</sup> Dupont, near to Wilmington at forty dollars per barrel of one hundred pounds — the whole quantity deliverable at this place or Wilmington in two months from this time: — But if the money should be paid on the delivery of the Powder, a deduction of one dollar per barrel will be made by the manufacturer.

M<sup>r</sup> Dupont informs us that he does not manufacture cannon powder in large quantities unless the same should be ordered, therefore he has none on hand at present; and that it will require a period of about sixty days to make that quantity in.

If this price and those terms should answer your purpose, we shall be infinitely obliged by having your authority to contract for the powder, and to have your further orders with respect to its delivery

This day our John Bird was at the Manufactory, which is on the Brandywine, about five Miles N. N. West of Wilmington.

[NDA. Misc. LB, Vol. 1, 1805.]

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Extract from journal of William Eaton, U. S. Navy Agent for the Barbary Regencies, Wednesday, 13 March 1805

Marched twenty five miles. — These three days we have passed low sand vallies and rocky, desert plains. Few vestages of ruins except a castle fifty miles from Arab's tower, which has all the appearance of Grecian architecture. — About 2 oclock p.m. this day a courier met the Bashaw from Derne, informed him that the province was armed in his defence, and the Governor shut within the walls of his castle, (which we afterwards found to be false.) In consequence of this good news, feats of horsemanship and a *feu de joie* were exhibited in front

of the Bashaw by his people. — Our foot arabs who were in the rear with the baggage, hearing the firing, and apprehending that we were attacked by the wild Arabs of the desert, attempted to disarm and put to death the Christians who escorted the caravan. They were prevented by an Arab of some consideration among them, who insisted that prudence dictated they should suspend their execution till the cause of the firing should be known. — At this camping ground, on the seaboard, are numerous wells of great depth cut through solid rock, and producing water of a pretty good quality. — A little to the Westward is a handsome bay about twenty miles deep and fifteen broad. —

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

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Extract from journal of Midshipman Charles Morris, Jr., U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *President*, Master Commandant George Cox, U. S. Navy, commanding, Wednesday, 13 March 1805

P. M. Light Airs and clear.

1½ Set all the Staysails Royals and Larboard Studding sails. Carried away the larboard topmast Studding sail Boom. 3½ Shortened Sail. The harbour of Bengasi in Sight. no vessels of any description in it.

4. The Fort bore S E ½ E 10 miles. hauled off to N N W.

8. reefed the Topsails and Topgallantsails.

Midnight. fresh breezes and cloudy —

6 Turned the reefs out of the Topsails and Top Gall<sup>t</sup> Sails. and made all sail with the wind Free.

Noon. pleasant.

Surgeon reports 16 Men unfit for duty

Latitude Observed 33° 49' N.

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

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Extract from journal of Hezekiah Loomis, Steward, U. S. Navy, in U. S. Brig *Vixen*, Master Commandant John Smith, U. S. Navy, commanding, Wednesday, 13 March 1805

[Tripoli] Fresh breeze, stood in near the land, then stood off toward the *Constellation* which we spoke at half past 11 o'clock A. M. then made sail off from land, the wind blowing fresh on shore.

[L. F. Middlebrook. NDA copy.]

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To Lieutenant Joseph J. Maxwell, U. S. Navy, from Secretary of the Navy

NAV. DEP.  
14 March 1805

You will continue your services to the Commanding Officer of the *John Adams* in preparing her for sea, and will remain on board until you hear further from this Department. It is my intention to [give you] the command of Gun-boat N<sup>o</sup> 8 at Boston, of which you will receive notice in due Season.

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

To John Beekman, Navy Agent and Superintendent of Navy Yard, New York,  
N. Y., from Secretary of the Navy

NAV. DEP.

14 March 1805

I have this day ordered Lieutenant Lawrence to take the Command of Gun-boat N<sup>o</sup> 6 — and Lieutenant Leonard to take the Command of Gun-boat N<sup>o</sup> 7 — these Boats are intended to be sent to the Mediterranean — and I have ordered their respective Commanding Officers to prepare them for such a voyage.

You will render them every needful assistance.

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

To Midshipman James T. Leonard, U. S. Navy, from Secretary of the Navy

NAV. DEPM<sup>t</sup>

14 March 1805.

Lieu<sup>t</sup> Lawrence being your Senior Officer, I have this day ordered him to assume the Command of Gunboat N<sup>o</sup> 6, the name of the one of the two lately built at New York which he shall choose. His Seniority in Rank entitles him to the choice, and it is for this reason that it has been given to him. —

You will assume the Command of Gun Boat N<sup>o</sup> 7 — the name of the Boat at New York which Lieu<sup>t</sup> Lawrence shall not choose and use your best exertions to prepare her for Sea. It is intended to send her to the Mediterranean; she must therefore be prepared for such a Voyage. With respect to her Rigging you will pursue the plan suggested in the enclosed Copy of a letter from Comm<sup>r</sup>e Preble and Cap<sup>t</sup> Tingey to me. —

You will keep me informed of your progress.

M<sup>t</sup> Beekman Navy Agent will render you every needful assistance. —

P. S. Gunboat N<sup>o</sup> 7 is to have 1 long 32 Pounder at each End. The plan of rigging heretofore suggested was proposed with a View to the Boat being employed in our Land locked Navigation only. —

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

To Lieutenant James Lawrence, U. S. Navy, from Secretary of the Navy

NAV. DEPM<sup>t</sup>

14 March 1805 —

You will assume the Command of Gunboat N<sup>o</sup> 6 at New York. You are to take your choice of the two lately built there and the one which you shall chose will be called N<sup>o</sup> 6 — the other which will be called N<sup>o</sup> 7 will be commanded by Lieu<sup>t</sup> Leonard. Your rank entitles you to a choice of these two Boats; it is therefore that I give it to you. —

Gunboat N<sup>o</sup> 6 must be prepared for Sea without delay. It is intended to send her to the Mediterranean; she must therefore be prepared for such a Voyage. With respect to her rigging, you will pursue the plan suggested in the enclosed Copy of a letter from Commodore Preble and Cap<sup>t</sup> Tingey to me. —

You will keep me informed of your progress.

M<sup>t</sup> Beekman Navy Agent will render you every needful assistance. —

P. S. Gunboat N<sup>o</sup> 6 is to have 1 long 32 pounder at each end. The plan of rigging heretofore suggested was proposed with a view to the Boat being employed in our Land locked navigation only. —

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

To Sailing Master Humphrey Magrath, U. S. Navy, from Secretary of the Navy  
NAV. DEP.

14 March 1805

It is intended to send Gun-boat N<sup>o</sup> 1 to the Mediterranean if in your opinion she can safely perform such a Voyage in the month of May — Of her fitness for such a voyage you must from having commanded her for a considerable period of time must be more competent to form a correct Judgment than we can be — and you will decide from your own knowledge, whether she is fit or not.

Should you think her fit for such a Voyage, you will immediately prepare her for sea.

The plan of rigging proposed in the enclosed copy of a letter from Comm<sup>d<sup>e</sup></sup> & Capt. Tingey to me must be pursued, unless in your opinion her present rigging will answer, either as it is now fitted, or with some small alteration.

Keep me informed of your progress.

W<sup>m</sup> Smith sen<sup>r</sup> Esq<sup>r</sup> will render you every needful assistance.

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

To Midshipman Ralph Izard, Jr., U. S. Navy, from Secretary of the Navy

NAV. DEP.

14 March 1805

Gun-boat N<sup>o</sup> 2 must be prepared for sea. It is intended to send her to the Mediterranean — You will therefore use your best exertions to have her prepared for such a voyage. The plan of rigging proposed in the enclosed copy of a letter from Commodore Preble & Captain Tingey to me must be pursued — unless in the opinion of practical Gentlemen on the spot, the manner of her present rigging will answer, either as it now is, or with some small alteration.

W<sup>m</sup> Smith sen<sup>r</sup> Esq<sup>r</sup> Navy Agent at Cha<sup>st</sup>on will render you every needful assistance to enable you to execute these orders.

P. S. It is thought by some that the present rigging of Gunboat N<sup>o</sup> 2 will answer with the addition of a Bowsprit.

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

To Secretary of the Navy from Stephen Decatur, Sr.

FRANKFORD March 14<sup>th</sup> 1805

SIR I beg leave to offer, my services to you for manufacturing of Gun powder as I have a large manufactory for that purpose and formerly made for the Navy which was much approv'd of I will make it at the same rate that others have done as there is a large Quantity of saltpeter in Philadelphia belonging to the United States. I have taken the liberty of Addressing you on this subject — a line respecting the business will be attended to

Yours Respectfully

STEPHEN DECATUR

JACOB CROWNSHIELD ESQ<sup>r</sup>

[NDA. Misc. LB, Vol. 1, 1805.]

Extract from journal of William Eaton, U. S. Navy Agent for the Barbary Regencies,  
Thursday, 14 March 1805

Marched twenty six miles, — over a barren rocky plain, — Passed some vestages of ancient fortifications: — raised and encamped upon the dividing ridge between Egypt and Triploi, — near a cistern of excellent water. — The site of the ridge a vast plain, barren of vegetation. —

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

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

NAVY DEP<sup>t</sup>  
15 March 1805 —

After your long absence from America and the honorable services you have performed, I could not feel otherwise than disposed to grant you a respite from duty; but as you have volunteered your services, we will avail ourselves of them. —

I have therefore to request that you will repair to Boston and to Portland and at whichever place you may find the most convenient and fit, build 2 Bomb Vessels, and 2 Gunboats. I have already verbally communicated to you the object for which we require the Bomb Vessels, and you know that it is desirable to have them built and equipped with all practicable expedition. The Gunboats you may build when more at leisure. —

You have manifested such zeal for the service, such attention to the public Interest, and such intelligence on Naval Subjects, that I shall restrict you upon no point in relation to the Building of these Vessels. You will therefore build them upon such plans as may in your judgment be the most eligible. After determining upon the plans you will transmit drawings of them to me — particularly drawings of the Gunboats, which I wish, as soon as you shall have it in your power conveniently to furnish them, with the View of having other Gunboats built after them.

I have ordered Lieu<sup>t</sup> Gordon and Mids<sup>n</sup> Lewis and Hunewell to report themselves to you & obey your orders. —

M<sup>r</sup> Brown Navy Agent at Boston will render you every needful assistance and he will pay all the Accounts for building those Vessels that shall be approved by you. —

I enclose [space] from the Secretary of War, for

2 — 13 Inch iron Mortars

500 — 13 Inch Shells

500 Fuzes for d<sup>o</sup> —

2 — 8 or 10 Inch brass Howitzers. —

500 — Shells & 500 Fuzes for d<sup>o</sup>

4 — 5½ Inch Howitzers

500 — 5½ shells & 500 fuzes for d<sup>o</sup> —

Which are to be delivered to you or to your order. I have sent an order to the Navy Agent at New York to deliver to you or your order such Cannon and Carronades and Carriages & c<sup>t</sup> as you may require. —

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

To Lieutenant Colonel Commandant Franklin Wharton, U. S. Marine Corps,  
from Secretary of the Navy

NAV: DEPM<sup>t</sup>  
15 March 1805.

The *John Adams* now preparing for sea will require,

1 Sergeant	} Marines,
1 Corporal &	
12 Privates	

and each gunboat will require

1 Corporal &	} Marines.
4 Privates,	

The *John Adams* is now lying at New York and the U. S. Gunboats are at the places mentioned as follows,

N <sup>o</sup> 1 — 2 & 9	at Charleston S. C.
N <sup>o</sup> 4 & 10	at the Navy Yard here.
N <sup>o</sup> 5	at Baltimore.
N <sup>o</sup> 3	at Philadelphia.
N <sup>o</sup> 6 & 7	at New York.
N <sup>o</sup> 8	at Boston. —

You will without delay take the necessary steps to provide these Detachments. —

As Gunboats N<sup>o</sup> 1 & 2 at Charleston have each, 1 Sergeant, 1 Corporal, & 12 Privates at present on Board, you can retain on Board, the Detachments herein ordered for them, and the Surplus will enable you to supply from them a Detachment for N<sup>o</sup> 9 and a Detachment for the Frigate *John Adams*; and the Detachment for the *John Adams* may be delivered to Lieu<sup>t</sup> Murdoch now recruiting at Charleston Seamen intended for that Vessel, and he can take the Marines and the Seamen with him to New York.

To enable you to effect this arrangement, I have this day written to the Commanding Officers of N<sup>o</sup> 1 & 2 to deliver to your order such Marines as you may direct. It will remain with you to order 1 Corporal & 4 privates to be delivered to the Commanding Officer of Gunboat N<sup>o</sup> 9, and to Lieu<sup>t</sup> Murdoch all the Marines that may remain after supplying Detachments for Gunboats N<sup>o</sup> 1 — 2 & 9 and I shall order Lieu<sup>t</sup> Murdoch to take charge of them & carry them to N York to join the *John Adams*. —

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

To Sailing Master Levi Bardin, U. S. Navy, commanding Gunboat No. 3, Philadelphia, Pa., from Secretary of the Navy

NAV DEP<sup>t</sup> —  
March 15 1805.

Gunboat N<sup>o</sup> 3 must be immediately prepared for sea. It is intended to send her to the Mediterranean; you will therefore use your best exertions to have her prepared for such a Voyage.

The plan of rigging heretofore proposed was intended for land locked Navigation only, therefore the plan of rigging proposed in the enclosed Copy of a Letter [11 March] from Commodore Preble and Cap<sup>t</sup> Tingey to me, must be pursued and you will keep me constantly informed of your progress. You will receive from George Harrison Esq<sup>t</sup> every needful assistance in the execution of these orders. —

You will not consider these orders as superceding the Instructions for Recruiting given to you on the 9<sup>th</sup> Instant, but will use your best exertions to effect both Objects to which it is presumed you are fully competent. —

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

To John Stricker, Navy Agent, Baltimore, Md., from Secretary of the Navy

NAV DEP<sup>t</sup>

15 March 1805.

The plan of Rigging proposed in the enclosed Copy of a letter from Commodore Preble and Cap<sup>t</sup> Tingey to me, must be pursued in rigging the Gunboat lately launched at Balt<sup>o</sup> which we will call N<sup>o</sup> 5. It is intended to send her to the Mediterranean and I wish her immediately fitted for the voyage. Lieu<sup>t</sup> Harrison who is now at the Southward has been appointed to the Command and ordered on to Baltimore but as it will take him some time before he can come on, I have given you these Instructions that no time may be lost. I request your attention to them & frequent Information of your progress. —

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

Extract from journal of William Eaton, U. S. Navy Agent for the Barbary Regencies,  
Friday, 15 March 1805

Marched twenty five miles: — camped in a ravine, at the head of which we found rain water, preserved in natural reservoirs excavated in the rocks by the cascades of water during the winter rains. —

The night was cold and rainy. A musket, bayonet, cartouch box and cartridges stolen by the Arabs from the marine tent, and all our provisions of cheese from the magazine. — We had heretofore experienced daily losses of provisions & barley, which they stole and concealed. —

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

To Captain Samuel Barron, U. S. Navy, from Captain William Bainbridge,  
U. S. Navy

BARBARY TRIPOLI 16<sup>th</sup> March 1805

DEAR SIR I am acquainted that Sidi Mahammed Dhgies Minister of Foreign affairs to His Excellency the Bashaw of Tripoli has written to you on a *certain subject*.

The Minister has been much indisposed for several months past with an inflammation in his eyes, and Doct<sup>r</sup> Ridgeley his Surgeon has done every thing in his power, for him, without its having the desired effect; for the many obligations that myself and Officers are under to the Minister, I wish that it may be agreeable for you to render him some aid, through one of the *Surgeon's* of your Squadron

Permit me to observe that whatever Sidi Mahammed Dhgies, or my worthy freind, Nicholas, C, Nissen Esq<sup>r</sup> His Danish Majesty's Consul in this place, writes to you on the *subject* will in my opinion merit your attention, for, from my knowledge of the freindly disposition of the Minister, I have reason to believe that his assertions are



founded on candour — It is unnessecary for me to say more as you no doubt will fully comprehend me

[The following was written in invisible ink.]

16 March 1805

D<sup>r</sup> SIR This day Sidi Mahammed Dhgies sent for me and informed me in a confidence, that he had wrote to you recommending a person to come to negotiate and requested me to write a letter [ms illegible] in the obscure manner that I have done, that in case of discovery it would be [un]intelligible or foreign to the subject

I really beleive that the Minister is sincerely desirous for peace for exclusive of his freindly disposition it is greatly his interest to have it, and was a person to come and remain a few days to negotiate I have not a doubt but what peace could be made on the terms that Com Preble offered at all events it would in my opinion have the happy effect of making the Bashaw<sup>s</sup> subjects clamorous, as they would then see that America had the disposition to make peace, and that the continuance of the war was owing to the Bashaw,

The Houses here of stone and mud and badly furnished, of course the damage in Bombarding cannot be as great as if it was otherwise.

Permit me my dear Barron to make one observation — To reduce the Bashaw to moderate terms I suppose is the object of our Gov<sup>t</sup> and your expectation to release us from captivity without paying is in my opinion impossible without land forces and I hope that our Country will not think that it is the subject of peace they pay for, but the liberty of their unfortunate Citizens fell captives in its service, and it may be assured that what ever is paid, no (Tripolitan from what they they have experienced of the Americans) will consider one farthing of it paid for purchasing [MS mutilated] of Tripoli.

In my letter of the 13 I gave you some information about M<sup>r</sup> Beaussier

I candidly beleive that any person might come here with the greatest safety and I beleive that an American will answer much better than any Frenchman or any other countrymen

The Minister has great influence with the Bashaw and is doing all in his power to bring him to a disposition of making peace on moderate terms.

I know you will do me the justice to believe that my representations are actated for the good of *our Cause*

Yours truly

W<sup>m</sup> BAINBRIDGE

[Stephen Decatur original.]

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Extract from journal of William Eaton, U. S. Navy Agent for the Barbary Regencies, Saturday, 16 March 1805

Bold, high winds from W.N.W. heavy thunder and incessant rain. — Remained in camp. — At 3 p.m. our camp inundated. — Moved to high ground. At the foot of this ravine is an extensive bay of the sea. —

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

Extract from journal of Hezekiah Loomis, Steward, U. S. Navy, in U. S. Brig *Vixen*, Master Commandant John Smith, U. S. Navy, commanding, Saturday, 16 March 1805

Off Tripoli. This day in sight of the land. At 8 o'clock A. M. found we were off old Tripoli. Stood off land, and then beat toward the town of New Tripoli until half past 12 o'clock at noon when the man at the mast head cried out "Sail Ho". We then about ship and stood for her. At half past 3 o'clock P. M. we were almost within gun shot. We made signals. She would not answer them. We played off and on, tack and tack displaying different colours and signals until 4 o'clock then stood off and beat to windward to join with the *Constellation*.

[L. F. Middlebrook. NDA copy.]

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

NAVY DEPT<sup>t</sup>

17 March 1805.

I understand that you are desirous of obtaining a furlough for the purpose of retrieving the pecuniary losses you have sustained since you have been in the public Service. The very honorable manner in which you have at all times been mentioned to me, and the Zeal with which you have devoted yourself to the service of your Country, dispose me to grant you every reasonable indulgence. You will therefore Sir, consider yourself on furlough to make an European or East India Voyage. Let me know when you leave the Country and on your return report yourself to this Department. — I wish you a safe and prosperous Voyage,

P. S. You will continue in the Command of the *John Adams* & attend to her outfits until relieved by Cap<sup>t</sup> Shaw. —

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

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

NAVY DEPT<sup>t</sup>

17 March 1805. —

I this day rec<sup>d</sup> your letter of the 11<sup>th</sup> Ins<sup>t</sup> —

The *John Adams* is to go to the Mediterranean as a Transport Ship, to carry as many men as can conveniently be sent out in her with Provisions enough to last them to the Mediterranean. It is proposed to house the guns on the Gun-Deck so that the men may be birthed on the Gun deck as well as on the Birth-Deck. If by this arrangement the *John Adams* should be able to carry 600 Men I shall be the more pleased and we shall send that number out in her if conveniently to be procured. Make your repairs accordingly.

I have made arrangements for relieving Doct<sup>r</sup> Weems. —

Money has been remitted for the purpose of paying off the Crew as you have been already advised. —

Be pleased to make to me a return of your Officers with your opinion of their respective merits. I have understood with much concern that some of them are unfit for the Stations they hold. — Encourage the resignation of such Men. We do not want them in the Navy, and the sooner we can rid the Navy of them, the better. In your

return, let me know who are desirous of resigning: it is probable that I shall indulge all who are so disposed in their inclinations. —

I am very much pleased to hear that the *John Adams* will be so soon prepared for sea. Let me hear from you frequently. —

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

To Captain Stephen Decatur, Jr., U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. Frigate *Congress*,  
from Captain Samuel Barron, U. S. Navy

(MALTA) LA VALLETTE 17 March 1805

SIR Finding it impossible to procure at this place the field Artillery requested by Mr Eaton in his late dispatches from Egypt, which are deemed indispensable to ensure the success of his plan of co-operation on the coast of Tripoly, and there being a strong probability of obtaining them on loan or by purchase in Sicily you are hereby directed to proceed immediately in the United States Frigate under your command to Syracuse, where you will endeavour to procure from the Governor, two or if they can be had (four field peices) their Calibres not to exceed 6 pounds, with carriages, trains, implements &c complete for use, & embark them on board your ship. From Syracuse you will proceed with all possible expedition to Messina and in case you should not have succeeded at the former place, you are authorized to make a similar application there, — It is left to you to adopt such arrangements with the Government for indemnifying them or for replacing the field peices as you may deem best — Anticipating the possibility of a disappoint[ment] at both those places, the Navy agent has been directed to send on board the *Congress* two brass Guns, which should you not be fortunate enough to procure the Field peices complete, you will have mounted & made fit for service in as short a time as possible, I have instructed Mr Broadbent of Messina to place under your care the two Gun boats, the property of the United States, which you will see safe off the Harbor of Syracuse and direct the persons having charge of them to report themselves to the senior officer of any of our Vessels in that harbour, or if the American flag be not flying in that port to the Navy Agent for the United States The Guns belonging to the Boats you will take on board your Frigates, and bring them to this place, — In the accompanying Letters to Mr. Dyson and to Mr Broadbent, I have directed those Gentlemen to make you such advances as you may require for the contingent expences of your Ship as well as the other object of national concern, you will therefore make your requisitions upon them & I will charge the agent at this place with reimbursements, — as you are destined on a particular service, it would be useless & inappropriate to fix any precise time for your Return, being yourself fully sensible of the importance of dispatch to our Affairs you will accelerate the objects of your Mission and your Return to this Port, as much as Circumstances will permit.

(Signed) SAMUEL BARRON

P S on further consideration, I think it proper to state to you, that as dispatch is the object, you will leave the Gun boats & Guns, should there be any probability of your being embarassed or delayed by them, you will however in this particular use your own discretion, —

S B

Captain S. DECATUR Jun  
U S. Frigate *Congress*

Captain Decatur will have the goodness to make some arrangement with Mr Broadbent respecting the two Gun Boats so as to have them sent round to Syracuse as soon as possible — The Guns appertaining to them Cap<sup>t</sup> D. will leave at Messina or bring in his Frigate as he may think proper, —

[HS of Pa.]

Extract from journal of Surgeon Jonathan Cowdery, U. S. Navy, 17 March 1805

Walking by the house called the American house, I perceived that it was full of Turks, and a strong guard was at the door. On inquiry, I found that they were the sons and nearest relations of the Bashaw's officers, who had gone in the expedition to the frontiers. The Bashaw kept these people as hostages for the fidelity of his officers, whom it appears, he was afraid to trust, lest they might join in the rebellion and come against Tripoli. It was said that his highness had received a letter, stating that the Americans were making great preparations to attack Tripoli. A tent was pitched on the battery of the castle, and orders given to keep watch all night, and every night afterwards. Orders were also given to make every preparation to repel the Americans.

[LC. Rare Books, *American Captives in Tripoli or Dr. Cowdery's Journal*, Boston, 1806.]

Extract from journal of William Eaton, U. S. Navy Agent for the Barbary Regencies, Sunday, 17 March 1805

Morning rainy. Our Arabs refused to proceed farther without money. — Reconciled them with promises. — Marched twelve miles. — Camped in a deep ravine: — some small brush and good rainwater. —

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

Extract from journal of Midshipman Charles Morris, Jr., U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *President*, Master Commandant George Cox, U. S. Navy, commanding, Sunday, 17 March 1805

P M. Fresh breezes and cloudy 2½ the U S Brig. *Vixen* made the private Signal for the Day — which we answered Tacked occasionally plying to Windward.

Midnight Fresh breezes and clear. 11 the U S Frigate *Constellation* made the private Signal, and signal to speak answered them

Noon Moderate Breezes. Tripoli S E B E ½ E by Compass —

Lat Observed 33° 00' N

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

Extract from journal of Hezekiah Loomis, Steward, U. S. Navy, in U. S. Brig *Vixen*, Master Commandant John Smith, U. S. Navy, commanding, Sunday, 17 March 1805

Commences with a stiff breeze and pleasant weather. At 8 o'clock saw a sail beating to the eastward the same course that we were steering. At 9 o'clock saw another sail to N. and E. standing in for the land. Mustered the men and Roswell Thomas and Joseph Smith had their grog stopped for uncleanness. At half past 4 o'clock we spoke

the *Constellation* and Captain Smith went on board. The other frigate was the *President* commanded by Captain Coxe. He also went on board the *Constellation*. *St. Patricks Day and not an Irishman drunk!*

[L. F. Middlebrook. NDA Copy.]

[18 March 1805]

To Secretary of the Navy from George Harrison, Navy Agent, Philadelphia, Pa.

SIR I have rec'd your letter of the 13<sup>th</sup> with its enclosed — Agreeably to y<sup>r</sup> directions I have had an interview with Reich who is certainly the first Engraver in America but he has neither ability, or taste to design. We must look to some other quarter — U'till he is furnished with y<sup>e</sup> Drawing & y<sup>e</sup> size of the medal he can form no estimate of his Labor — The size of that executed for Truxtun was adapted to y<sup>e</sup> Force of the Machinery at y<sup>e</sup> mint — I expect the Force has been increased & a larger diameter may be taken — You have not mentioned what is to be the reverse of the medal — If the Head & Bust of the Commodore it will be well to have his profile taken by Stewart with a view to the Medal — If he has left W. & passes a day or two here it can be taken by Peale

If the Commodore will furnish me with a sketch of the Action — I will lay it before some amateurs & we may obtain something from their pencils — handsome

I have this day received your circular of the 12<sup>th</sup> which shall command my attention.

PHILAD 18 March 1805

L<sup>t</sup> Bardin has commenced recruiting has entered this day Seven Seamen & Seven ordinary — giving three months advance — these men sh<sup>d</sup> be disposed of, or they will run — & we shall have to look to their Securities — The India Men have commenced shipping which interferes — 3000 Tons will go this Spring to China.

[NDA. Misc. LB, Vol. 1, 1805.]

To Commanding Officer, United States Ships of War off Tripoli, from Captain William Bainbridge, U. S. Navy

BARBARY TRIPOLI 18<sup>th</sup> March 1805

D<sup>r</sup> SIR The letters for Commodore Barron which accompany this, I conceive of consequence, and I hope that it will be in your power to give them a speedy conveyance to him.

We are all well, kept very close, but in hopes that measures will soon be taken to relieve us.

I will thank you to present my compliments to the Officers before Tripoli, success and honor attend them is my sincere wish

[Stephen Decatur original.]

To Captain Samuel Barron, U. S. Navy, from Nicholas C. Nissen, Danish Consul, Tripoli

TRIPOLI March 18 1805

SIR The Bashaw's Minister Sidi Mahomet Dghies personally desirous of a reestablishment of peace with the U. S. of America and

wishing to contribute whatever may be in his power to the conclusion of it has requested me Sir, in his name to address you this Letter. —

Sidi Mahomet Dghies is convinced that you are informed of his endeavors in 1801 to prevent the declaration of War; He alone opposed the general opinion of the Divan in this respect — The Letters of M<sup>r</sup> Cathcart late Consul for the U. S. at Tripoli, to his Government at that time will bear testimony of this fact. —

The War having nevertheless been declared, nothing has since been omitted by Sidi Mahomet Dghies that could contribute to the conclusion of a Peace. —

Sidi M. Dghies has personally too much Interest in the undisturbed tranquility and Security of the trade of Tripoli not to avail himself of every mean that could be conducive to what has been his Interest & constant desire. — In this moment he wishes to prevent further hostilities; the state of his Health, his family & his private concerns are so many reasons for him to endeavor to persuade both parties to come to an agreement; he is certain that these are likewise your wishes Sir & the intention of your Government — The situation besides of your unfortunate Countrymen here which Sidi M. Dghies has endeavored to alleviate as much as it has been in his power, is nevertheless such that they & their relations in America cannot but look upon it as an act of Humanity to accelerate the conclusion of a peace that again can restore them to their Country. — Sidi M Dghies is desirous of a peace, and he wishes that a Negotiation should be renew'd before the commencement of any direct hostilities against this place. His health & particularly the state of his Eyes will oblige him to retire with his family in a short time to the Country, & will not permit him again to return to Town at any future overture or Negotiation of Peace, & he is afraid that being absent he shall not be able so easily to suscite in the mind of the Bashaw equal peaceful sentiments with his own — A Negotiation entirely by Letters is tedious and difficult; to negotiate by a person sent on shore from a Ship of War & who returns again on board after a short Stay & maybe after a momentary Interview with the Bashaw has many difficulties & proves often more detrimental to a Negotiation than productive of a Peace — Sidi M Dghies don't think it necessary to enlarge upon the difficulties that attend this way of negotiating & their cause; You cannot sir but be aware of them yourself; He proposes therefore as the most effectual manner of conducting a Negotiation of Peace to send to Tripoli a person properly authorized & furnished with Instructions — Whoever shall be sent can be assured of the most perfect Inviolability — Shou'd his & Sidi M. Dghies' earnest endeavors to reestablish Peace prove successful, the business is thereby naturally brought to a happy conclusion; should it however unfortunately prove otherwise, the Negotiator will have liberty to return free from molestation of any kind & in what manner he may judge convenient.

You will please Sir yourself to fix upon the securities you may require for the faithful observation of these conditions, in case you shall think proper to agree to these proposals, & whenever you in answer to this Letter may request the admission of a Negotiator —

After having in this manner candidly & confidently stated to you Sir his mind, Sidi M. Dghies hopes to have precluded every suspicion of his peaceful intentions & convinced you that every facility will be shewn for a mutual satisfactory conclusion of peace; he don't believe



WILLIAM EATON AND HAMET CARAMANLI ON THE MARCH TO DERNE.





it necessary to observe that a sincere & lasting peace is at any time preferable even to a successful War, that War has many chances & that often unforeseen accidents occasion losses, however prudent the measures were taken to assure Success. —

That Sidi Mahomet Dghies has requested me to write you Sir in his name this Letter, & that the Contents have been faithfully translated I have no doubt but that you will readily give Credit, but give me likewise leave to assure you Sir that I, in case I did not myself believe the sentiments contain'd in this Letter sincere, would have excused myself from putting them to paper, & in this persuasion I shall consider it as a very favorable circumstance for me, if I have been found any way instrumental to the means of bringing about a Peace between the U. S. of America & the Bashaw of Tripoli & of procuring the liberty of your unfortunate Countrymen here, having the Honor to be with the greatest Respect Sir:

[NA. Sen. 9 B-B 6, Pres. Message, Jan. 1806.]

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Extract from journal of Surgeon Jonathan Cowdery, U. S. Navy, 18 March 1805

The Bashaw sent his son-in-law into the country for troops to protect Tripoli.

[LC. Rare Books, *American Captives in Tripoli or Dr. Cowdery's Journal*, Boston, 1806.]

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Extract from journal of William Eaton, U. S. Navy Agent for the Barbary Regencies, Monday, 18 March 1805

Marched fifteen miles to a castle called by the Arabs Massouah: — an extensive plain valley, surrounded in the rear and flanks by a stoney desert, and in front by white sand drifts of great height which cuts the view from the sea. — In this valley are found vestages of ancient fabrications, gardens, mansions and pleasure houses, evidence of former cultivation and improvement, of which the place is very susceptible; though now all lies buried in ruins, except some miserable patches of badly cultivated wheat and barley. — Here was a chiek, who held the castle, and a few Arab families in tents. — The modern castle is a square of about one hundred and fifty feet, built of rough stone about eleven feet high, — without bastions or battlements, but with loop holes. — It is the deposit of the produce and trafic of the place. Cattle, sheep, goats, fowls, butter in skins, dates and milk, were found and offered for sale, but very dear. —

I now learned, for the first time, that our caravan was freighted by the Bashaw only to this place, and that the owners had received no part of their pay. — No persuasion could prevail on them to proceed to Bomba nor to wait our arrival thither for their pay. They alledged that they had fulfilled their engagement with the Bashaw, and would now return to their families in Behara, for whose safety they had serious apprehensions from the Kerchief of Demanhour. The Chiek *il Taiib* favored their pretentions. — I promised to procure the cash for their payment on condition that they would proceed two days further, where we expected to find Arab tribes and hire another caravan. This they engaged to do. — I reduced my stock of cash to 3 Venitien sequins, and, with a hundred and forty dollars borrowed of the christian officers and men, passed into the hands of the Bashaw, *six hundred and seventy three dollars*  $\frac{5}{100}$ ; which sum, together

with what he raised among his own people, enabled him to meet the claims of these chiefs of the caravan. —

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

Extract from journal of Midshipman Charles Morris, Jr., U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *President*, Master Commandant George Cox, U. S. Navy, commanding, Monday, 18 March 1805

P M Fresh breezes and cloudy. 3 spoke the U S Frigate *Constellation*. 4 — Cap<sup>n</sup> Cox went on board the *Constellation*. 8 — Capt<sup>n</sup> Cox returned — Sent down top Gallant Yards — and took the 3<sup>d</sup> reef in the topsails — 9 Launched top Gallant mast —

Midnight Strong gales and cloudy 1 close reefed the Topsails. 3 Wore Ship and handed the Main sail — 3½ Set the Stormstaysails — Wore ship occasionally the *Constellation* in sight —

Noon Cloudy no Observation —

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

Circular to Recruiting Officers from Secretary of the Navy

NAVY DEPM<sup>t</sup>

19 March 1805. —

Circular To Recruiting Officers. —

M. Comdt I. Chauncey	-----	New York.
L <sup>t</sup> George G. Lee	-----	Boston.
L <sup>t</sup> J. W. Murdoch	-----	Charleston SC.
L <sup>t</sup> Ed <sup>d</sup> N. Cox	-----	Balt <sup>o</sup>

SIR. The high rate of wages allowed in the Merchant service renders it expedient to add something to the wages of Able Seamen. You will therefore allow a bounty of Ten Dollars to each good Able Seaman and two dollars to the Landlords for each able Seaman entered by them. —

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

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

NAVY DEP<sup>t</sup>

19 March 1805. —

I have rec<sup>d</sup> your letter of the 15<sup>th</sup> Ins<sup>t</sup> — I am pleased to hear of the rapid progress you are making towards preparing the *John Adams* for Sea. —

Allow ten dollars bounty to each good able Seaman, and two Dollars to the Landlords for each Able Seaman entered by them. Enter the usual number of Petty Officers. —

The *John Adams* is to carry out all her Guns provided it shall not lessen the number of Men to be sent out in her. As I have already informed you she is, for this Voyage intended principally for a Transport Ship, any arrangements to make her formidable, that may not interfere with this principal object, I shall acquiesce in if approved by you. —

I have already informed you in a letter which you could not have received at the date of your last of 15 Instant, that the *John Adams* is to carry out as many Men as can conveniently be put on Board of her, with provisions enough to last them till the Vessel shall join the Squadron in the Mediterranean. —

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

To Secretary of the Navy from Sailing Master Levi Bardin, U. S. Navy

PHILADELPHIA March 19<sup>th</sup> 1805

SIR I have the Hon. to acknowledge the receipt of your Letter of the 15<sup>th</sup> Inst. with the Inclosed copy of Commodore Prebles Last Evening and this Morning. Set the Different Mechanicks at work to Execute the orders therein mentioned.

No exertion of mine Shall be wanting to Expedite the proposed alteration of the Gun Boat and prepare her for her Intended Cruize — I have this Day Shiped one Seaman and Seven ordinary Ditto.

Mid<sup>l</sup> Stut and Surg<sup>l</sup> Mate M<sup>r</sup>Alister have not yet made their appearance. — Suffer me Sir to mention the Expediency of having Lee Boards to this Gun Boat, to put her in a condition to Sail on a wind, as she has no Dead rise.

[NDA. Misc. LB, Vol. 1, 1805.]

[19 March 1805]

Presumably from Captain John Rodgers, U. S. Navy

SIR I have the honor to acquaint you that I arriv'd at Malta on the 23<sup>d</sup> Ult<sup>mo</sup>, in five days after I wrote you last from Gibraltar: and after replenishing my provisions & Water, Sail'd again on the 2<sup>nd</sup> ins<sup>t</sup> for Tripoli from which I have this Moment return'd, Agreeable to my instructions from Comand<sup>t</sup> Barron, — The *Constellation* & Brig *Vixen* I left before Tripoli with orders to Cap<sup>t</sup> Campbell to remain in continuance of the Blockade with at least two Vessels until he is reliev'd by an adiquate force to continue the Blockade Effectually — When I left Tripoli the *President* was between it and Bengazi but she has, by her orders, Join'd the *Constellation* by this time

[LC. JRP, Vol. 1, March 1791–Dec. 1814.]

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

U. STATES SHIP *Constitution*

Malta March 19. 1805

SIR I have the honor to acquaint you that I have this moment arriv'd from the Coast of Tripoli; which place I left on Thursday last. — During the short time the *Constitution* was before Tripoli the weather was generally very fine which enabled us to preserve a close Blockade, and reconoitre the harbour almost every Day — Two days after my arrival on the Coast I met with the *Constellation* and in three with the *Vixen*, after which & during the time I remain'd the three Vessels were disposed in the following order —

*Constitution* abreast of the Town, *Constellation* to the Eastw'd and *Vixen* to the Westw'd. —

The Enemies Cruizers — Brig, Schooner, two Gally's & Gun Boats (except one which is Anchored as a Guard within about one hundred Yards of the Bashaws Castle) are crowded so close in behind the Mole, that I was not able to ascertain exactly their number, farther than by counting their Masts: There are however either Sixteen or Seventeen exclusive of one on the Stocks, at the gate, contiguous to the Bashaws Castle — The Brig is yet without Masts and not a Vessel in the Harbour except the Guard Boat, has a Sail bent. —

I could not discover any material alteration in the Battery's, farther than what has been effected by white wash, except that some of the Embrasures to the West & N W. parts of the Town appear to have Guns, that had none last Fall. —

The *Constellation* & *Vixen* I left before Tripoli as you will discover by the Enclosed copy of my letter to Cap<sup>t</sup> Campbell [12 March] on the subject of Blockade, — The *President* had met with the *Constellation*, off Tripoli, the day before I reached there and had proceeded to the Eastward, towards Bengazi in pursuance of your orders! Her return was momentarily expected when I left the Coast. —

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

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

U. STATES FRIGATE *Constitution*

Malta, March 19. 1805

SIR I[n] consequence of the discretionary orders you have invested me with, it is with due deference to your better judgement I take the liberty to offer my opinion as to the measures most salutary to pursue, in our present situation with Tripoli. —

The Blockade I conceive it most advisable to preserve as minutely as the season of the year will admit, not only to prevent the Enemys Cruizers getting out of Port, which consequently must endanger our Commerce, and add incalculable perplexity, by deranging every thing like a systematic disposition being made, of the services of the different Vessels of the Squadron; but to prevent their relieving such supplies as can in any way augment their force to the prejudice of our intended operations. To maintain a Blockade effectually two if not three Vessels, ought always to be stationed before the Port to prevent, as far as circumstances of bad weather will admit, the possibility of Vessels of every description getting either out or in. —

It is true that some of their Cruizers having already got out renders this disposition in some measure incomplete; but they nevertheless I conceive ought to be pursued, as the only definitive & determinate means to prevent greater injury's. — Provided six Vessels were formed into a relief solely to preserve the Blockade, the service would be easy & the Vessels sure to be in order & ready for service as soon as the Weather will authorise a combined attack — There are beside these [space] Vessels employ'd in the Blockade, three others, exclusive of the *Enterprize* & *Syren*, two of which it may perhaps be advisable to employ on stations most likely to intercept the Enemy's Cruizers (now at Sea) entering other Ports, say Bengazi, Derne & Tunis; and the third particularly charged with the procurement of such auxiliary Force, as you may consider necessary to ensure success to your future operations. —

I should not have ventured to have given an opinion unask'd for thus freely, was it not, with an intention of alleviating the anxiety which you must naturally feel in consequence of your being debared from using those exertions which your capacity would enforce, was you in Health, and I trust you will duly appreciate my Intentions, even should you not consider them worth further consideration. —

With sincere Wishes of a speedy restoration of your Health

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

To Captain Samuel Barron, U. S. Navy, from Sir Alexander John Ball, Governor of Malta

MALTA 19<sup>th</sup> March 1805.

SIR! I have the honor to enclose to your Excellency a Copy of a Note which I have received from the Ottoman Minister, with a List of Persons who were on board the Ottoman Vessel, [*Mastico?* commanded by] Kinth Monstaffa, which was captured by the American Squadron; and as I shall have occasion to write to His Britannic Majesty's Minister at Constantinople by a Vessel which will sail on Saturday next: I shall be happy to convey your Answer by that opportunity, or to execute any commands which you may have.

The Ottoman Minister complains of not having received any Answer to the Remonstrance which he made against the Capture of some Ottoman Vessels by your Squadron; which subject I communicated to Colonel Lear for your Information there not being at that time any American Ship of War in this Port.

[LC. JRP, Vol. 1, Series Two, Feb. 1775–May 1805.]

Extract from Memorandum Book of Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy,  
19 March 1805

Left the City of Washington on my way to Portland. Arrived at Baltimore.

[LC original.]

Extract from journal of U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Captain John Rodgers, U. S. Navy, commanding, Tuesday, 19 March 1805

[Off the Harbour of Malta] at 2 [P.M.] Discovered a Sail on the weather Beam at 3 spoke the US. Ship *Congress*

At 6 the town of Malta bore S B E. Distance 3 leagues

At Midnight fresh breezes and cloudy Weather

At daylight Malta bore S S W —

At 9 Shorten,d Sail and came too With the starb<sup>d</sup> bower in 9 fathoms Water furd sails and Moord ship

[USNA.]

Extract from journal of Surgeon Jonathan Cowdery, U. S. Navy, 19 March 1805

It was reported and generally believed that the Americans had been to Alexandria in Egypt, where they had got the Ex-Bashaw and four thousand Egyptians, and carried them to Syracuse, where they were to be landed to act in concert with the Americans against Tripoli. I perceived many private councils and long faces amongst the Turks.

[LC. Rare Books, *American Captives in Tripoli or Dr. Cowdery's Journal*, Boston, 1806.]

Extract from journal of William Eaton, U. S. Navy Agent for the Barbary Regencies, Tuesday, 19 March 1805

The Bashaw paid off his caravan, who promised to proceed two days march a head. But, the same night, all except forty of them drew off for Egypt; and the others refused to proceed, leaving us in a perplexed and embarrassed situation; as it was impossible to move without the caravan, and uncertain whether we could procure them to start from this place — The Bashaw proposed depositing our baggage in the castle and proceeding forward to the camp of sundry tribes.

who expected him two or three days march ahead. — This I rejected; being now destitute of cash, to proceed without provisions would be throwing too much on contingency. —

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

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Extract from journal of Midshipman Charles Morris, Jr., U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *President*, Master Commandant George Cox, U. S. Navy, commanding, Tuesday, 19 March 1805

6 [P.M.] the Town of Tripoli bore S W — 6 Leagues.

Latitude Observed 33° 34' N.

Longitude Observed 23° 35' W.

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

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To Captain Samuel Barron, U. S. Navy, from Levett Harris, U. S. Consul General, St. Petersburg, Russia

(Copy)

St PETERSBURG 8/20 March 1805

SIR, The letter you did me the honor to address me from Syracuse the 16 Jan<sup>r</sup> & it's inclosures came to hand the 1<sup>st</sup> inst<sup>l</sup> I lament the occurrence of the Circumstances which form it's principal subject, & sincerely regret with you that our Warfare with Tripoli should give rise to events tending to commit our good understanding with any Nation, & more especially one, with which our friendship appears thus far to have so happily prospered. —

My first intelligence of the Capture of the Russian Vessel *S<sup>t</sup> Michael* is communicated by your letter, & I conceived it both correct & politic on a subject of this apparent importance to anticipate the Prince de Czartoryski & by a just explanation of the facts to prepare his mind against any improper prejudice which misrepresentation might occasion. — I therefore on receipt of your dispatches requested an interview of the Minister, on the succeeding day an opportunity was afforded me of giving him a full detail of the transaction, in the progress of which, the principle of Blockade was discussed, & the right of one Nation to interrupt the pursuits of another between which peace & good understanding prevailed though those pursuits were directed to an enemy's port. — The Minister conceived this right of late to have been exclusively exercised by G. Britain, whose ascendancy of maritime strength gave her the means of annoying her enemies by Blockade, & other modes of Warfare unusual in former periods, & which he believed were disavowed by most Nations of the present day, who were very generally attached to a measure opposite in principle, & to which America was also a partizan, that of a Support of the independency of the neutral flag, except in Cases where it aimed to give protection to Articles, usually constituted contraband of war, bound to an enemy's port. — Finding the Minister has blended two questions, wholly separate of each other I was bold to inform his Excellency, that his remarks on this Subject, which as far as they applied, we Should ever be proud to recognize were irrelevant to the principle of blockade, which was in every respect distinct, a lengthy discussion ensued, in which I maintained that Blockade was not a new operation of war, it was almost as old as war itself, & it's right & principle had been defined & acknowledged by Nations since the remotest periods of History. — One Nation therefore, employing a

force, at great expence against another could not allow a friendly Power to convey Supplies to those ports declared blockaded it would render such blockade perfectly nugatory & an attempt to violate the Same, every acknowledged law of Nations on the Subject had declared punishable by the confiscation of the property of the aggressor.

The Powers who formed the armed neutrality the war before the last, who aimed at the establishment of the Principle espoused by the Prince, understood blockade in this sense & Russia who was the principle party in that confederacy described a place to be in a State of Blockade *When it was dangerous to approach it.* —

The Minister at length felt disposed to concede in part the principle, which enabled me to proceed in an examination of the local circumstances attending this Capture, in which, in admitting it's legality on the above hypothesis, I proceeded to a defence of the officers from the imputation attached to their conduct by Mons<sup>r</sup> de Becker whose letter & the authority on which it was written & made a Subject of particular comment, which the Minister entirely disavowed, & added, that M<sup>r</sup> de Becker has permitted himself to be improperly transported, whose duty should have pointed to an opposite procedure. — I replied that I lamented extremely the necessity I felt myself under to entertain his Excell<sup>y</sup> on this Subject, but the declarations of the Consul were so incomparable with the disposition & Character of our officers, which had ever been distinguished by honor & circumspection, & were in such direct opposition to those Sentiments, which the Prince was so well assured animated our Government, under whose orders & authority they acted that I felt myself in duty impelled to a notice of his Correspondence. — The Minister lamented the circumstances, repeated his disapprobation of the manner the Agent has treated it, & expressed a hope that we should not again have occasion to meet on such unpleasant business. I have thought it necessary to offer you the foregoing particulars of this Conversation on the Subject of Blockade (a matter in which You are well assured, my province no wise embraces) merely as it may be considered to have relation to the Sequel of this Conference, which alone came within my Sphere of action.

The remarks which the detention of the two Ottoman Ships have led You to make, in reply to my Suggestion on the Subject of the proposed intercourse with the Port with America, are in perfect unison with the impression which dictated that Communication to Commodore Preble; those principles Sir, which should govern our Conduct toward all Nations, which You have so pertinently expressed, I trust will ever be judiciously practiced by our Naval Commanders.

I informed the Prince de Czartoryski what you mention the Chevalier d'Italinsky to have written. — The Prince replied that the Chevalier required no answer from his Court, he has received general & explicit instructions in the name of his Sovereign, to make a reclamation for the Prisoners, & was directed to follow it up, but unhappily the orders of the Port were but too little regarded by those States declared to be it's tributaries. I confess I was myself sanguine upon the happy tendency, I thought might attach to the mediation of this Powerful Court, & which joined to the interference of France, which M<sup>r</sup> Livingston had procured strenghtened the hope I encouraged; that the calamities of our Captive Countrymen would not be of long duration & I am disposed to think that the destruction of their Frigate, & it's attendant consequences, a measure of the first importance in itself,

which took place a few days before the arrival of the Firman from the Port & the french Messenger, as respect their fate may have been unfortunate: —

I agree with you Sir, that our best hope toward the attainment of this anxious object, & that of a Speedy peace with the Barbarians, is in vigorous employment of the forces at present in operation against them, which I Zealously hope under your command may be prosecuted with that success which circumstances so strongly indicate. —

[NA. SDA. CD, St. Petersburg, Vol. 1, 1794–1809.]

To Sir Alexander John Ball, Governor of Malta, from Captain Samuel Barron,  
U. S. Navy

MALTA 20<sup>th</sup> [or 21] March 1805.

SIR I have been duly honored with your Excellency's letter of yesterday, and the enclosures accompanying it.

On the Subject of the Ottoman Vessel, [*Mastico?*] Commanded by Kinth Mustaffa, Captured by the American Squadron, under the Command of my predecessors, Commodore Preble, I have never received any communications from the Ottoman Porte; or I should have given the information which I now beg leave to make to your Excellency

It appears from the Communications from Commodore Preble, that this Vessel was in the harbour of Tripoli when one of our Frigates, the *Philadelphia*, unfortunately ran on a shoal near that place. — That the Commander of said Vessel hoisted upon her the Tripoline Flag, and in conjunction with the Tripoline Gun boats, went off and after she had surrendered, took out the Captain, Officers & Crew and delivered them to the Bashaw of Tripoli where they now remain in Captivity and plundered Captain Bainbridge of his watch, and the first lieut of his sword & several other things which were on board his Vessel when taken, and of which he boasted to have taken from them, when he boarded the Frigate. — This Act of hostility was sufficient to induce Commodore Preble to Consider her as a proper Subject of Capture; and he accordingly detained her when she came out of Tripoli, with the persons on board. — The Chouss which had been sent to Tripoli by the late Captain Pacha, and all others, excepting the Captain, who were found to be Turks, were liberated; but those who were Tripoline Subjects were detained as prisoners of War. — The Slaves have also been detained. But as I know it is the wish of my Government to maintain harmony and a good understanding with the Grand Senior, when [whom] we believe would never justify such an outrageous Act of hostility as was committed upon us by the Captain Kinth Mustaffa, I shall not hesitate to deliver up said Slaves, whenever I can be informed to Whom they are to be given, and also to release any Others if such there be, who were not Tripoline Subjects, on board said Vessel.

The Circumstances under which said Vessel was Captured, made it necessary that the case should be laid before the Government of the U. States of America and a legal adjudication be had on the Subject. As we have no Tribunal in this sea which can take cognizance of causes of this Kind, it becomes expedient for the Captain to go to the United States to appear on the Trial. — I expect very shortly, to learn the decision on this Subject, and if it should appear that the Vessel is



not a fair Prize, a full indemnification will be made to those concerned. But if it be proved that the conduct of the Captain was such as to cause her to be condemned, I trust that His Hig[h]ness the Grand Senior will have too much justice to consider it as an act of hostility against him; but as a measure necessary and Justifiable by the laws of War. —

Colinel Lear communicated to me your Excellency's letter and the extract of a Letter from his Excellency Alexander Straton Esq<sup>t</sup> to yourself, on the Subject of the two Vessels under Ottoman Colours, which were Captured by the Squadron under my Command, attempt<sup>d</sup> to enter the port of Tripoli.

As these Vessels were taken within a very short distance of the Port of Tripoli, standing directly for the harbour, under a full sail, and with a wind which would have been highly favourable for them to have taken another direction, had they been bound else where; and from the Courses which they had steered from the place of their departure as well as from many other circumstances, no doubt remained on the mind of the Captors of their being bound for Tripoli, which we were then blockading. — I therefore thought it proper to detain them; and the Cargoes being of a perishable nature, and in a state to render a delay in unloading them dangerous, they have been sold, and the proceeds securely deposited to be delivered to Whomsoever they may belong. — I have long since stated to my Govern<sup>t</sup> the circumstances under which these Vessels were taken, and am in daily expectation of instructions either to send them to the U. States for adjudication, or to deliver them up. In the latter case, the Vessels will be delivered in good order, and the proceeds of the Cargoes &c<sup>t</sup> accounted for to the satisfaction of the proprietors, the the Agents of whom I have seen since have been in this place and who appear to be satisfied with the situation in which this business stands.

I regret exceedingly that your Excellency has had so much trouble in this affair; but as the Communications have been made to me through you, I must beg the favor of your conveying the explanation which I have here given in the way you may find most Convenient; and I beg your Excellency will accept my best thanks for your kind & friendly attentions as well as on other occasions, which I shall not fail to make known to my Government.

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

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

TUNIS March 20<sup>th</sup> 1805

DEAR SIR Since the arrival of Comodore Barron I have did myself the honor to address you several letters, under cover, & to the particular care of M<sup>r</sup> Higgins, their receipt have been acknowledged; and I presume long before this, have reached you in the U: States — it would afford me particular pleasure to hear of your voyage, the state of your health, with a paragraph on the political movements at home. The State of Europe, must unquestionably be better known, *at the Seat of Gov<sup>t</sup>*, than in this isolated abode of distress and misery — Russia has not yet declared her absolute intention with respect to Europe — the first object of her armament speaks for itself; it seems to be no less than the perfect, annihilation of the Ottoman Empire;

how such a Gigantic plan can best be executed, is left with the Statesman to decide — it is conjectured (and I think with much Justice) that a secret understanding, on this point, exists, between the emperors, of France & Russia — *Alexander*, has refused to recognize Buonaparte; has armed powerfully by Sea & land; has forced the Sublime Porte, to follow his example, in all that relates to France; and still perfect harmony seems to exist between the two Cabinets — the prompt & decisive measures of the French Gov<sup>t</sup> since the establishment of the first Consul, with every European Power, by whom her *usurped dignity*, has been assailed, renders her present silence a greater Mystery; how & when these are to be revealed, I dare not hazard an opinion —

Recent advises from Syracuse, speak confidently that the King of Naples, has ordered his Capt General & Governors, to give quiet possession of the Island, to the Russians, who are daily expected, in force — this is an old Story new dressed and with me has very little credit.

Spain is making immense preparations for a vigorous prosecution of the War — Portugal cannot escape — and La Petite France, is approaching her death bed — Italy, Holland, & Switzerland, are not yet organized; but the Crown, is preparing, which will forever annex them to the french dominions and as Nations wipe them from the face of the Earth —

Of Tripolitan affairs, I can say very little — Comodore Barron has been ill these four or five months, and is still a very feeble convalescent — his complaint is said to be an affection of the Liver — The *Constitution* has been to Lisbon for men — the *Argus*, to Alexandria for “*the man*” and the *Enterprise* to Trieste for repairs; The object of all their visits has I believe been accomplished; without affecting the Blockade which is strictly kept up —

The Bashaw has made considerable preparations for a vigorous defence; but he is much streightened — he has to contend against civil comotions, Famine, and an enterprising enemy — the rumour is spread of the arrival of his Brother Achmet Bashaw; and Jussuph has actually sent a Camp against Derna — thus far every thing favours, our approaching Campaign; I pray God that the Comodore<sup>s</sup> health may be sufficiently established to endure its fatigue —

Tunis is again on growling order; and His Excellency, daily gives me more reason to believe that our peace cannot be very lasting; If I had the power I would bring him to a decision before I close this letter; it would be to the honor and dignity of my Country; and free me from the painful suspense under which I have laboured for eighteen months —

[LC. EPP, Vol. 14, 1804–1805.]

Extract from journal of William Eaton, U. S. Navy Agent for the Barbary Regencies,  
20 March 1805

Last night the rest of the camels left us to return to Egypt. — I now discovered a complot between the chiek *il Taiib* and sundry other chiefs, at which I thought the Bashaw connived, purporting a resolution to proceed no further until they should have assurance of the arrival of our vessels at Bomba. — A report had been started, said to be brought by a pilgrim on his way from Morocco to Mecca,

that a force consisting of eight hundred cavalry and numerous foot were on their march from Tripoli for the defense of Derne, & were actually passed Bengazi. — I thought this an argument that urged acceleration rather than delay — A great deal of noise and some counsel was heard among the Bey's chiefs, in which I was not consulted, and a final resolution taken that they would remain on the spot till a runner could go Bomba and return. In consequence of which I ordered their rations stopped, and resolved myself to take possession of the castle and fortify myself there until I could get intelligence to our naval detachment to come to our relief, when I would take off our Christians and leave them to take measures for their own subsistence and safety. — It was now twelve o'clock at night. — I left the Arab Chiefs in the Bashaw's tent confused and embarrassed, — and retired to my own marke and reflections.

We have marched a distance of two hundred miles, through an inhospitable waste of world without seeing the habitation of an animated being, or the tracks of man, except where superstition has marked her lonely steps o'er burning sands and rocky mountains, whence the revelation of one of her most hypocritical fanatics trains her wretched victims a tedious pilgrimage to pay their devotion at his shrine. — But while we reproach the imposter we cannot but ascribe some good to the effect of the imposition: it has here and there opened a water source to its votaries, which now allays the thirst of pilgrims, bound across this gloomy desert on pursuits vastly different from those which lead to Mecca; the liberation of three hundred Americans from the Chains of Barbarism, & a manly peace.

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

To George Harrison, Navy Agent and Superintendent of Navy Yard, Philadelphia, Pa., from Secretary of the Navy

NAV DEP<sup>t</sup>  
21. March 1805

SIR, I have received your letter of the 18<sup>th</sup> inst<sup>t</sup>

I am so desirous of having the medal for Commodore Preble well executed that I have some thoughts of having it engraved in Europe — If M<sup>r</sup> Reach cannot design I fear that he cannot execute with that taste which I was induced to suppose he could when I first wrote to you on this subject — However at all events we must fix upon the devise in this Country and the reverse — When Commodore Preble shall furnish you with a drawing of his actions at Tripoli shew it to Amateurs in Philadelphia and ask them to exercise their taste upon the subject — Ascertain the Opinion of Amateurs also as to the most appropriate reverse and the most appropriate size of the Medal

I have sent some young midshipmen to Lieu<sup>t</sup> Barden, who are intended for the *John Adams* — On their arrival in Phil<sup>a</sup> L<sup>t</sup> Barden can order them to New York immediately if necessary with seamen for the *John Adams* assist him in making the best arrangements on this Subject — How comes on the Gun Boat N<sup>o</sup> 3 — I intend that she shall sail for the mediterranean on or before the 1<sup>st</sup> May next — Give Lieu<sup>t</sup> Barden every needful assistance in preparing her for Sea —

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

To Master Commandant Thomas Robinson, Jr., U. S. Navy, from Captain James Barron, U. S. Navy

U. S. FRIGATE *Essex*  
Triest March 21<sup>st</sup> 1805

DEAR SIR I sail<sup>d</sup> from Malta on the 8<sup>th</sup> Inst. bound for Venice and altho' I suppos<sup>d</sup> that the best information was obtain<sup>d</sup> respecting those Seas by Pilots and otherwise, It was not until we were near half passage that I learnt (with much mortification) that it was impossible for the *Essex* to pass the Barr of that Port. There is also another circumstance which may operate much against my visit here — namely a long Quarentine this however, is not yet determind, I have therefore conclude that it is absolutely necessary to see you without loss of time, and in order that you may be able to furnish me with all the necessary information relative to the completion of my object. I herewith inclose you a copy of my instructions which I hope you will make use of in the most prudent and secret manner possible, and by no means make them known to any person whose confidence you are not perfectly secure in.

Vessels proper for Bomb Ketches can be had in Malta without difficulty, and here I observe all the small craft — common in those Seas are excellently calculated for Gun Boats of course Mortars, Bomb Shells & 32 Pound Cannon will be the only things we may want that will require a Governmental permission; to be refused will be disagreeable, & to obtain that permission without exposing our views will require all your address, but let me intreat you to lose no time in gaining this information and repairing to this place

Since writing the above M<sup>r</sup> Riggen's informs me that vessels can be purchased & fitted here in any manner we may think proper, without interruption except arming. This question is not yet answered can Bombards be had in Venice for the season?

NB I anchor<sup>d</sup> here this morning at 7 A M. J. B.

[NDA. Captain's LB, Vol. 1, 1805.]

To Secretary of the Navy from Sailing Master Levi Bardin, U. S. Navy

PHILADELPHIA March 21<sup>st</sup> 1805

SIR I have the Hon<sup>r</sup> to Acknowledge the receipt of your Letter of the 19<sup>th</sup> Ins<sup>t</sup>

The purport of which I communicated to George Harrison Esq<sup>r</sup> who advises me very strongly against giving two Dollars Gratuity to the Landlords. as the 10 Dollars bounty allowed the Seamen would be a Sufficient Inducement to the Landlords, to make them use their best exertions in geting the men to enter —

I have Shiped 9 men to Day ([23] Seamen & 24 Ordinary) Total 47 The Gun Boat has been Striped of all her former rigging mast and Spars, and I have the promise of the New mast to morrow

[NDA. Misc. LB, Vol. 1, 1805.]

Extract from Memorandum Book of Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy,  
21 March 1805

Got off for New Castle by stage at 10 a.m. arrived at 2 p.m. Sailed for Philadelphia in a Packet. At 5 p.m. arrived. Was visited by a number of respectable gentlemen and invited to a public dinner.

[LC original.]

Extract from journal of Surgeon Jonathan Cowdery, U. S. Navy, 21 March 1805

A frigate and brig appeared off the harbour. The Bashaw told me he suspected commodore Barron was dead, as he had not heard from him for a time. Not long before, he told me, that he had heard of the death of his brother the Ex-Bashaw. He seemed highly pleased at such news. Several of the sons and dearest friends of his chiefs in the country, were brought into the castle, as hostages for their fidelity to the present Bashaw. Symptoms of dissatisfaction appeared amongst the people.

[LC. Rare Books, *American Captives in Tripoli or Dr. Cowdery's Journal*, Boston, 1806.]

Extract from journal of William Eaton, U. S. Navy Agent for the Barbary Regencies,  
21 March 1805

The position taken yesterday had its effect. Fifty camels were prevailed on to return to us, and to go on two days farther. — We marched at 11. a. m. and proceeded to an elevated stoney plain barren, about 13 miles, where we found good cistern water. —

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

Extract from journal of Midshipman Charles Morris, Jr., U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *President*, Master Commandant George Cox, U. S. Navy, commanding, Thursday, 21 March 1805

Commencing. with light breezes and Hazy, dull, weather. 5. Saw the land a head, hauled our wind  $5\frac{1}{2}$  the Land bore from S B W. to. W B S. The Backland abreast the Ship high making a bluff to the Eastward, the nearest land a high white bank and white sand hills, distant 4 or 5 leagues. Made all sail by the wind.

Midnight light breezes and Hazy with dull heavy clouds. 5 Saw the *Constellation* and *Vixen* to the S. W. bore up for them and made sail — Noon Pleasant Weather. the *Constellation* and *Vixen* in Company —

Latitude Observed.  $33^{\circ} 18' N.$

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

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

NEW YORK 22 March 1805

SIR I have had the honor of receiving your Letter of the 17<sup>th</sup> Ins<sup>t</sup> granting me a Furlough to make a European or East India Voyage, and aprobatng my Conduct since I have had the Honor of holding a Commission which to me is of the highest Importance, and next to the Satisfaction arising from a Consciousness of having endeavoured to discharge my Duty, is the Approbation of my Country: If I have manifested any Zeal it has proceeded from a Conviction that every Officer holding a Commission should execute with Zeal and Promptitude any Order that he may receive for the good of the Service however it may interfere with his pecuniary Arrangements.

Be pleased to accept my Thanks for the Promptness and handsome Manner in which you have been pleased to grant me this Indulgence  
[NDA. MC LB, 1804-5.]

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

NAVY DEP<sup>t</sup>

22 March 1805. —

I have received your letter of the 19<sup>th</sup> Ins<sup>t</sup> — Your active exertions in equipping and fitting for sea the Frigate *John Adams*, command my acknowledgments. —

I have ordered Lieutenants from Charleston and Boston to repair to New York and join the *John Adams*. We have very few in the Country, otherwise I should not have taxed your zeal so heavily; however you will be relieved very soon. —

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

To Secretary of the Navy from Lieutenant John Spriggs, U. S. Navy

ON THE SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES

Boston March 22<sup>nd</sup> 1805

SIR I have recieved your letter of the 11 ulto with orders to fit out the Gun Boat under my Command for Foreign Service & you have complimented me from exsperiance Seamanship to fit her out agreeable to my owne Ideas & slender abilitys. I must confess it requires some thought to compleat her, as a Man of War in miniature to cross the Atlantic, from her construction, however I will cheerfully execute your orders & indeavour to make her as compleat as possible, for the Service intended for —

I beg leave to remark that all Water & Provision Cash must be made adapted to her hold, being so flat floor<sup>d</sup> am of an oppinion by this attention, she might stow 3 M<sup>o</sup> provisions, I should better judge where I acquainted of each Ration's for 25 Men, compleatly victualed for that time. I beg leave to remark that would be the number of men she would be able to stow, Officers included the crew should be all able Seamen on this plan I judge their would be ample provisions & water for that number, as well as their health been preserv'd on so long a voyage —

I should recommend the after gun not to be mounted untill she arrives on her Station, as being too great a weight at her exstreem, perticular scuding before the Wind, also an incumberance to the Helm & am of an oppinion the Gun might attract the Compass, she might be supplied with a Gun & the necessary proportion of Ammunition on her joining the Squadron —

These are my remarks which I submit to your Judgement.

The Boat is plank up & they are going to lay her deck everyr disspatch is using to compleat her. The copper is ordere'd

[NDA. Officers LB, 1802-1805.]

To Secretary of the Navy from Lieutenant Nathaniel Fanning, U. S. Navy

CHARLESTON S. C.

March the 22<sup>d</sup> 1805

SIR The outfits of the Gun Boat Built at fair Bank near this place is progressing rapidly. She was transported from thence to this place on Tuesday last. And She is now pronounced by able & practical Men to be the very best *Boat*, on every account for Carry-ing Guns, and for safety at Sea, of any one which has hitherto been built in the U. S. She is in fact so large Buoyant, and burthensome that She might with a Skilful Navigator on Board double Cape Horn and proceed round the World with perfect Safety. *All praise her & none condemn her.* I have the honor to wait your further instructions as to any improvements which may be made, in or upon this Valuable Public Vessel, and I have the Vanity to add, that If She was ordered to the Mediteranian she would be an acquisition to our Squadron highly serviceable to the public against the Tripolitans.

[NDA. Misc. LB, Vol. 1, 1805.]

To Sailing Master Levi Bardin, U. S. Navy, commanding Gunboat No. 3, from Secretary of the Navy

NAV DEP<sup>t</sup>

22 March 1805.

I have received your Letter of the 19<sup>th</sup> Ins<sup>t</sup> —

I make no objection to your having Lee-Boards to Gunboat N<sup>o</sup> 3. It appears to me they will be useful, therefore have them made.

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

Blockade of Cadiz and St. Lucar

Extract of a letter from Vice Admiral Sir John Orde Bart Commanding His Britain<sup>s</sup> Majesty's Squadron off Cadiz.

To James Gambier Esq<sup>t</sup> Consul General in Portugal dated March 22<sup>d</sup> 1805 —

I have thought it an imperious duty on my part to order the Blockade of Cadiz and St<sup>t</sup>. Lucar — No vessel is allowed to go into the former Port, or to leave it except in Ballast nor is any Vessel laden either in whole or in part with *Corn, Military, or Naval Stores* or Provisions, to be permitted to enter the latter. I think it proper to give You the earliest notice of these measures, which I request you to communicate to all concerned, within your reach, in order that Individuals may be prevented as much as possible from suffering, by their necessary adoption, except from their own imprudence.

A true Copy.

(sig) J GAMBIER.

[NA. SDA. CL, Lisbon, Vol. 2, 1803-1805.]

To Captain Samuel Barron, U. S. Navy, from Captain William Bainbridge, U. S. Navy

BARBARY TRIPOLI 22<sup>d</sup> March 1805

DEAR SIR I wrote to you on the 16<sup>th</sup> instant respecting a *certain subject*, since then I have seen *the letter* alluded to in mine of that date,

and I beleive that the sentiments contained in it merits the credit of veracity, and if experimented on I trust it will be found satisfactory to you.

If Commodore Preble did receive a letter last summer from a certain person here; he no doubt gave it to you, from which, you can form some opinion of the *present subject*

I have not had the pleasure to hear from you since October last, am daily in expectation of it

[*The following was written in invisible ink.*]

22 March 1805

DEAR BARRON In one of my letters to you in this month I have mentioned that I had heard that Sidi Mahommed Dhgies Minister of foreign affairs for the Bashaw had requested M<sup>r</sup> Beauossier the French Consul here to inform Com Preble that if a person would come here and remain a few days or until that Peace could be effected for one hundred & fifty thousand Dollars. This day the said Minister assured me in confidence that he did thus request] M<sup>r</sup> B but does not know wether Com P. received the information or not — I have no doubt that if a Person was to come here to negotiate before an attack was made that Peace could be effected for one hundred & twenty thousand dollars 20/M and if the attack should not prove us[\*] successfull it is very probable that such a sum would not release us from captivity, at least for some time. Apprehension is often worse than realisation

I sincerely hope that a Person will come for I think it a most favorable moment, and be assured that there is not the least risque for us It would be the best in my opinion to ask the Guarantee of the Danish or French Consul in that case I think it is probable that they would give the Danish whom[?] I should much prefer, as I know him [to be] a man of unquestionable integrity — The other I have not the highest opinion of — The danish has already gone great lengths to serve us and have ran dissinterested risques and you may be assured that he can be trusted as a man of the strictest honor — and, his complying with the Ministers request is actuated by a principle to serve us — [word illegible] my Dear Barron may success attend you either in negotiating or Combatting is the fervent prayer of

W<sup>m</sup> B —

[\*Writing indecipherable]

[Stephen Decatur, original.]

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To William Eaton, U. S. Navy Agent for Barbary Regencies, from Captain Samuel Barron, U. S. Navy

MALTA 22<sup>d</sup> March 1805.

SIR, By Captain Hull, who arrived in this harbor with the U S brig *Argus* under his command on the 10. inst, I receiv'd your favors addressed to me, together with communications for the Secretary of the Navy and copies of the correspondence betwixt yourself and Cap<sup>n</sup> Hull relative to your proceedings from you arrival in Egypt until his departure from thence; also by the hands of Mahumed secretary a letter from H. Ex. Hamet Bashaw announcing his junction with you, all which I have perused with an attention and delib-



eration which the important and interesting nature of their contents demands — I cannot but applaud the energy and perseverance that has characterized your progress through a series of perplexing and discouraging difficulties to the attainment of the object of your research — an attainment which I am disposed to consider as a fair presage of future success — On receipt of these communications I did not loose a moment in making the necessary arrangements for sending you succours, and I now dispatch the brig *Argus* with the sloop under her convoy carrying a variety of stores and provisions according to the accompanying list — Captain Hull will shape his course direct for Bomba where he calculates on finding you with the Bashaw and his army, and where he supposes you will make a stand — I have directed him to deliver these stores to you, to be applied as your discretion may direct — He has also under his charge a sum in specie amounting to seven thousand dollars which is likewise to be placed at your disposal — By the time these vessels establish a communication with you, you will have been enabled to form a correct opinion as to the prospect of ultimate success and thence to estimate the advantages likely to result from this cooperation, & by this opinion you must be governed in the application of the succours — Should you have encountered unexpected difficulties which place the chances of success upon more than precarious grounds, your own prudence will suggest the propriety of not committing these supplies and the money uncontroledly to the power of the Bashaw — Indeed in the point of view in which I regard the measures already pursued as well as the subject of co-operation generally, I conceive you ought to tread with the utmost circumspection It is far from my wish to damp your ardor or that of your companions in arms by laying too great a stress upon the cold maxims of prudence whereby the tide of success is often lost, something I am aware, should always be left to fortune in undertakings of this nature, but I must own that there are in your dispatches, certain things which when applied to the test of my instructions from home give birth to feelings of doubt and uneasiness, and these I think it incumbent upon me to point out to you with candor and explicitness in order that we may be fully understood — You must be sensible, Sir, that in giving their sanction to a cooperation with the exiled Bashaw, Government did not contemplate the measure as leading necessarily and absolutely to a reinstatement of that Prince in his rights on the regency of Tripoli — they appear to have viewed the cooperation in question as a means, which provided there existed energy and enterprize in the exile, & attachment to his person on the part of his former subjects, might be employed to the common furtherance and advance of his claims and of our cause, but without meaning to fetter themselves by any specific or definite attainment *as an end*, as the tenor of my instructions (whereof inclosed is an extract) and the limited sum appropriated for that special purpose clearly demonstrate — I fear by the convention you were about to enter into with Hamet and by the complexion of other measures that a wider range may have been taken than is consistent with the powers vested in me for that particular object — These apprehensions may perhaps prove groundless on further representations from you, but under my present impressions I feel it my duty to state explicitly that I must withhold my sanction to any convention or

agreement committing the United States or tending to impress upon Hamet Bashaw a conviction that *we have bound ourselves to place him on the Throne* — The consequences involved in such an engagement cannot but strike you forcibly and a general view of our situation in relation to the reigning Bashaw, & our unfortunate countrymen in Tripoly will be sufficient to mark its inexpediency — I shall consider it my duty, as it certainly is my inclination to afford you every aid compatible with the authority vested in me & commensurate with the means placed at my disposal and you may depend upon the most active and vigorous support from the squadron as soon as the season and our arrangements will permit us to appear in force before the enemy's walls, but I wish you to understand that no guarantee or engagements to the exiled prince, whose cause, I repeat it, we are only favoring as the instrument to an attainment and not in itself as an object, must be held to stand in the way of our acquiescence to any honorable and advantageous terms of accommodation which the present Bashaw may be induced to propose — Such terms being once offered and accepted by the representative of Government appointed to treat of peace, our support to Hamet Bashaw must necessarily be withdrawn — You will not however conclude that these considerations, important and necessary as they are, ought to induce us at once to abandon the benefits which the measures you have adopted seem to promise — I consider a perseverance in these by no means incompatible with a total freedom from any trammels with respect to a definite object, which freedom I deem it all important to preserve, especially when I view the particular situation in which Captain Bainbridge and his fellow sufferers may be placed by this cooperation — If by your energy and exertions added to the supplies now sent forward, you succeed in getting possession of Derne & Bengazi we may calculate that having received this impulse from our strength, he will possess in himself sufficient energy, courage & talent, and, if accounts are correct, sufficient interest among the people to move on with firm steps, and to conduct his friends and adherents to the gates of Tripoli Every support will of course be given him by a systematic union of operations with the squadron so as to enable him to come upon the rear of the town — but should the Bashaw be found deficient in these essential qualities or that it appears that we have been deceived with regard to the disposition of the inhabitants, he must be held as an unfit subject for further support or co-operation — I beg leave to mention to you that as we are short of officers the services of all will be called for on board the respective ships as soon as we enter upon offensive measures — Should you conceive however that any serious disadvantage may result from withdrawing those with you, I have no objection to their remaining as volunteers, but it is impossible for me to comply with your requisition for one hundred marines to be sent to the coast — Such a step in the present posture of affairs far exceeds my powers, and besides, as we are in want of hands I could not feel myself justifiable in detaching so considerable force from the squadron — I have not been unmindful of your requisition of field artillery which I think with you is essential, but here it is impossible to procure it, I therefore dispatched some days since the *Congress Frigate* to Messina where I hope to obtain four field pieces complete

for service, and as soon as they arrive they will be sent to the coast with the necessary amunition —

As I am still too unwell to write you with my own hand, I must refer you to Captain Hull, in whose judgement and discretion I have the most entire confidence, for information on several collateral points and for my sentiments on others — In this letter I have endeavoured to explain as clearly as possible what are my ideas with respect to the wishes & intentions of our government, and what I feel to be the extent of my authority touching the cooperation with Hamet Bashaw — I reiterate to you my fixed resolution to afford you every support and assistance, which are consistent with the powers intrusted to me adding at the same time my dissent from any guarantee covenant or engagement by which the United States may stand committed to place the exiled Prince on the throne, or any conditions which militate against the most perfect and uncontrolled power of choice and action in concluding a pacification with Joseph Bashaw, should he offer terms honorable and advantageous to our country —

I should be wanting in justice to you, Sir, as well as to the officers who have thus far shared your toils and dangers, were I not to express my full reliance on your Courage, Energy and Perseverance, as well as my ardent desire that your most sanguine expectations may be realized — The observations I here convey to you are far from being intended to cool your zeal or discourage your expectations, but they are what I conceive it necessary to make and drawn from me by the purest feelings of duty, and as such permit me to recommend them to your calm and candid consideration, and request you will make them the subject of conversation with Captain H. who is fully possessed of my sentiments.

As in enterprizes similar to that you are engaged in much is left to fortune, so also much is dependent on the operation of circumstances — hence the impropriety of tying you down with positive instructions — Many things must necessarily occur in which your judgement and discretion alone can be your guide, and indeed your further proceedings will depend so completely upon events and circumstances impossible for me to estimate or foresee that I must consider myself rather as your Counsellor than your director — Enclosed you will find a letter to Hamet Bashaw, which please to have interpreted to him — it is left open for your perusal — Should you have reached Derne or Bengazi in safety and established yourselves there, you will detail to Captain Hull as minutely as possible the nature and place of your further operations as well as your ideas and wishes respecting our naval cooperations, and dispatch one or both vessels (accordingly as may be agreed upon betwixt Cap<sup>t</sup> Hull and yourself) to inform me of your situation and prospects —

The Bashaw's secretary goes in the *Argus* — He has conducted himself with great propriety here, and I am much pleased with his manners and respectable appearance —

Captain Hull will acquaint you with any thing worthy of remark that has happened in our affairs — I need hardly say how anxious I feel for further intelligence from you — I beg you will present my respects to your brother Officers and that you will believe me with the most sincere wishes for and interest in your safety and success

To Hamet Caramanli, rightful Bashaw of Tripoli, from Captain Samuel Barron,  
U. S. Navy

Copy

MALTA. March 22<sup>d</sup> [or 21] 1805. —

EXCELLENCY, By the hands of your Secretary Mahmut who arrived in safety at this place on board the Brig *Argus* I received your Excellency's letter which has been interpreted to me. I thank you with sincerity for your Expressions of Kindness and regard towards me and am happy that your Excellency remains in good health. With great satisfaction I have received from M<sup>r</sup> Eaton the intelligence of your junction with him, and of the measures you had adopted to commence your march towards Bomba. No sooner did I receive this intelligence than I made every exertion to collect the succours required in your letter, and I now send my faithful and worthy Captain Hull with the *Argus* Brig and a Sloop under her Convoy loaded with provisions and Stores. I have not been able to procure the Field Artillery you ask, at this place, but I dispatched a Frigate to Sicily where I hope to obtain it. As soon as it arrives no time will be lost in sending it on the Coast. I hope Cap<sup>t</sup> Hull will find your Excellency and your Army in safety and health and that your measures so far may have been propitious to our cause. —

I have written very full to M<sup>r</sup> Eaton to whom and to Captain Hull I refer your Excellency for further information, and with my most ardent wishes for your individual prosperity as well as the success of the Enterprize in which you are engaged,

[NA. Sen. 9 B-B 6, Pres. Message, Jan 1806.]

[Enclosure]

To Captain Samuel Barron, U. S. Navy, from Hamet Caramanli, rightful Bashaw  
of Tripoli

[Translation]

Hamet Ex-Bashaw of Tripoli  
to Commodore Sam<sup>l</sup> Barron &<sup>e</sup>

DEAR & ESTEEMED I have to inform your Excellency of my perfect Health & to express my sincere wishes for yours — I beg you to be assured of the high Regard & Consideration which I entertain for y<sup>r</sup> Excell<sup>y</sup> & I hope that by the assistance of the Divine Being I shall shortly be at Tripoli my City to drive from thence my perfidious Enemies. —

I make known to you the Arrival of M<sup>r</sup> W<sup>m</sup> Eaton my General di Campo & that we have agreed upon a plan of Operations which I have no doubt will lead to that Success which we both desire. Said M<sup>r</sup> Eaton begged me to come to Syracuse in order to confer with your Excellency and to form a personal acquaintance with you — I must inform you my worthy and esteemed friend that time does not allow me to cross the Sea and that I am too much occupied with my Camp consisting of Infantry and Cavalry and would not leave them for the acquisition of the World — With the present I send you my Secretary of State named Muhumed as my proper Representative to treat in my Stead — whom I beg you will receive and I trust your ideas will be similar with regard to the object we have in view.

My dear friend — you must Know that I am already on my March with my Camp & I earnestly solicit you to send me as speedily as

possible the following Succors of which I stand greatly in need — vizt Powder, Field Artillery Muskets Money & a few Soldiers — These once arriv'd we are agreed with M<sup>r</sup> Eaton on the plan explained in his Letter — and further as provisions of all kinds are very scarce in Barbary, I beg you will send some likewise — I hope that in the course of about 50 days we shall form a system of Cooperation at Misurat — My dear friend, consider me in all things as your Son and that my Kingdom shall be always as your own —

I salute you with cordial Regard & remain &c<sup>o</sup>

(Seal of HAMET BASHAW)

[NA. Sen. 9B-B 6, Pres. Message, Jan. 1806.]

**A List of Articles on board the U. S. Brig *Argus* & Sloop *Hornet***

30 Hogsheads of Bread  
 20 Barrels of Pease  
 10 Tierces of Rice  
 1 Hogshead of Brandy  
 2 D<sup>o</sup> of Wine  
 10 Boxes of Oil  
 100 Sacks of Flour  
 1 Bale of Cloth  
 7000 —say seven Thousand Spanish Dollars. —

[H. E. Huntington L&AG, EA 23.]

To Captain John Rodgers, U. S. Navy, from Lieutenant Joshua Blake, U. S. Navy  
*Argus*, MALTA 22<sup>d</sup> March 1805

SIR, I wrote Commo: Barron, on the subject of yesterdays conversation, and agreeable to your direction; Commo: Barron, answers me by Cap<sup>t</sup> Hull, that the moment you make a requisition for an Officer, that he will give me an order, but till then, he could not order me as it might not be agreeable to you.

As the departure of the *Argus* may be sudden, and without giving me an opportunity of acting, in case you should not wish me on board your Ship, allow me Sir, to solícite your opinion on the subject, as early as convenient. —

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

Extract from journal of Surgeon Jonathan Cowdery, U. S. Navy, 22 March 1805

Two negroes were hung at the gate of the city for robbery.

The Bashaw's son-in-law who had been sent into the country to collect troops to protect Tripoli, returned without success. The people refused to fight for the Bashaw, because he had made unusual demands for money, and even had stripped their wives of their jewels. For several days, it had been reported that ten thousand troops were to muster on the beach near the town; and his highness was to make a speech to encourage them to fight for him against the Americans and his brother. I prepared myself to see these troops; but to my disappointment not one of them appeared.

[LC. Rare Books, *American Captives in Tripoli or Dr. Cowdery's Journal*, Boston, 1806.]

Extract from journal of William Eaton, U. S. Navy Agent for the Barbary Regencies  
Friday, 22 March 1805

Marched 12½ miles. — At 3 p. m. arrived at an extensive inclined plain, bordering on the sea, called in Arabic *Oak kerar ke barre*, amidst camps of numerous Arabs, consisting of three tribes of the *Eu ed alli* race, supposed to amount to the number of 3 or 4,000 souls, inclusively, covering a ground in a detached manner of 19 or twenty leagues circumference. Here were vast herds of camels, horses and cattle, and innumerable flocks of sheep and goats. — We were the first Christians ever seen by these wild people. — We were viewed by them as curiosities. — They laughed at the oddity of our dress; gazed at our polished arms with astonishment: — at the same time they observed the greatest deference towards such of us as bore any distinctive marks of office. — They bro't us for sale everything their camps afforded, and as rarities offered us young gazels and ostriches. — But, being destitute of cash, we could only exchange our rice for their produce. — We found dates here, which were brought five days journey from the interior of Africa, of an excellent quality. All our grain (barley and beans) for the horses exhausted. Dispatched a courier with letters to Captain Hull at Bomba.

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

Extract from journal of Midshipman Charles Morris, Jr., U. S. Navy, on board  
U. S. Frigate *President*, Master Commandant George Cox, U. S. Navy, commanding, Friday, 22 March 1805

5 The Town of Tripoli bore S S W. 4 leagues distant. Capt Cox returned [from the *Constellation*] Made sail to the N N E.

Latitude Observed 33° 34' N.

Longitude Observed 13° 39' E

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

Extract from journal of Hezekiah Loomis, Steward, U. S. Navy, in U. S. Brig  
*Vixen*, Master Commandant John Smith, U. S. Navy, commanding, Friday,  
22 March 1805

Off Tripoli. This day pleasant. We stood for the town. At half past 11 o'clock A. M. we fired upon 3 gun boats which were sailing about in the harbour. What damage they sustained I could not learn. At 2 o'clock P. M. Captain Camel came on board and dined. Day ends moderate.

[L. F. Middlebrook, NDA copy.]

To John Stricker, Navy Agent, Baltimore, Md., from Secretary of the Navy

NAV DEP<sup>t</sup>

23<sup>d</sup> March 1805

I have received your two letters of the 21<sup>st</sup> —

It is important that the Provisions &c be shipped without delay — Engage a Vessel therefore as soon as you can and load her without delay — giving me information of her name, the name of her Commander, & when to send his sailing instructions — The Vessel expected from Boston may be the second Vessel to sail with Provisions &c & as she is a fine new Ship the powder may be sent in her — when she arrives dispatch her as soon as may be in your power I fear that

our Squadron will want provisions before the arrival of either of the Vessels — as much of the provisions heretofore sent out has been condemned as unfit for service —

I have Ordered Captain Tingey to ship to you for the Gun Boat — two 32 p<sup>d</sup> Cannon with Carriages & all the necessary apparatus —

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

To Lieutenant James W. Murdoch, U. S. Navy, Charleston, S. C., from Secretary of the Navy

NAVY DEPT<sup>t</sup>  
23<sup>rd</sup> March 1805.—

Gunboats N<sup>os</sup> 1, 2 & 9 are all to sail for the Mediterranean on or before the 1<sup>st</sup> May next. On board of each of them we shall put, besides Officers and a small Detachment of Marines, ten able Seamen, without any ordinary Seaman or Boy. —

Retaining therefore on Board of each of the Gunboats N<sup>os</sup> 1 & 2, 10 able Seamen and transferring the residue of the able Seamen to N<sup>o</sup> 9, the ordinary Seamen and Boys that may be on Board, may have their choice either to be discharged at Charleston S: C, or to join the *John Adams* in New York. In case they should prefer joining the *John Adams*, you will conduct them to New York and there deliver them up to the Commanding Officer of that Ship. My wish is that all those who are worthless may Consent to be discharged at Charleston, and that those of a contrary description and who are healthy active Men may consent to re-enter for a period of 2 years. —

Shew this letter to the Commanding Officers of Gunboats N<sup>o</sup> 1 — & 2. Consult with them on the subject and make the best arrangements in your power not incompatible with justice and good faith towards the Men, to carry the views of Government into effect. —

M<sup>t</sup> [William] Smith will render you every needful assistance. —

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

[23 March 1805]

To Secretary of the Navy from George Harrison, Navy Agent, Philadelphia, Pa.

SIR I am this day honor'd with your letter of the 21<sup>st</sup>:

The Gun Boat N<sup>o</sup> 3 — may be Sent to Sea in a Fortnight — As yet, however, I have rec'd no Indent for other than Military Stores —

Your orders respecting the Destination of the Recruits have not been rec'd — from your letter to me, I presume they are to be sent to New York, & or this — I shall take measures, to forward them, on Monday —

Commodore Preble being in y<sup>e</sup> City I have prevailed on him to sit to M<sup>t</sup> R. Peale for a profile likeness — this is necessary whether executed in America or Europe — M<sup>t</sup> Reich is the best Die Sinker in America, a specimen may be seen in y<sup>e</sup> Medal he executed of the President. I have procured Several Medals from the Philosophical Society — the best of which (Gustavus of Sweden) he flatters himself he can equal. If you will permit it, I will Send this, with some others, P<sup>r</sup> mail, for your examination — I rather think it is not an essential to y<sup>e</sup> engraving and that its professor sh<sup>d</sup> be acquainted with designing & drawing — they are distinct branches. It is however a subject I am but little acquainted with — A degree of knowledge may be

necessary — but not that required to form a picture — or design for an Engraving. —

PHILAD *March 23<sup>rd</sup> 1805*

[NDA. Misc. LB, Vol. 1, 1805.]

To Briggs Brothers, Alexandria, Egypt, from Captain Samuel Barron, U. S. Navy

MALTA *23<sup>rd</sup> March 1805*

GENTLEMEN, By Cap<sup>t</sup> Hull of the United States Brig *Argus*, and by the communications from M<sup>r</sup> Eaton, I have been informed of the polite and friendly attention, which they and their brother Officers experienced from you, as well as the active and useful services rendered them in a public capacity during their stay in Egypt,

I hasten to convey to you Gentleman, in the name of my Country my sincere acknowledgments, and the tribute of my individual respects. — I have been made acquainted with the pecuniary engagements and advances you have entered into for M<sup>r</sup> Eaton on the faith of the United States, Cap<sup>t</sup> Hull is on the Point of sailing for the Eastern Coast of Tripoli, he has instructions to proceed from thence to Alexandria, provided he is not prevented by unforeseen circumstances — should he be obliged to return without executing that part of his instructions, I shall adopt some other arrangement to settle the dependancies in question Cap<sup>t</sup> H. will probably have an opportunity of sending this overland to Alexandria. — I feel happy in this occasion of opening a correspondence with you, and assuring you of my perfect consideration. —

[NDA. Isaac Hull LB, 1803-1806.]

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

MALTA *23<sup>rd</sup> March 1805*

SIR, By the accompanying communications to M<sup>r</sup> Eaton and to his Excellency Hamet Bashaw, which are left open for your perusal, and the personal knowledge you possess of my sentiments and wishes you will be able to form a correct and to yourself satisfactory Idea of the service on which you are destined, with the United States Brig *Argus* & Sloop *Hornet* (Lieutenant Evans) under your Command. —

Its execution must necessarily depend so much on a Variety of events and circumstances which may happen and it is probable have happened to M<sup>r</sup> Eaton & his C<sup>o</sup>Adjuteres and which we are totally unable to foresee, or to estimate, that I feel the impracticability as well as the unsuitableness of tying you down with precise and positive instructions, hence you will perceive Sir, that your own judgment and discretion, in which allow me to assure you I entertain the highest confidence will frequently be your sole directors —

Agreeably to what we have agreed upon, you are directed to shape your course for Bomba, or its vicinity and endeavour to establish an immediate Communication with the Bashaws Army. — If they have succeeded in penetrating beyond Bomba, you will there obtain correct information of their movements, which in all probability will be towards Derne or Bengaize, whither you will of course follow with your Vessels, unless you find contrary instructions from M<sup>r</sup> Eaton —



Having opened an intercourse with that Gentleman, you will ascertain correctly from him the posture of affairs and prospects of success, and you will if he require it, land and deliver to him the stores and Cash, under your charge, taking the necessary Receipts & Vouchers

As you will perceive by my Letter to M<sup>r</sup> Eaton I have left the application of these Succours, and consequently the responsibility wholly to him, which I conceive proper, as well on account of his having the cheif direction of the Land operations, as that by the time you arrive on the coast, he will have it in his power to form a just estimate of the chances of success, and thence, how far it is safe & expedient to pursue the object. — Should it be determined to persevere, you are authorised to afford him every support & assistance, consistant with yours means and situation —

You will confer together, and obtain the most minute and circumstantial information, as to his future plan, and his ideas and wishes with regard to Naval co-operation

On the Subject of your return it is impossible for me to furnish you with precise Orders as it will depend altogether on the situation in which you find matters on the coast, and the nature of the arrangements to be made with M<sup>r</sup> Eaton — You will be aware of my anxiety to hear from you — You will therefore dispatch the Sloop to this place, or return with the Brig as Circumstances may direct. —

In case of any unfortunate event having happened to M<sup>r</sup> Eaton and his Companions, and you can obtain no satisfactory intelligence of them, it is left to you to act as you may think most adviseable. —

[NDA. Isaac Hull LB, 1803-1806.]

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To Lieutenant Samuel Evans, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. Sloop *Hornet*, from  
Master Commandant Isaac Hull, U. S. Navy

U STATES BRIG *Argus*  
*Malta March 23<sup>rd</sup> 1805* —

SIR In consequence of Orders I have this day received from Samuel Barron Esquire, Commander in Chief of the U. States Squadron in the Mediterreanean, to sail the first fair Wind on an Expedition to the Eastward, taking with me the U. States Sloop *Hornet* under your Command, I have to request that you loose no time in getting the *Hornet* ready for Sea, and hold yourself in readiness to get under way at the shortest Notice. After leaving this port you will be governed by signals from the *Argus*, or My further Orders, but in case we are seperated by bad weather or any unforeseen accident you are to make the best of your way off Derne, where you will remain three days in sight of the Land, if possible, after which time if you are not joind by the *Argus* you will run into the Bay of Bomba, and shou'd you not find the *Argus* there, you are to continue to cruize between Bomba & Cape Razatin untill she arrives, or circumstances make it necessary for you to go into Port. —

[NDA. Captain's LB, Vol. 3, 1805.]

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To Captain John Rodgers, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. Frigate *Constitution*,  
from Lieutenant Joshua Blake, U. S. Navy

*Argus*, MALTA 23<sup>rd</sup> Mar. 1805

SIR The *Argus* being about to separate from the squadron for a length of time, I feel anxious to be placed on board your Ship agreea-

ble to my rank, to fill the vacancy of first Lieut<sup>t</sup> I am sensible Sir, the unfavourable impressions that are on your mind, from reports having been circulated that I had behaved with cowerdice in an Action off Tripoli, feeling myself concious of *perfect rectitude*, I think it a duty due to you Sir, to every Officer in service, to my family, and to myself, that an investigation of my conduct should be had, this cannot with propriety take place, without an opportunity shall offer, (and I wish the earliest possible) that a Court of enquiry may be call'd, and a full investigation may be had of every part of my conduct. I shall then Sir, have it in my power to discover the authors of so *base a falsehood*, and punish them as they deserve. — I declare any Man a *Lier & Scoundrel*, who shall be proved to have made the assertion. —

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

To Captain James Barron, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. *Essex*, from Master Commandant Thomas Robinson, Jr., U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. Schooner *Enterprise*

VENICE  
23 March 1805

D<sup>r</sup> SIR Yours I have &° &° &° from the moment I got it my time was employed on the business therein mentioned — I must see you to morrow by Mer<sup>n</sup> I shall have all the information possible to be got here, and shall start Immediately after by post. Mortars are the only difficulty at present. but I shall be able to tell you all about it in 9 hours excuse this scrawl. I shan't sleep this night

[NDA. Captain's LB, Vol. 1, 1805.]

Extract from Memorandum Book of Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, 23 March to 6 April 1805

Enroute north nothing of interest except public dinners Phila. New York and Boston.

[LC original.]

Extract from journal of William Eaton, U. S. Navy Agent for the Barbary Regencies, Saturday, 23 March 1805

Continued in camp. Eighty mounted warriors joined the Bashaw: — all appear attached to him; but we want the means to engage their services. — Cash, we find, is the only deity of Arabs, as well as Turks — Good feed for our horses: — rain water in great abundance, preserved in cavities of rocks worn by torrents of water descending from the high grounds in our rear. — But our provision is reduced to hard bread and rice. — From Alexandria to this place there is not a living stream, nor rivulet, nor spring of water. —

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

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

NAVY YARD CHARLES TOWN  
March 24<sup>th</sup> 1805.

SIR, I hope you will excuse my freedom when I request your influence with M<sup>r</sup> Brown the Navy Agent here on the Score of my paying 100 Doll ground rent for this Navy Yard, to which I am attached as

Superintendent and where I expect to reside in a few weeks in the House now building by your orders for the Superintendent's accommodation — I am induced to ask this fav<sup>r</sup> from a belief that it is customary in all other Navy Yards, or Garrisons in the United States, to indulge the Officers attached to said Yard or Garrison, with the use of the ground thereto belonging — At the same time I confess, I told M<sup>r</sup> Brown I would pay 100 Doll for the use of this place for pasture, this I did rather than let a man have it for \$80. Offered in my presence, at the same time I declare I never expected he would call on me for it. I took this place for those reasons to wit: Convenience to myself as pasture, and that it would be a great disparagement and very Injurious to the Public to suffer Individuals to claim a right of a free Intercourse as well by Night as Day through the Yard where the United States have so much property deposited. — The first year after I took possession of this place it was mowed and the hay sold by the agent for the want of a Barn to put it into — the next year it was let to the proprietors of the Salem turnpike & bridge, to make their frames *on*. The last year I pastured it, — The Injury done this place by the chips left on it by the bridge & Hospital folks, have rendered it useless, otherwise than for pasture. —

I have heretofore had the use of that part of the Yard round the buildings, — I will be thankfull to you Sir, if you will honor me with a line in ans<sup>r</sup> to this, that will excuse me from the above charge w<sup>th</sup> I am very I'lly able to pay, & at the same time direct its future disposal — I have the Honor to be with high Esteem & regard

Your Obed<sup>t</sup> Hble Serv<sup>t</sup>

S. NICHOLSON

[NDA. Captain's LB, Vol. 1, 1805.]

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To Secretary of the Navy from Purser John Darby, U. S. Navy

NEW YORK March 24<sup>th</sup> 1805

SIR I have receid orders from Capt. Chauncey to pay off the crew of the U S Ship *John Adams* and have made up their acct's & sined the day of payment on the 22<sup>nd</sup> Inst. and have paid those whose times have expired and those who were discharged on that day, from other causes. — I have also received orders from Capt. Chauncey to repair to the City of Washington for the Settlement of my acct's. this I shall do as soon as possible. but the Nature of my business will keep me many days longer as I have had so many different Vessels and accounts to deal with, there being such a number of change's and Transfers to and from the *John Adams*, all which it will be Necessary for Capt. Chauncey to examine and certify, before I can take one step towards the Settlement of them —

Independent of all the business which I have heretofore had and the ships business at this place — I have been obliged to furnish all the supplies of provisions &<sup>c</sup> to the Labourer's employed on the ship. and to the new recruits. there being no person here to attend to any thing of that kind, and Cap<sup>t</sup> Chauncey has given me orders to do it all this with my old business keeps me forever in motion and renders my business very complicated — but I beg you will be assured that no time shall be lost on my part and that I shall repair to the City as soon as possible as I am as much if not more anxious to settle my acct's, than government can possibly be — I believe I may be

allowed to say, and it is the opinion of my commander, that I have had more to do from the nature of this ships cruize and the Various exchanges and supply's of provisions &<sup>e</sup> &<sup>e</sup> than the business of any two ships on a regular station —

[NDA. Misc. LB, Vol. 1, 1805.]

To Secretary of the Navy from Lieutenant Nathaniel Fanning, U. S. Navy

CHARLESTON S. C.

March the 24<sup>th</sup> 1805

SIR Your's of the 11<sup>th</sup> Instant I received last Evening the contents of which I have duly noted, and shall punctually, and faithfully, govern myself conformable to your directions. I think it absolutely necessary that the original plan of Rigging the Gun Boat N<sup>o</sup> 9, ought to be materially changed (*as She is intended to cross the Atlantic;*) consequently, I have given directions to that effect, and I propose (should it meet your approbation) that instead of Mounting Two Guns of large Calibre on Board of her at present. — to have but one mounted, and to take the other into her Hold, which will serve for Ballast, and may be wanted when She arrives at her place of destination. M<sup>r</sup> Smith informs me that there were no Thirty two pound Shot sent here with the Two Guns, and that there are none to be had here. I thought it my duty to acquaint you with this circumstance; as the want of Shot may retard the Sailing of the Boat so soon as you expected. Lieu<sup>t</sup> Elbert arrived here yesterday Evening and is much pleased with the Gun Boat which he is to Command. I am in hopes we shall be able to get her ready to receive her Crew in a fortnight provided the Weather should prove good. This place however is a very *sorry one* for the dispatch of Business, more especially when it is of a public nature *Merchants*, and *Mechaniks*, all appear disposed to through obstructions in the way of every call upon them of public concern. Nothing however, I beg leave to assure you shall be wanting on my part to forward the outfits of Gun Boat N<sup>o</sup> 9. — I have now due from the public, Wages, and rations, for about Three Months, & an half, (besides, my expences from New York to this place), and M<sup>r</sup> Smith the Navy Agent, has told me, that He has no orders from your department to advance me a single Dollar; you must be sensible Sir, that by this time, I stand in need of Cash If no more than enough (to pay off) my expences while I have been here, travelling Charges from N. York to this place, and back). will you have the goodness to cause W. Smith Sen<sup>r</sup> [ms mutilated] to advance a part of the Money already due me for my public Services; as without it, I shall find it *difficult* to discharge some little debts contracted since I have been here; and return to New York *as ordered*, as soon as I shall have fitted the Gun Boat for taking in her Officers and Crew.

[NDA. Misc. LB, Vol. 1, 1805.]

Extract from journal of William Eaton, U. S. Navy Agent for the Barbary Regencies,  
Sunday, 24 March 1805

Remained in camp Freightd a caravan of 90 camels @ 11 dol<sup>r</sup>  
p<sup>r</sup> head to Bomba.

[H. E. Huntington L&AG.]

Extract from journal of Midshipman Charles Morris, Jr., U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *President*. Master Commandant George Cox, U. S. Navy, commanding, Sunday, 24 March 1805

5 ½ [A.M.] Saw the land ahead. 6 Saw a sail to the E N E. made all sail in chace. 9 discovered that the Sail had put into the harbour of Lampedosa 10. hove to off the Harbour hoisted out our boats manned and sent them in to bring her out if an Enemy

Latitude Observed 35° 30' N.

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

Circular letter to Commanders of Gunboats from Secretary of the Navy

NAVY DEP<sup>t</sup>  
25 March 1805.

Circular Letter to Commanders of Gunboats — viz<sup>t</sup>

- Lieu<sup>t</sup> H. Magrath. N<sup>o</sup> 1. Charleston. S. C.
- Lieu<sup>t</sup> Ralph Izard. N<sup>o</sup> 2. Charleston. S. C.
- Lieu<sup>t</sup> Levi Bardin. N<sup>o</sup> 3. Philadelphia. —
- Lieu<sup>t</sup> J. D. Henley. N<sup>o</sup> 4. Washington.
- Lieu<sup>t</sup> A. C. Harrison. N<sup>o</sup> 5 Baltimore —
- Lieu<sup>t</sup> Ja<sup>s</sup> Lawrence. N<sup>o</sup> 6. New York.
- Lieu<sup>t</sup> J. T. Leonard. N<sup>o</sup> 7. New York.
- Lieu<sup>t</sup> Jos. J. Maxwell. N<sup>o</sup> 8. Boston.
- Lieu<sup>t</sup> Sam<sup>l</sup> Elbert. N<sup>o</sup> 9. Charleston. S. C.

SIR. The Crew of Gunboat N<sup>o</sup> — is to consist of

- The Commander.
- a Second Officer
- 1 Steward
- 10 Able Seamen
- 1 Corporal & } Marines.
- 4 Privates }

The Marines will be provided by Col<sup>o</sup> Wharton. The Steward and able Seamen you will enter. Commence recruiting whenever you shall find that the Men might be usefully employed on Board of the Gunboat in assisting to equip her and fit her in other respects for Sea. Allow the Steward \$18 per month, and allow each able Seaman \$12 per month, advancing 2 or if required 4 months' pay upon good and sufficient security to indemnify the public in the event of desertion. You may also, should you find it necessary to enable you to enter the men, allow 10 dollars bounty to each man upon his signing the Shipping Papers. Enter the men to serve 2 years. You will perceive the necessity of entering none but active, healthy, able Seamen, and the more experienced the better. If you should find it useful, you may enter one of the ten as an Acting Boatswain, giving him the Bounty and \$15 per month. Blank Shipping Papers are enclosed. You will have to do the duty of a Purser by keeping the accounts of the Boats. I authorize you to enter a Steward to assist you in this business. You will call on the Navy Agent for every needful assistance. —

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

To Secretary of State from Joseph Yznardi, U. S. Consul, Cadiz, Spain

AMERICAN CONSULATE.

*Cadiz 25<sup>th</sup> March 1805.*—

RESPECTED SIR. The inclosed is Copy of what I had the honour of addressing you on the 31<sup>st</sup> ultimo to which beg your Kind reference. The object of the present is to forward you Copy's of —

- 1<sup>st</sup>----- Vice Admiral Ordes Letter —
- 2<sup>d</sup>----- My Letter to said Vice Admiral
- 3<sup>d</sup>----- the Letter I hand to American Captains going to Sea and had their Registers endorsed —
- 4<sup>th</sup>----- My Letter to the Commander of the U. S. Brig *Siren*.
- 5<sup>th</sup>----- Vice Admiral Ordes Answer.

Since I received the above reply from the Vice Admiral I have Suspended given the Captains Copy of the Letter under N<sup>o</sup> 3.

Notwithstanding the rigour of the Blockade sundry Neutral Vessels with Cargos have entered this Bay — On the 18<sup>th</sup> a Danish Ship sailed with a Cargo of Salt, and was ordered back by the English, which is a proof that they will allow no Vessel to Sail with such Cargos and only with ballast of Sand or Stone.

The Ports that are in a State of Blockade at this moment are Cadiz, Ferrol & Cartagena of course the other Ports are free, which will serve for the government of the Trade of the United States.

No News from the Squadron up the Mediterranean. The Armement in this Port is carried on with the greatest activity but no Seamen, it is to be Commanded by Admiral Gravina, Alava, and Villavicencio.

Governm<sup>t</sup> Notes . . 48 ½ a 49 ½%.

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

[Enclosure]

From Vice Admiral John Orde, R. N., of H. B. M. Ship *Glory*

N<sup>o</sup> 1, Copy

HIS MAJESTYS SHIP *Glory*  
*Off Cadiz 11<sup>th</sup> January 1805.*

SIR; I have received this Morning the Letter you do me the honour to address to me in date the 8<sup>th</sup> instant, and desirous of conforming to the well Known Sentiments of my Sovereign to prevent as much as imperious circumstances will allow, the mischiefs of War from being felt by Neutral Powers — I have given orders to the officers under my Command to allow all Neutral Vessels that were in the Port of Cadiz taking in Cargos before the declaration of War by Spain against great Britain was Known there, and that may leave that Port on or before the 25<sup>th</sup> of this Month, to pass unmolested to the place of their destination. Provided always that such Vessels are furnished with proper Papers, and with a Certificate signed & sealed by the Consul of their Nation (or if under Convoy of a Ship of War on the Commander giving his honor) that they fall under the above discription and that their Cargos are absolutely the exclusive property of Subjects of the State to which they belong. Neutral Vessels in Ballast may quit the Port without difficulty.

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

[Enclosure]

To Vice Admiral Sir John Orde, R. N., H. B. M. Ship *Glory*, Commander in Chief of H. B. M. Forces off Cadiz, from Joseph Yznardi, U. S. Consul, Cadiz, Spain

N<sup>o</sup> 2, Copy

AMERICAN CONSULATE

*Cadiz 27<sup>th</sup> February 1805.*

Having Seen the Letter you was pleased to write to the Consul of his Danish Majesty in this Port, restraining the Sailing of Neutral Vessels till the 25<sup>th</sup> ult<sup>o</sup>. Since said period we have had verry bad Weather, which has hindered the unloading and Shipping off the neat proceeds for that Epocha — In consequence I find myself under the obligation of representing to you on two points — the first — to know if you prolong the term for such neutral Vessels as were in this Bay at the time of its being declared in a State of Blockade — And the 2<sup>d</sup> to acquaint you that in the last War Lord S<sup>t</sup> Vincent permitted American Vessels which brought American Produce to enter this Port, and invert their proceeds in Goods admitted in War time, under the precise condition that the property was *Bonafide* American, proved by my official Certificates, which Lord S<sup>t</sup> Vincent honoured with full Confidence; as the American Citizens in general do not carry Cargos on freight and the inward & out Cargos are generally their own property —

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

[Enclosure]

To Master Commandant Charles Stewart, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. Brig *Siren*, from Joseph Yznardi, U. S. Consul, Cadiz, Spain

N<sup>o</sup> 4, Copy

AMERICAN CONSULATE

*Cadiz 1<sup>st</sup> March 1805.*

SIR. A Number of American Vessels being detained, doubting whether the English Division off this Port will permit them to proceed; and not having a proper occasion to send off a Flag of Truce. I shall esteem it as a verry particular favour your taking under your charge the delivery of my official Letter to Vice Admiral John Orde, and request an explicit answer thereto, that the results may be made Known to the respective Captains that are in this Bay; it being likewise an object of high importance to our trade; relying that I will give official account to our government, not doubting but it will meet full approbation, and that you will receive gratefull thanks from all our Citizens.

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

[Enclosure]

To Joseph Yznardi, U. S. Consul, Cadiz, Spain, from Vice Admiral Sir John Orde, R. N., H. B. M. Ship *Glory*

N<sup>o</sup> 5

HIS MAJESTYS SHIP *Glory*

*at Sea 11<sup>th</sup> March 1805.*

SIR. Imperious Circumstances compel me to order the Blockade of Cadiz to be Strictly enforced from this time, which deprives me of the gratification I should otherwise have had in complying with your request.

You would much oblige me by communicating this information to all whom it may Concern, as Speedily and as generally as convenient, in order that none may suffer by this necessary measure, but from their own imprudence.

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

To Secretary of the Navy from Degen, Purviance & Co., U. S. Navy Agents, Leghorn  
LEGHORN 25<sup>th</sup> March 1805.

SIR We paid you our Respects last in date of February the 5<sup>th</sup> By the Mails of this morning we have received a Letter from Commodore Barron from Malta, in date of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Instant, advising that he had given instructions to Captain James Barron, Commanding the Frigate *Esser*, to proceed up the Adriatic, on particular Service not further explained. —

We have also Letters from George Dyson Esq<sup>e</sup> of Syracuse dated 19<sup>th</sup> February with advice of his having valued on Frederick Degen Esq<sup>e</sup> of Naples — for Four Thousand Dollars, which Drafts have already appeared, and have been duly honoured, — and at maturity will be duly forwarded to us by M<sup>r</sup> Degen who will take his Reimbursement on us for the Same. —

M<sup>r</sup> Dyson informs that all the Squadron were then at Sea, except the Frigate *Congress*, — The *Nautilus* Schooner, he mentions being in our Neighborhood. — She has not however made her appearance here; — We presume She is in search of the Two Tripolitans which are reported to have been seen off Corsica, some time since. — The Master of an American Merchant Ship, who arrived with us three weeks ago, spoke with an English Frigate between this, and Toulon, the Commander of which gave information of the circumstance. — This account accords with a similar one brought to Palermo sometime past by another English Frigate, who spoke them, then off Sardinia. — They are said to be both Polacca Rigged, and carry each Six Guns and Fifty Men, & on first appearance shew Tunisian Colours but by their manœuvres, they exhibited Suspicion in the breast of the English Commander, who in consequence brought them to, for examination, and they confessed on finding it was an English Cruizer they were Tripolines in search of Americans —

We hope soon to have a favorable account of them, when we shall lose no time in communicating it

[NDA. Misc. LB, Vol. 1, 1805.]

Extract from journal of William Eaton, U. S. Navy Agent for the Barbary Regencies,  
Monday, 25 March 1805

Forty seven tents of Arabs joined us with their families and moveables — In this detachment are one hundred and fifty warriors on foot.

[H. E. Huntington L&AG.]



Extract from journal of Midshipman Charles Morris, Jr., U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *President*, Master Commandant George Cox, U. S. Navy, commanding, Monday, 25 March 1805

Commencing with fresh breezes and clear weather.

2 the boats returned with infermation that the Vessel was a Tunisian Cruiser, Mounting 4 four pounders, 4 Levants with 50 men having the proper passports from our Consul and the other different Consuls resident at Tunis. hoisted in the boats and filled away ran down to the leeward of the Island and hauled our wind to the N<sup>d</sup> & Eastward —

4. The N E. point of Lampedosa bore S E B S  $\frac{1}{2}$  S. the West End. S B W  $\frac{1}{2}$  W. 4 or 5 leagues. Fresh gales send down Top Gallant yards housed Top Gallant Masts close reefed the Topsails and handed the Mainsail —

6. Two Greek Ships passed us before the wind

11 Saw the land bearing N N E.

Noon. The Land to the W<sup>d</sup> of Gergenti in Sicily bore N B E  $\frac{1}{4}$  E. 8 leagues distant

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

To Secretary of the Navy from Sailing Master Levi Bardin, U. S. Navy

PHILADELPHIA March 26<sup>th</sup> 1805

SIR I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your Letter of 20<sup>th</sup> Ins<sup>t</sup> — and have ordered Lee boards to be made for Gun Boat. N<sup>o</sup> 3. I have shiped 80 men 40 — Seamen & 40 ordinary Ditto

LEVI BARDIN

[NDA. Misc. LB, Vol. 1, 1805.]

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

NAV DEP<sup>t</sup>

26 March 1805

Bills to a considerable amount having been forged in your name upon Mess<sup>rs</sup> M<sup>o</sup>Kenzie & Glennie London, an enquiry has been instituted to ascertain and apprehend the Author. It has been suggested to me that a person who acted as Clerk to Commodore Morris in the Mediterranean, was probably concerned in this affair. I send you therefore papers N<sup>o</sup> 1 & 2 which were written by the person who committed the forgery, and papers N<sup>o</sup> 4 and 5 which contain some information relative to the transaction and a description of the person of the forger. These papers I request you to shew to Com<sup>re</sup> Morris and ascertain from him whether the hand writing of N<sup>o</sup> 1 & 2 is that of the person who acted as his Clerk, and whether the description of the Forger answer that of the person who acted as his Clerk in the Mediterranean, and who I understand left Comm<sup>re</sup> Morris rather in a mysterious manner. —

There is a suspicion that this Clerk was a person taken into Commodore Morris's employ in the Mediterranean. —

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

To William Eaton, U. S. Navy Agent for the Barbary Regencies, from Captain Samuel Barron, U. S. Navy

MALTA 26. Mar. 1805

SIR, The *Argus* being detained in this harbor by a strong gale from the eastward I am enabled to add a few lines to my dispatches which were consigned to Captain Hull yesterday evening — This morning Captain Dent arrived with the *Nautilus* from Tunis-Bay, with dispatches of a very recent date from M<sup>r</sup> Davis accompanying a letter of 27<sup>th</sup> Jan<sup>r</sup> from Captain Bainbridge at Tripoli and copy of one from that officer to M<sup>r</sup> D. Of this latter I think it proper to inclose you a copy — Captain Hull only waits a wind to go out —

[NA. Sen. 9 B-B 6, Pres. Message, Jan. 1806.]

Extract from journal of U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Captain John Rodgers, U. S. Navy, commanding, Tuesday, 26 March 1805

[Malta] At 8 [A. M.] arrived the US. Schooner *Nautilus*  
[USNA.]

Extract from journal of William Eaton, U. S. Navy Agent for the Barbary Regencies, Tuesday, 26 March 1805

A courier from Derne, in the interest of the Bashaw, brings intelligence that five hundred of Joseph Bashaw's cavalry, accompanied by great numbers of Arabs, both horse and foot, were a few days march from that place, and would certainly arrive before it would be possible that we could. — The alarm excited by this information arrested our motions. The Bashaw seemed to hesitate whether to proceed farther. — The camel drivers fled with their caravan: — and there seemed to be a combination among the Bashaw's people and the Arabs of Behara to return to Fiaum. I again suspended their rations; forbidding any more issues till the caravan should return and the march proceed ahead. A council was held: — despondency sat in every countenance. About eleven a. m. I learned that the Chiek il Taiib had resolved to proceed no farther until certain intelligence arrive of our vessels being at Bomba. I could not but reproach that chief with want of courage and fidelity. — He had promised much and fulfilled nothing. — I regretted having been made acquainted with him: — and should be well satisfied if he would put his menace in execution of returning to Egypt, provided he would not interfere with the dispositions of other chiefs. He quit the camp in a rage, swearing by all the force of his religion to join us no more. — The Bashaw would have sent an officer to pacify and bring him back. — I objected. — And he took himself off with a small detachment of his tribe. —

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

To Secretary of the Navy from Master Commandant John Shaw, U. S. Navy

BALTIMORE March 27<sup>th</sup> 1805

SIR This day I arrived here, and am sorry to say that able seaman is very hard to be procured but be assured sir in the main time that I shall use every exertion in my power to promote dispatch in entering men and fitting out the Gun Boat. Your instructions will be necessary how the men entered is to be sent on to N. York. (but

I think the water Carriage would be the saifist mode of conveyance) or if there board is to be paid from the date of signing articles. Be pleased to inform me what time it will be necessary to join the *John Adams* as I wish to ship all my baggage

Baltimore has nevry been defitient in her supplies of men to the Navy and I hope no delinquesey will exist in the preasant Case. (but this week at furdest must terminate our success many ordinary seamen has offered but not one has been entered. I will request a supply of 30 blunderbusses for the Manning of the Boats of the *J. Adams* the[y] will be excellant in a close shot and do great execution —

[NDA. MC LB, 1804-5.]

To John Stricker, Navy Agent, Baltimore, Md., from Secretary of the Navy

NAV DEP<sup>t</sup>  
27 March 1805.

I enclose Cap<sup>n</sup> Browns sailing Orders — they direct him to weigh anchor as soon as he shall be prepared for Sea — to proceed to Gibraltar and then take the Orders of Consul Gavino relatively to the disposition of the Cargo of the *Ceres* — You will deliver these Orders in proper season —

We want hospital Stores in the Mediterranean — Purchase therefore and send out in the *Ceres* or the Vessel that shall sail after the *Ceres*.

100 <sup>lbs</sup> Chocolate good Quality  
100 <sup>lbs</sup> Young Hyson Tea.  
500 <sup>lbs</sup> Coffee  
1500 <sup>lbs</sup> Brown Sugar  
200 <sup>lbs</sup> White loaf Sugar

If your arrangement relative to paying the freight of the *Ceres* make it necessary that I should give any instructions on that subject before she sails communicate to me immediately what your arrangements may be —

Send a copy of the Charter Party and an invoice and bill of lading of the Cargo of the *Ceres* to John Gavino Esq Gibraltar William Higgins Esq. Malta & George Dyson Esq Syracuse — also one to the Commodore of the Squadron & another you will send to this Department —

The terms upon which you have freighted the *Ceres* and the *Ann* are certainly reasonable for the present state of things and are entirely approved —

We have no occasion to remit to the Mediterranean at present—

Cap<sup>n</sup> Tingey will send you the 32 Pound Cannon — Carriages & all the necessary apparatus — & the Cutlasses, boarding Pikes Swords Pistols &<sup>s</sup> for the Gun Boat — so that you will have no part of the arrangement to provide excepting the necessary Powder and Ball —

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

To Captain Elihu D. Brown, commanding Provision Ship *Ceres*, Baltimore, Md.,  
from Secretary of the Navy

NAV DEP<sup>t</sup>

27 March 1805

As soon as you are ready for Sea you will weigh anchor and proceed to Gibraltar where you will apply to John Gavino Esq American Consul for further Orders respecting the disposition of the Public Property committed to your Care, and you will proceed whither he may direct you agreeably to the Charter Party

You will receive enclosed a letter for M<sup>r</sup> Gavino which you will deliver, also letters of Com<sup>rs</sup> Barron & others which you will deliver agreeably to the Directions

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

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

NAV DEP<sup>t</sup>

27 March 1805 —

(per The *Ceres* Cap<sup>t</sup> Brown from Balt<sup>o</sup> Duplicate By the Ann  
Cap<sup>t</sup> Smith from Balt<sup>o</sup> —)

This Letter will be handed to you by Cap<sup>t</sup> Brown Commanding the Ship *Ceres* loaded with provisions and various Stores P<sup>r</sup> Invoice which Col<sup>o</sup> Stricker will transmit to you, for the Squadron under your Command. Two other Vessels, one from Baltimore, the other from this place, will shortly follow the *Ceres* with similar supplies and the one from Baltimore will have 300 Barrels of powder on Board, and the one from this place a quantity of 32<sup>lb</sup> — 24<sup>lb</sup> — 18<sup>lb</sup> — 12<sup>lb</sup> — & 6<sup>lb</sup> Shot and a quantity of musket balls and grapnels and spare hawsers for the gunboats. The *John Adams* will leave New York for the Mediterranean in all next month. She goes out principally as a Transport Ship: you may calculate upon receiving from 4 to 600 men by her and 4 or 5 Spare Anchors for Frigates, a quantity of 24 & 32<sup>lb</sup> cannon ball and from 4 to 500 bolts of Canvas. —

The Gunboats mentioned to you in my letter of the 7<sup>th</sup> Ins<sup>t</sup> will generally have 2 guns mounted on board — 1 long 32<sup>lb</sup> gun at each end. I shall endeavour to have them well provided with spare Spars, Anchors, Hawsers, Grapnels &<sup>s</sup> I send in each Boat 1 Lieutenant — 1 2nd Officer — 1 Steward — 10 Able Seamen — 1 Corporal and 4 privates of Marines. These Crews are put on board merely for the purpose of navigating the gunboats and delivering them up to you in the Mediterranean to be afterwards Officered and Manned as you shall deem most expedient.

Commissions as Masters Commandants for M<sup>r</sup> Dent and M<sup>r</sup> Robinson have been issued and will be forwarded to you by the Frigate *John Adams*, by which Vessel I shall also forward to you Commissions for M<sup>r</sup> B. F. Read, M<sup>r</sup> Ralph Izard, M<sup>r</sup> John D. Henley, M<sup>r</sup> Ch<sup>s</sup> L. Ridgeley, M<sup>r</sup> Levi Bardin & M<sup>r</sup> Seth Cartee, as Lieutenants, which Commissions are to be delivered when these Gentlemen shall have passed the usual examinations. —

[Attention is invited to an article entitled *Rank*, in *United States' Naval Chronicle*, by Charles W. Goldsborough. 1824. p.p. 345-350.]

I enclose a Copy of the resolutions of Congress in relation to the Conduct of Comm<sup>rs</sup> Preble and of the Officers and Men who acted

under his Command before Tripoli. These Resolutions you will cause to be promulgated throughout the Squadron under your Command, that the Officers and Men may know that their Country is not unmindful of their Services. The resolutions will in due Season be carried into effect. —

[NDA. LB, 1799-1807.]

[Note: With reference to the monument in commemoration of the officers and men who participated in the attacks on Tripoli by the U. S. squadron, 1804-1805, this is now erected in the grounds of the U. S. Naval Academy. In the U. S. Naval Institute Proceedings, November 1922, there is an interesting article by Captain C. Q. Wright, Ch. C., U. S. Navy, Retired. Attention is invited to this for details.]

Extract from journal of U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Captain John Rodgers, U. S. Navy, commanding, Wednesday, 27 March 1805

[Malta] At 10 [A. M.] arrived the US. Frigate *President*

[USNA.]

Extract from journal of William Eaton, U. S. Navy Agent for the Barbary Regencies, Wednesday, 27 March 1805

The Chiek il Taiib excited an insurrection among the Arabs of this place who had engaged to proceed with us; drew off half their number; and, putting himself at their head, started for Egypt. — The Bashaw sent a messenger to me praying that I would dispatch an officer to request him in my name to return. — I answered that no consideration whatever could prevail on me to ask as a favor what I claimed as a right. The services of that chief were due to us: — We had paid for them: — and he had pledged his faith to render them with fidelity. — It did not belong to him, at this period, to make terms nor dictate measures: I should not debase myself to propose an accommodation. The Bashaw was apprehensive that he would turn his influence and take a part against us. — *Let him do it. — I like an open enemy better than a treacherous friend. — When he shall have taken this ground it will perhaps, give me an opportunity to punish eventually what I would do summarily if the respect I had for his Excellency did not prevent it. — I had a rifle and a sabre true to their distance. — Carry this message to the chief. — He was mad with rage; and swore vengeance against the Bashaw, and his Christian sovereigns, as he stiled us. — I ordered a march. — We got underway ½ past 7 am. At 10 a messenger came from the Chiek to assure us that he had taken up his march for Behara. —*

*Since he has taken that rout I have nothing further with him but to take steps for the recovery of the cash and property he has fraudulently drawn from me.* Continued the march. At 12 oclock another messenger— "The Chiek il Taiib will join if the camp halt seasonably." The Bashaw desired, & we halted at ½ past 12. About an hour & ½ after the Cheik hove in sight with his party; — soon after came up; — and, presenting himself at my markee, with visible chagrin in his countenance, said, "You see the influence I have among these people!" *Yes, and I see also the disgraceful use you make of it.* We gained about five miles today.

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

To Secretary of the Navy from Lieutenant Nathaniel Fanning, U. S. Navy

CHARLESTON S. C. *March the 28<sup>th</sup> 1805*

SIR I had the honor to receive your Letter of the 14<sup>th</sup> Instant, yesterday, covering a plan for the Rigging a Gun Boat, from Commodore Pribble, and Cap<sup>t</sup> Tingey; which on consideration, I should have adopted for N<sup>o</sup> 9 with some very trifling alteration, had I have recieved it a few days sooner; as I believe it to be a good one; and shall pay all the attention to it which so important a subject requires. It may possibly admit of some improvement, or alterations, hereafter, after the experiment shall have been fairly tryed. In my next I shall be more explicit; I am very sure however that my opinion for, or against, the proposed plan, coming from two such experienced Commanders (for the Rig<sup>g</sup> of our Gun Boats) can neither add, nor diminish any thing relative to this very important subject. Immediately on the Receipt of your Letter to me of the 11<sup>th</sup> Instant I gave directions for the new Gun Boat. (When I found She was intended to cross the Atlantic to be Rigged into a *Ketch*; and conformable to this, arrangements were made, with the Spar Maker, Sail Maker, Rigger, &c &c. for that purpose; And on the Receipt of your last Letter to me the Rigger had already cut and partly fixed the principal Rigging and other parts of this plan were in such a state of forwardness that I did not think it warrantable in me *as an officer* (and in whom you had placed so much confidence) without positive orders — to persue a new plan — besides, had I have done it it would have put the U. S. to an extra expence of several Hundred Dollars. — and being fully persuaded that the present plan which I have adopted — for Sparing, Rigging &c, of the new Gun Boat, will be upon consideration, approved of by you Sir — (as it is already here by the best informed practical Gentlemen, — *and is perfectly a safe one* in my opinion considering the nature of the service on which She is to be sent!!)

[NDA. Misc. LB, Vol. 2, 1805.]

To Secretary of the Navy from Sailing Master Humphrey Magrath, U. S. Navy

U. S. GUN BOAT N<sup>o</sup> 1 —

CHARLESTON HARBOUR

*March 28<sup>th</sup> 1805*

SIR I am honor<sup>d</sup> with your fav<sup>r</sup> of the 14<sup>th</sup> inst<sup>t</sup> and in reply thereto inform you that Gun Boat N<sup>o</sup> 1 — cannot be considered a safe Vessel to Cross the Atlantic Ocean, and am of opinion she would not survive a heavy Gale; my eagerness to perform the voyage would induce me to go in her were it your pleasure to order me, its certain the season of the year is greatly in our favour although I have frequently experienced very bad weather in May and June

As to her rigging I cannot think any alteration necessary and what may be requisite to prepare her for the passage can be done at a very short warning if after having my opinion you may think proper to Order her

[NDA. Officers LB, 1802-1805.]

To Secretary of the Navy from George W. Erving, U. S. Consul, London, England

AMERICAN CONSULATE & AGENCY

London March 28<sup>th</sup> 1805

SIR Your letters of the 4<sup>th</sup> of Sep<sup>r</sup> and Dec<sup>r</sup> 6<sup>th</sup> 1804 to the Minister Plenipotentiary directing the purchase of two swords one for Lieutenant Sterritt and the other for Captain Stephen Decateur Junior have been delivered to me by M<sup>r</sup> Purviance our Chargé des Affaires at this court in the absence of M<sup>r</sup> Monroe.

M<sup>r</sup> Purviance being in ill health and having retired a few Miles from this city has directed me to attend to the commission, & has also given me two Bills remitted from Baltimore one for £39.14.2, the other for £39.18.9, which have been duly accepted, and will be applied to the purchase of these articles.

I have presumed that you would wish them to be made somewhat emblematical, & as highly ornamented as the price allowed for them will admit of; this has accordingly been done, & I hope that they may meet with your approbation; The one which is completed I take an opportunity of sending by a M<sup>r</sup> Patton who goes immediately to Alexandria, the other shall be forwarded by the next suitable conveyance.

P. S. April 30<sup>th</sup> M<sup>r</sup> Patton having left this Earlier than I expected I lost the opportunity of sending one of the Swords by him. Both being now completed, and M<sup>r</sup> Ryland Randolph of Virginia who will pass thro' Washington having obligingly offered to take charge of them, they are given into his care. The cost of these articles has unavoidably Exceeded by £4.7.1 the sum which you have appropriated for the purpose, and the Cases add £3.3. — making £7.10.1 This Excess will not I hope be deemed material, I will take the liberty of drawing on you in favor of my Agent at Boston for the Amount say £7.10.1 with great respect.

[NDA. Misc. LB, Vol. 2, 1805.]

To Master Commandant John H. Dent, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. Schooner *Nautilus*, from Captain Samuel Barron, U. S. Navy

MALTA 28<sup>th</sup> March 1805.

SIR You are hereby directed to take under Convoy of the United States Schooner *Nautilus* under your Command the Maltese Ketch, called the *Eliza*, carrying supplies for the Prisoners at Tripoli — to see her safe off that Harbour and return immediately to this place, unless you should receive contrary instructions from any Senior Officer on the Station — Should you fall in with Captain Campbell in the *Constellation* you will inform him that a relief will be sent to the blockading Vessels in a few days. —

[NHF. Dent's LB, 1803-1810.]

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

MALTA March 28<sup>th</sup> 1805

DEAR SIR I have had the satisfaction of receiving your very acceptable favors of the 11<sup>th</sup> of November, 19<sup>th</sup> of Dec<sup>r</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> of January; The Contents of which have given me very great pleasure so far as

they inform me of the health of yourself and our other fellow Citizens in Captivity. —

The great difficulty of forwarding letters to Tripoli will readily account to you for your not having heard oftner from me, and especially as I had nothing to communicate which would have been particularly interesting

I assure you my dear Bainbridge that no One feels more deeply interested than myself in the liberation of yourself and Your unfortunate Companions, and I sincerely hope that the present season will effect that desirable object. We have a very Considerable Force now in this Sea, which, if exercised, must be productive of all the fatal effects of War; for our Country will never admit of any terms of peace which shall not be honorable and as permanent as we can expect. — We consider Ourselves as having been unjustly forced into this war; and therefore we do not look so much to the expences which may attend it, as to the establishment of a Peace upon terms which are compatible with the rising Character of our Nation, and which will secure a future peace upon honorable and lasting grounds. — Had we counted on the expence alone it would have been better to have made peace at the price of half a Million of dollars —

You will receive hence a number of Articles which I trust will be highly acceptable to yourself your Officers and Crew; and by the return of this Vessel I hope we shall hear of your welfare, and that you still keep up your Spirits, under a full reliance that the Great Author & director of Events will shortly cause your liberation to be effected, and that you may once more enter into the arms of your friends and the bosom of your Country.

As you will receive many letters by this opportunity I shall add no more at present but the earnest prayers and best wishes of M<sup>r</sup> Lear and myself. that all good may attend you, Your Officers and all our Citizens who suffer under that deplorable State of bondage

*(The following was written to Cap<sup>t</sup> B. w<sup>th</sup> invisible Ink)*

I have been here since Oct<sup>r</sup> last, and have had strong hopes that some event would have brought me to see you before this time; but I have been disappointed. — We made last year several propositions to the Bashaw, which were rejected by him, and which will not be renewed by us unless some unforeseen accident should happen to our Ships here to prevent their operating with their full force. — If the Bashaw wishes for peace it now remains for him to come forward; and if the terms are such as we can admit, he will find no disposition on Our part to refuse them; or to Continue the War; altho' our force is now such as we might fairly Calculate upon to destroy his Batteries and Town. —

The very ill state of the Commodore's health has been most sincerely felt; but as the Winter is Not the season for action the same evil will not result therefrom as would have been experienced at any Other time. He is now recovering. —

M<sup>r</sup> Higgins will send a bill for twelve hundred dollars from the Danish Consul here on M<sup>r</sup> Nissen for your use, and he tells me that the English Consul in Tripoli has nine hundred dollars in his hands for the same purpose. M<sup>r</sup> Davis has been furnished by me from this place with funds for your use. —

I thank you, my dear Sir, for your hints respecting the Conduct of a person who may negotiate with the Bashaw. — When we have



*full assurances* that we may negotiate on proper terms I shall Certainly embrace the moment; but we cannot again hazard an advance unless there are the most *unequivocal* prospect of its being successfull. —

It has always been *my* decided opinion that we should effect every thing by *Ourselves*, and not rely on extraneous aid. —

Believe me to be, with the most Sincere regard, my dear Sir

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

[28 March 1805]

To Don Joseph de Souza, Spanish Consul General, Tripoli, from Tobias Lear, U. S. Consul General, Algiers

To Don Joseph de Souza, Consul General of his Catholic Majesty, near his Excellency The Bashaw, of Tripoli.

SIR The very few occasions which offer of Conveying letters to Tripoli, has prevented me untill this time, from acknowledging the receipt of the letter which your Excellency did me the honor of writing on the 18<sup>th</sup> of Dec<sup>r</sup> last. and of thanking you for the very friendly intimations therein given.

During the last year several propositions were made, on our part, to His Excellency the Bashaw of Tripoli for a termination of the War now existing between him and the U.S. of Am. but they were rejected by His Excellency. — We must now await Proposals from him; for we cannot again hazard a rejection. —

Altho' our Force in this sea is Considerable, and will act with decided Vigour; yet we should not refuse to negociate upon *unequivocal* assurances that it would be upon honourable grounds which shall be *Compatable* with the rising Character of our Nation, and with a [hope?] of a permanent peace.

I have the honor to enclose for your Excellency two letters which I brought with me from Algiers, which I flattered myself I should have had the pleasure of delivering in person ere this.

I still hope I may have the satisfaction of meeting you in person, and of assuring you of the high respect & Consideration with which

MALTA March 28<sup>th</sup> 1805

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

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

MALTA, March 28<sup>th</sup> 1805.

MONS<sup>r</sup> NISSEN

Consul de sa Majesté le Roi de Danmarque  
Aupres de la Regence & le Bacha de Tripoli. —

SIR I have the honor to enclose a letter from your respectable & Worthy Colleague Mons<sup>r</sup> Bille in Algiers, which I had hoped to have had the pleasure of delivering into your hands before this time; but as a favourable opportunity of forwarding it now offers, I cannot omit sending it.

I still flatter myself that I shall have the satisfaction of meeting you before I leave this part of the Mediterranean, and of expressing the grateful sense which I have of your humane & kind attentions to Capt<sup>n</sup> Bainbridge and our unfortunate Citizens in Captivity. —

These acts of humanity must be Congenial with a feeling heart, and you will find a reward in a Consciousness of having done towards your fellow Creatures as you would wish them to do towards you in a similar Situation.

Believe me to be with every sentiment of esteem & Consideration  
[Stephen Decatur Col. NDA photostat, Book A.]

[28 March 1805?]

To Monsieur Beaussier, French Chargé d'Affaires and Commissary General, Tripoli, from Tobias Lear, U. S. Consul General, Algiers

Tobias Lear, Consul Gen<sup>l</sup> of the U.S. of America, near His Excellency the Dey of Algiers &<sup>e</sup> &<sup>e</sup> &<sup>e</sup> —

To Monsieur Beaussier, Charge d'Affaires and Commercial Agent General of France, near His Excellency the Bashaw of Tripoli.

SIR I have the honor to enclose a letter for you, which I brought from your worthy Colleague, Mons<sup>r</sup> Thainville at Algiers; and which I expected, ere' this, to have had the pleasure of delivering in person

A favourable opportunity now offering for Tripoli I cannot omit forwarding this letter; and still flatter myself that I may have the satisfaction of meeting you personally, before I leave this Part of the Mediterranean.

I am sure it will give you great pleasure to promote the wishes of M<sup>r</sup> Thainville, in affording every humane and friendly attention to Capt<sup>n</sup> Bainbridge and his Companions in Captivity at Tripoli. —

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

Extract from journal of U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Captain John Rodgers, U. S. Navy, commanding, Thursday, 28 March 1805

[Malta] At 6 [A. M.] Sailed the US. Brig *Argus* And sloop [*Hornet*] in company

[USNA.]

Extract from journal of William Eaton, U. S. Navy Agent for the Barbary Regencies, Thursday, 28 March 1805

I perceived a manifest reluctance in the Bashaw to advance, — and evident calculations for a retrograde march. Joseph Bashaw's forces had siezed on all his nerves. — He now took from my officers the horses he had given them for the passage through the desert and gave them to some of his footmen. — Drew off his Mohametans and stood balancing, after the troops were drawn up for the march. — I reproached him with indecision, — want of perserverance, — and of consistency in arrangement. — I demanded the horses for my officers. — High words insued. — I ordered the march in front. — The Bashaw retrograded. — We proceeded in front with the baggage. The Bashaw came up in about two hours, and, making us some compliments for our firmness, said he was obliged to dissemble an acquiesance in the wishes of his people to render them manageable. We proceeded 12½ miles to a castle *Shemees*, & camped at one oclock p. m. In the evening discovered that the Arabs who had joined us on the 25<sup>th</sup> and who, as we expected, were following us, had all taken up their march for the borders of Egypt. The Chiek *il Taiib* had

discouraged and dissuaded them from persuing the expedition. — The Bashaw sent off a General Officer with sundry horsemen to bring them back by persuasion. —

Hamet Gurgies, the officer who went for the Arabs, did not return this day. —

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

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Extract from journal of Midshipman Charles Morris, Jr., U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *President*, Master Commandant George Cox, U. S. Navy, commanding, Thursday, 28 March 1805

4. Came to anchor in the harbour of Malta and was quarantind for 24 hours

Found in the harbour the U. S. S. *Constitution* and *Nautilus* —

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

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To Judge Tyler from President Thomas Jefferson

MONTICELLO, *March 29, 1805.*

DEAR SIR,

\* \* \* \* \*

The war with Tripoli stands on two grounds of fact. 1st. It is made known to us by our agents with the three other Barbary States, that they only wait to see the event of this, to shape their conduct accordingly. If the war is ended by additional tribute, they mean to offer us the same alternative. 2ndly. If peace was made, we should still, and shall ever, be obliged to keep a frigate in the Mediterranean to overawe rupture, or we must abandon that market. Our intention in sending Morris with a respectable force, was to try whether peace could be forced by a coercive enterprise on their town. His inexecution of orders baffled that effort. Having broke him, we try the same experiment under a better commander. If in the course of the summer they cannot produce peace, we shall recall our force, except one frigate and two small vessels, which will keep up a perpetual blockade. Such a blockade will cost us no more than a state of peace, and will save us from increased tributes, and the disgrace attached to them. There is reason to believe the example we have set, begins, already to work on the dispositions of the powers of Europe to emancipate themselves from that degrading yoke. Should we produce such a revolution there, we shall be amply rewarded for what we have done. Accept my friendly salutations, and assurances of great respect and esteem.

TH: JEFFERSON.

[NR&L. Memoirs of Jefferson, Vol. IV, B<sup>1</sup> J45A.]

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

NEW YORK *March 29 1805*

SIR I am hon<sup>d</sup> with your letter of the 26<sup>th</sup> Ins<sup>t</sup> covering papers N<sup>o</sup> 1. 2. 4 & 5. respecting the forgery committed in my name on M<sup>e</sup>Kenzie & Glennie of London. I have shewn them to Comm<sup>e</sup> Morris who immediately recognized N<sup>o</sup> 1 & 2 to be the hand writing of the

Clerk he employd for some time in the Mediterranean — and on comparing them with his letter Book no doubt can remain but that person was the forger. Comm<sup>e</sup> Morris says he engaged him at Leghorn, that Mess<sup>rs</sup> Degen & Purviance recommended him but caution'd him against letting him have concern in money transactions he says the young man had free access to Gavinos counting room at all times, it must therefore be from thence that he took the letter of credit as Gavino is generally careless of his papers. Comm<sup>e</sup> Morris & Cap<sup>t</sup> Chauncey who are the only persons here that have seen him say that the description given of him in the letter N<sup>o</sup> 4 is correct — he was a Neapolitan — who had been educated a Merchant spoke and wrote English, french, Spanish & Italian with ease — his conduct for some time before the ship saild had been suspicious. Commodore therefore sent a Midshipman on shore to watch his motions and prevent his leaving him; but he made his escape from Gavinos counting room about an hour before the ship weigh'd for the U S. Comm<sup>e</sup> Morris & Cap<sup>t</sup> Chauncey will write you respecting the villain and send you his name —

I return you the papers N<sup>o</sup> 1. 2. 4 & 5.

P S Doct<sup>r</sup> Weems knows the young Villain who was Com<sup>e</sup> Morris' clerk & will give you some acc<sup>t</sup> of him.

[NDA. Captain's LB, Vol. 1, 1805.]

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

NEW YORK

March 29. 1805

SIR I have viewed the mortars at this place, two are Iron 13 Inch, for Sea service with Beds &<sup>e</sup> compleat, and are apparently sound good pieces, the order I rec<sup>d</sup> from Gen<sup>l</sup> Dearborn was for one Brass & one Iron Mortar. I wish you to obtain a new order for the two Iron. There are also plenty of fuses shells &<sup>e</sup> for those mortars which were prepared particularly for them, Gen<sup>l</sup> Stephens has been so good as to offer his services to the Agent in giving directions for such apparatus as the use of the mortars will require he being perfectly acquainted with their use, Cap<sup>t</sup> Chauncey is all attention to the equipment of the Ship, her store-rooms are well contrived and she will soon be in very compleat order. The Gun Boats go on tolerably well and will be ready in a fortnight — I am however sorry to see some of the Lieu<sup>ts</sup> commanding those Boats with the Epaulet on the right shoulder unless they are actually commissioned as Lieu<sup>ts</sup> Commandants as it leaves no distinction and will create much difficulty on their arrival in the Mediterranean unless a check is put upon their assuming that Badge of distinction. —

The Agent not having any 32 pound carronades in his possession has not been able to obtain a drawing which he was directed by you to make, I have no doubt but that the plan which M<sup>r</sup> Foxhall has will answer very well & I should advise their being cast by it.

I shall proceed to Boston & Portland as soon as the wind is favorable for the Packet.

[NDA. Captain's LB, Vol. 1, 1805.]

To Captain Thomas Tingey, U. S. Navy, from Secretary of the Navy

NAVY DEP<sup>t</sup>—

29 March 1805.

Lieu<sup>t</sup> Henley has requested that he may have Studding Sails for gunboat N<sup>o</sup> 4. I should wish to have your ideas upon this subject.

A false Keel must be prepared and put on N<sup>o</sup> 4, and also one on N<sup>o</sup> 10. —

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

To Master Commandant John Shaw, U. S. Navy, Baltimore, Md., from Secretary of the Navy

NAVY DEP<sup>t</sup>

29 March 1805.

I have rec<sup>d</sup> your letter of the 27<sup>th</sup> Ins<sup>t</sup> — The men entered at Baltimore for the *John Adams* are to be sent to New York by water. So soon as they actually enter into the public service they are entitled to one ration per day each or the value thereof namely 20 Cents. —

You are not to proceed to New York till you shall have entered the whole number of men directed to be entered in Baltimore. —

[NDA. OSW, Vol. 6, 1802–1805.]

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

U. STATES SHIP *Constitution*

Malta March 29. 1805

SIR In answer to your Letter of yesterdays date, stating that a supposition is entertained by Gen<sup>l</sup> Velleas of some Deserters from the *Garrison* under his command, being on Board one of the U. States Ships; — permit me to acquaint you that I caused a Muster to be made this morning of the ships company, and find that no such Men have ever been here — The *Constitution* has her full compliment of Men; but if she had not no consideration would induce me to recieve a deserter from the *Garrison*; as well on account of my own Ideas, as the positive orders you have given to the contrary. —

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

[29 March 1805]

Proclamation of William Eaton to the Inhabitants of Tripoli

[Translation.]

To the inhabitants of the kingdom of Tripoli:

Brothers; Sons of Abraham; true believers of the true messengers of the truth! I have come to you, sent by a nation very far away from your country, to greet you and to wish you happiness.

At the uttermost limits of the west, beyond the great and deep Atlantic Ocean, we have for several centuries possessed a country larger than the whole empire of the Grand Signor. We were formerly composed of many elements. We grew, and we were beset by enemies within and without. But we banded ourselves together and we gave battle to them in many bloody encounters. We put them to flight; and God, the God of Abraham, whom we worship, it was his will that we should settle there; and we became a united nation. Since that

epoch we have been called the *United States of America*. We sought peace with the whole world and we were happy in obtaining it. Soon the United States of America became a sanctuary for all men who fled from oppression and sought asylum there, and a refuge for those who had no other country. People of every nation, every tongue and every faith could come to us and dwell in safety, because our religion teaches us to fear and to worship God and to be kind to all his creatures. We profess the orthodox faith of Abraham which was not idolatrous. We believe in God and the revelations which he made through Abraham and Israel and Isaac and Jacob and the tribes, and in that which he revealed to the prophets. We make no distinction, and we are resigned to the will of God.

Thus, being just to all, we lived for years at peace with everybody. We cultivated our soil and we sent products to all nations, and all look upon us with the eyes of friendship and without jealousy. But although we endeavored to maintain in good faith friendly relations with all the powers of the earth, and while we offered the olive branch of friendship to all, Jousuf, the traitor, usurper of the throne of Tripoli, a bloodthirsty scoundrel, having learned of our success, of our wealth and of our ships which carry on trade in the Mediterranean, mistrusting our peaceful inclinations and even mistrusting the justice of God, sent out his armed pirate ships against our commerce and even brought some of our ships into the port of Tripoli, and without provocation had their crews put in chains and reduced to slavery; thereby outraging every obligation of honor and decency, and transgressing against the law of God which forbids us to be the first in aggression. Nevertheless, we did not wish to inflict on him the punishment which his crimes and his acts of violence merited, because we realized the grievous error of making many worthy and honest subjects of Tripoli, who had done us no harm, share his fate; on the contrary, we sent him messengers of peace with fair words and bringing him rich gifts of gold, silver, precious jewels and fine English cloth. Jousuf, the traitor, on his part, after having heard our friendly words and accepted our presents, took an oath in the name of God and his prophet to maintain with us a firm and lasting peace; he released our brothers, who were in chains; and we left him, believing the promises which he had made us. Scarcely had we returned home, when this faithless traitor went to work and had all his pirate ships fitted out, appointing foreign captains to command them, scoundrels who had just escaped from certain Christian countries to evade the punishment which their crimes merited, and having won over to his side bad characters among the subjects of Tripoli, at another time caused war to be made on the United States, and piratically captured some of our vessels and some of our brothers and reduced them to slavery. But he had aroused the wrath of God, for Jousuf, the traitor, had taken oath in the name of the Almighty to faithfully observe the covenant of peace which he had entered into with us. Again we sent him friendly messengers to ask him the reason of this new outrage and violation of good faith. It is then that we learned that this same Jousuf had been from his birth a miscreant, a murderer, a perjurer, and an oppressor of the people. We were apprised of the cruel manner in which he killed his younger brother even in his mother's arms; that he had poisoned his brother, for which he is accursed of God; and that he had betrayed and dethroned his elder brother, himself taking

possession of the throne in violation of his duty towards his lawful sovereign, who has now returned in order to revenge himself for the wrong done him by the said traitor. That he always disdained the counsels of true believers, lending his ears to hypocrites and to vagabonds who did nothing but flatter his vanity and his self-esteem in the hope of sharing with him in the spoils of his piracy and the fruits of his avarice, among whom there is Morad Reis, a renegade thief from his youth up and a brutal drunkard whom the said Joussuf had appointed as his Captain Bey. Furthermore, that he permitted himself to be led by Jews, Farfara and others, whose sole desire was to encourage him to commit outrages against foreign nations so that they might be able to stir up enemies against true believers. Nevertheless, we chose rather to offer peace to him than to mete out to him the punishment merited by his misdeeds, because our religion teaches us patience, and forbids us to shed the blood of the innocent, such as the inhabitants of the kingdom of Tripoli, who had never wanted to do us any harm, and whom the said Joussuf, the traitor, wished to prevail upon to fight against their will. But he would not listen to our offers of peace, or at least only on such humiliating terms as paying him an enormous sum of money and making ourselves and even our posterity his tributaries; which we disdained to concede to him, for we are not accustomed to humiliate ourselves before men, nations, nor the powers of the earth; much less before this base and perjured traitor, whose naval commander is a drunken renegade, and whose principal counsellor is a grasping Jew.

Know you not, you inhabitants of Tripoli and of all the neighboring countries, that it is through the just retribution of the Lord for the bloody crimes of the said traitor that you are obliged to suffer the scourges of famine and of war! You will again be visited by pestilence if you fail to avenge yourselves on this brazen usurper! Did he not ally himself with infidel Jews to despoil you of your possessions! Has he not turned over to them all the trade and commerce of your country, thereby depriving you of all honest means whereby you could earn money; and in order to enrich himself by a piratical and unjust war, did he not lead you to the battlefield to die like cattle, on false pretexts of religion. If you were to fall into the hands of his enemies, would he pay one piaster to ransom you from slavery? No, he sells you and your children to the enemies which he has made for you. He leads you into war with no advantage to you whatever. He does not hesitate to drench his shores with your blood, provided that he be able to gain money by it! Yes, he scoffs at your sufferings, saying: Of what value are these Moors and these Arabs! They are just beasts which belong to me, worth a great deal less than my camels and my asses. Let them all perish, if only I be able to gain money thereby. And his Jews also scoff while he is playing this tragic farce, he dares to outrage the goodness of God by giving to his bloodthirsty avarice the sacrilegious name of religion! Oh, Moors, oh, Arabs, can you calmly behold the shedding of your children's blood, without avenging yourself! Will you meekly allow them to be put in chains and reduced to slavery in order to satisfy the cruel and savage cupidity of a usurper, a traitor, a barbarian, who fears not the Lord and who has no regard for human rights! No. The voice of God and the voice of justice should inspire you with a desire for vengeance, even the blood of his father and of his brother, assassinated by his own hands, cries to

heaven and to you for vengeance; and the groans of some of your own brothers whose lives he sacrificed in an unjust war have risen to the throne of the King to accuse him on the day of judgment. They have been heard and Joussuf stands condemned. God has stamped upon his forehead the mark of Cain, the first murderer. The measure of the wickedness of his days has become full to overflowing; the end of his usurpation and of his cruelty approaches; and woe to all those who would strive to prevent the punishment which God has meted out to him. The wrath of God has been aroused against the said Joussuf, the treacherous scoundrel, because he wished to make you believe that we Americans were enemies of true believers; and God has ordained that we never make peace with the said traitor, nor even with subjects of Tripoli who belong to his party. But with Sidi Hamet Caramanli Bashaw we wish to cultivate peace and amity as well as with those of his subjects who desire to rejoin his cause, in order to aid him in putting down the usurper and in re-establishing on his throne, this lawful sovereign, the first-born of his father, a just and merciful prince, who greatly loves his subjects, and who will faithfully observe and keep his covenants forever. Come on, Moors, Arabs, Americans, brothers, come along from every corner of Barbary where the truth of the prophet has been received. Be assured that the God of the Americans and of the Mahometans is the same; the one true and omnipotent God. Be assured, therefore, that there was no thought of any difference in religion which could have induced us to make war on the city of Tripoli and on its piratical ruler; on the contrary, we do not wish to harm any of the inhabitants of that city, unless it be those who stubbornly adhere to the party of Joussuf; we are joined and united with Sidi Hamet Pasha, and thus with the loyal children of his country; and we are resolved to re-establish him in the realm of his ancestors, by this means being able to offer peace to his kingdom and to his city of Tripoli. Great, good and powerful is our admiral, to whom we have entrusted the command of the American squadron in the Mediterranean, and always ready to assist you. We shall furnish you with war supplies and with food supplies, with money, and in case of need with regular soldiers to aid you in vanquishing your enemy, your oppressor. And I shall be always with you until the end of the war and even until you have achieved your glorious mission, in proof of our fidelity and our goodwill.

Be faithful unto God. Be loyal to the Grand Signor. Be loyal to the rightful prince, Hamet Bashaw of Tripoli, and let us not doubt that the Almighty will grant us his succor and his assistance to accomplish his wishes. A lasting peace; free and extensive trade, wealth and fidelity will be the result.

God is infinite.

WILLIAM EATON.

DESERT OF LIBYA  
29 March 1805

[LC. Mss. Div.]

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Extract from journal of William Eaton, U. S. Navy Agent for the Barbary Regencies, Friday, 29 March 1805

Remained in camp, waiting for Hamet Gurgies. — At this castle, which as a rough stone wall, laid in clay mortar, about ten feet high,



without bastions, and one hundred feet square, there seems to be some trade with the inhabitants of the interior of Africa. — We find here cattle, sheep, butter, fowls, eggs and dates, but very dear; and for which we bartered rice at great disadvantage. — The situation is enchanting; vast plains, capable of high cultivation; — good well water; — and some enclosed gardens of small fig and palm trees. — But everything bears the ruinous aspect of ravage and war. — About four p. m. Hamet Gurgies came up with the Arabs who seperated themselves from us on the 27th. —

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

To Secretary of the Navy from Master Commandant Isaac Chauncey, U. S. Navy  
NEW YORK *March 30<sup>th</sup> 1805*

SIR — I am happy to have it in my power to announce to you that the *John Adams* is completely ready for the reception of her stores

The different store rooms cable stages &<sup>c</sup> &<sup>c</sup> are all compleated, the Ship has been cleaned out and washed the ballast restowed and an additional quantity taken in, we have also got 90 tons of Shingle ballast in and the ground tier of Water cask stowed,

The Masts and Yards have all be[en] stripped and the rigging all been overhauled We have now every thing on and the yards across are ready to bend sails and I have no hesitation in saying that the Ship could proceed to sea in six days if her provisions and men were here. —

L<sup>t</sup> Maxwell has entered upwards of two hundred men and boys out of which number we have received on board 50 Seamen 120 Ordinary Seamen & 18 Boys —

I have been under the necessity of entering a Master's Mate as we had no Midshipmen who was competent to that duty — he has commanded a Ship out of this port and appears like a smart active man, there have been several applicants for Master's Mate's birth by people who I think would be an acquisition to the service in that grade

I wish that M<sup>r</sup> Carr could join the Ship as soon as possible as M<sup>r</sup> Darby has made his accounts up and has now nothing to do with the victualling the Ship

[NDA. MC LB, 1804-5.]

To Captain Elihu D. Brown, commanding Provision Ship *Ceres*, Baltimore, Md.,  
from Secretary of the Navy

NAV DEP<sup>t</sup> *30 March 1805*

I enclose letters directed to John Gavino Esq. Gibraltar, William Higgins Esq. Malta & George Dyson Esq Syracuse — On your arrival at Gibraltar you will deliver to John Gavino Esq the letter addressed to him and on your arrival at Malta or Syracuse you will deliver to the agent there, the letters addressed to M<sup>r</sup> Higgins & M<sup>r</sup> Dyson unless you should have Occasion to proceed both to Malta & Syracuse in which case you will deliver the letters to the Gentlemen to Whom they are directed —

GLB, Vol. 7, 1803-1805.1

Extract from journal of William Eaton, U. S. Navy Agent for the Barbary Regencies,  
Saturday, 30 March 1805

At 6. a. m. Resumed our march with the Christians and baggage, leaving the Bashaw to follow with his Arabs, who were mounted for the purpose. — At this instant a dispute arose between the Chiek il Taiib and Chaik Mahomet concerning the distribution of \$1500; — which the former had received of the Bashaw to be equally distributed; a part of which he had concealed; and grew so warm that Mahomet swore he would proceed no farther. — Three other Chaiks and several other considerable Arabs took part with him, and retrograded. The Bashaw in vain endeavored to reconcile the parties. — Chiek Mahomet persisted in quitting the expedition; & with his party moved rapidly off. The Bashaw left them, & hastily pursued us, with a view of arresting our march; having sent back Hamet Gurgies and two other officers to endeavor to recover the malcontents. We had gained fifteen miles ahead when he came up with us at 2 oclock p. m. But it was necessary to retrograde three miles to water, and there camp. — The expedition could not proceed without those chiefs, as they had many people and powerful influence with the *eu ed alli* tribes near Derne, to which they belong. —

Pitched our camp at 5 p. m.

The Bashaw with twelve horsemen and my interpreter returned to the castle in hopes of reconciling the shieks and of bringing up their party. This will detain us tomorrow. — From Alexandria to this place we have experienced continual altercations, contentions and delays among the Arabs. They have no sense of patriotism, truth nor honor; and no attachment where they have no prospect of gain, except to their religion, to which they are enthusiasts. — Poverty makes them thieves; and practice renders them adroit in stealing. — The instant the eye of vigilance is turned from an object on which they have fixed a desire, it is no more to be found: — Arms, amunition and provisions most engage their furtive speculations; but sundry of our people have been robbed of their cloaths and other articles. — With all their depravity of morals they possess a savage independence of soul, an incorrigible obstinacy to discipline, a sacred adherence to the laws of hospitality, and a scrupulous pertinacity to their religious faith & ceremonies. — Day before yesterday I was admitted, as a mark of special distinction, within the walls of their castle. Curiosity brought every Arab about me who belonged to the tribe. — They examined the lace of my hat, epauletts, buttons, spurs and mounting of my arms. These they took to be all gold and silver. They were astonished that *God should permit people to possess such riches who followed the religion of the devil!*

My interpreter explained that the religion of the Americans was different from that of all other nations who wore *hats*; (the *hat* and *turban* are distinguishing marks of *Christian* and *Turk*;) that we believed in God and respected all his revelations; that we made no distinction in our respect to people of different creeds; all were free with us to worship God as their consciences dictated; and that all honest men were equally respected in America.

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To Master Commandant John H. Dent, U. S. Navy, from Robert Denison, Secretary of Captain Samuel Barron, U. S. Navy

MALTA 31<sup>st</sup> March 1805

SIR, You are hereby directed to proceed immediately with the United States Schooner *Nautilus* under your Command to Syracuse for the purpose agreed upon in our conversation this Morning and return to this place with all possible expedition — You will take on board from the N<sup>y</sup> Agent such Articles as you may want for a Cruize on your return. —

[NHF. Dent's LB, 1803-10.]

To the Commander of the United States Vessels of War at Tripoli from Nicholas C. Nissen, Danish Consul, Tripoli

TRIPOLI IN BARBARY March 31<sup>th</sup> 1805.

SIR The inclosed Packet for Commodore Barron has been dispatched from here to Gerbis with order to be sent to you Sir by a boat.

The boat and the crew belong to Gerbis and of course are Tunesins, the boat is to have no Cargo and is to return immedeatly to Gerbis after having obtained from you Sir a Receipt for the delivery of the Packet in good order, the Seals untouched. Should you have any *family* letters or Newspapers for Captain Bainbridge or his Officers you can deliver them likewise without fear of their not comming to hand

The inclosed Packet you will please to forward to Commodore Barron as soon as possible as it contains letters that can be of importance to him.

[LC. JRP, Vol. 1, Series Two, Feb. 1775-May 1805.]

Extract from journal of William Eaton, U. S. Navy Agent for the Barbary Regencies, Sunday, 31 March 1805

Remained in camp. — Very rainy day, with thunder and wind; the succeeding evening chilly. The Bashaw absent.

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

Extract from journal of Hezekiah Loomis, Steward, U. S. Navy, in U. S. Brig *Vixen*, Master Commandant John Smith, U. S. Navy, commanding, Sunday, 31 March 1805

[Standing off and on Tripoli since 6 March.]

This day commences squally. We set more sail and at half past ten o'clock saw a sail and gave chase to her. Sent up our top gallant masts and yards and made all sail that we could carry. All hands were called to quarters. When we spoke her we found her to be a Polaive Brig, mounting 16 guns and 150 men. We kept the Captain of the Brig. on board until we came up with the *Constellation* which was then in sight, and after Capt. Smith with this Turkish Captain had been on board the *Constellation* a short time, the villians were dismissed, and away they went. These rascals were all Turks and said they were bound to Algiers.

[L. F. Middlebrook. NDA copy.]

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

MESSINA 1<sup>st</sup> April 1805

SIR In consequence of an Order from Commodore Barron, I have been to Catania for the purpose of procuring a Band, & have been fortunate enough to enlist fourteen good Musicians for the Marine Corps, the Instruments I have engaged at this place & as soon as finished shall render an Acc<sup>t</sup> of all expences to the Comd<sup>er</sup> according to his Orders —

I enlisted this Band for the Corps in consequence of an Order received from Colo: Burrows before I left America, & have engaged them at the same rate as the rest of our Musick — they will come on with me, & am in hopes you will be pleased with them — As I am now on board of the *Congress*, cannot forward any different returns to the Staff, but as we go for Malta in a day or two, shall as soon as I join the *President* forward them by the Store Ship —

[MCA. LR, 1805.]

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

BARBARY TRIPOLI 1<sup>st</sup> April 1805

Re<sup>d</sup> 24 Ap<sup>l</sup> 1805

MY DEAR SIR I have not had the pleasure to hear from you since August last, since that period I have written to you many letters; I sincerely hope that indisposition has not been the cause of my disappointment, yet I am fearful that it has, as I know of no other to impute the loss of your friendly correspondence to, I shall nevertheless at all opportunities drop you a line, if it is only to inform you that our situation has not changed for the worse (which, believe me I think bad enough) and we are all thank God in tolerable health, and place our hopes in our Country's exertions to put a speedy end to our hard fate.

I have not heard from Com Barron since Oct<sup>r</sup> last and better than twelve months since a line from America.

Please to present my respects and best wishes to M<sup>rs</sup> Lear and believe me to be my D<sup>r</sup> Colo<sup>l</sup> with unalterable esteem

Yours truly

W<sup>m</sup> BAINBRIDGE

[Written in lime juice (invisible ink).]

MY DEAR COL<sup>l</sup> I wrote to you last month informing that I had heard that Sidi Mohammed Dhgies minister of foreign affairs to the Bashaw of Tripoli had requested M<sup>r</sup> Beaussier the French [Consul] to inform Com Preble that if a person came here that Peace would be effected for 150 thousand dollars, Since the date of my last the said minister in confidence has informed me that he did thus request M<sup>r</sup> Beaussier but does not know if Com Preble received the information. The Minister is sincerely desirous for Peace it is his interest greatly to have it You no doubt will be informed by Com Barron of the overtures which he has made to him, I have in my letters to Com B been very explicit which I presume that you will be informed of The reports of the Commodores force is greatly exagerated and the apprehension I beleive is worse than the attack itself would prove and if a negoti-

ation is attempted before an attack is made I have not the least doubt but what peace would be effected for 120 or [ms mutilated] thousand dollars, and Tripoli would not consider one farthing of it paid as purchasing its friendship but for the release of Unfortunate Citizens fell captives in their Country's Service

Pray my dear Col<sup>o</sup> let me soon hear from you  
Yours affect<sup>y</sup>

W B

[Stephen Decatur Col.]

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

LA VALLETTE (MALTA) 1<sup>st</sup> Ap<sup>l</sup> 1805

SIR! As soon as the U. States Frigate under your Command is ready for Sea, you are directed to proceed off the Harbor of Tripoli taking under your Convoy the Ketch *Eliza* with Supplies for the American Prisoners — On falling in with the *Constellation* you will assume her station, and direct Cap<sup>t</sup> Campbell to return immediately to this Port or to Syracuse. — As the Crew of that Ship have been affected with the Small Pox, I suggest to you the propriety of her going into Syracuse in preference to this place; however you will ascertain from Cap<sup>t</sup> Campbell the present state of his Crew, & give him such Written Instructions on this head as you may think proper. — You are directed to retain the Brig *Vixen* on the Station, until she is relieved by some of the Small Vessels —

The *Nautilus* may be expected here from Sicily in four or five days and it is my present intention to dispatch her immediately to the Coast of Tripoli for that purpose.

When you arrive off the Station you will adopt such Dispositions for blockading the Enemy's Harbour and scouring the Coast as you may deem expedient —

Accompanying the Present you will find a Letter from M<sup>r</sup> Davis at Tunis dated the 8<sup>th</sup> Ult<sup>o</sup>, giving an account of the two Tripoline Corsairs that have taken shelter in that Regency — they remained in the same situation on the 19<sup>th</sup> when the *Nautilus* left the Bay — Should the Winds prove favourable it may not be inadvisable for you or the smaller Vessel to stretch towards Sousa and from thence to look into Tunis Bay in order to watch their motions — The propriety of this arrangement will depend upon circumstances, you will therefore act in it at your own Discretion —

The term of your Cruise I leave entirely to yourself as well as the general dispositions — I shall dispatch the *President* Frigate to join you as soon as possible & whenever you think the Coast sufficiently guarded, you will return to this Island or to Syracuse as circumstances & arrangements may direct —

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

Extract from journal of William Eaton, U. S. Navy Agent for the Barbary Regencies,  
Monday, 1 April 1805

Shiek il Taiib put himself at the head of five shieks, three of whom were of the caravan, and presented himself at my markee to demand an augmentation of the ration. — I refused. He manaced. I re-

proached him as the cause of all our delays in the march, and with a total failure of all his engagements with me. — He had engaged me four hundred mounted Arabs of his tribe at the Marabout and to bring me to Bomba in fourteen days. — His whole number of men consisted of but twenty eight; we had now been twenty five days in gaining half our distance: — and, in stead of encouraging our progress, he was on all occasions throwing obstacles in our way. — He recriminated the Bashaw and other shieks. — I thought the Bashaw and shieks he accused better men than himself; and would not hear them calumniated. He believed me partial. I said to him, if he had experienced any evidence of my partiality it was in his favor until after his hypocrisy betrayed itself. — It was true I now held him in no consideration, for I could place no reliance in any thing he said or undertook. — He seemed very indifferent about the opinion I entertained of him, provided he could obtain his object. — He cautioned me against persisting in the resolution I had taken not to augment the ration; it would unavoidably produce an insurrection. The other shieks & caravan would leave me. As for himself, he could not subsist on rice alone; he *would have bread also!* I asked him if he thought to compel the measure? He said, with a menacing tone, — *Remember you are in a desert, and a country not your own. — I am a greater man here than either you or the Bashaw.* I retorted, “I have found you at the head of every commotion which has happened since we left Alexandria. — You are the instigator of the present among the chiefs. — Leave my tent! but, mark; — if I find a mutiny in camp during the absence of the Bashaw, I will put you to instant death as the fomentor of it.” — He left the tent; mounted his horse; and, with two other shieks took himself off. The Bashaw’s Hasnadar (Treasurer) had been called into my tent on the entrance of the Shiek il Taiib. — He had the influence to pacify the other chiefs, or to engage them to wait at least till the return of the Bashaw.

Now 10 o'clock and no news of him.

2 o'clock p. m. The Shiek il Taiib returned. — Entered into the tent of my officers: — regretted that he had lost my confidence: — apprehended that some secret enemy had insinuated unfavorable impressions against him: — was devoted to me: — would even abandon the Bashaw to follow me: — and begged Mr. Farquhar and Peck to use their influence for a reconciliation. —

5 p. m. He came to my tent. Professed eternal obligations and attachment. — Would seek every occasion to give proofs of it; — and hoped that an opportunity would offer to him at Derne to convince me that he was a *man!*

I replied that I required nothing of him by way of reconciliation but truth, fidelity to the Bashaw, pacific conduct among the other chiefs, uniformity and perseverance in this conduct. These he promised by an oath; and offered me his hand.

6 o'clock p. m. The Bashaw not returned: Apprehensive that he has suffered himself to fall into a snare of his brother. — The day has been rainy, blowing, and chilly. —

Visited the Arab camp. Their young men, young women & children are perfectly well made, and though copper coloured, are handsome. — Never saw teeth so universally sound and white, even and well set. The women do not veil: — have nothing of the affected reserve and biggoted pride of the Turks; yet in their general deport-

ment modest and bashful. I took dates in the tent of their principal shiek. One of his wives served them in an ozier pannier, and seemed elated with the visit. I complimented her elegant proportion and symetry. She smiled and said there were much handsomer young women in camp than herself. — I doubted it. To give me proof, sundry fine girls, and young married women were invited in. — I admitted they were very handsome; but could not give up my first opinion. —

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

To Secretary of the Navy from Sailing Master Levi Bardin, U. S. Navy

PHILADELPHIA April 2<sup>d</sup> 1805

SIR I have recruited the hundred men for the *John Adams*, and we ship off 25 tomorrow morning under charge of Midshipman Keen for Newyork

I Shall now commence Shiping for the Gun Boat. but expect to make but Little progress as the Seamen are very much prejudice,d against her

[NDA. Misc. LB, Vol. 2, 1805.]

[2 April 1805]

To Secretary of the Navy from Sailing Master Nathaniel Haraden, U. S. Navy

SIR I this day Receiv<sup>d</sup> your Letter dated the 22 of March wherein you have honored me with the Command of Gun Boat number Eight. I am much pleas<sup>d</sup> with the command. Commodore Preble plan for Mastng affords Every Safety for Navigation and Every a Conveniency for actual service, the spars and sails will be under way this week. M<sup>t</sup> Roads the Builder, Expects to Launch her in three weeks, her Rigging sails and water cask shall be ready before that time, I woul be glad if the Honorable Secretary will pleas inform me how many men proceed to sea in the Boat, So I may make the necessary arrangements for stowing, and what Quantity of shot shee will carre out. Every article in the Boat, men included in my oppinion should not Exceed 25 Tons in crossing the atlantic. I fear the Honorable Secretary will think it impertinent in me in Giving my oppinion unaske<sup>d</sup> But I hope he will not. I am an old Seaman, my Self and have Experenced heavy gales in Every a class of Vessels from a Cod Smak to a ship of the line. there is but one danger those Boats will be Expos<sup>d</sup> to in crossing the atlantic. that is this in Scudding in heavy gales. adding there great length to there Easy Draft, will occasion there stern to lift out the water. This danger can be Easily Remeded, By dropping the Rudder

Shee is to Cross the atlantic with two feet Below the keel. I request the Honorable Secretary will please to let me fit one of the Rudders in the above way. I fear it will be all most impossible to Enter Seam[en] for the same wagers as the frigates dus, the Boat is now nearly Ready for planking the Deck. the Caulkers will commence in three or four days.

Leutenant Maxwell is not yet arrived in Bost[on]. I mentione this Because I saw Letters from you for him

BOSTON

2 April 1805.

[NDA. Misc. LB, Vol. 2, 1805.]

To Secretary of the Navy from Samuel Brown, Navy Agent, Boston, Mass.

BOSTON 2 April 1805

SIR The Letter from Commodore Barron which you were pleased to transmit to me on the 9 ulto. I have forwarded to him by the ship *Thomas* John Mantor Master which vessell departed on this day for Naples.

[NDA. Misc. LB, Vol. 2, 1805.]

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

NAVY DEP<sup>t</sup> 2 April 1805 —

I enclose to you herewith a Letter for M<sup>r</sup> Benj. F. Read one of our officers now a Prisoner in Tripoli, and below you have an extract from the Letter to this office enclosing the Letter to M<sup>r</sup> Read now forwarded to you.

“As this letter bears to him the melancholy information of the death of a Father, a Sister, and a Brother, all of whom were in health when he sailed for the Mediterranean and as there is no Person in these States authorized to manage the property, bequeathed to him so as to render it productive during his Captivity, I feel assured that you will have the goodness to place it in a Channel to reach him as speedily as possible”. —

I request your particular attention to the forwarding of this Letter by the first opportunity. —

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

Extract from journal of William Eaton, U. S. Navy Agent for the Barbary Regencies, Tuesday, 2 April 1805

3 oclock p.m. The Bashaw returned accompanied by the Shieks Mahomet and others who seperated themselves from us on the 30<sup>th</sup> ult. whom he had overtaken on their rout to the province of Behara two hours march Eastward of the castle Massouah, the ground of our encampment from the 15<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> ultimo; a distance of fifty nine miles. He rode all night of the 31<sup>st</sup> and succeeding day in an uncomfortable fall of rain and chilly winds, and subsisted his party during the expedition on milk and dates which were occasionally brought him by the desert Arabs. —

At 7 in the evening a meeting of the Bashaw and all the shieks at my tent. I exhorted them, as on other instances of disagreements, to union and perserverance, as the only means of insuring success to the important enterprize in which they were engaged; to which they gave pledges of faith and honor; — and orders were accordingly given to resume the line of march at reveillee beating tomorrow. —

We have now between six & seven hundred fighting men on the ground, exclusive of followers of the camp and Beduoin families, who inclusively make a body of about twelve hundred people.

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

To Secretary of the Navy from Midshipman Ralph Izard, Jr., U. S. Navy

CHARLESTON. April 3<sup>rd</sup> 1805

SIR, I have the honor to inform you of my having taken command of Gun Boat N<sup>o</sup> 2. —



I have consulted with practical gentlemen with respect to her rigging & the opinion is that her rigging cannot be altered for the better in any respect. The Bowsprit is as well secured as possible. Caulkers are now employed on board & I am in hopes to report her ready for sea in a few days.

I shall feel the want of a midshipman to whom I may confide in the room of M<sup>r</sup> Miller, whom I found in confinement by Lieut. Murdochs order.

[NDA. Misc. LB, Vol. 2, 1805.]

To Lieutenant Colonel Commandant Franklin Wharton, U. S. Marine Corps,  
from Secretary of the Navy

NAVY DEPT. — 3 April 1805. —

Michael Connor and Charles Young Privates in your Corps have distinguished themselves by acts of valor against the Enemy off Tripoli and having sustained severe wounds it behoves us to render to them some suitable compensation as a testimony of the regard in which the Government holds men of their description. You will therefore, Sir, consider yourself authorized to promote both of these men to the station of Sergeants and to retain them at the Barracks here. —

[NDA. USMC, LB, 1804-1820.]

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

NAVY DEPT. 3 April 1805.

I have understood that Col<sup>o</sup> Lear has procured 2 remarkably fine Arabian Horses the Breed of which it is desirable to introduce into this Country.

Should Col<sup>o</sup> Lear ask permission to send these Horses to this Country in one of the Frigates returning from the Mediterranean, you will grant such permission. —

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

Presumably to Captain James Barron, U. S. Navy, from Master Commandant  
Thomas Robinson, Jr., U. S. Navy

VENICE 3<sup>rd</sup> April 1805

D<sup>r</sup> SIR I wrote you by a Bark on Sunday and now repeat by first Mail since my arrival.

Mortars cannot be obtained in any other way than application to Vienna, Boats & Bombards can be fitted out with facility, I've seen two 24 Pounders & one 36 and a number of elegant brass cannon that would suit us the latter belonging to Government and can only be obtained by Orders from Vienna, the former I can have when I please they are in private hands: — there is nothing material except the mortars that we cannot obtain and as there is an unexpected rebuff in the latter you had better come over here immediately, you will then have a fair View of matters in in all who can serve us & Judge accordingly

The Schooner will be in her Element on Sunday I am preparing for a heavy Gun, and in such a way that the arrangement will Answer

for any other Deck & shall carry all in the Hold to the place of action —  
Come to Venice, —

Yours &c<sup>a</sup>

(Sign'd) T ROBINSON

[NDA. Captain's LB, Vol. 1, 1805.]

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Extract from journal of U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Captain John Rodgers, U. S. Navy,  
commanding, Wednesday, 3 April 1805

[Malta] At 7 [A.M.] unmoored ship at ½ past 9 Weighed and warped  
down The Harbour at 10 made sail And stood out of the harbour

[USNA.]

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Extract from journal of William Eaton, U. S. Navy Agent for the Barbary Regencies,  
Wednesday, 3 April 1805

Marched at six a. m. Advanced only ten miles in front, when the  
Arabs pitched their camp, and insisted on remaining here until they  
could send a caravan five days march into the interior of the desert  
to a place called Seewauh [Siwah] to procure dates. We were in a  
valley upon the centre of a vast elevated plain, and have excellent  
cistern water. — I urged the march ahead. — The Arabs positively  
refused to proceed. — They were short of provisions, and had no  
other resort. I said their wants would be supplied at Bomba. —  
They replied that this depended on contingency; we could not com-  
mand the sea. — I threatened to take off the Christians. They  
intreated I would halt till the next morning. — To this I consented,  
on condition that they would solemnly promise to throw no more  
impediments in the way of our progress to Bomba, and that they  
would hereafter yield implicit obedience to my orders; threatening  
at the same time to embark with the Bashaw and suit at that place,  
and proceed directly to Tripoli, leaving them to contend for the  
provinces of Derne and Bengazi alone in case of any infraction of  
these conditions. They pledged themselves; and we encamped. —  
Their caravan went off for Seewauh, to join us again at Bomba. —  
The Arabs say that at that place is a fountain, or lake of fresh water,  
of three leagues circumference, which supplies a considerable territory  
of good land by small rivulets descending from the mountains. It  
does not appear that this lake has any issue to the sea: but the truth  
of its existence is supported by the excellent dates brought thence to  
the castles on the seaboard for sale; a fruit only found on low, well-  
watered ground.

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

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Extract from journal of U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Captain John Rodgers, U. S. Navy,  
commanding, Thursday, 4 April 1805

At ½ past Meridian the Ketch Came a long side from Malta Bound  
to Tripoli with cloathing For the prisoners — took hir in Tow, bore  
up and made sail at 1 sent down the royal yards & Sky sail masts.

At Sunset the North point of Gozo. Bore N E B E distance 3  
leagues

Latitude Observed 35° 32' N.

[USNA.]

Extract from journal of William Eaton, U. S. Navy Agent for the Barbary Regencies,  
Thursday, 4 April 1805

Marched at 6, A. M. Halted at four afternoon. Gained eighteen miles. This day Capt. Selem Comb chased down a wild cat with his grey hound: height two feet; length from extremities five feet; color sable, brindled about the body; black ears and nose, and dark brindled tail: it was cooked, and it eat very well. An Arab, soon after, brought me a couple of her young; but they were not old enough to be raised.

At this camping ground are two remarkable wells, between ninety five and a hundred feet deep, sunk through solid rock, except about four feet at the surface. The surrounding plains are a bed of marle and sand; and have unequivocal evidence of ancient cultivation. Vast ruins of masonry scattered in different directions: the superstructures totally effaced by time.

[NR&L. No. 9217, Bm<sup>1</sup> E 14.]

Extract from letter of an officer of the U. S. Squadron at Malta

April 5th, 1805

"In my last I believe I informed you that capt. Eaton had gone to Alexandria in Egypt to meet the cidevant Bashaw of Tripoli, brother to the reigning Bashaw, since which the *Argus* has returned, and brings letters from Eaton. He was received with much attention, and appointed generallissimo by the Bashaw; he is now at the head of about six thousand men on his march for Tripoli, a distance of 1000 miles, he is supposed by this time to be at Derne, a province of Tripoli, about half way from Alexandria.

"The *Argus* has again been dispatched to Derne with provisions, and the commodore has sent to Messina to purchase field pieces, &c. Great hopes are entertained from this expedition. The reigning Bashaw is much alarmed, and has put himself at the head of his army to oppose them.

"Commodore Barron continues very ill yet. The *Constitution*, *Constellation*, and brig *Vixen* are now off Tripoli, from which he had just returned; the *Essex* and *Enterprise* at Venice and Trieste, expected here daily—the *Congress* and *Nautilus* at Syracuse or on their passage to this place—the *Syren* cruising off Tangier.

[LC. National Intelligencer, 5 Aug. 1805.]

To Captain Hugh G. Campbell, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. Frigate *Constellation*,  
from Captain John Rodgers, U. S. Navy

U. STATES SHIP *Constitution*  
off Tripoli Ap<sup>1</sup> 5. 1805

SIR In conformity with the Instructions of Commo: Barron; I have to desire that you return into Port without delay. Your Crew having had the Small Pox lately induces me to suggest that it is not likely you will obtain Prattique at Malta; I therefore advise that you proceed to Syracuse, taking Malta in your course, at which place you will send a Boat on shore to ascertain if Commo: Barron is still there, and if he is, to inform yourself of his intentions relative to your further destination & proceedings. —

The *Vixen's* Water & provisions being nearly expended; you will be pleased to inform Commodore Barron, that so soon as the *Nautilus*

joins me I shall send the *Vixen* into Port (Malta) with orders in her return, to look into Susa & Tunis Bay, in observance of M<sup>r</sup> Davis's Letter to him of the 8<sup>th</sup> Ult<sup>o</sup>, Enclosed in his Letter of instructions to me of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Ins<sup>t</sup> —

The season is advancing fast which will authorise and require offensive and active operations against this hell born place! You therefore will excuse my suggesting to you the necessity of your getting your ship in the best possible order for hard Service! Good Powder & plenty of Shot will in all probability, be as necessary to ensure success as good supply of Beef and Bread to give us strength & Spirits to use it.

P. S. In case the Winds serve, I would advise your looking into Susa, provided it does not considerably retard your getting into Port. —

J. R

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

To Master Commandant John Shaw, U. S. Navy, Baltimore, Md., from Secretary of the Navy

NAV DEP<sup>t</sup> 5 April 1805.

You will immediately proceed to New York and take the command of the Frigate *John Adams*. Report to me prior to your leaving Balt<sup>o</sup> the number of men you may have entered, that I may take orders for sending them to New York. The *John Adams* has now I presume between 3 and 400 Men on board and for the residue of her Crew we may safely depend on *Phil<sup>is</sup>* & *New York*. Leave the men in Baltimore, under the Care of Lieu<sup>t</sup> Cox to whom you will transfer your recruiting Instructions.

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

Extract from journal of William Eaton, U. S. Navy Agent for the Barbary Regencies, Friday, 5 April 1805

Marched 12 miles: camped seven leagues distant from the sea board. Here is a remarkable ancient castle of hewn stone, and regularly built, one hundred and eighty feet square, the walls eighteen high and five thick, with bastions at each angle, and battlements on the curtain constructed for archers. In the centre is a well, descending to an immense cistern, cut in solid rock, extending to another well without walls, a distance of one hundred and twenty feet. This vast cistern must have been supplied by rain water conveyed into it from the terraces of buildings, as its depth is but about thirty feet, and the depth of the only well of water in the vicinity is one hundred and fifty: the water of which is sulphurous and saline. The cistern is dry. Around the castle are many ruins of ancient buildings, of apparently excellent masonry; the cement of which resembles exactly that in the ruins of Carthage. Time in many places has consumed the freestone of the walls, leaving the cement perfectly entire, and honey combed.

Scattered among these ruins are numerous graves of pilgrims with Turkish and Arabic inscriptions of modern date, expressive of little else than an ejaculation. The surrounding country, as far as eye can ken, exhibits little more than a barren desert, seemingly never

to have been cultivated, yet every where interspersed with ruins of masonry. One of my foreign officers found here, and presented me, two copper coins with Greek inscriptions but so effaced as not to be intelligible. On the west of this port is a mountain of great height, forming a steep bluff on its eastern abutment, extending in a circular direction south easterly as far as the eye can pursue it. The Arabs tell me this mountain preserves the same appearance quite to the province of Fiaume, and is called in their language *Auk bet Salaurm*. Its site is a vast plain, rocky and barren, gradually inclined to the westward. Our guides fix this port one hundred and fifty miles from Derne.

[NR&L. No. 9217, Bm<sup>1</sup> E 14.]

Extract from journal of Hezekiah Loomis, Steward, U. S. Navy, in U. S. Brig *Vixen*, Master Commandant John Smith, U. S. Navy, commanding, Friday, 5 April 1805

Off Tripoli. This day commences with fresh gales and flying clouds. At 7 o'clock A. M. saw two sail. We made sail and stood for them. The *Constellation* also did the same. At 8 o'clock A. M. came up with them and found to be the *Constitution* commanded by Capt. Ro[d]gers and a Ketch which he had in tow. Signals were made on board the *Constellation* and answered by the *Constitution*. We all stood in for the land which we discovered at 1 o'clock P. M. Stood on then until we made the Town, then put about and stood off shore, blowing very fresh and a heavy sea rising.

[L. F. Middlebrook. NDA copy.]

To Secretary of the Navy from Lieutenant Nathaniel Fanning, U. S. Navy

CHARLESTON, S. C. April the 6<sup>th</sup> 1805

SIR I have the honor to acquaint you, that the outfits of the new Gun Boat, progresses fast, and am persuaded that we shall have her in readiness for Sea in Ten days. (If no bad weather should prevent it). We have had some difficulty in procuring here all the Articles which was wanted for her, and was obliged at length to accept of some of an inferior kind because no better was to be had. I have given to the plan (sent to your department (for Rigging a Gun Boat) by Commodore Prebble and Cap<sup>t</sup> Tingey) all the consideration which it meritted, and beg leave to give my opinion that it ought to be adopted, with only one or two alterations which I think those Gentlemen will approve of and which I think will be an improvement upon their Plan. It is this; instead of the Mast being placed in the Center, let it be stepped *Nine* or, *Ten* feet from the Center, towards the advancing End of the Boat; — This will give her more after Sail and She will the more readily go in Stays. But If the Mast is in the Center I think rigg<sup>d</sup> as those Gentlemen propose She will work heavily and will be liable to miss Stays. If this suggestion of mine should be approved of, I think it would be best to have the Shrouds (except the forward one in the centre) abaft the Mast to prevent the principal yards chafing of them. submitting these suggestions to your better Judgment

[NDA. Misc. LB, Vol. 2, 1805.]

To Secretary of the Navy from Hon. Samuel White, Senator from Delaware

WILMINGTON Ap<sup>l</sup> 6<sup>th</sup> 1805

DEAR SIR I received, a few days since, a letter from M<sup>r</sup> A Laws, a young Friend of mine, a midshipman on board the *Constitution* Frigate, then at Syracuse — his situation as it regards his rank is certainly a delicate one, and will no doubt meet the attention of the Sec<sup>y</sup> of the navy — M<sup>r</sup> Laws was first appointed in the navy on the 15<sup>th</sup> of May 1800 as his warrant will shew — at the time the naval establishment was reduced, Gen<sup>l</sup> Smith who then acted as the Sec<sup>y</sup> in his selection of officers, which generally speaking was certainly a very judicious one, omitted through mistake or for the want of proper information this young Gentleman, who was then at Pittsburg, with his Friends, on leave of absence, and who was not acquainted with this circumstance for months afterward; but was then waiting orders — The winter following, I believe, or as soon as it was found that M<sup>r</sup> Laws had been left out — I applied at his instance to M<sup>r</sup> Rob<sup>t</sup> Smith the Sec<sup>y</sup>, to have him *reenstated* in the navy, and I shortly afterwards found him in service — but it seems unfortunately, for the young Gentleman, a new warrant was then issued to him, which places him in date of warrant far behind those who *actually entered* the service long after him — This as the Sec<sup>y</sup> will at once see, especially in the day of promotion, must be an extremely mortifying circumstance to a young man of great ambition & high spirit, and altho' I well know that the path he is at present pursuing to fame, is the pride of his soul, may, I fear, unless some remedy can be provided for it, occasion his leaving the service — I believe there is no man more sincerely attached to the navy than myself, and I am well convinced that no single circumstance can induce so much to its respectability, as the encouragement of young men of education, character & family to enter & continue in the service — M<sup>r</sup> Laws has the support of these recommendations in a high degree and such are his easy circumstances in pecuniary respects, that none but motives the most honorable could possibly have influenced him in entering the navy — He went out the last time with Commodore Prebble, was with Decatur at the burning of the *Philad<sup>a</sup>* — and has taken a gallant part in all the very distinguished & honorable exploits of our brave Fellows in the Mediterranean — This information, or the latter part of it, I give from some of those officers who have returned — I had hoped that the midshipmen who were engaged in the burning of the *Philad<sup>a</sup>* would have been promoted to Lieutenants — this would have relieved M<sup>r</sup> Laws, I presume, from his difficulties as to the date of his warrant — should this not be the fact I must beg you Sir to attend to the case & complaint of this young Gentleman — I hazard nothing in assuring you that you have no Gentleman under your command more worthy of your Patronage —

SAMUEL WHITE

[NDA. Misc. LB, Vol. 2, 1805.]

To Purser Abraham Cordrey, U. S. Navy, Charleston, S. C., from Secretary of the Navy

NAV DEPM<sup>t</sup> April 6, 1805. —

I have rec<sup>d</sup> your letter of the 26<sup>th</sup> ult<sup>o</sup> and now enclose you your warrant as a Purser in the Navy. —

The crews of the gunboats which have been ordered to be got in readiness to cross the Atlantic, will be so few in number that the Services of a Purser have been judged unnecessary on board of them. The Commanders assisted by a Steward will, in all cases, do the duty of a Purser on board of the boat under their command. You will therefore leave gunboat N<sup>o</sup> 2 and will consider yourself on furlough. If your accounts require immediate settlement, you will come on to this place for that purpose.

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

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

Duplic<sup>o</sup> N<sup>o</sup> 6

MALTA 6 April 1805. —

SIR! Having in my Respects of yesterday given you a full account of the present disposal of the Squadron under my Command, & whatever had occurred worthy of notice since my preceding dispatches, I have now the Honor to lay before you a Sketch of M<sup>r</sup> Eaton's transactions in Egypt & the measures which have been in consequence thereof adopted — The accompan<sup>d</sup> Communications from that Gentleman to the N<sup>y</sup> Department joined with Copies of those addressed to me and the collateral Correspondence betwixt Capt. Hull & him, to all which, I beg leave to refer you minutely will afford a wide view of the Subject, whilst they preclude the necessity of lengthy Comments from me — You will there perceive the many & unforeseen difficulties which M<sup>r</sup> Eaton met with in finding the Ex Bashaw, who had joined the fortunes of the Mamelukes — you will be apprized of the Situation in which matters stood at the departure of the *Argus* from Alexandria on the 19 Febr<sup>y</sup> & the plan which he had chalked out for pursuing the intended Cooperation with Hamet. On receipt of these advices I made immediate Arrangements to send such part of the Succours requested by the Bashaw and M<sup>r</sup> Eaton as cou'd be procured here and as I considerd myself authorized by my Instructions to afford, and Captain Hull sailed again on the 26 ult<sup>o</sup> in the *Argus* with the *Hornet* Sloop (the same which I mentioned having purchased) under Convoy carrying a Supply of Money Provisions &<sup>d</sup> — He directed his Course for Bomba (a Town about 60 Miles to the East<sup>d</sup> of Derne) where as you will collect from the papers inclosed it was intended to make a stand & where Capt. H. confidently expected to open a Communication with the Bashaw and his Army — Such Sir, is the present situation of the business — I am well aware that you will feel an anxiety to know my opinion with regard to the probable Success of this co-operation, but until I have further Intelligence and more data to go by, it were improper even to hazard a conjecture — In persuing the Letter from M<sup>r</sup> Eaton and weighing the nature & consequences of certain measures in his contemplation, I must own that I have felt some uneasiness arising out of an apprehension that he has taken a wider scope in his Engagements to the exiled Prince, than is compatible with the ideas & intentions of Government or with the authority vested in me as relates to the subject of Cooperation — I have stated this apprehension in a Communication to M<sup>r</sup> Eaton in which I have also explained in precise terms how far I conceived He might proceed without committing himself or the Country — a Copy of my Letter will be found annex'd. I feel confident that the sentiments there ex-

pressed & the principles laid down with respect to the plan in question will meet your entire approbation — From the concurring information I have recently received from persons well acquainted with the Bashaw of his Character & Conduct, I confess that my hopes from a Cooperation with him are less sanguine than they were — perhaps however I may shortly have reasons to raise my expectations to their former Standard, but until something occurs to justify the belief that he possesses more Courage, Energy and Talents than those who appear to know him well, give him Credit for, it wou'd be reprehensible to flatter myself or the Government with prospects which the event may disappoint

I am equally at a loss to calculate the effects of this cooperation with his Brother upon the mind of the reigning Bashaw — a short time will throw light upon this interesting point; in the mean while, I cannot conceal from you my candid opinion that from the obstinacy hitherto evinced by Caromanli Bashaw and the pertinacity of his Character not unmixed with bravery and other qualities belonging to a Soldier, added to the natural advantages of his situation, the Contest promises to be more arduous than was at first anticipated — Our co-operation with Hamet may and in all probability will induce him either to offer terms to us at once, or finding his Dominions menaced and his life endangered to put every thing to the hazard of War. In the latter case we may naturally conclude that his resistance will be not only obstinate but desperate. — I look with anxiety for the Return of the vessel which sailed a few days for Tripoli with Supplies for the prisoners — She will undoubtedly bring important intelligence —

The Ex Bashaws Secretary of State, whom you will find mention'd in M<sup>r</sup> Eaton's Correspondence return'd in the *Argus* to join his Master — He appeared to be a sensible discreet old Man — He brought me a Letter from the Bashaw a translation of which with a Copy of my Answer is attached to the accompanying papers. —

With constant sentiments of Respect & Consideration, I have the Honor to remain,

[NA. Sen. 9 B-B 6, Pres. Message, Jan. 1806.]

To Captain Samuel Barron, U. S. Navy, Commodore U. S. Squadron in the Mediterranean, from Captain John Rodgers, U. S. Navy

U: STATES SHIP *Constitution*  
off Tripoli. April 6. 1805

SIR I have to acquaint you that I arrived on the coast & fell in with the *Constellation* & *Vixen* yesterday, but falling in rather to the Eastward & the Wind suddenly shifting to the NW. and blowing fresh prevented the Ketch's getting in — The Wind is now from S W. and so soon as it changes she will go in —

The *Vixen's* Water being nearly expended, she will be obliged to return into Port soon — For particulars I refer you to Cap<sup>t</sup> Campbell

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

To Secretary of the Navy from Degen, Furviance & Co., U. S. Navy Agents, Leghorn

LEGHORN 6<sup>th</sup> April 1805.

SIR The foregoing is duplicate of what we had the honor of addressing you on the 25<sup>th</sup> Ultimo, via Philadelphia. We are still in anxious



expectation of receiving further intelligence of the Two Tripolitan Corsairs as said to be out on a cruize. —

Another Letter of the 12<sup>th</sup> past from M<sup>r</sup> Dyson at Syracuse, received yesterday, gives us the pleasing information of the safe return of the *Argus* Brig at that place from Egypt leaving behind M<sup>r</sup> Eaton, in great hopes, as we are told, of accomplishing the object of his Voyage. — We presume however the enclosed Letter from the former Gentleman, will afford more particulars. —

We regret to notice that Commodore Barron, continued still unwell, (at the date of M<sup>r</sup> Dyson's Letter,) and very weak, tho' great hopes were entertained of his recovery. —

We have also a Letter in date of 26<sup>th</sup> March from Captain Robinson, Commanding the *Enterprize* Schooner, who was then at Venice, under repairs, advising his having drawn on us P6000, say Six Thousand Pezzers, which have been duly accepted, and will be extinguished at maturity [ms mutilated] the Debit of the Navy Department, and the Bills forwarded with some others, to the Accountant M<sup>r</sup> Turner, which we lately paid — Captain Robinson adds that the *Essex* Frigate was then laying at Trieste. —

[NDA. Misc. LB, Vol. 1, 1805.]

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Extract from journal of William Eaton, U. S. Navy Agent for the Barbary Regencies  
6 April 1805

Last night a party of wild Arabs stole into the vicinity of our camp and took off nine of the Bashaw's horses. A detachment was sent this morning in search of them, which returned at twelve and reported that they fell upon the trail of fifty horses, supposed to be mounted by the thieves, which shaped a rapid course towards the interior of the desert. The detachment was reenforced and returned on the pursuit.

This morning died the saddle beast of one of my servants.

12 o'clock at noon. After six hours march came to a well seventy feet deep below which a large cistern of bad water, foeted and saline. Our horses had not drunk during forty two hours — and the people with much difficulty procured a little very nausious water from the deep well near the castle last night. Every body pressed near the well, the horses and people crouding upon each other for drink. In the struggle the horse of my other servant was forced backwards from the croud, and, the ground descending to the well, slipped and went down with two cloaks, and perished in the fall. Continued our march 17 miles, but advanced very little in front, having kept under the side of the mountain to gain the seaboard. — Halted at 3 p.m. within four miles of the sea shore. I walked with M<sup>r</sup> Farquhar and a servant to the water side. — A very handsome bay formed by the mountain which extends into the sea a league and an half, and terminates in a high cape. The Arabs call the port Salaum; It is marked on the French chart Cape Luco: —

They say it is remarkable for having been a shelter for the Malteseese cruisers. — Ninety miles from Bombay by calculation. We find no water this night.

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

Extract from journal of U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Captain John Rodgers, U. S. Navy, commanding, Sunday, 7 April 1805

[Off Tripoli] At 6 [P.M.] saw the town of Tripoli Bearing W B S. Made and took in sail as Occasion required

At Midnight fresh breezes and Clear weather. At ½ past 5 the Ketch left us For Tripoli

Latitude Observed 33° 9' N.

[USNA.]

Extract from journal of Surgeon Jonathan Cowdery, U. S. Navy, 7 April 1805

One of our cruisers appeared. A large gunboat was launched, which was built by redegado West, who was one of our crew, and turned Turk.

[LC. Rare Books, *American Captives in Tripoli or Dr. Cowdery's Journal*, Boston, 1806.]

Extract from journal of William Eaton, U. S. Navy Agent for the Barbary Regencies, Sunday, 7 April 1805

Marched at 6. a. m. ascended the mountain, and marched on its summit eighteen miles in front. — At four afternoon halted in a valley where we found excellent feed for our horses, but no water. —

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

Extract from journal of Hezekiah Loomis, Steward, U. S. Navy. in U. S. Brig *Vixen*, Master Commandant John Smith, U. S. Navy, commanding, Sunday, 7 April 1805

This morning commences pleasant, the land in sight. Saw nothing of the 2 Frigates nor Ketch. At 11 o'clock A. M. saw the Ketch standing for the town. We then being abreast of the Town we put about and stood to the eastward. We saw the Ketch go into the harbour of Tripoli and come to anchor. At 3 o'clock P. M. saw a large sail which we took to be the *Constitution*. At half past 4 wore ship and stood to the westward, the Frigate standing down to us.

[L. F. Middlebrook. NDA copy.]

To Secretary of the Navy from Colonel Jacob Crowninshield

SALEM 8<sup>th</sup> April 1805

Monday even'g

DEAR SIR: Com<sup>e</sup> Preble called on me to day, and it afforded me real pleasure to converse with that intelligent officer on the various subjects connected with his late instructions from the Navy Department, and in relation to our affairs in the Medeter<sup>a</sup>. If a doubt ever rested on the mind of any man (but none ever did on mine) of our being able to dictate a peace to Tripoli, that doubt would be done away upon hearing Com<sup>e</sup> P. explain the situation of the place, the inferiority of its force, & the impression that his bombardments made on its government. Sure I am the American squadron now going against it, aided with the gun boats & other force of that description which will soon be on the spot, will be able to reduce it, & oblige it to submit to whatever conditions you may chuse to impose & instead of our paying them tribute it will be in our power to lay their city &

people under contribution, if the attack is made & supported with that bravery & judgment which has hitherto distinguished us in our operations against the place. —

Com<sup>e</sup> P. having informed me that he found all the carpenters in Boston engaged, so far that none of them would promise to undertake to build the bomb-vessels immediately, and to complete them in 40 or 50 days, the time within which it would be necessary for them to sail for Tripoli, I went with him to one of our principal ship builders in this town, to see if he would agree to build one of the boats in the limited time, and we found it could not be done, they can be built in Boston, Salem, Newburyport, Portsmouth, Portland or at any of our seaport towns, but not quite so soon as they are wanted, owing to the greater part of the carpenters being engaged, still I am confident men can be found who will finish the work in much less time than 3 months, because in that time an Indiaman could be built & put to sea. Com<sup>e</sup> P. will hurry the business all in his power, but we have thought it would aid the object in view if he was permitted to buy two large sloops or Schooners (for whether they have one or two masts is of no consequence) as he might happen to find suitable vessels, and fix them up as bomb-vessels, they might be from 100 to 120 or 130 tons burden, rather over the size of the Sloops I recommended in my last letter for gun boats, they can be bo't at any hour in Boston or the neighbouring towns, & can be readily fitted to receive mortars or any heavy cannon wanted for the service, it will be necessary to lay them ashore, to double plank them outside, & strengthen them inside with timber & plank, & to bolt & rivet the work together sufficiently secure to bear the shock of continued discharges from the mortars, which can all be done, & the vessels certainly depart in a month or 40 days at most from the time they are purchased, I would strongly advise to this plan, because they can be on the ground & assist in the reduction of Tripoli this season, while the new bomb-vessels might not be completed so as to make it certain of being there at the attack, but the purchase of these boats, (for they are only boats after all) need not prevent your building the bomb-vessels, which may be still much wanted. my object in suggesting this plan to you, is to be sure of having force enough off Tripoli before the first of July. The gun boats from this Country will be excellent, but you may want a greater force, especially of that description, to throw heavy bombs, shells &c into the town & among the shipping. —

I mentioned to Com<sup>e</sup> P that the New York North river sloops w<sup>d</sup> make good gun boats, & I found he agreed with me most completely, any vessels drawing little water & built after their model are fit for gun boats, they only require to be fixed to receive the cannon on deck, & perhaps to be strengthened round the bows. At any rate I w<sup>d</sup> recommend you to send out from 4 to 6 of them in aid of the gun boats, you may rely upon it they will be useful in the attack if you order them prepared to receive a heavy cannon, & as I have previously observed this need not interfere the least with the gun boats going out, for with 8 or 10 of these, & 3 or 4 sloops properly fixed, & the two others fitted up for Mortar or Bomb-vessels, you will have a powerful force, & cooperating with the squadron it must be the fault of the officers solely if Tripoli is not completely humbled; & even made to "pay tribute" to the U S should it be thought necessary

to proceed to extremities with a power governed only by the dictates of an insatiable avarice in its transactions with all the civilized nations, I have advised Com<sup>e</sup> P. not to delay contracting for the two bomb-vessels agreeable to your instructions, but I am sure (as a month has already passed away since we mentioned this business in Washington) they can not be built in season to calculate on their arrival before Tripoli at the time when it is contemplated to make the attack, but if you allow him to buy the vessels I propose you will be certain of having your object completely answered. Should you approve of it you had better address your instructions immediately to him *in Boston*, and a duplicate to Portland, as he said he should be in Boston in about a fortnight hence.

If you allow 60 days for a passage to Tripoli, & Com<sup>e</sup> Barrons Squadron were over that time last year, tho' it ought to be done in less, the vessels will have no time to spare, sail when they will, May & June are pleasant months to cross the Atlantic & I have known very fine weather as early as April. As to the gun boats I can not upon honor suppose the risk worth 5 P<sup>r</sup> C<sup>t</sup>, to insure them safe to their destined port, & underwriters w<sup>d</sup> ask you nearly that for the sea risk on Merch<sup>t</sup> vessels.

Pray excuse this hasty & incorrect letter, & believe me with great Sincerity your obliged and humble Serv<sup>t</sup>

JACOB CROWNINSHIELD.

P S. It is with much pain I inform you that M<sup>rs</sup> C's indisposition continues, she is confined to her chamber & to her bed the greater part of the time, & I can not flatter myself with her speedy recovery, indeed on this head I must not allow myself to express all my fears. —

[NDA. Misc. LB, Vol. 2, 1805.]

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Extract from journal of William Eaton, U. S. Navy Agent for the Barbary Regencies, Monday, 8 April 1805

Marched a[t] 6. a.m. Descended the western declivity of the mountain. At nine called a halt near a cistern of excellent rain water, excavated in a solid rock, at the bottom of a deep ravine, by the torrents of water and small stones which rush down the mountain by this avenue during the rainy season. This was a precious repast to our thirsty pilgrims. I went with a small party to survey the seacoast and reconnoitre the country, intending to pursue the march as soon as the army should have refreshed themselves. But, during my absence, the Bashaw ordered the camp pitched. — On my return I demanded his reason for so doing. — He answered that the exhausted situation of the troops and people required at least one day's repose. I discovered however that his real intention was to remain on this ground until a courier should return, which he was about to dispatch to Bomba in quest of our vessels. We had only six days rations of rice; no bread nor meat and no small rations. I urged this circumstance as an impulsive reason why the march should continue. — He said the Arab chiefs were resolved to proceed no further till the camp shall have recruited themselves by a little repose. I told him if they preferred famine to fatigue they might have the choice; and ordered their ration stopped. The day passed confusedly among them.

At 3 p.m. the Bashaw, compelled by his Arab host, struck his tent ordered his baggage packed, mounted, and took up a march for Fiaume by the mountain. — I waited without emotion the result of this movement; not chusing to betray a concern for ourselves. — Discovering however an intention in the Arabs to sieze our provisions, I beat to arms. — My Christians formed a line in front of the Magazine tent. Each party held an opposite position the space of an hour. The Bashaw prevailed on the Arabs to return; they dismounted; and he pitched his tent. Supposing the tumult tranquilized, I ordered the troops to pass the manual exercise, according to our daily practice. In an instant the Arabs took an alarm: — remounted, — and exclaimed, "The Christians are preparing to fire on us!" The Bashaw mounted and put himself at their head, apparently impressed with the same apprehension. A body of about two hundred advanced in full charge upon our people, who stood their ground motionless. —

The enemy withdrew at a small distance, singled out the officers, and, with deliberate aim, cried — *fire!* Some of the Bashaw's officers, exclaimed "For God's sake do not fire! The Christians are our friends". M<sup>r</sup> O'Bannon, M<sup>r</sup> Peck and young Farquhar stood firmly by me. Selim Aga (Cap<sup>n</sup> of Cannoniers) his lieutenants and the two greek officers remained stedfast at their posts. — The others were agitated, and in fact abandoned us. I advanced towards the Bashaw and cautioned him against giving countenance to a desperate act. At once a column of muskets were aimed at my breast. — The Bashaw was distracted. A universal clamor drowned my voice. — I waved my hand as a signal for attention. At this critical moment some of the Bashaw's officers and sundry Arab chiefs rode between us with drawn sabres and repelled the mutineers. — I reproached the Bashaw for his rashness or rather weakness. His Casnadar asked him if he was in his senses. — The Bashaw struck him with his naked sabre. The fracas had nearly resumed its rage, when I took the Bashaw by the arm; led him from the croud, and asked him if he knew his own interests and his friends? He relented: — called me his friend & protector: — said he was too soon heated: — and followed me to my tent, giving orders at the same time to his Arabs to disperse. After a moment's breath, he said if I would give orders to issue rice it would quiet every thing. This I would do on no other condition than his promise to march tomorrow morning at reveillee beating. — He promised, and provisions were issued. Confessions of obligation and professions of attachment were repeated as usual on the part of the Bashaw and his officers; — and the camp again resumed its tranquility. The firm and decided conduct of M<sup>r</sup> O'Bannon, as on all other occasions, did much to deter the violence of the savages by whom we were surrounded, as well as to support our own dignity of character. After the affair was over the Bashaw embraced him with an enthusiasm of respect, calling him *The Brave American*. The Chevalier Davico, my Aid de camp, acted a part which I would rather attribute to an amiable disposition than to weakness of nerve. My Doctor behaved decidedly like a coward, and a base one. M<sup>r</sup> Farquhar conducted with manly firmness. One of the Arabs, during the agitation, snapped a pistol at his breast. Happily it missed fire: — had it been otherwise the fire would most probably have become general and the result serious. —

We find it almost impossible to inspire these wild bigots with confidence in us or to persuade them that, being Christians, we can be otherwise than enemies to Mussulmen. —

We have a difficult undertaking!

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

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Extract from journal of Midshipman Charles Morris, Jr., U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *President*, Master Commandant George Cox, U. S. Navy, commanding, Monday, 8 April 1805

7 A. M. unmoored ship — 10. Weighed and stood out of the harbour — 11 hove to for the boats to come out —

Noon Valette bore 3 miles distant.

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

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

BOSTON *April 9<sup>th</sup> 1805*

SIR I find all the ship yards in this place, and at Salem occupied, and the Carpenters generally engaged; it is therefore my opinion, that I shall not be able to have the Bomb Vessels built in season to reach the Squadron in the Mediterranean, before the last of August. Mr Crowninshield, agrees with me in this point.

I beg leave to suggest an opinion, that two sloops or schooners of about 80 or 90 Tons, may be purchased here; and by double planking, and securely bolting, be rendered sufficiently strong for the resistance required in the use of 13 Inch Mortars: they may be got ready to sail in a month from the time I receive your orders, if you should approve the plan. They should be Ketch rigged — will be able to go out, and return at any season, and will transport all the military stores for their use, with six months provision for the crew. They will cost about four, or five thousand dollars, exclusive of the additional expence of strengthening. Most of the articles for that purpose, I presume can be procured at the Navy Yard if you think proper. I should advise not to copper them.

I shall leave this for Portland on thursday morning, and shall contract at Newbury Port, Portsmouth, or Portland for the building of the two Bomb Vessels, and two Gun Boats, and transmit drawings of the same, as soon as the contracts are made.

Should you adopt the plan of purchasing the two sloops or schooners, as temporary Bomb Vessels to reach the Squadron in time for the operations of this year, the Mortars coming round from New York, can be taken for them, and two others of Brass can be cast here for the use of the Bomb Vessels to be built by me.

Should you wish to send out immediately more Gun Boats than are built, I should recommend the purchase of some of the small North River coasters at New York, and some of the Hingham Packets at this place; they will answer extremely well for that purpose, and will not I believe cost more than 2500 Dollars compleated for Sea, exclusive of their Military Stores. I believe three or four might be fitted from here, in three weeks; but it would be necessary to send the Guns (32 pounders) and shot &c<sup>s</sup> from Washington or New York.

PS. I shall return to this place by the time an answer can arrive from you.

[NDA. Captain's LB, Vol. 1, 1805.]



LIEUTENANT PRESLEY NEVILLE O'BANNON, U. S. M. C





To Lieutenant Peter S. Ogilvie, U. S. Navy, at New York, from Secretary of the Navy

NAV DEP<sup>t</sup> 9 April 1805. —

A Commission as a Lieutenant in the Navy will be issued for you and sent to the Commodore of the American Squadron in the Mediterranean, to be delivered to you after you shall have passed the usual examinations. —

You will take the Command of gunboat N<sup>o</sup> 7 and receive from Lieu<sup>t</sup> Leonard the Instructions sent to him relatively to her Equipment which you will consider as directed to yourself and execute accordingly. —

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

To Secretary of the Navy from Midshipman F. Cornelius deKrafft, U. S. Navy

April 9<sup>th</sup> 1805.

SIR, It is now two weeks since I had the pleasure of seeing you after the unfortunate circumstance of W<sup>m</sup> Nicholson & myself, Your answer was that I should hear from you in a few days, I have been waiting anxiously for the desition of my fate, my present situation of suspence is very disagreeable, if you would take into consideration & have it desided I should esteem it a particular favour.

I beg you will excuse this letter & make allowances for my situation; since my absence the death of my father has made considerable alterations, some of his business still remains undesided & must remain in that state untill my fate is desided.

[NDA. Misc. LB, Vol. 2, 1805.]

Circular letter to Commanders of Gunboats, from Secretary of the Navy

NAVY DEP<sup>t</sup> 9 April 1805. —

Circular

SIR, Gunboat N<sup>o</sup> — if she should not already have a false Keel must have one put on, and on her passage to the Mediterranean, it is my intention that the guns shall be safely stowed in the Hold as Ballast, to be mounted on her arrival at Gibraltar.

I shall order all the Boats to sail on or before the 1<sup>st</sup> May next. You will therefore be prepared to receive your orders.

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

To William Eaton, U. S. Navy Agent for the Barbary Regencies, from Master Commandant Isaac Hull, U. S. Navy

UNITED STATES BRIG *Argus*  
Bomba 9<sup>th</sup> April 1805. —

DEAR SIR, You will be informed by this, that I arrived on this coast on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Ins<sup>t</sup>, but the weather being very bad, could not come near enough to be discovered from shore until the 4<sup>th</sup> when we passed within a very few miles of Derne, but could not see anything, that had the appearance of your being there, I then run to the Eastward and on the 5<sup>th</sup> in the morning passed very close to Cape Razatin, but could not see any body there, I then beat into the Bay of Bomba, and came to an Anchor, to endeavour if possible to gain some intelligence from

you On the 6<sup>th</sup> the weather being good, sent a Boat on shore with Orders to use every means possible to hear from you, or find out whether you had passed on your way to Derne, in the Evening the Officer returned without being able to learn any thing — they could not find a single Arab, or the appearance of there having been any there lately, except at one place, about eight miles in the Country, where there had been an encampment some time past, I had some hope of its being your route, but from his discription, I found the tracks too few for the number of men I suppose you must have with you, there being no hopes of finding you at Bomba, I sailed next morning to try if possible to find the Port of Trabucha, but meeting some difficulty in finding it I determined to try to send a Boat on shore at Cape Razatin, On the 9<sup>th</sup> in the morning sent a Boat on shore at Cape Razatin, the Officer soon returned with an Arab, who informed me that you had arrived in the neighbourhood of Trabca, and that an express had come from you to Derne, As this mans information appeared correct I determined to send him off express to you, which he very readily consented to, but wished first to see his family, I sent him on shore immediately to make his visit and return as soon as possible, soon after the Boat landed, three men came down on Horse back, who said they had orders from Hamet Bashaw to furnish us with Beef &<sup>c</sup> if we came on this Coast, but I took them to be spies sent from the Bey of Derne to see what we were about in this Bay, after a little conversation with the Servant of the Minister, they rode off saying they would see us tomorrow. At sundown the Arab came off and I left the Cape for Bomba — should the Arab find you, I hope you will loose no time in informing me of your situation, and what time you will be at Bombay, that I may meet you, as I do not think the Bay safe to lay at Anchor in long, for fear of Gales Wind. I shall stand out to sea, and call in every two or three days, and see if you are there — when you arrive on the Coast, it will be well for you to make fires, or some Signal that we may find you, the place of landing at Bomba is quite at the Bottom of the Bay, a long distance from where we lay Anchor, so that if some Signal is not made we shall find difficulty in finding you, I have a Sloop loaded with Bread, flour, Rice &<sup>c</sup> and a sum of money on board the *Argus* at your disposal, the Frigate *Congress* is hourly expected on the Coast with the field Pieces, so that I have no doubt but you will soon be in possession of Derne — I have Letters for you, which I hope to have the pleasure of delivering you soon at Bomba. — Should you send the Arab back with letters, I wish you to direct him to come to the bottom of the Bay of Bomba, and should the *Argus* not be there, to remain until she comes, as he will be sure of seeing us very soon, and you will please follow the same steps should you arrive there yourself. — As I hope soon to have the pleasure of seeing you, I shall say nothing of our affairs by letter, for fear of their not reaching you, consequently have nothing to add, but my best wishes for your success and honor. —

You will please make my best respects to your party, and believe me. —

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

TRIPOLI BARBARY

9<sup>th</sup> April 1805

SIR, I am this day honored with your letter of the 2<sup>nd</sup> of June, informing me that you had given orders to the Commodore of Squadron, in the Mediterranean, to institute a Court of inquiry on my conduct in the loss of the frigate *Philadelphia*.

I tender you, Sir, my thanks for your ready compliance to my request, and take the liberty to observe that I feel confident that your hope will not be disappointed.

Respecting our situations here, I refer you to my frequent communications made to Com. Barron.

[NDA. Captain's LB, Vol. 1, 1805.]

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

N<sup>o</sup> 3

GIBRALTAR 9<sup>th</sup> April 1805

SIR On the 6<sup>th</sup> Instant I had the honor of addressing you N<sup>o</sup> 2, & Continue without the pleasure of hearing from you, I then inclosed a dispatch from Malta —

I have now to inform you that an Algerien frigate & Xabeque have been off Cadiz (the former is the *Sisore* w<sup>ch</sup> they Captured from the Portuguese) it is sayd that they have Captured some small Vessels, and sent them to Larach on the Coast of Salé; & made a Landing on the Coast of Algarve, from whence they took some Men —

Cap<sup>n</sup> Stewart in the *Syren* Proceeded yesterday for Tanger. We Continue well here — Just now a fleet of 11 sail — the Line, 2 frigates & 7 other Sail have appeard in the Gutt from the East, they are french & no doubt the Toulon fleet going to join the Spanish ships at Cadiz —

[NA. SDA. CL, Gibraltar, Vol. 3, 1805–1829.]

Extract from journal of William Eaton, U. S. Navy Agent for the Barbary Regencies, Tuesday, 9 April 1805

Marched at ½ past 5. a. m. Advanced ten miles and halted at a water cistern. — Good feed for our horses. Here are considerable ancient ruins of houses and partition walls, but almost entirely effaced. —

In this cistern we found two dead men; — probably pilgrims murdered by the Arabs. — We were obliged nevertheless to use the water.

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

Extract from journal of Midshipman Charles Morris, Jr., U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *President*, Master Commandant George Cox, U. S. Navy, commanding, Tuesday, 9 April 1805

5 [A. M.] Cape Passero bore N N W 5 leagues —  
11½ came to anchor in the harbour of Siracuse

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

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

BOSTON *April 10<sup>th</sup> 1805*

SIR Previous to my leaving Malta, I heard Sir Alexander Ball the Governor express a desire to obtain a couple of Fishing-smacks or well Boats from this Country. The friendly attentions of that gentleman to the Squadron I have the honor to command, induces me to wish he may receive them at the original cost here; this can be done if you should think proper to order them to be purchased and sent out loaded with Provisions and Stores for the Squadron. They can be navigated by young Masters of Merchant Vessels, and Men shipped, to be turned over to our Men of War on that station. The Masters can serve as Mates on board the Gun Boats, or some other Vessels of the Squadron for the season, and return home in whatever vessels may return in the Autumn. Thus shall we be able to oblige the Governor (to whom we are under obligations) and supply our Squadron with a quantity of Provisions, stores, and men free of expence. Should this meet your approbation, I can procure two that will answer the purpose, and do credit to the Carpenter's work of this Country for about fifteen hundred Dollars each and the earlier the Agent here has directions to pay for such as may be selected, the greater will be the facility in sending them out.

P. S. The amount of the two Vessels being paid to the Agent at Malta or the Commander of the Squadron will be a remittance which will save the difference of Exchange between Cash and Bills.

[NDA. Captain's LB, Vol. 1, 1805.]

To Secretary of the Navy from Midshipman James T. Leonard, U. S. Navy

NEW YORK *Apr: 10<sup>th</sup> 1805*

SIR I have the honor to inform you that Gun boat N<sup>o</sup> 6 is completely rigged & sails bent, and will be in readiness to receive her stores in three days.

N<sup>o</sup> 7 will be completed in her rigging this day, has had her keel put on, and will be shortly in readiness.

The crew shall be entered in conformity to your orders, as early as possible, when their desertion can be effectually prevented.

[NDA. Officers LB, 1802-1805.]

To Hon. Samuel White, United States Senate, from Delaware, from Secretary of the Navy

NAV DEP<sup>t</sup> *Ap<sup>l</sup> 10<sup>th</sup> 1805*

Your letter of the 6<sup>th</sup> ins<sup>t</sup> relatively to M<sup>r</sup> [Alexander] Laws has been received.

The Character which this young Gentleman has sustained, since he has been in the Navy Service justifies expectations of his becoming an Officer of distinction & excites the most favorable dispositions towards him — He doubtless will be advanced as early as he consistently can be — Midshipmen are not promoted by seniority excepting in cases where the Senior midshipman is equal or superior in merit to his junior brother Officers — In judging of the qualifications of Gentlemen in the Navy we are guided by the reports of their Commanding Officers who being eye witnesses of their conduct can in most

respects form a more correct Opinion of their merits than we can — The Commanding Officer sometimes appoints acting Lieutenants from the Corps of midshipmen without reference to any other Consideration than that of their respective merit and the Government but Seldom declines confirming such appointments —

From this View of the subject you will perceive Sir that although M<sup>r</sup> Laws is young on the roll of midshipmen, yet by very distinguished conduct he might be preferred to a Lieutenancy before any of them who may not have been equally distinguished with such encouraging prospects before him he ought not to permit himself to be persuaded by any consideration to abandon a profession, in which he may acquire great character and render essential Service to his Country.

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

To Lieutenant Amasa Lincoln, U. S. Navy, New York, N. Y., from Secretary of the Navy

NAVY DEP<sup>t</sup> 10 April 1805. —

When you were appointed second officer of a gunboat it was not contemplated that the boats would be sent out of this Country. It has since been determined to send them all to the Mediterranean. Your continuance on board of the gunboat where you would have to act with the Navy Officers generally, and many of whom from your appointment would be junior to you in rank altho' senior to you in service, would most probably produce unpleasant consequences. I cannot therefore continue you on board of the gunboat, and as we have no further occasion for your services, you will consider yourself no longer an officer of the Navy. —

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

To Secretary of State from Anthony Terry, U. S. Vice Consul, Cadiz, Spain

AMERICAN CONSULATE

Cadiz 10<sup>th</sup> April 1805.

HONOURED SIR. Referring to what I had the pleasure of addressing you p<sup>t</sup> duplicate on the 3<sup>d</sup> instant; the object of the present is to advise you, that yesterday appear'd off this Port the Toulon Fleet composed of Eleven Ships, Six Frigates & two Brigs with Six thousand Troops on board, and this morning the Spanish Fleet sailed from this Bay composed of Six Ships & a Frigate with two thousand five hundred men, in company of a French 74. a Frigate & a Corvette, their destination unknown.

The English that was cruising off this Port composed of Five Ships a Frigate and a Brig were at Anchor receiving Provisions, but were lucky enough to receive intelligence about two hours before the French appeared & in consequ<sup>ce</sup> made Sail immediately.

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

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

BOSTON Ap<sup>l</sup> 10<sup>th</sup> 1805

SIR While at Philadelphia the Agent of the *Syren* inform<sup>d</sup> me that all the papers captur<sup>d</sup> in the *Scourge* (late the *Transfer*) were deposited in the Navy Office at Washington.

If you should think proper to send them down to Norfolk in order to obtain her condemnation, and an officer present at the capture should be necessary to attend the trial, L<sup>t</sup> Maxwell can inform you what officers of the *Syren* besides himself are now in this Country.

I presume it would be a desirable event that her condemnation should take place, as early as possible, as she could be sold for more money at present than she may probably bring some time hence, the particular circumstances of her capture I have long since detail<sup>d</sup> to you.

[NDA. Captain's LB, Vol. 1, 1805.]

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

U S SHIP *Constellation*  
Malta Harbor 10<sup>th</sup> April 1805

SIR I parted with Capt<sup>a</sup> Rodgers on Friday evening off Tripoli, having in charge a Ketch for that place

My intention was to have recoinoitered Luza & Cape Bon but the appearance of many Vessels about Linosa & Lampedusa deprived me of that Satisfaction; all of which proved to be from different parts of Barbary & Constantinople; the last of them forc'd me to chace, within forty miles of this Island which circumstance aided by unsettled Weather, short allowance of Water & an idea that you were anxious to hear from me, are causes of my returning so soon;

In addition to Capt<sup>a</sup> Rodgers information, I beg leave to remark, that the Bashaw has two Vessels on the Stocks, one rigged a Ketch, the other appears to be intended for a Gun Boat, Likewise by a Vessel that left Tunis on Sunday Morn, I learn that a Tripolitan Corsair was in that road, the same that was there when the *Nautilus* left it; — Our Crew thank God, have recovered from the small Pox, with the loss of one Man *only*; yet still require a few days Attendance, and care; — The *Constellation* makes much Water in bad Weather; the Brass Pipe in her side is very troublesome, & in blowing weather she makes so much water about the Bows and very low down, which has occasion'd one foot water in our cole hold, likewise Storerooms Platforms, & Birth deck very wet

During my stay at Syracuse I wish much to remedy that defect if Possible by lightning the Ship; for which place by your permission I will sail the day after tomorrow provided M<sup>t</sup> Higgins can supply us with sundry articles, that cannot be procured at that place; If you are able to ride out I shall be happy to confer with you at quarantine tomorrow —

[Mrs. James S. Barron original.]

Extract from journal of William Eaton, U. S. Navy Agent for the Barbary Regencies,  
Wednesday, 10 April 1805

Marched ten miles, and at twelve o'clock camped in a beautiful valley between two ridges of desert mountain of calcareous rock and flint stone; — upon one of which we found an excellent cistern of rain water; and in the valley good feed for our horses. The detachment joined us which went off the sixth; but without recovering the horses or overtaking the thieves. — Nothing but rice and water for subsistence and that at half rations. — No intelligence from

Bomba by the courier dispatched thither. — An idea has been insinuated into the mind of the Bashaw that we aim only to use him for the purpose of obtaining a peace with his brother, and that the manner is indifferent with us. He gives place to this apprehension because *He has twice been deceived by Christian powers; and because the English have deceived Elfi Bey*, as he says. — And he permits himself so far to be carried away by the phantom as to fear least we should give him up to the enemy. —

3 o'clock p.m. A general council of war. — An insurmountable reluctance on the part of the Arabs and some of the Bashaw's people to proceed further without intelligence of our vessels induced me to agree to halt and wait for intelligence after two days more march in front. The Bashaw fears desertions in case of approaching Derne without provisions. We have only three days half rations of rice and no other supplies whatever: — and, what renders our situation truly alarming, we can get no information of any vessels having appeared off the coast; as we now plainly perceive their arrival alone will prevent a revolt among our Arabs, who will undoubtedly take any side which will give them the best fare. —

7 o'clock p.m. An officer came to my tent and informed me that a mutiny was organized in the company of canoniers, & that they were about to embody and demand their full ration of provisions before this tent. — I told him to endeavor by gentle means to suppress the mutiny; — and, if he found this method impossible, to caution them on pain of death, not to appear in arms to make any remonstrances with me. At the same time sent for the issuing commissary to be informed of the exact quantity of rice on hand. — I mentioned this disagreeable situation of affairs to no one but Mr OBannon.

Before any thing serious took place, about half past seven in the evening, the courier which had been dispatched to Bomba arrived with intelligence of our vessels being off that place and Derne. — In an instant the face of everything changed from pensive gloom to inthusiastic gladness. — Nothing more heard of the mutiny. — The Arabs resumed confidence: — and the Bashaw promised to force the residue of our march to Bomba. —

9 in the evening. — The Bashaw attacked by spazms and vomiting; continued the greater part of the night.

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

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Extract from journal of Hezekiah Loomis, Steward, U. S. Navy, in U. S. Brig *Vixen*, Master Commandant John Smith, U. S. Navy, commanding, Wednesday, 10 April 1805

Off Tripoli. This day commences with fresh gales. We stood off shore as did likewise the *Constitution*. At half past 3 o'clock P. M. saw a sail to the leeward. We made a signal to the Commodore and then both put about and went in chase. As soon as we came up with her we found her to be an English Brig who escaped the French fleet which she informed was cruising then in those parts.

[L. F. Middlebrook. NDA copy.]

To Sailing Master Humphrey Magrath, U. S. Navy, Charleston, S. C., from Secretary of the Navy

NAVY DEP<sup>t</sup> — 11 April 1805. —

I have received your letter of the 20th ult<sup>o</sup> —

Although it was the opinion of some practical gentlemen that gunboat N<sup>o</sup> 1 might cross the Atlantic, I had my doubts on the Subject, and therefore committed it to your discretion whether to take her to the Mediterranean or not, only governing your determination by your own judgemnt of her fitness for such service. —

To do you justice by giving you an equal opportunity with others to acquire distinction, I have this day ordered Lieu<sup>t</sup> Fanning to take the command of gun boat N<sup>o</sup> 1, so that you can still go to the Mediterranean if Lieu<sup>t</sup> Fanning should not have left Charleston. Should he still be at Charleston, you will deliver up to him gun boat N<sup>o</sup> 1 — and all the Instructions heretofore given to you relative to her employment on the Coast. And if you should have an opportunity of proceeding to New York so as to arrive there by the 1<sup>st</sup> of May next, you may, unless you should prefer going to the Mediterranean in N<sup>o</sup> 9, proceed to that place & report yourself to the Commanding Officer of the frigate *John Adams* — But if you should not have time to get to New York by the first May, you must then go out in N<sup>o</sup> 9. On your arrival in the Mediterranean you will report yourself to the Commodore to whom I have sent a Commission for you and who will deliver it to you upon your passing the usual examination. —

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

To Lieutenant Nathaniel Fanning, U. S. Navy, Charleston, S. C., from Secretary of the Navy

NAVY DEP<sup>t</sup> 11 April 1805. —

Gunboat N<sup>o</sup> 1 — has been reported to me as unfit to cross the Ocean. We shall therefore detain her in this country to perform services similar to those in which she has heretofore been engaged. You will take the command of her and receive from Lieu<sup>t</sup> Magrath the instructions in relation to her services in this Country given to him, and consider them as directed to yourself and execute them accordingly. —

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

To Lieutenant Nathaniel Fanning, U. S. Navy, Charleston, S. C., from Secretary of the Navy

NAVY DEP<sup>t</sup> — 11 April 1805.

From your rigging gunboat N<sup>o</sup> 9 as a Ketch I am fearful that you have only put 1 gun on board of her, otherwise will not the mizen Mast be in the way of the after gun? —

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

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

BARBARY TRIPOLI 11<sup>th</sup> April 1805

Rec<sup>d</sup> 24 Ap<sup>l</sup> 1805

MY DEAR SIR I was much disappointed on the late arrival from Malta (which brought cloathing for our Seamen) not to receive a



line from you, and more particularly so, as I have not had that pleasure since yours of the 28<sup>th</sup> of August last, and the elapse of which period I have written to you many letters — I have assured you, and trust that you believed me sincere, that it would always afford me and my unfortunate companions much pleasure in hearing from you — I do not my dear Col<sup>o</sup> entertain an idea of neglect, we have already experienced too much of your attention — ever to be ungrateful — but I mention it to assure you our anxiety to hear from you. I am sensible that there are many causes, which may operate against our receiving that pleasure, I am not unmindful that the miscarriage of letters may frequently occur, and for that reason I never omit a single opportunity in writing to you, altho my letters are a repetition of the same thing — I have written Comm<sup>r</sup>: Barron very *fully* of our situation &c. which, no doubt, he will shew to you and which I wish you to see

I assure you that prisoners never bore there fate with more fortitude than we do — Altho my letters are not interesting, I hope that you read them *through*

My officers joins in sincere respect & best wishes to M<sup>rs</sup> Lear and yourself

Believe me to be with unfeigned esteem

[Written in lime juice (invisible ink).]

DEAR COL<sup>o</sup> I wrote to you last month on the subject of negotiation and by this present conveyance I write very fully to Commodore Barron which you no doubt will be made acquainted with

I have only to assure you that I think the present moment very favorable for negotiation and I have no doubt of the practibility of effecting peace for 120/M dollars. I refer you for the particulars on the Subject to my letter to Com B and believe me that I have not formed too credulous opinion on the offer

I need not say how happy I shall be to meet you

W B

[Stephen Decatur Col.]

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

BARBARY TRIPOLI 11<sup>th</sup> April 1805

Rec<sup>d</sup> 24 Ap<sup>l</sup> 1805

MY DEAR SIR Since writing and forwarding a letter to you this morning, I have received your much esteemed favor of the 25<sup>th</sup> of March last and noticed its contents. I merely scroll these lines to acknowledge the receipt of it, and to tender you my thanks, for the good wishes, which, you have expressed therein for myself and unfortunate companions

I assure you my dear Col<sup>o</sup> that every Officer under my command bears his fate with the fortitude of an American, and we shall manly face the worse of vicissitudes

I am requested by my Officers to present their grateful remembrance to you, and their sincere respects to M<sup>rs</sup> Lear, to which, I most cordially join my own

[Written in lime juice (invisible ink).]

Your secret communication of the 25<sup>th</sup> of March I have received and am happy to find that you are ready to meet proper overtures from the Bashaw. They have already been forwarded to Com B and the Triplicates goes by this conveyance. I have not the least doubt but that peace can be effected for 120/M thousand dollars. This sum I hope is within the limits of your instructions and when considered paid for the liberty of 200 Citizens in the hands of a Barbary power I trust will not be considered extravagant.

Tripoli will not consider one sou of it as purchasing peace and it will be a long while ere she again goes to war with the U. S. This day the Bashaw has heard the news of the arrival of his Brother in Malta he is greatly enraged and so is all his people. I am certain the event will prove what I have already said that any connection with him will be against our Countrys interest in the arrangment of this affair with this Regency. As the present Bashaw in my opinion will rule in spite of his brother

I refer you to my letter written Com Barron

[Stephen Decatur Col.]

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To Secretary of the Navy from Captain Hugh G. Campbell, U. S. Navy, commanding  
U. S. Frigate *Constellation*

HARBOR OF MALTA

11<sup>th</sup> April 1805

SIR My last respects to you, were from this place, in October last, in which I advised you, of all that concern'd the *Constellation*; I have only to add that since that period, our chief employment has been the Blockade of Tripoli, from which place I arrived here yesterday, after a cruize of seven Weeks, relieved by the *Constitution*; during that time we experienced much bad weather; which has discovered defects in the *Constellation* of a serious nature, nor can they be remedied without heaving down or docking; the latter is preferable if the service would admit of it; but the Services of this Ship cannot be dispensed with; her leaks have increased to a very considerable degree, they are principally about the stem and very low down, aided by the Pipe in her Bilge, that has become very troublesome, & independant of the loss of Copper from her bottom that exposes the Seams, in which I presume, the oakum is not very sound, her upper works may answer, until she returns to America, but her bottom should be well secured, prior to her leaving these Seas; It is not my duty to give you a particular detail of our political affair here, nor do I presume you would think me correct in so doing; I shall only observe that our Commodore is yet very unwell, and unable to take that active part, which Inclination & duty require of him; To that Gentleman I refer you, for particulars, respecting our intended Motions this Summer; at present I see no prospect of the desired success against Tripoli, nor have I since the aid of Gun Boats, were refused, by the Court of Naples; which has left us the only alternative of Battering their Walls, until our Shot & Powder are expended; & then resume our former Station; this you may say is an unfortunate mode of arguing, but this you will find to be the fact; The Town cannot be conquered, without a number of small Vessels, mounting heavy cannon; Instance the French and English Gun Brigs, carrying Six & Eight, eighteen &

twenty four pounders, capable of navigating independant of aid from other Vessels; A few of these Brigs and a couple of Bombs, accompanied by two or three Frigates, would enable us to enter the Harbor at pleasure, & lay the Town under contribution in one hour: — You will doubtless be informed of Eatons peregrination, from Egypt, through Barbary; so do I expect to hear, that himself and followers are all made Prisoners; unless our Vessels arrive at Darne, in time to render him some assistance; should he be so fortunate as to reach that place. —

Intrigue has conquered Italy, Naples is intirely directed by French influence, in so much as to leave the King with little more than a name; and obliged many of its Inhabitants, like the Birds in Autumn, to rove in search of milder climes. — Nor shall I be surprized if the European Wars continue much longer, to find ourselves debarr'd the Privilege of refitting our Squadron in their Ports; I sail tomorrow for Syracuse, when the Ship will undergo a small outfit, thence I presume we shall proceed for Tripoli once more.

NB. M<sup>r</sup> Dennison was removed from the *Constellation* to the *President* in December last at the request of Commodore Barron.

[NDA. Captain's LB, Vol. 1, 1805.]

[11 April 1805]

Form of Oath of Allegiance

STATE OF NEW YORK  
CITY OF NEW YORK ss:

*I, Wolcott Chauncey appointed a Midshipman on board the United States Frigate John Adams do solemnly swear to bear true allegiance to the United States of America, and to serve them honestly and faithfully against all their enemies or opposers whomsoever; and to observe and obey the orders of the President of the United States of America, and the orders of the officers appointed over me, and in all things to conform myself to the rules and regulations which now are or hereafter may be directed, and to the articles of war which may be enacted by Congress, for the better government of the navy of the United States, and that I will support the constitution of the United States.*

SWORN BEFORE ME, the 11<sup>th</sup> day of April 1805.

JOHN W MULLIGAN  
Not<sup>y</sup> Pub<sup>l</sup>

WOLCOTT CHAUNCEY

[NDA. Misc. LB, Vol. 2, 1805.]

Extract from journal of William Eaton, U. S. Navy Agent for the Barbary Regencies,  
Thursday, 11 April 1805

Marched at 6. a. m. gained five miles a head and camped. The Bashaw's indisposition rendered a halt indispensable. No water. Discovered a singular commerce between our soldiers and the Arab women. They exchanged their buttons, which they cut from their clothes, for dates. The women strung them as ornaments about their necks.

6.p.m. The Bashaw recovers.

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

Extract from journal of Midshipman Charles Morris, Jr., U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *President*, Master Commandant George Cox, U. S. Navy, commanding, Thursday, 11 April 1805

11. Weighed and stood out of the Harbour [of Syracuse]—

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

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

NEW YORK 12<sup>th</sup> April 1805

SIR Since I wrote you last I have been honored with your Letters of the 5<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Ins<sup>t</sup>. —

We have received from Philadelphia 14 Men in addition to those that we received on the 4<sup>th</sup> and also received 130 Barrels of Beef 506 Barr<sup>ls</sup> Bread and 1000 Twenty four Pound Shot by the Sloop *President* from Washington; M<sup>r</sup> Beakman also informed me this Day that the Pork had arrived and should be sent alongside immediately.

We progress slowly in recruiting; Good Seamen are difficult to procure and even when entered they give us much trouble in getting and securing them on board.

There has joined the Ship within these few Days Lieut Marsline, Mess<sup>rs</sup> Kearney Keene and Chauncey Midshipmen and Doc<sup>t</sup> M<sup>r</sup> Alister as Surgeon's Mate; there has no Carpenter as yet arrived to join the Ship; we are much in Want of one to take Charge of and receipt for Stores in that Department.

Commodore Preble told me verbally that I might Order the Turkish Prisoners now on board of the *John Adams* some Cloaths (which they stand much in need of) but having received no Instructions from you on that Subject I am at a Loss how to act, and shall wait your Orders

[NDA. MC LB, 1804-5.]

To Midshipman F. Cornelius deKraft, U. S. Navy, Washington, D. C., from Secretary of the Navy

NAV DEP<sup>t</sup> April 12, 1805 —

You have permission to make a voyage to Europe. You will inform me when you sail from the United States and will report yourself to this office immediately on your return. You will be on half pay into [until] called into actual service. —

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

To Sailing Master Nathaniel Haraden, U. S. Navy, commanding Gunboat No. 8 from Secretary of the Navy

NAVY DEP<sup>t</sup> 12 April 1805.

I have rec<sup>d</sup> your letter of the 2nd instant. —

Fix the Rudder as you please but be careful that you don't fix it so as to unship too easily. If the gunboat should ever touch, the effect of dropping the Rudder 2 feet below the Keel, inevitably must be, that it will be unshipped and probably materially injured. It may possibly answer a good purpose while you are crossing the Ocean to fix the Rudder as you propose, but it would not answer before Tripoli. You probably can have it fixed so as to admit of its being raised or lowered at pleasure.

What can be the reason that the gunboat at Boston is so far behind every other? Let double — or if possible quadruple the number of workmen be employed — She must sail by the 1 May. —

Should you find it impracticable to enter the men on the terms prescribed in my letter of Recruiting Instructions, you may encrease the bounty to any sum not exceeding 20 Dollars each man. —

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

To Captain Samuel Barron, U. S. Navy, from Captain William Bainbridge, U. S. Navy

Copy

BARBARY TRIPOLI 12<sup>th</sup> Ap. 1805.

DEAR SIR, I enclose you an extract of a letter which I have this day received from Sidi Mehomet Dhguis Minister of Foreign Affairs to His Excellency the Bashaw of Tripoli.

Extract

"The Bashaw is informed by a Courier that arrived yesterday from Tunis, "that his brother Sidi Hamed is with the American Squadron, in consequence thereof, he has manifested his particular resentment"

"The Bashaw has said, that as long as the war was a war between America and him, it was a war of interest, that easily might be brought to a conclusion by a lesser or greater sacrifice upon one side or the other, but now "it was a war directed against his personal safety, the view of which was "his dethronation, He w<sup>d</sup> therefore act in a manner that the feelings of "the U. States sh<sup>d</sup> be hurt in the most tender part, it was in his power to "hurt them (meaning the prisoners)"

"The Minister desires you to mention these things to the Commodore, "and particularly to represent to him the difficulties which attend any "negociations when Sidi Hammed is interested." —

The foregoing, Dear Sir, is an exact extract, and it is unnecessary for one to make any remarks, as your own mind will make every reflection which it w<sup>d</sup> be proper for me to suggest.

If you sh<sup>d</sup> answer the letters which you will receive from hence on a *certain subject*, I wish you not to mention the *subject* on which they treat

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

[Stephen Decatur Col.]

Extract from journal of Surgeon Jonathan Cowdery, U. S. Navy, 12 April 1805

The Bashaw received an unfavourable letter from his agent at Malta, concerning the armament of the Americans. The Spanish consul presented the Bashaw three hundred stand of arms and a number of pistols, and, it is said, advised him to keep up the war, and force the Americans to pay his demand. It was concluded that the Bashaw's women and children should stay at the castle during the summer. They said that if they must be taken, they would rather fall into the hands of the Americans than the Arabs.

[LC. Rare Books, *American Captives in Tripoli or Dr. Cowdery's Journal*, Boston, 1806.]

Extract from journal of William Eaton, U. S. Navy Agent for the Barbary Regencies, Friday, 12 April 1805

Marched twenty five miles; the first part of the day in the continuation of the valley mentioned the tenth; — but camped on an eminence

where there was neither water nor fuel. The residue of our rice issued today; but the troops were obliged to eat it without cooking. — Such of the Arab tribes as moved with their families camped five miles in the rear; being unable to come up, exhausted by fatigue and hunger.

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

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Extract from journal of Midshipman Charles Morris, Jr., U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *President*, Master Commandant George Cox, U. S. Navy, commanding, Friday, 12 April 1805

6. A. M Cape Porcase bore N W B N and Mount Etna North

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

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To Secretary of the Navy from John McCauley, Philadelphia, Pa.

PHILAD<sup>a</sup> April 13<sup>th</sup> 1805

SIR In order to support the claim of the Captors against the Brig *Transfer* it will be necessary to have the evidence of L<sup>t</sup> Jo<sup>s</sup> J. Maxwell Prize Master & now on duty at New York on Board the *Adams* Frigate — & this cannot be had without your permission — I should be glad to know wether he may or cannot attend the Trial — If he cannot: any proceeding on my part will be useless —

JOHN M<sup>c</sup>CAULEY

Ag<sup>t</sup> for the Captors.

P, S. — The papers have been rec<sup>d</sup> belonging & taken on Board the *Transfer* —

[NDA. Officers LB, 1802-1805.]

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General Orders issued by Captain Samuel Barron, U. S. Navy

MALTA 13 April 1805

*General Orders to the Officers Comm<sup>s</sup> the several Vessels of War of the Squadron of the U. States of America*

Whenever you arrive within view of the Signal Tower upon the Palace in the Harbour of Vallette in the Island of Malta, you are directed to hoist a chequered flag at the Main or where it will appear most conspicuous, which will be answered by a red flag with a white Cross — You will then hoist your distinguishing number and Keep it flying for a few Minutes. —

Sig<sup>d</sup> SAM<sup>l</sup> BARRON

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

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To Captain Samuel Barron, U. S. Navy, Malta, from George Davis, U. S. Chargé d'Affaires, Tunis

N<sup>o</sup> 8

TUNIS April 13<sup>th</sup> 1805

DEAR SIR I had this honor, on the 19<sup>th</sup> Ult: (which was forwarded, by the U: S: Schooner *Nautilus*) since when all has remained as silent as the grave — nothing from Tripoli except one letter for yourself which I have now the pleasure to enclose you —

on the 17<sup>th</sup> Ult: an attempt was made to assassinate the Dey of Algiers, the particulars of which, and whatever else can interest you

relative to that Regency; I presume are detailed to Col. Lear, in the letter which I this day forward him from that quarter —

Several sail of Men of War are now in sight; Supposed to be the Neapolitan Squadron — I leave this letter open to add, whatever may occur —

April 15<sup>th</sup>

M<sup>r</sup> Dennison<sup>s</sup> favour of the 29<sup>th</sup> Ult: accuring the receipt of my last, has this moment been handed me — the Squadron which anchored on the evening of the 13<sup>th</sup> under english colours proves to be the Neapolitans, they shew,d their flag yesterday morning; — two Frigates were under way almost all the day, (without attempting any thing) the Ship of the line remained at anchor, and a small Galleot, has been sounding the harbour — the Squadron are all at anchor to day, (except the Galleote which stood out of the Bay yesterday) to wit, one Ship of the line, two Frigates and a Corvette — there object is unknown; report says, an additional force is hourly expected, and there intention is to attach the Goeletta; preparations have been made for a vigorous defence — as the Vessel by which this communication, is forwarded gets under way immediately, I am compell,d to close my letter without adding, any thing but my best wishes for your speedy recovery —

[Mrs. James S. Barron original.]

To Captain Samuel Barron, U. S. Navy, from Master Commandant Thomas Robinson, Jr., U. S. Navy

VENICE April 13, 1805

SIR On Sunday last the Schooner was launch'd in very great stile indeed, they are certainly compleat here at the business of hauling up & launching. —

I shall be ready to execute Capt. Barrons Orders on the first of May & sooner if urg'd by him. — I have almost compleated the Machinery for a 24 Pounder on the Schooners Deck, having experienced the inactive situation this description of Vessell was in last Summer, I calculated her Hatches and Beems amidship for this mode of armament, the Machenery is all carried in the Hold & if when you see the *Enterprize* if you do not approve of her carrying a heavy piece, its easily applied to another Vessel that you may judge better calculated, I wou'd not make it a fixture without your approbation, but I am certain she can carry it in almost any Sea, & if so what a nice tickler she will be for nightwork on Tripoly, & altho her seranades may not be so agreable as from the Guitar to a Turk, they no doubt will generally have as respectable an audience. —

Cap. Barron has been riding out continual Gales of Wind, ever since his Arrival at Trieste, he has wrote you no doubt, which makes it unnecessary, (& perhaps improper) for me to say a word on the subject of his Visit here — I have seen him at Trieste, & since that wrote him, he means to be over here when the weather settles

What a pity I did not know a few things earlyer. I cou'd have paved the way for the completion of all your wants, yet with management, every thing can be obtain'd but M<sup>r</sup>s & they might if time wou'd allow. — a *Tripoline* Ambassador has arrived since the Schooner, to the Imperial Court. —

With sincere wishes for a restoration of your health —

[Mrs. James S. Barron Col.]

To Captain James Barron, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. *Essex*, from Master Commandant Thomas Robinson, Jr., U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. Schooner *Enterprise*

Copy

VENICE 13<sup>th</sup> April 1805

D<sup>r</sup> SIR I wrote to you twice since my return to this place, no answer, you certainly got one, and why not answer? I am doing nothing but at the Schooner — she was launched in very handsome style on Sunday last.— I wish to God you would either come here or give me orders, say the word one way or the other — very fine *Articles* in Venice for carrying *Stores* to the Squadron, and plenty of *Stores* they can be put in order at a small expence & with expedition.

[NDA. Captain's LB, Vol. 1, 1805.]

[13 April 1805]

To Captain Samuel Barron, U. S. Navy, from Midshipman Charles L. Ridgely, U. S. Navy

SIR From the information received this evening from Capt<sup>n</sup> Dent that you are only waiting for a demand from the Neapolitan government for me and then will give me up is the cause of my now writing you.

Had I supposed that the business would have been carried so far I should not have hesitated in giving myself up but thought I would wait your opinion on my arrival at Syracuse from Messina relying on your judgment and not wishing to be too premature if you had then told me the propriety of giving myself up I certainly should have done it but on the contrary your not thinking it proper at that time led me to suppose that by my returning to America the thing would have been entirely hushed up As the business has gone so far as to place you in disagreeable circumstances I am very willing to give myself up for trial at Messina, (provided you think proper) feeling perfectly conscious that I never committed a Crime in my life that could cause me the least uneasiness that I am innocent of the death of that man I am convinced within myself and hope to be able to convince every person so, but allowing that I was the cause, from having some gentlemen to dine with me I drank too freely of wines and cordials as to make me in an entire state of inebriety And never did I know that I had injured the man in the least untill I was informed of it next morning by Capt<sup>n</sup> Dent his informing me that the man was stabbed by an American officer. M<sup>r</sup> Reed and myself being together that night on shore and his not having side arms with him made me conclude if he was injured by one of us it must been me. I beg leave to mention to you that spirituous liquors I scarcely ever drink have been intoxicated but seldom during my life and then being in a party of young men where I was necessitated

M<sup>r</sup> Reed who was with me all the evening, and was with me when the accident happened did not himself know I had injured him, untill he was informed of it the next morning and he says he recollects every thing that took place that evening

As for myself I feel not the least fear from any punishment they can inflict my Conscience being perfectly easy that I am innocent of any thing criminal. but my Mother My Brothers and Sisters and my relations in general tis for them I feel knowing what great distress it will cause them when they hear what has happened me, but Sir



as the business has gone so far I am very willing to come forward for trial to re-establish my character (as I am now convinced that it must be injured from the cause of my accusation) and hope Sir you will make use of every influence in your power in my behalf.

When I saw the man that evening he was surrounded by ten or twelve Men two of whom had him by the Collar and seeing him in a mob and hearing him speak English led me to suppose (as I remarked to M<sup>r</sup> Reed) that he either was an American or an Englishman in a scuffle with those Sicilians and went up for the purpose of rescuing him which I did and then let him go after talking with the man at least ten minutes and so far from supposing that I injured him thought on the contrary I had been of service to him in getting him out of the hands of those fellows but next morning was informed the man was dead and those very fellows who I drove from him had taken their oaths that I killed him.

I have stated to you Sir every thing that happened and wait entirely your commands

I have the honor to be with deference Your Obed<sup>t</sup> Serv<sup>t</sup>

CHA<sup>s</sup> L RIDGELY

SAMUEL BARRON Esq<sup>r</sup>  
*Malta April 13<sup>th</sup> 1805*

[Midshipman Ridgely first appeared in Navy records as Charles Ridgely Goodwin, then as Charles Goodwin Ridgely and finally signed himself as Charles L. Ridgely.]

[Mrs. James S. Barron Col.]

Extract from journal of Surgeon Jonathan Cowdery, U. S. Navy, from 13 to 16 April 1805

The Bashaw declared, that if the Americans drove him to extremities, or attacked his town, he would put every American prisoner to death.

[LC. Rare Books, *American Captives in Tripoli or Dr. Cowdery's Journal*, Boston, 1806.]

Extract from journal of William Eaton, U. S. Navy Agent for the Barbary Regencies, Saturday, 13 April 1805

Marched seven and a half miles. — Hunger and fatigue rendered the foot soldiers and Bedouin families unable to pursue the march. The Bashaw killed and issued one of his camels of burthen and exchanged another with the Arabs for sheep; which, together gave a full ration to our troops, but they were without bread or salt.

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

Extract from journal of William Eaton, U. S. Navy Agent for the Barbary Regencies, Sunday, 14 April 1805

Marched fifteen miles. — Camped in a pleasant valley of rich strong land, but totally uncultivated. Good and abundance of feed for our horses, and sundry cisterns excavated in the ridges on the borders of the valley contained excellent rain water; but we were totally destitute of provisions. — Near these cisterns and in the valleys

are ruins of ancient architecture and visible marks of former cultivation; but now all is waste.

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

Extract from journal of Midshipmen Charles Morris, Jr., U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *President*, Master Commandant George Cox, U. S. Navy, commanding, Sunday, 14 April 1805

1 Came to anchor in the harbor of Valette in 9 fathoms Water.  
4. Warped the Ship up the harbour and Moored with half a Cable each way —

10 Men unfit for duty. —

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

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

NAV DEP<sup>t</sup> Ap<sup>l</sup> 15. 1805

You will by the Bill of lading of the Cargo of the ship *Ann* perceive that the amount of the Freight is to be paid at the place where the cargo shall be landed

If therefore the Cargo of the *Ann* should be landed at Gibraltar you will pay the Freight either by drawing on Mess<sup>rs</sup> Ja<sup>s</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Kenzie & A. Glennie London, or Mess<sup>rs</sup> Degen & Purviance Leghorn, determining by the rate of Exchange the place on which you shall draw so as to make the negotiation the most favorable to the United States

I enclose a letter to Mess<sup>rs</sup> James M<sup>c</sup>Kenzie & A Glennie — also a letter to Mess<sup>rs</sup> Degen & Purviance, requesting them to honor your draft for the freight of the *Ann* — you will forward or destroy one or both of these letters according to the arrangements you may make relatively to the freight of the *Ann* should her Cargo be landed at Gibraltar

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

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

MALTA 15 April 1805

SIR, I have directed Cap<sup>t</sup> George Cox to proceed with the U. States Ship *President* under his command to the Coast of Tripoli, and on falling in with the *Constitution* to place himself in all respects under your command —

You will please to furnish him with your Instructions for his Cruize — Capt<sup>n</sup> Smith in the *Vixen* will come into Port whenever you think proper to give him your Orders to that effect —

In regard to the term of your own Cruize, I leave it, as well as the general Dispositions on the Station entirely to your Discretion, observing only that in consequence of some recent occurrences here, which Cap<sup>t</sup> Cox can explain, it will be advisable for you to remain outside of this Harbour provided the Weather be favourable and to send a Boat to the Quar<sup>n</sup> Ground for Instructions. In the event of my leaving this Island for Sicily previous to your return of which I have some expectation, a Letter will be left for you with the Consul —

I had the pleasure to receive your favour of the 6 Ins<sup>t</sup> by the *Constellation* — That Vessel is gone to Syracuse for the purpose of

placing some of her sick in the Hospital, & examining into the state of the Leak — As soon as she is again ready for Sea, she will be dispatched to strengthen the blockading force. — Since your departure I have received no advices from the Barbary Coast — A Letter from Consul Simpson at Tangier dated 30 March, mentions that affairs with Morocco remain in the same situation as at the date of his former Commu<sup>s</sup> —

The Powder is just arrived from Gibraltar — the quantity 86 Bls I have made arrangements for procuring a further supply. —

Should Cap<sup>t</sup> Smith not have left the Station, you will please to furnish him with a Copy of the enclosed General Orders [See 13 April 1805]. —

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

To Master Commandant John H. Dent, U. S. Navy, from Captain Samuel Barron,  
U. S. Navy

MALTA 15 April 1805.

SIR! The U. S. schooner under your Command having been reported to me in readiness for Sea, you are hereby directed to proceed immediately for Derne, & endeavor to ascertain whether the Ex-Bashaw and his Army have obtain'd possession of that place; if they have you will I conceive find no difficulty in establishing an immediate intercourse with them — In the contrary case you will shape your Course (keeping as close to the Shore as may be consistent with safety) for Bomba, where according to M<sup>r</sup> Eaton's calculations, I think it most probable that you will obtain information of him — As soon as you have established a safe & certain Communication, You will deliver to M<sup>r</sup> Eaton the two Field pieces which you have on board with the powder & Ammunition, taking his Receipts for the same. As I do not anticipate any thing which will require your remaining on the Coast after having delivered these Stores, you are directed to return to this place with all possible Expedition, bringing with you the most particular information you can collect from M<sup>r</sup> Eaton with regard to his actual Situation & prospects — I think it proper to suggest the necessity of your being on your guard against any false display of Amity on the Coast, & not to confide in appearances until you are well convinced of their fidelity —

[NA. Sen. 9 B-B 6, Pres. Message, Jan. 1806.]

To William Eaton, U. S. Navy Agent for the Barbary Regencies, from Captain Samuel Barron, U. S. Navy

MALTA 15. April 1805

SIR, I had the honor of addressing you very fully on the 22<sup>d</sup> ultimo by Captain Hull, since when I have received no advices from the Barbary Coast — It was not till the 12<sup>th</sup> instant that the *Congress* arrived here from Messina with the field artillery which Capt: Decatur experienced considerable delay and difficulty in procuring — It was my intention to have sent that frigate to the coast, but from making particular enquiry of a Pilot well acquainted in that quarter I find that the impracticability of approaching the shore with heavy ships renders the communication extremely uncertain and difficult, I have

therefore thought it prudent to waive my original intention and to dispatch the *Nautilus* Schooner whose light draft of water will enable her to approach the coast with greater safety and advantage — Captain Dent shapes his course for Bomba where I calculate on his finding you with the Bashaw and his army, and where I hope he will meet with little difficulty in establishing an intercourse — He has on board his schooner two brass field pieces with trains, powder, shot & complete, which he is directed to deliver into your possession. I hope they will reach you safe and have no doubt but they will be extremely serviceable in the progress of your operations —

Nothing material has occurred since Capt: Hull's Departure — The *President* frigate sailed this day to reinforce the ships off Tripoli, which harbor remains closely blockaded — Captain Dent is instructed after delivering the artillery and stores to return immediately to this port with dispatches from you — You will readily imagine my anxiety and impatience to hear of your proceedings and prospects —

[NA. Sen. 9 B-B 6, Pres. Message, Jan. 1806.]

Extract from journal of William Eaton, U. S. Navy Agent for the Barbary Regencies, 15 to 22 April 1805

*April 15.* Marched at 7 in the morning. — Our people this day scattered throughout all the plains in search of roots and vegetable substances to appease the cravings of hunger. — A species of wild fennel and sorrel which we found in the small ravines contributed something to our support — At four o'clock p. m. we reached Bomba. — But what was my astonishment to find at this celebrated port not the foot trace of a human being, nor a drop of water. — And what my mortification to find no vessels here. — We had this day taken up three Arabs who gave me positive declarations that they had seen two vessels in the Bay a few days before, and very well described the brig *Argus*, Capt<sup>l</sup> Hull; but they were gone, and I concluded had left the coast in despair of our arrival. — Nothing could prevail on our Arabs to believe that any had been there. They abused us as imposters and infidels; — and said we had drawn them into that situation with treacherous views. — All began now to think of the means of individual safety: — and the Arabs came to a resolution to separate from us the next morning. — I recommended an attempt to get into Derne. — This was thought impracticable. I went off with my Christians and kept up fires upon a high mountain in our rear all night. — At eight the next morning, at the instant when our camp was about breaking up, the Bashaw's casnadar, Zaid, who had ascended the mountain for a last look out, discovered *a sail!* It was the *Argus*. — Captain Hull had seen our smokes, and stood in. — Language is too poor to paint the joy and exultation which this messenger of life excited in every breast. — I went on board at twelve o'clock; — the camp in the mean time moved five or six miles round the bay to a cistern of water, and at six in the afternoon provisions were sent off to them. I remained on board all night.

*On the 17<sup>th</sup>* eleven in the morning the sloop *Hornet* arrived, laden with provisions. — The quarter of the bay where the vessels fell in with us being inconvenient for landing; — *On the 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup>* I continued the march round the bay, twenty two miles, where we

found an inexhaustable cistern of water and a good harbour and landing. —

The 20<sup>th</sup> 21 & 22<sup>d</sup> we remained on this ground: — refreshed our famished army; — and took out of the *Hornet* the necessary provisions to carry us to Derne.

[H. E. Huntington L&AG.]

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Extract from journal of Hezekiah Loomis, Steward, U. S. Navy, in U. S. Brig *Vixen*, Master Commandant John Smith, U. S. Navy, commanding, Monday, 15 April 1805

[Tripoli] This day commences pleasant with a fresh breeze the wind being off shore, we beat toward the land until 5 o'clock P. M. when we saw a small sail. We gave chase, and at half past 5 sent our boat with Lt. Crane and 6 hands to board her, which they did and brought her alongside, and sent her Captain on board and 4 men which was all their crew. They said they were Tunisians and had a letter to the commanding officer of the Blockade. Capt. Ro[d]gers sent for Capt. Smith and the Turkish captain on board the *Constitution* where they remained till late in the evening. We kept their boat in tow all night.

[L. F. Middlebrook. NDA copy.]

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

NAV DEP<sup>t</sup> 16 April 1805.

I have rec<sup>d</sup> your letter of the 12<sup>th</sup> ins<sup>t</sup> — You will appoint a Carpenter and if worthy give me his name and I will send you a warrant for him.

Your letter contained the first information I have rec<sup>d</sup> relative to the wants of the Prisoners — They must not suffer; have them therefore supplied with such necessary Clothing as they may need. —

If Cap<sup>t</sup> Shaw should have relieved you in the command of the *J. Adams*, you may transfer this Letter to him which he will then consider as directed to himself, and act accordingly.

P.S. I presume the Prisoners will be sent back to the Mediterranean — though this point is not yet determined. They ought in the mean time to be kept on board of the Ship. —

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

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

NEW YORK 16<sup>th</sup> April 1805

SIR Captain Shaw arrived here Yesterday and assumes the Command of the *John Adams*, this Day at 12 o'Clock.

I will forward to you as soon as they can be copied a Muster Roll of the People as mustered to Day, and Copies of the Indents together with Captain Shaw's receipts

[NDA. MC LB, 1804-5.]

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

NAV DEP<sup>t</sup> 16 April 1805.

You will receive herewith duplicates of my letters to you of the 27th ult<sup>o</sup> and 3rd Instant. —

Upon enquiry it has been found that Gunboat N<sup>o</sup> 1 cannot safely cross the ocean — you will not therefore expect her. The other gunboats will sail about the time mentioned to you in my letter of the 7<sup>th</sup> ult<sup>o</sup>. The *John Adams* will sail early in May next. It is probable that each of the gun boats will carry out 15 able seamen instead of 10 as mentioned in my letter to you of the 27th ult<sup>o</sup> — By the *John Adams* you may calculate on receiving 500 Men. —

Lieu<sup>t</sup> Leonard has resigned. You will therefore destroy the Commission given to you for him. Lieu<sup>t</sup> Bardin has also resigned; a Commission will not therefore be sent to you for him. —

This letter will be delivered to you by Cap<sup>t</sup> Smith of the Provision Ship *The Ann*. The Provision Ship from this place will sail about the 1<sup>st</sup> May next, or very soon after and among other things will bring you 100 barrels of powder. —

By the *Ann* Cap<sup>t</sup> Smith from Balt<sup>o</sup> —

[NDA. LB, 1799-1807.]

To Captain Stephen Decatur, Jr., U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. Frigate *Congress*,  
from Captain Samuel Barron, U. S. Navy

MALTA 16<sup>th</sup> April 1805

SIR As soon as the United States Frigate under your command is ready for sea, you are directed to proceed to Messina on the particular Service which has been fully explained to you and which as we are perfectly understood, it is not necessary to detail here, having put that business in a proper train and given me the requisite information you will prosecute your Voyage with all due expedition to Leghorn, — The enclosed letter to our Navy Agents Mess<sup>rs</sup> Degen and Purviance at that place which is left open for your persual, will acquaint you with the several objects of your Mission which with the assistance and co-operation of those Gentlemen will I trust be accomplished without difficulty or delay, — As soon as you have completed this service you will return to Syracuse where a Letter of instructions will meet you, in case any thing should occur to prevent my executing my present intention of going to Sicily towards the close of this month, —

Mess<sup>rs</sup> Degen & Purviance are instructed to require Of you the necessary Receipts & vouchers for such advances as they may make on account of the Navy department of the United States which you are hereby authorized & directed to give, — as we have every reason to suppose that two of the enemys Corsairs are out you are enjoined to bring to and strictly to examine all suspicious vessels you may meet on your Voyage, — Should you be so fortunate as to fall in with the Tripolines, you will not be at a loss in what manner to proceed, but I recommend your being extremely guarded with respect to Neutrals & by no means to detain any Vessels of this description unless there shall appear upon strict examination of papers and circumstances to be very strong and substantial grounds for suspicion When opportunity offers I beg to be informed of your movements & with my best wishes for your safety subscribe my self most Sincerely —

[HS of Pa.]

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

U. STATES FRIGATE *Constitution*  
off Tripoli Ap<sup>l</sup> 16 [possibly 18]. 1805

SIR The Enclosed Letters from Cap<sup>t</sup> Bainbridge and M<sup>r</sup> Nissen, Danish Consul (which I hope I have not acted incorrectly in opening, & extracting the invisible substance of *those of that class*) I rec'd on the 16<sup>th</sup> Ins<sup>t</sup> by an express boat from Jer[bi] by orders of Ben Unis hadge Unis, the Bey of Tunis's commercial Agent; for the particulars of which I refer you to Cap<sup>t</sup> Smith; who in consequence of his provisions & Water being nearly expended; I have sent into port — By the dispatch Boat I find that the 12 Gun cruizer that was so long in Tunis Bay, & mentioned in M<sup>r</sup> Davis's Letter to you of the 8<sup>th</sup> Ult<sup>o</sup>, as then fitting out, arrived about the 27<sup>th</sup> of last month at Jerbi, where she was Immediately dismantled & her crew sent to Tripoli —

The Ins<sup>t</sup> the *President* joined me I dispatched the *Vixen* into port; but her Water & provisions being nearly expended, The information I received of the 12 Gun Tripoline Cruizers being dismantled at Jerbi, and the probable importance of your receiving the enclosed Letters *early*; Induced me to send her direct to Malta — nothing has transpired worth committing to paper, since I last left Malta, farther than what Capt<sup>n</sup> Smith will be able to acquaint you of — The Ketch *Eliza* is still at Tripoli —

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

To Captain Samuel Barron, U. S. Navy, from Master Commandant John H. Dent,  
U. S. Navy

*Nautilus April 16<sup>th</sup> 1805*

SIR The enclosed is the original Demand from the Governor of Messina — I am extremely sorry I could not git away last evening, the pilot that I engaged could not be found untill Sun Set, and then it was impossible he could go untill this morning, the necessity of my having a pilot for the coast I am going on induced me to wait untill morning —

[Mrs. James S. Barron Col.]

Extract from journal of Midshipman Charles Morris, Jr., U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *President*, Master Commandant George Cox, U. S. Navy, commanding, Tuesday, 16 April 1805

4 Unmoored Ship—6½ Weighed and sailed—10 The light house bore W S W 2 leagues

Midnight—Hazy with light airs.

8. The South End of Malta bore W B S. 5 or 6 Leagues distant 9. Carried away the Main top mast Tressel trees. Sent down the Royals Masts & Yards and M<sup>o</sup> Top Gallant Masts & Y<sup>o</sup>

Noon the N E. point of Malta bore N ½ W. 22 miles the S W point N W ½ N and the Island of Folsona N W.

Latitude Observed 35° 40' N.

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

Extract from journal of Hezekiah Loomis, Steward, U. S. Navy, in U. S. Brig *Vixen*, Master Commandant John Smith, U. S. Navy, commanding, Tuesday, 16 April 1805

Off Tripoli. At 4 o'clock P. M. We cast off the Turkish boat. She steered for Tunis.

[L. F. Middlebrook. NDA copy.]

To George Harrison, Navy Agent and Superintendent of Navy Yards, Philadelphia Pa., from Secretary of the Navy

NAV DEP<sup>t</sup> 17 April 1805. —

I have this day sent to the Commander of gunboat N<sup>o</sup> 3 — his sailing instructions. He is directed if you should so instruct him, to proceed first to New York there to join gunboats N<sup>o</sup> 6 & 7 — thence to proceed to sea. But if you should not instruct him to go to N — York he is to proceed immediately to Boston to join N<sup>o</sup> 8. —

To enable you to determine whether it will be in the power of gunboat N<sup>o</sup> 3 to reach N York before gun boats N<sup>o</sup> 6 and 7 — shall have sailed, I have directed the Navy Agent at New York to write to you 4 days before they shall be ready to sail, and also the moment they shall weigh Anchor. —

If gun boat N<sup>o</sup> 3 — can reach New York in time to join N<sup>o</sup> 6 and 7 — at that place, you will order the Commander of N<sup>o</sup> 3 — to proceed thither immediately and send me a copy of such order; but if she shall not be able to join them in time, then her Commander must, agreeably to his Instructions, proceed with her immediately to Boston to join N<sup>o</sup> 8. —

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

To Lieutenant Joseph J. Maxwell, U. S. Navy, commanding Gunboat No. 3, from Secretary of the Navy

NAV: DEP<sup>t</sup> 17 April 1805. —

As soon as gunboat N<sup>o</sup> 3 shall be prepared for sea you will proceed if directed by George Harrison esq<sup>r</sup> Navy Agent at Phila<sup>a</sup> to New York and there join gunboats N<sup>o</sup> 5 & 7 — with which boats you are to proceed to Sea. But if George Harrison esq<sup>r</sup> should not direct you to proceed to New York, or if after his directing you to proceed to New York you should proceed to that place and find that gunboats N<sup>o</sup> 6 & 7 have sailed, you will then proceed to Boston and thence in company with gunboat N<sup>o</sup> 8 to Gibraltar; and if on your arrival at Boston you should find that gunboat N<sup>o</sup> 8 has sailed, you will then proceed alone to Gibraltar, and on your arrival at Gibraltar you will lose no time in mounting your guns and as soon as they shall be mounted you will proceed aloft and report yourself to the Commodore of the American Squadron in the Mediterranean. —

I enclose you instructions authorizing & directing you to subdue, seize, and make prize of all vessels, goods, and effects belonging to the Bashaw of Tripoli or to his subjects and to bring or send the same into Port to be proceeded against & distributed according to Law. These Instructions you will deliver up to the Commodore as soon as you shall join him. —

It is all important that the gunboats shall join the Squadron in the Mediterranean as soon as possible. Lose therefore not a moment.



I persuade myself that trifling difficulties will not subdue your zeal or create any delay. —

[NDA. Off. Cong. Gunboats, 1803–1808.]

To Midshipman Ralph Izard Jr., and Lieutenant Samuel Elbert, U. S. Navy, from Secretary of the Navy

NAVY DEP<sup>t</sup> 17 April 1805. —

Lieu<sup>t</sup> IZARD — of N<sup>o</sup> 2. &

Lieu<sup>t</sup> ELBERT — N<sup>o</sup> 9

Charleston S. C.

To Sail in Company.—

As soon as gunboat N<sup>o</sup> — shall be prepared for sea you will proceed to Gibraltar in company with gunboat N<sup>o</sup> — . On your arrival at Gibraltar you will lose no time in mounting your guns, and as soon as they shall be mounted you will proceed aloft and report yourself to the Commodore of the American Squadron in the Mediterranean. —

I enclose instructions authorizing & directing you to subdue, seize, and make prize of all vessels, goods and effects belonging to the Bashaw of Tripoli or to his subjects, and to bring or send the same into port to be proceeded against and distributed according to Law. These Instructions you will deliver up to the Commodore as soon as you shall join him.

It is all important that the gunboats shall join the Squadron in the Mediterranean as soon as possible. Lose therefore not a moment. I persuade myself that trifling difficulties will not subdue your Zeal or create any delay.

[Similar letters dated 17 April. 1805 were sent to:

Lieutenant J. D. Henley of Gunboat No. 4 (Norfolk) to sail in company with Nos. 5 (Lt. Harrison) and 10 (Lt. Cartee):

Lieutenant James Lawrence No. 6 } to sail in company:

Lieutenant Peter S. Ogilvie " 7 }

Lieutenant N. Hariden No. 8 in company with No. 3.]

[NDA. Off. Cong. Gunboats, 1803–1808.]

To Master Commandant John Shaw, U. S. Navy, U. S. S. *John Adams*, from Secretary of the Navy

NAV DEP<sup>t</sup> 17 April 1805. —

You may give D<sup>r</sup> Pascalis a passage to the Mediterranean on board of the Frigate *John Adams*. He will lay in his own stores. He has made an offer of his professional services on the passage as a compensation for this privilege, but I cannot allow you to touch at any port for his accommodation, not mentioned in your instructions. —

[NDA. OSW, Vol. 6, 1802–1805.]

To Samuel Brown, Navy Agent, Boston, Mass., from Secretary of the Navy

NAV DEP<sup>t</sup> 17. Ap<sup>l</sup> 1805

Sir Alex<sup>r</sup> Ball Governor of Malta having manifested the most friendly dispositions towards us by numerous acts which have materially facilitated the operations of our Squadron in the Mediterranean— I have at the Suggestion of Com<sup>rs</sup> Preble authorised him to purchase two fishing smacks, to be sent out to Malta with provisions for our Squadron, & there delivered up to Sir Alex<sup>r</sup> Ball at their Original

Cost in this Country a measure which I understand will be very acceptable to Sir Alex<sup>r</sup> Ball —

Com<sup>re</sup> Preble has stated their probable cost at \$3000, which sum I this day remit to you for the purpose of paying for them — I also send you the further Sum of \$2000 to be applied upon the requisition of Commodore Preble to the Outfits of the Smacks — You will furnish all the articles which Commodore Preble may require of you — We have a large Quantity of Beef at Hartford Connecticut to which place the Smacks are to proceed for their Cargoes — but the necessary Stores for the consumption of the Crews you will furnish —

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

To Tobias Lear, U. S. Consul General, Algiers, from Captain John Rodgers,  
U. S. Navy

U. S. FRIGATE *Constitution*  
off Tripoli April 17<sup>th</sup> 1805

DEAR SIR By the *Vixen* I have sent Commodore Barron Letters (which I received via Jerbi) from Capt<sup>n</sup> Bainbridge and M<sup>r</sup> Nissen, Danish Consul, (of a late date) on the subject of peace! And altho it evidently appears, by Sidi Mahamed the Bashaws minister's *Apogogical* language, that the Bashaw is desirous of a conciliation; — yet I do not believe he will accede to what *you* will consider equal Terms, until he is more sensible of our Force, and demonstratively convinc'd of our capacity to use it — Not knowing what communications you may receive by the Ketch (which altho still at Tripoli; I have been expecting out every Day, for these ten days past); permit me to say to you, that I cannot discover their strength is in any way augmented, since I was here last; and that I feel more than ever *Confident*, our present force, with an addition of two Mortars & two Gun Boats, will enable us to give you the opportunity of negotiating a Peace perfectly to your Wishes —

If the attack is made within Six Weeks, *under proper regulations*; I will pledge all that's sacred and dear to me in this World! That we succeed in the most perfect, handsome & honorable manner. —

Pray present my most respectful compliments to M<sup>rs</sup> Lear and believe I am with unalterable regard & Esteem

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

To Captain Samuel Barron, U. S. Navy, from Richard Farquhar

SYRACUSE April 17 [18]05

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY, I saild from Alexandria on the 13 March but having had bad wether we was obliged to put into Candia & the Morea also Catrone in Calabria & the Vessel is not in a Condition to go to Malta or I would have gone with the Dispatches, as the Bashaw wishes much to hear from your Excellency and that I should go to Bengazi with the Answer when I shall remain with the Bashaw I have it in Command from the Bashaw to thank Your Excellency for Sending the Brig *Argus* to Alexandria and to beg the favor of an Answer to the Letters which I now forward Should you wish to give any of your Officers that is in Malta or hear the Honor of Taking Bengazi before M<sup>r</sup> Eaton arrives I will go with them to assist and one of the Principal Officers of the Bashaw came with me from Alex-

andria now he is to be Bey of Derna or Bengazi, I also brought a Young man who was Interpreter to M<sup>r</sup> Eaton he was also Interpreter to the English general Stewart also to a french general he Speaks English French Italian Turkish & Arab Languages if Your Excellency wish to have him please let me know as there is many gentlemen will be glad of him I also brought some Seamen as I knew Some of the Ships is in want of them I got mony for Commodore Preble last Summer —

I hope Your Excellency will give me an order to M<sup>r</sup> Eaton to Settle Account with me as I have incurred his displeasure in taking part with you which I have proof off and could give your Excellency much more Information but as the Dispatches will go for Malta now I have no time and I understand you are Expected hear every day

[Mrs. James S. Barron Col.]

To Master Commandant Isaac Hull, U. S. Navy, from William Eaton, U. S. Navy  
Agent for the Barbary Regencies

CAMP 17<sup>th</sup> April 1805

SIR, We have thought best to move the Camp tomorrow morning, and take Post on the Sea Coast near where, the Bashaws Secretary tells me you anchored two nights and sent your Boat on shore, M<sup>r</sup> Farquhar informs me that we shall there find good water and a sufficient quantity to supply your Vessels — The distance from this Port is calculated at about twelve Miles by Land, further by Sea, if you make a movement correspondent with ours, we will endeavor by signal of fire, to shew our place of Encampment — this is a small deviation from the Arrangement made on board today, our object is to gain ground, and to find good and Grazing. — M<sup>r</sup> Peck with M<sup>r</sup> Farquhar are charged to communicate this advice. —

[NDA. Isaac Hull LB, 1803-1806.]

To Master Commandant John Shaw, U. S. Navy, from Lieutenant John Spriggs,  
U. S. Navy

In the service of the U. S.

NEW YORK april 18<sup>th</sup> 1805

SIR I received your yesterday, ordering me to repair on board the U. S. Frigate *John Adams* under your Command. I beg leave to acquaint you it its my firm intention not to Join her to act in a subordinate station and I have wrote to the executive of the Navy department on that head and ware I to put my foot on Board of her with a pendent over me. I should then acknowledge of accepting the appointment. Assign me 29 year servitude in a Military line at sea has taught me to be respectfull to the formes & etiquett of the service and be obedient to my superiors and I have the U. S. Service at heart but in this case my feelings is so sencible hurt that it, its impossible for me to comply with your order. — I have executed the orders of Secretary in reporting myself to the Comm<sup>d</sup> officer of the *John Adams* — do not harbour a thought I trate your orders with contempt. far from it as Commander of the *John Adams* it does not behove me to point out to you what steps you are now to pursue — I beg leave to inform you. I entered intue the service of the U. S with a full determination not to serve in a subordinate station. I excepted the superintending

the building of Gun Boat N<sup>o</sup> 8 with a Rank as Commander my Commission was to be forwarder me in due season and my Rank then fully fixed Sorry to say am much disapointed and now ordered to act in a subordinate station in the Ship under your Command. I have but little more to say that is my appointment has only in some measure been Military by the rank and pay attached to it by order I have not held a Commission under the Seal of U. S. nor the honour of hoisting a pendent to subject me to a Military Tribunal for disobediance of orders if you take that of yours not being obliged by me — I am with all due respect to your merit as an officer in the Navy Most respectfully  
A true Copy

[NDA. MC LB, 1804-5.]

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

NAVY DEP<sup>t</sup> 18 April 1805. —

I have received your letter of the 9th Ins — Your idea of purchasing 2 Sloops or Schooners to be fitted out as Bomb-Vessels is approved. Purchase them therefore immediately & on the best terms in your power. Inform M<sup>t</sup> Brown of the Cost and he will make a requisition upon me for the amount. —

You must be sensible that we have no time to lose in fitting them. Let me ask therefore that you will exercise your usual energy & activity to have them fitted in all respects for the service for which they are intended, with every practicable dispatch.

Make your requisitions for the necessary monies upon Samuel Brown esq<sup>t</sup>

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

Samuel Brown, Navy Agent, Boston, Mass., from Secretary of the Navy

NAV DEP<sup>t</sup> Ap<sup>t</sup> 18<sup>th</sup> 1805

I have authorized Commodore Preble to purchase two Schooners or Sloops to be fitted out as Bomb Vessels — He will inform you of the cost for which you will immediately make a requisition on me — You will also make a requisition for the monies that may be necessary to fit them out —

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

To Captain Samuel Barron, U. S. Navy, from John Sticker, Navy Agent, Baltimore

BALTIMORE April 18th 1805

SIR In pursuance of orders from the Honble Robert Smith Secretary of the Navy, I have the honour to hand you Invoice & bill of lading of the Cargo of the American Ship *Ann*, Sylvanus Smith Comd<sup>t</sup> laden with Stores &<sup>o</sup> consigned to the address & subject to the orders of John Gavino Esq<sup>t</sup> at Gibraltar and for use of the squadron Serving under your orders —

By the charter party, a Copy of which is also handed you, you will perceive that Twenty three run'ing days only are allowed for stop'ing at Gibra[ltar], and for discharging the Cargo at Syracuse or Malta —

It would have been desirable to have obtained more time for performing this Service, but as this could not be done without an

augmentation of freight, I preferred incurring the risk of demurage, in hopes that if despatch was used that none would accrue —

You will find Cap<sup>tn</sup> Smith, attentive & accomodating, and as such I beg leave to recommend him to you for all the dispatches in your honour

[LC. JRP, Vol. 1, Series Two, Feb. 1775–May 1805.]

To Secretary of the Navy from James MacKenzie and A. Glennie, London, England

LONDON. 18 April 1805

SIR We did ourselves the Honor of writing to you 13<sup>th</sup> instant We beg Leave to correct an Error in that Letter stating that the drafts drawn by Cap<sup>t</sup> James Barron St £1547.7.4 — were for the use of the squadron generally under a Misconception Cap<sup>t</sup> Barron in his Letter no 1 expressing those drafts to have been for the use of his own individual Ship or any ship by Name. We beg Pardon for this Inaccuracy.

We have this day receiv'd a Letter from Commodore Samuel Barron, dated La Vallette (Malta) 2<sup>d</sup> Ultimo — acquainting us of his having directed Cap<sup>t</sup> James Barron, commanding the United States Frigate *Essex* to proceed up the Adriatic on particular Service, & as he would have occasion for Funds to meet the contingent object of his ship, & for other objects of national Concern: he had given him a credit on us for an indefinite Sum — authorizing him to draw on Us: therefor for whatever he may want, or for whatever he may have occasion of, for any purpose, We shall in Consequence duly honor his Draft accordingly. We very respectfully remain

Sir Your most obedient & very Hble servants,

JA<sup>s</sup> MACKENZIE & A GLENNIE

[NDA. Misc. LB, Vol. 2, 1805.]

To Master Commandant John Smith, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. Brig *Vixen*, from Captain John Rodgers, U. S. Navy

U. STATES SHIP *Constitution*  
off Tripoli April 18<sup>th</sup> 1805

SIR The Provisions & Water of the U. S. Brig *Vixen* under your command being nearly expended, you will proceed into Port (Malta) without delay: — On your arrival at Malta you will without loss of time report your arrival to Commodore Barron, and as early as possible furnish with y<sup>r</sup> requisitions for such Stores, as the *Vixen* may require for this Summers Expedition —

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

Extract from journal of Hezekiah Loomis, Steward, U. S. Navy, in U. S. Brig *Vixen*, Master Commandant John Smith, U. S. Navy, commanding, Thursday, 18 April 1805

Off Tripoli. This day pleasant with a stiff breeze. At sun rising we were standing in for the land. At 12 put about and stood off shore. At half past one o'clock P. M. the frigate espied a sail. She made a signal and then we both went in chase. At 3 o'clock came up with her and found her to be the *President* commanded by Capt. Coxe. The *Constitution* made a signal and Capt. Coxe and Capt. Smith went on board the *Constitution*. At 6 o'clock Capt. Smith came on board and we made sail for Malta or Syracuse.

[L. F. Middlebrook. NDA copy.]

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

NAV DEP<sup>t</sup> 19 April 1805. —

I have received your Letter of the 10<sup>th</sup> Ins<sup>t</sup> this day, stating that Sir Alexander Ball had expressed to you a desire of obtaining 2 Fishing Smacks; and recommending the purchase of them, to be sent to Malta with provisions and there delivered to Sir Alex<sup>t</sup> Ball at the original Cost in this country. From your frequent communications to me, Sir Alex<sup>t</sup> Ball has acted towards our Squadron in the most friendly manner and we have experienced from his friendship facilities which have materially aided our operations against the Enemy. These friendly attentions demand some return, and I cordially acquiesce in your proposal to make the purchase of 2 Fishing Smacks, to be sent to Sir Alex<sup>t</sup> Ball. —

Purchase them therefore on the best terms in your power: appoint to each vessel a Commander with the Rank & pay of a Sailing Master in the Navy; appoint also another officer as Master's Mate, and empower him to enter as many men as will be sufficient to navigate the vessel in safety. I have ordered Mids<sup>o</sup> Clifton, Blount, Ja<sup>s</sup> M<sup>o</sup>Glauhon, Turner M<sup>o</sup>Glauhon, and Carter, all from North Carolina, to report themselves to you at Boston. They are all inexperienced. You will dispose of them either on board of the Fishing Smacks, or the Bomb Vessels. The crews of the Smacks may be entered to serve 2 years. Able Seamen may be allowed \$12 p<sup>t</sup> month — 4 months paid in advance upon good & sufficient security to reimburse the government in the event of desertion, & if they cannot be obtained without a premium, you may allow to each able seaman (and I presume you will enter none but able Seamen) any sum as a premium not exceeding 20 D<sup>rs</sup>. The Officers and Men are to be turned over to the Squadron after the Smacks shall be delivered up to Sir Alexander Ball.

I have this day sent to Samuel Brown esq<sup>t</sup> the sum of \$3000 to pay for the Smacks, & I have also sent him the further sum of \$2000 to be advanced to the Seamen & Officers and to purchase provisions &<sup>s</sup> for the voyage to Malta. He will apply the monies upon your requisitions. —

When the Smacks shall be ready for sea, you will send them to Hartford Connecticut to receive their Cargoes of Daniel Olcott esq<sup>t</sup> giving them orders on M<sup>t</sup> Olcott for as much beef as they will carry: their cargoes will consist entirely of beef. I shall write to Mr Olcott directing the delivery of the Beef upon your orders. You will write to me when the Smacks shall be ready to leave Boston. I shall send their Sailing Instructions to meet them at Hartford. Inform me of the names of the persons you may appoint as the Commanders and the names of the Smacks, and of all the arrangements you may make in pursuance of these Instructions. —

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

To Secretary of the Navy from Master Commandant John Shaw, U. S. Navy

NEW YORK april 19<sup>th</sup> 1805

SIR I have received your letters of 16<sup>th</sup>. Last tuesday Cap<sup>t</sup> Chauncey gave me up the Command of the *John Adams* and since that time I have been making every exertion in getting the Ship watered and all her heavy stores on board, which I think will be completed to day. And to morrow I unmoore and proceed to Staten

Island. Liu<sup>t</sup> Sp[r]iggs has been here some time and on his repoarting himself to me I ordered him on Board which he has positively declined by letter. in consequence this day I place him under an arrest for disobediance of orders which you will be pleased to deside on.

Last Night and this Morning we had arivals. from Charleston and Phila<sup>d</sup> Liu<sup>t</sup> Murdock brought on 43 Seamen and 13 Marins and 15 arived this Morning from Phil<sup>d</sup> The N<sup>o</sup> at present on Board all hands included is 490 and our Rendezvouse is still open. It will be necessary that a Lieu<sup>t</sup> should be ordered on. in the room of M<sup>r</sup> Spriggs — Your letter of 11<sup>th</sup> has been strictly complied with and the Gentlemen mentioned is all under furlow — The *John Adams* heretofore has been very short of Officers and my attention towards her has been the ocaion of no regular corespondince. with the N. Office. but be asured Sir in future this neglect will be corrected. When we take charge of Ships Stored &c we have to inspect every thing relative to her internal regulation this in some Measure created a delay in my not writing. Liu<sup>t</sup> Oglivee arived this Morning and your letter I have handed to him. —

If Lieu<sup>t</sup> Cox has entered any Men in Balt<sup>o</sup> the[y] can be sent round — and if the weather continue favourable I will be ready for Sea 25<sup>th</sup> Ins<sup>t</sup>

[NDA. MC LB, 1804-5.]

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Extract from journal of Surgeon Jonathan Cowdery, U. S. Navy, 19 April 1805

The Bashaw interrogated me concerning the force of my country; he asked me how many marines the United States kept in pay. My answer, for good reasons, was, ten thousand! How many troops? he asked.— Eighty thousand, said I, are in readiness to march to defend the country, at any moment; and one million of militia are also ready to fight for the liberty and rights of their countrymen! At this, his highness assumed a very serious look, and I returned to my room.

[LC. Rare Books, *American Captives in Tripoli or Dr. Cowdery's Journal*, Boston, 1806.]

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Extract from journal of Midshipman Charles Morris, Jr., U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *President*, Master Commandant George Cox, U. S. Navy, commanding, Friday, 19 April 1805

7 [A. M.] the Town of Tripoli bore S  $\frac{1}{2}$  E 5 leagues distant. 45 fathoms water coarse sand with red specks —

Noon the town of Tripoli bore S. W. 3 leagues distant.

Latitude Observed 33° N.

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

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To Secretary of the Navy from Master Commandant John Shaw, U. S. Navy

NEW YORK *april 20<sup>th</sup> 1805*

SIR I shall make every exertion to unmore Ship to day and proceed to S[t]aten Island and in a few days more I shall be ready for sea. I am much at a loss for a purser as M<sup>r</sup> Carr has not as yet arived from Charleston although he sailed 2 days before Liu<sup>t</sup> Murdock we will be backward in his department. I handed Liu<sup>t</sup> Oglivee his Order for Gun Boat N<sup>o</sup> 7. If it would meet your aprobation N<sup>o</sup>

6. & 7 might be placed under my protection for the Mediteranean and I am of an opinion that the Gun Boats being in Company with me would affect my passage out but a very few days. Prior to my sailing you will please give the Necessary Orders about the Turkish prisoners on board or if it is your wish to have clothes Ishued to them

Lieu<sup>t</sup> J. Spriggs being under an arest for disobediance of orders, I inclose a Copy of his letter [18 April] for your Consideration —

I feel highly gratified in my Command of the Frigate *John Adams*. and I hope the Hon<sup>le</sup> Secretary of the Navy will confirm my appointment before I sail. It will be disagreeable to me after getting my Ship in good order to have to resign my Command to a senior officer in the Mediteranean you may be asured that a single moment of delay will not take place in getting the Ship ready for Sea. and that every exertion in my power will be used in making a quick passage — We have on Board 490 Men including Officers and Marines

[NDA. MC LB, 1804-5.]

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

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

April 20<sup>th</sup> 1805

SIR, I have received your several letters of the 7<sup>th</sup> May 16<sup>th</sup> July and 3<sup>d</sup> Nov<sup>r</sup> last with their inclosures. Several points which they present for consideration in relation to the routine of affairs at Algiers, are passed over for the present as they are unconnected with the Mission in which you are engaged, and may be conveniently taken up hereafter.

Upon reviewing the instructions transmitted to you dated 6<sup>th</sup> June last, nothing in the state and prospect of things which dictated them appears to be changed by subsequent events; unless indeed the possibility of any considerable sacrifices being necessary should be considered as diminished by the spirited attacks made on the enemy by Commodore Preble and the comparison which will naturally be made of their effect with what may be expected from a repetition of them when the season opens, with equal animation on a much larger scale. Besides the force we have in the Mediterranean, the President has directed the following reinforcements which will appear at the rendezvous at or not long after your receipt of this communication, viz

The frigate *John Adams* with 32 Guns (all on board but not mounted) 600 men, Will sail early in may. Gun Boats N<sup>os</sup> 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7. 8. 9. 10.

N <sup>o</sup> 2	will have	1. long	32 pound	Cannon.
3	.	.	.	24 do
4	.	.	.	32 "
5	.	.	.	32 "
6	.	.	.	32 "
7	.	.	.	32 "
8	.	.	.	32 "
9	.	.	.	32 "
10	.	.	.	32 "

Each Gun boat will have about 20 men on board, and will sail by the 1<sup>st</sup> May.

Two Bomb vessels to be fitted out at Boston with 13 inch Mortars and will probably sail about the 1<sup>st</sup> June.



The *Ceres*, a provision ship, has lately sailed from Baltimore with provisions and military stores for the Squadron. The *Ann* another provision ship is now on the eve of sailing from Baltimore. She also has provisions and military stores on board for the squadron. A vessel from Washington will sail in all may, with spars, beef, bread, powder &c &c for the squadron.

The difficulties attending a manufacture so little practised in the United States as that of large brass ordnance and other more pressing engagements, in the public service, of the contractor, have hitherto retarded the finishing of the guns for Algiers, but the delay itself will ultimately prove beneficial; as it has afforded an opportunity of making such preparatory experiments as will enhance their quality. It may also be stated, with strict truth, if an impatience should be expressed at their not arriving, that the extraordinary exertions of the artists usually employed for such purposes, occasioned by dispatching our naval force against Tripoli have not been the most inconsiderable cause of the delay; whence the Dey may be led to feel a participation in the inconvenience resulting from the obstinacy and injustice which characterize the war as waged by the Bashaw. The contractor however promises that without unforeseen accidents, the Guns, shall be finished in two months or at furthest in three.

Arrangements for repeating the *Sally's* cargo with the additions intimated in my letter of the 6<sup>th</sup> of June were soon afterwards made by the Navy Department, but as the timber was not collected before the frost set in, it could not be carried to the sea board until the spring. It is expected that it must be now ready for shipment, which will be accelerated as much as possible.

The Bills you drew on the Navy Agents at Leghorn negotiable at London were carried into the Market there and would have occasioned a considerable loss, but for the judicious measure of purchasing them on the public account adopted by Mess<sup>rs</sup> Monroe and Erving.

The hesitation you expressed whether the letter written by the Dey of Algiers with a view to influence the Bashaw of Tripoli to accept the terms of peace we may offer should be used is justified by important considerations. Our force in that sea being, we hope, adequate to every necessary coercion, there is the less reason for contracting an obligation of this sort to the Dey, who, as on former occasions, would seek his reward in pecuniary demands. The interposition of Algiers in procuring the original peace we made with Tripoli it is also understood was a secret motive with the latter for departing from it.

Mess<sup>rs</sup> Cathcart & O'Brien have arrived with their families.

[NA. SDA. Despatches to Consuls, Vol. 1, 1800-1817.]

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

U. STATES FRIGATE *Constitution*  
off Tripoli April 20<sup>th</sup> 1805. —

SIR The Ketch *Eliza* has at last been permitted to return. I suppose you will receive considerable News by her. — I have nothing worth communicating —

I think it would be well to employ Savario Satarean the Maltiese, who is passenger in the Ketch; — he appears to possess considerable information of the Battery's &c &c —

[Mrs. James S. Barron Col.]

To Master Commandant George Cox, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. *President*  
from Captain John Rodgers, U. S. Navy

U. S. SHIP *Constitution*  
off Tripoli Ap<sup>l</sup> 20<sup>th</sup> 1805 —

SIR By the Ketch I am informed that a Latteen Tripoline Boat, mounting 4 small Carriage Guns and 25 Men, is expected from the Eastward in a Day or two — you will therefore, for the present, preserve your station *about* 7 Leagues to the Eastward of the Town, & as close to the Land, particularly in the Day time, if the weather is good, as to enable you to see any thing that may be passing in shore — Your ship being heavy, it would be advisable to have two of your best Boats (which are sufficient to take her without any risque) in readiness with their Sails &<sup>e</sup> — The *Constitution* will remain abreast of the Town & you will exchange Signals with her at least once in every 24 hours. — It being difficult to distinguish Flags at a distance, the *Constitution* will be known to you by her Fore Topgallant Sail being set alone. Signal & Answer to be the same thing —

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

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

TANGIER 20<sup>th</sup> April 1805 —

DEAR SIR Captain Stewart delivered me the 8<sup>th</sup> Ins<sup>t</sup> your favour of the 6<sup>th</sup> Ult<sup>o</sup> — I sincerely hope this will find your health perfectly restored, which I will be happy to hear is the case. —

I could not hesitate at saying to Captain Stewart it was my decided opinion this station should not be left without one or more Vessels of War of the United States at this time, which I now repeat to you. — I fully persuade myself I shall very soon see a reinforcement from the United States, and that I will equally receive the sentiments of Government on the measures of precaution I have found necessary to recommend, which will finally decide on the propriety of a Naval force being kept constantly near Gibraltar. — The Emperour is at Morocco. — I continue without any communication whatever either from him or his Ministers.

M<sup>r</sup> Jarvis writes me under the 30 Ult<sup>o</sup> that His Majestys Ship and Brig at Lisbon “had got their Masts on end and Rigging in complete order for bending their sails” — but add that the Hull of the former would not be finished under ten days. —

I wait with anxiety your determination on liberating or not, the Emperours subject I have before written you about. —

[Mrs. James S. Barron original.]

To Master Commandant Thomas Robinson, Jr., U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. Schooner *Enterprize*, from Captain James Barron, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. *Essex*

VENICE April 20<sup>th</sup> 1805

DEAR SIR, In consequence of authority vested in me by Commodore Barron I have concluded to request that you will through the medium of M<sup>r</sup> Heinzleman purchase two vessels proper for the purpose of being converted into Gun Boats, & that you will avail yourself of the advantages in fitting those vessels which have been so kindly offer<sup>d</sup>

by Count Lespine. the amount of their expences will be furnished by our Consul M<sup>r</sup> Riggins who will lodge Credit in the hands of M<sup>r</sup> Heinzleman Subject to your Order. It is not possible for me to say more on the necessity of dispatch than you must feel at this advanc<sup>d</sup> Period of the Season.

I likewise presume you have anticipated my ideas from the conversation that has passed between us on the occasion.

I shall therefore leave you with my best wishes for your Success

I pray you to write the Commodore by every post as I am sure his anxiety is now very great.

[NDA. Captain's LB, Vol. 1, 1805.]

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Extract from journal of Midshipman Charles Morris, Jr., U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *President*, Master Commandant George Cox, U. S. Navy, commanding, Sunday, 20 April 1805

2½ [P. M.] the *Constitution* made Signal N<sup>o</sup> 266. Made all sail by the wind. 3½ Shortened sail — 4 Tacked and hove to. the *Constitution* and Strange sail (a Ketch from Tripoli) in Company The Town bearing — S ½ W 5 leagues distant —

Midnight light airs and clear the *Constitution* in Company —

9 The *Constitution* made a signal to Speak us. made all sail. 11. The *Constitution* sent a boat on board. 11½ Capt Cox went on board the *Constitution*

10 Men Sick

Latitude Observed 33° 9' N.

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

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To Master Commandant Isaac Hull, U. S. Navy, from William Eaton, U. S. Navy Agent for the Barbary Regencies

BOMBA 21<sup>st</sup> April 1805

SIR, From the most correct information I am able to obtain from Derne, I am apprehensive we shall meet opposition at that place, a rumour came to our camp yesterday with intelligence of a re-inforcement having arrived from Tripoli for the defence of that town and Province, but did not state the exact Number, I had him under examination, from what I can learn from him, am persuaded this force does not exceed five Hundred, to encounter it, we have great need of field Artillery, besides the terror that Cannon impress on the undisciplined Savages we have to dispute with, they will be our best resort against the Walls of Derne, and surety in case of reverse — It is unfavourable to our expedition that the *Congress* has not arrived with artillery, if you can spare from the *Argus* two of your 24<sup>lb</sup> Carronades with fixed Amunition, and if we can find means of carrying them forward they may answer our purpose in advancing though they would be dead weight in a retrograde movement, we have need also of four Barrels, at least; of Musquet Powder, Balls & flints proportionate, and as many Musquets as can be spared, sufficient provisions were landed yesterday from the *Hornet* to carry us to Derne, for which Post we shall move tomorrow if circumstances permit. — Should we advance successfully within attacking distance of the place, it is hoped you will be able to bring the Guns of your detachment to bear on the Enemys Batteries; which being badly built; of bad materials, will not be able to resist you. — I have no reason to alter the opinion long

since adopted, of the importance to our affairs which the possession of Derne will have, cons'der'd either as it respects our Military or Political operations, and hitherto nothing has appeared to discourage our calculations of success from the Co-operation formed with Hamet Bashaw, thus far I have found the Arabs attached to his interest, because undoubtedly they find an *interest* in that attachment notwithstanding their religious scruples and aversions, I find them like the rest of mankind, moved by a present good, Cash will carry them, with this the Gates of Tripoli may be opened, but we must use to the best advantage the means we have. — If in addition to the supplies of Provisions already received you can add the Arms & Amunition I now ask we will endeavour to seize the Post in view

I hope you will be as near us as the safety of your Vessels will allow. — Of the effects I leave on board you, in case I see you no more, I beg you will accept my cloak, and small sword, as marks of my attachment, the Damascus, Sabre, which you will find in my chest, please give to Cap<sup>t</sup> James Barron, it is due to his goodness and valor, I owe it to the Independant integrity of his heart, my Gold watch and chain give to Danilson every thing else please deliver over to M<sup>r</sup> Charles Wadsworth my Executor. — I request you will permit M<sup>r</sup> Mann one of Your Officers to join me in place of M<sup>r</sup> Peck who returns on board. —

P.S. Conformably to the direction of Comd<sup>r</sup> Barron, Expressed in his Letter to me of 22<sup>d</sup> March, I have to request Cap<sup>t</sup> Hull will permit the Officers & Men detached from his ship at Alex<sup>a</sup> to remain on shore, as I consider them important to the success of the Expedition in which we are engaged. —

[NDA. Isaac Hull LB, 1803-1806.]

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To Master Commandant Isaac Hull, U. S. Navy, from First Lieutenant P. N. O'Bannon, U. S. Marine Corps

CAMP 21<sup>st</sup> April 1805

SIR, Unwilling to abandon an Expedition, this far conducted, I have to request your permission to continue with M<sup>r</sup> Eaton during his stay on land, or, at least untill we arrive at Derne. —

[NDA. Isaac Hull LB, 1803-1806.]

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To Master Commandant Isaac Hull, U. S. Navy, from Midshipman George Mann, U. S. Navy

U. S. BRIG *Argus* 21<sup>st</sup> Ap<sup>r</sup> 1805

SIR, Being solicited by M<sup>r</sup> Eaton to join him in the present Expedition against Derne, I am induced to apply to you for permission to leave the Brig, — In expressing a wish on this subject, I beg leave to observe that I am not actuated by any motives of dissatisfaction with my present situation, but by a wish to contribute generally by my services to the Interest of my Country. —

I am aware that objections may be made from sentiments generally entertained as to the issue of the expedition, but should I succeed to your approbation I shall feel no hesitation in Risquing the event. —

[NDA. Isaac Hull LB, 1803-1806.]

A Receipt issued to Captain Isaac Hull, U. S. Navy, and signed by William Eaton,  
U. S. Navy Agent for the Barbary Regencies

DESERT OF LYBIA BOMBA Ap<sup>l</sup> 21. 1805

Received from Isaac Hull Esq<sup>r</sup> Commander of the U. S. brig *Argus*  
for the service of the United States Seven thousand spanish dollars  
for which I have signed duplicate receipts —

(Signed) WILLIAM EATON

[LC. JRP, Vol. 1, Series Two, Feb. 1775–May 1805.]

Extract from journal of U. S. Frigate *Constitution*. Captain John Rodgers, U. S.  
Navy, commanding, Sunday, 21 April 1805

[Off Tripoli since 7 April 1805.] At 2 [P. M.] discovered a Sail in  
shore made Sail and gave chase, at 4 Spoke The Ketch from Tripoli  
rec<sup>d</sup> From hir 2 bullocks.

Latitude Observed 33° 00' N.

[USNA.]

Extract from journal of Hezekiah Loomis, Steward, U. S. Navy, in U. S. Brig *Vixen*,  
Master Commandant John Smith, U. S. Navy, commanding, Sunday, 21 April  
1805

Went into the harbour of Malta and came to anchor at 9 o'clock  
A. M. Saw 2 American brigs laying there. We were quarantined.  
The Capt. got some stores off from the quarantine ground. At 2  
o'clock P. M. got under way for Syraeuse. At 6 o'clock saw the  
Island of Sicily — wind coming rather ahead.

[L. F. Middlebrook. NDA copy.]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from Master Commandant John Shaw,  
U. S. Navy

NEW YORK april 22<sup>nd</sup> 1805

SIR Permit me to make Known to you of my receaving the Com-  
mand of the *John Adams* on the 16<sup>th</sup> Ins<sup>t</sup> and by the 1<sup>st</sup> of next M<sup>o</sup>  
at furdest. I will be ready for sea If you have any Commands to the  
Mediteranean of any decription, by informing me you may be asured,  
Sir of the strickest attention being paid to your orders. I proceed to  
Staten Island the fist wind which may offer with 490 Men on board

With respect to M<sup>rs</sup> Preble and family

[LC. EPP, Vol. 14, 1804–1805.]

To Captain Samuel Barron, U. S. Navy, Malta, from Master Commandant Isaac  
Hull, U. S. Navy

UNITED STATES BRIG *Argus*

At Sea 22<sup>d</sup> April 1805. —

SIR, I have the honor to inform you, that whilst laying at Anchor  
in the Bay of Bomba this morning, a Latteen Vessel made her appear-  
ance off, but on seeing us, she made all sail, and stood out to sea —  
I immediately got under way with a very light breeze to go in chace  
of her, the Breeze continued light, until 12 O.Clock, which gave the  
chace an oppertunity of getting nearly out of sight, before we could  
beat out of the Bay, the Breeze however freshening, and by carrying  
a press of Sail, we got up within Gun shot by 3 O.Clock, and brought

her too, she proved to be a Latteen Boat of about Thirty tons under Ottaman Colours from Alexandria, bound to Bengaize with a few Goods, and a number of Tripolitan Passengers, among them a Captain of a Gun Boat belonging to Tripoli, the remainder Sons of the first People of Bengaize, which determined me to send her into Port, as they acknowledge both the Passengers and property were Tripolitan, a part of which is said to be Powder, it remains a doubt with me whether you consider this part of the Coast in a state of Blockade, as I have not heard your opinion on the subject, if not I may have done wrong in sending her into Port, unless she has Goods on board Contriband of war, which however I believe is the case, but the Weather has been so bad that I have not been able to examine strictly. —

[NA. NDA. Isaac Hull's LB, 1805-1806.]

Extract from journal of Hezekiah Loomis, Steward, U. S. Navy, in U. S. Brig *Vixen*, Master Commandant John Smith, U. S. Navy, commanding, Monday, 22 April 1805

This day commences with a very stiff breeze off the land. We arrived at Syracuse and came to anchor about 1 o'clock P. M. Found there the *Constellation*. The *Congress* went out a little before we went into the harbour. We received product [pratique] in one hours time and almost all the officers went on shore this evening.

[L. F. Middlebrook. NDA copy.]

To Joshua Wingate, Jr., Portland, Me., from Secretary of the Navy

NAV DEP<sup>1</sup> 23rd April 1805

I have been waiting some time in the expectation of hearing from you on the subject of the Timber for Algiers. It is necessary that it should be sent out without delay.

Let me know what has been done by you in this business.

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

To Master Commandant Thomas Robinson, Jr., U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. Schooner *Enterprise*, Venice, from Captain James Barron, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. *Essex*

TRIEST Ap<sup>1</sup> 23<sup>d</sup> 1805

DEAR SIR I find on my arrival here that there is not one of the Tortonois rigg<sup>d</sup> vessels to be had; of course I shall purchase the Tri-barcolas as Substitutes.

It is possible the same difficulties may arise with you; if they do I would advise your adopting the same plan — & I must acknowledge my partiality for the latter as I am convinc<sup>d</sup> that our people will manage them better than they can those long latteen Yards.

Will it not be advisable to stop those Vessels at Piran in preference to bringing them here. — it will prevent any enquiry &c<sup>s</sup> &c<sup>s</sup>

With respect to the crews which may be employ<sup>d</sup> — perhaps it will be the most advisable mode of employing them to deliver those Vessels at Piran subject to M<sup>r</sup> Riggin's order.

[NDA. Captain's LB, Vol. 1, 1805.]

Presumably to Master Commandant Thomas Robinson Jr., U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. Schooner *Enterprize*, from Captain James Barron, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. *Essex*

TRIEST April 23<sup>rd</sup> 1805

DEAR SIR I have this day been led into a secret which may be proper to communicate to you, without loss of time. — Agreeable to my last letter I had purchas<sup>d</sup> a Tribarcola and was about to send her from this place but some busy body, gave information to the Governor & the owner was instantly taken up & put in the castle & I suppose the Vessel would have been stopped, as she might have been in the act of departing, for we now hear that a Law exists in this country which prevents any subject from selling his Vessel without permission from the Government how this may affect you, I am at a loss to account but suppose the utmost caution necessary, and of course should you obtain Vessels, you will carefully avoid allowing them to come to this place, perhaps they had better not come so high up as Piran,

It is not possible to use too much caution on this occasion, & if you find it likely to prove a serious thing, deliver up the Vessels to their former owners, in the event of your having purchas<sup>d</sup> them, and make the best of your way to Syracuse, after touching here for the Settlement of your Accounts. &c<sup>s</sup>

It is possible no such difficulties may occur with you, however I have thought it advisable to give you this information for your guide.

[NDA. Captain's LB, Vol. 1, 1805.]

To Captain James Barron, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. *Essex*, Trieste, from Master Commandant Thomas Robinson, Jr., U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. Schooner *Enterprize*

VENICE Ap<sup>l</sup> 23<sup>rd</sup> 1805

SIR The night of the day you left this I wrote the Commodore — I had but half an hour to do it in (not knowing till 11 O'clock at night that the Italian Post went off at 12.) I just gave him the outlines of your Arrangements — but shall be very particular in my next by which time I shall be enabled to say something more to the purpose.

To morrow I believe we shall conclude the purchase of two Vessels — I shall write you by the next mail — let me hear from you before you sail & when you intend being off.

I saw this morning two tremendous Mortars (Iron) they take a shell of eighteen inches. I shall not touch them without Orders they are dangerous —

[NDA. Captain's LB, Vol. 1, 1805.]

To Secretary of the Navy from Master Commandant Thomas Robinson, Jr., U. S. Navy

VENICE April 23<sup>rd</sup> 1805

SIR The *Enterprize* was returnd to her Ellement in the same handsome stile & masterly manner with which she was drew from its embrace. —

I have now the pleasure to inform you she is rigg'd & almost ready for Sea, & I believe one of the finest Vessels in the World of her class. — I have fitted machenery for a 24 pounder, to be applied to her Deck if approv'd by the Comm<sup>d</sup> if not its so calculated that t'will serve for

any other. I carry all in the Hold to the place of Action, I was induced to this from having experienced the inactive situation this Class of Vessel was necessarily kept in during our attacks last summer for want of a heavy piece

Cap. Barron is at Trieste. he left here last Saturday & orders with me to purchase & fit two Boats to carry ea. one or two heavy Cannon I have nearly concluded the purchase & shall use every exertion to join the Commodore with them, Cap. Barron has Bought the Brig *Franklin* that was the first American prize to the Turks, she is sound & will carry a heavy Mortar. or two 32<sup>s</sup>—he means to take down with him two Boats, which will make the Brig & four Gun Boats in addition to the Squadron now in the Mediteranean. The Vessels we take up here will bring first cost when the summers work is got out of them. — if its thought proper to sell. — Never were Men better disposed towards our affairs than both here & at Trieste, Cap B. is much pleas'd with the reception he has met & I suppose writes you fully. —

Tripoly certainly gets a severe dressing next summer. —

Please forward the inclosures & I beg you to make comfortable M<sup>r</sup> R during our distressing seperation

[NDA. MC LB, 1804-5.]

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

NAV DEP<sup>t</sup> 23 April 1805 —

Herewith you will receive a copy of my letter to you of the 16<sup>th</sup> Ins<sup>t</sup> —

This letter will be handed to you by Cap<sup>t</sup> Shaw commanding the Frigate *John Adams*. She has on board a number of men which you will distribute among the Vessels of the Squadron as may appear to you the most expedient. She has also on board some Canvas and Shot. We shall keep this Vessel plying between this country and the Mediterranean to furnish the Squadron in that sea with such succours of provisions and Men as may from time to time be required. It is therefore intended that she shall after delivering the men &<sup>c</sup> return to the E—Branch without delay. I deem it however, proper to invest you with the power and you will consider yourself hereby invested with the power of employing the *John Adams* in your operations against the enemy should any special occasion or occasions arise which in your opinion may render her services essentially necessary. But if no such occasion should arise, you will order the *John Adams* immediately to the Eastern Branch directing that she shall touch on her way out at the principal ports in the Mediterranean frequented by American Merchantmen to afford Convoy. —

I have ordered Cap<sup>t</sup> Stewart to proceed aloft with the *Siren* to join the squadron. I give this order from the persuasion that there can be no good reason assigned for keeping the *Siren* in the Neighbourhood of Morocco. Surely the Emperor of Morocco will not have the temerity to attack our Commerce when we have such a powerful force in the Mediterranean, and should he attempt such a proceeding you can punish him effectually with the force committed to your direction. —

The gun boats are now all under sailing orders excepting N<sup>o</sup> 1 — which as I have informed you by my letter of the 16<sup>th</sup> ins<sup>t</sup> has been



found unfit for crossing the Atlantic. You will officer, man, and employ those that may join you in such manner as may appear to you most expedient. —

Should you not have forwarded my letter to Cap<sup>t</sup> Bainbridge you will not forward it. You will consider my order to you of the 31 May 1804 directing the call of a Court of Enquiry upon the conduct of Cap<sup>t</sup> Bainbridge as hereby revoked. —

I enclose 2 Commissions for Masters Commandant and a Commission for a Surgeon which you will deliver. I also enclose 38 Commissions for Lieutenants to be delivered under the regulations prescribed in my letter to you of the 1 June 1804. —

[NDA. LB, 1799-1807.]

To Secretary of the Navy from Master Commandant John Shaw, U. S. Navy

NEW YORK *april 23<sup>rd</sup> 1805*

SIR Yours of 17<sup>th</sup> I have rec<sup>d</sup> granting passage to Doc<sup>t</sup> Pascalis — The *John Adams* is moored at Staten Island and I am making every exertion in my power to get her Stores of every department on board which I expect to complete in 3 day. The only detention we will meet will be on the part of the Purcer who has not as yet Joined me —

I have been compelled to detain Liu<sup>t</sup> Maxwell in the recru[iting] Service untill the 18<sup>th</sup> in consequence of having but a Liu<sup>t</sup> to do duty. The Commander of N<sup>o</sup> 6 & 7 is on the[y] are Makeing every dispatch with these Boats. I expect by Sunday at furdest to have every article on board and will wait with impatience for my Sailing orders.

I hope prior to sailing to be confirmed in my Command, but if it is decreed otherwise you will give order to my Commanding the fleet of Gun Boats on the Coast of Tripoly. this service will accord with my wishes and I hope will meet your aprobation —

[NDA. MC LB, 1804-5.]

Extract from journal of William Eaton, U. S. Navy Agent for the Barbary Regencies, Tuesday, 23 April 1805

Cold, high winds with rain. Marched ten miles over a mountainous rocky country, — and camped in a ravine, within a mile from a natural source of water, *springing from the top of a mountain* of freestone, near Cape Razatine. This is the first natural spring we have found since leaving Egypt. We are approaching cultivated fields. — A herald cries through the camp — “He who fears God and feels attachment to Hamet Bashaw will be careful to destroy nothing. Let no one touch the growing harvest. He who transgresses this injunction shall lose his right hand!”

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

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from Ebenezer Stockey

NEWBURY PORT *April 24 1805*

DEAR SIR I believe the two Vessels can be built on our River & launched from the 15<sup>th</sup> July to 1<sup>st</sup> Aug<sup>t</sup> one or two Builders that have been consulted. mention \$30 p<sup>r</sup> Ton. they observe at same time their incapacity to fix on a just price at the instant, & that they should be willing to contract on same terms as M<sup>r</sup> Hart is paid — M<sup>r</sup> Coffin is of opinion that one in Newbury & one in Salisbury may be com-

pleated with greater expedition, by the day, he would draft & overlook them — Cap<sup>n</sup>s wages are 1.50 to \$2 p<sup>r</sup> day & at these prices he says they will not cost the price above — 3½ plank that are seasoned cannot be procured, — 3 Inch are plenty with good W, O, suitable timber — M<sup>r</sup> Coffin & the Carpenters wish to be advised of your conclusion as soon as convenient, the River being now high, the timber &c could be procured —

[LC. EPP, Vol. 14, 1804-1805.]

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

BOSTON Ap<sup>r</sup> 24<sup>th</sup> 1805

SIR I am hon<sup>d</sup> with your letters of the 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> Ins<sup>t</sup>. the Vessels for the Mortars will be immediately purchas'd and fitted in the shortest possible time, I suppose they will be ready to sail by the last of May.

The Smacks shall be purchas'd as early as possible and every part of your instructions properly attended to.

Gun Boat N<sup>o</sup> 8 was this day launch'd and will be ready to sail by the 1<sup>st</sup> May. M<sup>r</sup> Harraden deserves credit for his attention. I shall in a few days make contracts for building the two Bomb Vessels & Gun Boats which I am authorized to build; but they will not be completed, before Sep<sup>r</sup> It will be well to have the thirteen Inch Mortars here as soon as possible from New-York.

[NDA. Captain's LB, Vol. 1, 1805.]

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To Lieutenants James Lawrence & Peter S. Ogilvie, U. S. Navy, from Secretary of the Navy

NAV DEP<sup>t</sup> 24 April 1805

Lieu<sup>t</sup> JA<sup>s</sup> LAWRENCE —

Comm<sup>d</sup> gun boat N<sup>o</sup> 6 —

Lieu<sup>t</sup> P. S. Ogilvie

Comm<sup>d</sup> gun boat N<sup>o</sup> 7 — New York. —

Cap<sup>t</sup> Shaw has suggested the propriety of taking gun boats N<sup>o</sup> 6 and 7 — in company with the *John Adams* to the Mediterranean. I have approved the idea and directed Cap<sup>t</sup> Shaw to give you the necessary instructions. —

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

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To Secretary of the Navy from Lieutenant Nathaniel Fanning, U. S. Navy

CHARLESTON S. C.

April the 24<sup>th</sup> 1805

SIR Your Two Letters under date of the 11<sup>th</sup> Instant came to Hand this day; the contents of both I have duly considered. In answer to what you say in relation to Gun Boat N<sup>o</sup> 9 — I reply, that no Guns as yet have been put on Board of Her, — "That we shall put them on Board Tomorrow" and that She is intended to mount *Two Guns*, agreeable to What I wrote you some time ago; her being Ketch Rigged, her Mizen Mast will not interfere or be any obstruction to her Gun aloft. She is calculated to Mount both Thirty two Pounders sent on for her. and she is sufficiently Burthen-some, strong, & Buoyant to carry them; & I beg leave to say that I quit her with *much regret*, when I must submit to command Gun Boat

N<sup>o</sup> 1 so much her inferior — After so much time and care in superintending the Building of Gun Boat N<sup>o</sup> 9 (“and the promise of being continued in the Command of her after She should be put into service”) it is with reluctance that I quit so fine a Vessel, to command one such as I am appointed to. But as Subordination must be kept up, I with perfect submission obey your orders. concluding with this sentiment; “that every subordinate officer ought always to obey the orders of his Superiors”.

[NDA. Misc. LB, Vol. 2, 1805.]

To Master Commandant Charles Stewart, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. Brig *Siren*, Gibraltar, from Secretary of the Navy

NAV DEP<sup>t</sup> 24 April 1805

You will proceed immediately aloft and report yourself to the Commodore of the Squadron. Allow no suggestions of hostility on the part of the Emperor of Morocco to detain you. —

[NDA. LB, 1799-1807.]

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

MALTA, April 24<sup>th</sup> 1805.

SIR I have to acknowledge the receipt of your Several Letters of the 17<sup>th</sup> of Feb<sup>y</sup>, the 8<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> of March and 13<sup>th</sup> of the present Month, together with their respective enclosures

Your drafts for two thousand dollars have been duly honored, which together with the bills remitted to you from this place, I find has fully covered all your expenditures &<sup>c</sup>—up to the 10<sup>th</sup> of April, according to your account and left a balance in your hands of \$627 52/100

I have not given the usual formality of approbation to the last account, as I wish to have some explanation of certain items before I can feel myself justified in giving a full approbation — Viz<sup>t</sup> the Charge of a loss of 116 doll<sup>s</sup> on a bill of P<sup>e</sup> 1101.9. of 8/rs. under date of Sept. 19<sup>th</sup> 1804 — ditto of 20 doll<sup>s</sup> on a bill of 500 P<sup>e</sup> of 8/r on the 4<sup>th</sup> Dec<sup>r</sup> 1804 — ditto of 15 doll<sup>s</sup> on a bill of P<sup>e</sup> 333.11.11. of 8/r on 7 Jan<sup>y</sup> 1805 — ditto of 15 doll<sup>s</sup> loss on the Exchange of Spanish Dollars 13<sup>th</sup> Feb<sup>y</sup> 1805. — ditto of 308 dollars for barley and straw for the public Horse and Mule, dated 28 Feb<sup>y</sup> 1805 — and of the Necessity of a Second Drogerman whose wages are charged. — The amount of repairs for the Consular House appears to me very high, particularly as the rent is certainly very great. The charge for Stationary, and several other items which I have never charged myself in Algiers to the Government of the United States, I forbear to comment upon; because I do not wish to place any restrictions, where the same Charges may have been allowed heretofore

I long since informed Capt<sup>s</sup> Bainbridge, and I think I must have mentioned it in one of my letters to you; that the funds necessary for the support of our unfortunate Countrymen in Tripoli would be furnished by the Commodore of our Squadron in these Seas; and that I could only furnish them in Cases of emergencies; or when there might not be an opportunity of his receiving them from that quarter. — The ill Health of Commodore Barron, has I presume prevented his having notified the thing to Cap<sup>t</sup> B. and taking measures to have

him seasonably Supplied. I trust however, that the Clothing & which he has lately received, as well as other funds, besides those furnished through you, will answer all their purposes for some time to come; and in the mean time arrangements will be made to supply them in future, if it should be necessary from the proper source. — and I beg you will inform Capt<sup>n</sup> B. of this. —

I cannot help expressing my surprize at the loss on bills drawn by you upon me at this place, as the large Quantities of Wheat purchased here has caused a great demand of money from Tunis on Malta, and I had reason to think there w<sup>d</sup> rather have been a premium than a discount on bills for this place.

I thank you for the information contained in your several Letters, and am pleased to find that every thing relating to our affairs still remains quiet with you. — If His Excellency the Bey of Tunis is really disposed and determined to go to war with us he will not fail to take occasion therefor from the conduct which our Squadron will be obliged to pursue during the Blockade of Tripoli; but I hope he knows his own interest too well to attempt breaking with us while we have such a force in his neighbourhood; for altho' we should fear the ultimate issue of a war with him, yet it would be a great derangement of our Operations against Tripoli should he break out at this moment.

The Ketch which was sent to tripoli with Clothing & for our Countrymen there, returned this day. By her I have received letters from Capt<sup>n</sup> Bainbridge, and from the French & Spanish Consuls. The latter has written me by Order of His Excellency the Bashaw, to state the grounds on which he is will<sup>d</sup> to open a negotiation for peace — Viz<sup>t</sup> 200,000 doll<sup>s</sup> for peace & Ransom, and the delivery of all his Subjects in our possession, with their property. — These terms are inadmissable, as we shall never pay a Cent for peace, and if ransom should be paid it must only be for such a number of Americans as may exceed the Number of Tripolines in our power. The Consul, however, adds, that altho' these are stated by His Excellency the Bashaw as the Grounds for Negotiation, yet he is well assured that there might be a Change. All our accounts from the same quarter state also the strong desire for peace which prevails at Tripoli, so that I have good hopes that by the time we are ready to commence our Operations the Bashaw may be bro<sup>t</sup> to such terms as we can with propriety agree to. — Altho' the operations by Land I have always been opposed to them in the way they have been undertaken, and believe that they will ultimately be productive of no good to our Cause. — We are yet without any accounts from M<sup>r</sup> Eaton since he left Egypt. —

The Commodore's health is mending slowly; but I think there is no prospect of his being able to take an active Part in any operations this Season. — The Physicians urge the necessity for a Change of Climate as soon as possible.

I am glad to learn by my letters from Algiers that our affairs in that quarter still stand well, and that the report of an Insurre[c]tion & was without foundation. The particulars of the attack made on the Dey you have undoubtedly received

Our Vessels are all absent from this port at present; but we expect the return of some very soon, when one will probably be sent to Tunis, by which you will receive all the news from this Quarter, and

I shall reserve this letter for that conveyance, unless a very good opportunity should offer sooner

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

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

NAV DEP<sup>t</sup> 24 April 1805.

Lieu<sup>t</sup> Murdock who goes out in the *J. Adams* as First Lieutenant entered the service soon after the Navy was established and served with reputation till the year 1801, when in consequence of the Peace Establishment Law, it was found that he could not be consistently retained in the service and he was permitted to retire under that act. Necessity has compelled me to introduce this officer again in the Navy. He holds his original Commission, though still his Rank in the Navy is as yet undetermined. In forming a determination upon this point, numerous difficulties have presented themselves. I am told that he is an excellent officer, and a gentleman of extensive experience in his profession. These considerations dispose me to give him a higher Rank than his late appointment in August last, but on the other hand there is a number of young gentlemen of very distinguished merit who might feel themselves dishonored by Lieu<sup>t</sup> Murdock's being placed over them. Probably however when they become acquainted with him, they may acquiesce. — You are personally acquainted with the officers and you can readily ascertain what their feelings may be in this case. If Lieu<sup>t</sup> Murdock can be placed in a situation on board of one of the frigates which may be agreeable to himself and not offensive to other Lieutenants, I should be pleased with such an arrangement. See if this can be done. If it can without giving umbrage to other worthy Lieutenants, you may do it; if it cannot, Lieu<sup>t</sup> Murdock must return in the *J. Adams*.

By the *J. Adams*.

[NDA. LB, 1799-1807.]

To Master Commandant John Shaw, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. *John Adams*, New York, N. Y., from Secretary of the Navy

NAV DEP<sup>t</sup> 24 April 1805. —

Herewith you will receive your authority to subdue, seize, and make prize of all vessels, goods, and effects belonging to the Bashaw of Tripoli or to his Subjects and also the statute upon which that authority is founded. —

As soon as you shall be ready for sea, you will weigh anchor and proceed in company with gun boats N<sup>o</sup> 6 & 7 and also N<sup>o</sup> 3 if she should join you in season, to the Mediterranean, touching at Gibraltar for information which if material you will communicate to the Commodore. — From Gibraltar you will proceed aloft and report yourself to Com<sup>re</sup> Barron or the Commanding Officer on the station. You will allow no suggestions of hostility on the part of the Emperor of Morocco, to detain either the *John Adams* or the gun boats at Gibraltar, but whatever may be the reports on the subject, proceed immediately aloft with the *J. Adams* and the gun boats that may accompany you out. —

On your joining the Commodore he will give you his orders which you are to execute. Deliver to him the accompanying Package. Should you see Cap<sup>t</sup> Stewart deliver to him the enclosed letter directed

to him; if you should not see him, deliver it to John Gavino esquire to be conveyed to Cap<sup>t</sup> Stewart.

[NDA. LB, 1799-1807.]

To Colonel Jacob Crowninshield, Salem, Mass., from Captain Edward Preble,  
U. S. Navy

BOSTON Ap<sup>l</sup> 24<sup>th</sup> 1805

SIR Agreeable to your advice, M<sup>r</sup> Smith has authorised me to purchase two vessels to be fitted for the reception of 13 Inch Mortars. I have accordingly this day purchas'd a Schoo<sup>r</sup> of 102 and a Sloop of 92 Tons, Connecticut built one eleven months & the other 2 years old, tomorrow they are to be delivered at the Navy Yard and I hope to have them ready by the last of May — I shall in the mean time be building the other Vessels for which I have rec<sup>d</sup> orders.—

E P.

[LC. EPP, Vol. 14, 1804-1805.]

Extract from journal of U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Captain John Rodgers, U. S. Navy,  
commanding, Wednesday, 24 April 1805

[Off Tripoli] At ½ past 5 [A. M.] discovered 3 Strange Sail to the Westward. Made sail in Chace,

At 11 shorten'd sail and spoke The Vessels they proved to be Tunecians Bound to Tripoli

Latitude Observed 33° 4' N.

[USNA.]

Extract from journal of William Eaton, U. S. Navy Agent for the Barbary Regencies,  
Wednesday, 24 April 1805

Marched fifteen miles over mountainous and broken ground, covered with herbage and very large and beautiful red ceders: — the first resemblance of a forest tree we have seen during a march of nearly six hundred miles. — Camped in a pleasant valey, by a natural rivulet bordered with delightful verdure and fields of barley, about five hours march from Derne. Certain information came to us here that the Governor of the country had fortified him self and was determined to defend the city against our approach. — The same courier confirmed the intelligence which had frequently before been stated to us that the Army of Joseph Bashaw, which he had sent out for the defence of the province, were near Derne, and would probably, by a forced march arrive before us; especially if we waited the return of our vessels to the coast, which had been blown off in the gale of the 23<sup>d</sup> — Alarm and consternation siezed the Arab chiefs, and despondency the Bashaw. — The night was passed in consultations among them at which I was not admitted.

[H. E. Huntington L&AG.]

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

BOSTON Ap<sup>l</sup> 25<sup>th</sup> 1805

SIR I have this evening purchas'd two suitable Vessels to be prepared for the reception of the 13 Inch Mortars, they are both Connecticut built — almost new, one is a schooner of 102, and the other a sloop of 92 Tons; they are to be delivered at the Navy Yard tomorrow, and shall be closely attended to. the two Vessels cost 7000 doll<sup>r</sup>

[NDA. Captain's LB, Vol. 1, 1805.]

[25 April 1805]

To George W. Erving, U. S. Consul, London, England, from Secretary of State of His  
Britannic Majesty

Copy  
Circular

The Undersigned Secretary of State of His Britannic Majesty has received His Majesty's Commands to acquaint M<sup>r</sup> Erving that the King has judged it expedient for the Protection of His Subjects and the annoyance of His Enemies to establish the most rigorous blockade at the Entrances of the Ports of Cadiz and S<sup>t</sup> Lucar and to maintain and enforce the same in the strictest Manner — according to the Usages of War acknowledged and observed in similar Cases. M<sup>r</sup> Erving is therefore requested to apprise the American Consuls and Merchants residing in England that the entrances of the abovementioned Ports are, and must be considered as being in a State of Blockade and that from this Time all the Measures authorized by the Law of Nations and the respective Treaties between His Majesty and the different Neutral Powers will be adopted and Executed with respect to Vessels attempting to violate the said Blockade after this Notice.

The Undersigned takes this opportunity of renewing to M<sup>r</sup> Erving the assurances of His high Consideration —

(Signed) MULGRAVE

DOWNING STREET

April 25<sup>th</sup> 1805

[NA. SDA. CL, London, Vol. 9, Jan. 1804–July 1812.]

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

U. STATES SHIP *Constitution*

off Tripoli April 25<sup>th</sup> 1805

SIR I have to make known to you that on the 24<sup>th</sup> Ins<sup>t</sup>, Tripoli bearing S E b S. distant 5 or 6 Miles, I fell in with a Private Armed Xebec of 8 Guns, with two Neapolitan Ships, Prizes, bound direct into Tripoli. —

My reasons for sending these Vessels into port for Examination are two obvious to require commentations of me — farther than what circumstances and their papers will explain. —

[Mrs. James S. Barron Col.]

To Master Commandant George Cox, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. *President*,  
from Captain John Rodgers, U. S. Navy

U. STATES SHIP *Constitution*

off Tripoli Ap<sup>l</sup> 25<sup>th</sup> 1805

SIR, You will proceed off Malta with the Xebec & her two prizes; hand Commo: Barron my Letter, & recieve his orders respecting them. If Commodore Barron is not at Malta you will proceed to Syracuse. Circumstances will so point out to you the necessity of executing the Instructions with which you are charged, with all possible dispatch, as to prevent the necessity of my saying any thing further on the subject.

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

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

U. STATES SHIP *Constitution*

Off Tripoli April 25<sup>th</sup> 1805

SIR, The *Constitution* has now only five weeks Provision on Board; and in order that she may not be detained in Port, on that acc<sup>t</sup> when she returns, I have thought it advisable to Enclose you an Indent for Two Months complete. —

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

To Master Commandant John H. Dent, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. Schooner *Nautilus*, from Master Commandant Isaac Hull, U. S. Navy

FORT ENTERPRIZE

Derne 25<sup>th</sup> April 1805

SIR Inclos'd you have signals established with M<sup>r</sup> Eaton. It is my wish you stand very close in with Cape Razatin and send a boat on Shore to see if he is there; Should he not be there, and you can prevail on an Arab to take a letter from you to him, informing him of your Arrival on the Coast you had better do it, but if you cannot find any Arab that will take charge of a letter, or go to him, you will make all possible dispatch along Shore towards Derne, keeping as near as possible, and should you see Signals corresponding with those established, you will send a Boat on shore if the Weather will permit, and communicate with M<sup>r</sup> Eaton, taking care that the Officer that goes in the Boat ascertains clearly that he is safe in landing

You are aware of the necessity there is of M<sup>r</sup> Eatons having the field pieces, and I am sure you will use every means in your power to fall in with him

[NDA. Captain's LB, Vol. 2, 1805.]

Extract from journal of U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Captain John Rodgers, U. S. Navy, commanding, Thursday, 25 April 1805

[Off Tripoli] At 4 [P.M.] the town of Tripoli bore S S W distance 4 leagues, at 6 made The Signal N<sup>o</sup> 1 to the *President*—

At Midnight Moderate breezes and Pleasant Weather,

At 10 Cap<sup>t</sup> Cox came on board At 11 he returned to the *President* & Took charge of the strange sails And stood to the North<sup>d</sup>

Latitude Observed 33° 21' N.

[USNA.]

Extract from journal of William Eaton, U. S. Navy Agent for the Barbary Regencies, Thursday, 25 April 1805

At six in the morning beat the general and gave orders for marching. — The Arabs mutinized. — The Shieks il Taiib and Mahomet at the head of the Arab cavalry took up a retrograde march, and the Bedouins refused to strike their tents. — After much persuasion, some reproach, and a promise of two thousand dollars to be shared among the chiefs, they were prevailed on to advance: — and at two oclock p. m. we camped on an eminence which overlooks Derne, and reconnoitred the place. — Discovered that the Governor's defence consisted of a water battery of eight nine pounders — Towards the N. E. some temporary breast works and walls of old buildings to the S. E. and along the front of the bay a department of the city of about



one third the whole number of inhabitants, who were in the interest of Joseph Bashaw, had provided their terraces and walls of their houses with loopholes. — The Governor had also a ten inch howitzer mounted on the terrace of his palace. — Sundry Shieks came out this evening to meet the Bashaw, who assured him of the loyalty and attachment of the other two departments of the city; but stated that the Governor could bring eight hundred men into battle, and as he possessed all the batteries, breast works, and seaboard, we should find it difficult to dislodge him. — Besides Joseph Bashaw's army was just at hand. — I thought the Bashaw wished himself back to Egypt. — No vessels in sight today. —

[H. E. Huntington L&AG.]

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Extract from journal of Midshipman Charles Morris, Jr., U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *President*, Master Commandant George Cox, U. S. Navy, commanding, Thursday, 25 April 1805

Day light saw the *Constitution* and three other vessels with her 8 Spoke the *Constitution* Capt Cox went on board. 10 Capt Cox returned

All hands employed preparing to take the three Vessels in tow. They being suspected for Tripolines tho under Tunisian Colours  
Latitude Observed 33° 25' N.

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

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To Secretary of the Navy from Master Commandant John Shaw, U. S. Navy

NEW YORK April 26<sup>th</sup> 1805

SIR I have received your letter of 22<sup>nd</sup> with an enclosed for Liu<sup>t</sup> Spriggs which shall be duly delivered. M<sup>t</sup> Carr (Purcer) arived on 24<sup>th</sup> he is making every exertion to promote dispatch in his department. I expect on Saturday to have on board the Stores of every department and by Monday to be ready for sea. Gun Boat N<sup>o</sup> 7 will drop down to Staten Island on Monday and N<sup>o</sup> 6 on Wednesday I shall place men on board them to compleat them for Sea. — Liu<sup>t</sup> Oglivee finds much difficulty in getting Men for the Gun Boats the fact is this port at preasant have but few Seaman to dispose of. I am apprehensive the G. Boats will have to be supplied from the *John Adams*. but your aprobatation will be necessary, We find some trouble in procuring G. Powder Gen<sup>t</sup> Stevens has 15.000 <sup>lbs</sup> in Keeping of excellant proof in Copper hooped barrels. it belongs to the state department a transfer no doubt could be procured of part of it. to Supply me. Liu<sup>t</sup> Edw<sup>d</sup> N. Cox. has reported himself, he left Balt<sup>o</sup> on 24<sup>th</sup> for N. York

Be so good to designate the rank of my Liu<sup>t</sup> in order to rectify any dispute which per chance might take place between them —

[NDA. MC LB, 1804-5.]

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To John Beekman, Navy Agent, New York, N. Y., from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

BOSTON Ap<sup>l</sup> 26. 1805

SIR It is requisite that the two 13 Inch Mortars, shells &c &c be sent here as soon as possible & without loss of time, as the Bomb Vessels are in considerable forwardness and will be detained for want of them if they do not arrive soon, I should advise you to send them by

a Vessel taken up for the purpose, or by one of the regular Packets, as the Coasters belonging to the Vineyard Nant<sup>st</sup> or Cape Cod, generally stop by the way.

[LC. EPP, Vol. 14, 1804-1805.]

To the Governor of Derne, from William Eaton, U. S. Navy Agent for the Barbary Agencies

(Note 1 in letter of April 29)

ENVIRONS OF DERNE

April 26. [1805]

SIR, I want no territory. With me is advancing the legitimate Sovereign of your country — Give us a passage through your city; and for the supplies of which we shall have need you shall receive fair compensation — Let no differences of religion induce us to shed the blood of harmless men who think little & know nothing. — If you are a man of liberal mind you will not balance on the propositions I offer. — Hamet Bashaw pledges himself to me that you shall be established in your government. — I shall see you to morrow in a way of your choice. —

EATON

Answer — Same Date  
My head or yours  
Mustifa

[H. E. Huntington L&AG. EA 272.]

To William Eaton, U. S. Navy Agent for the Barbary Regencies, from Master Commandant John H. Dent, U. S. Navy

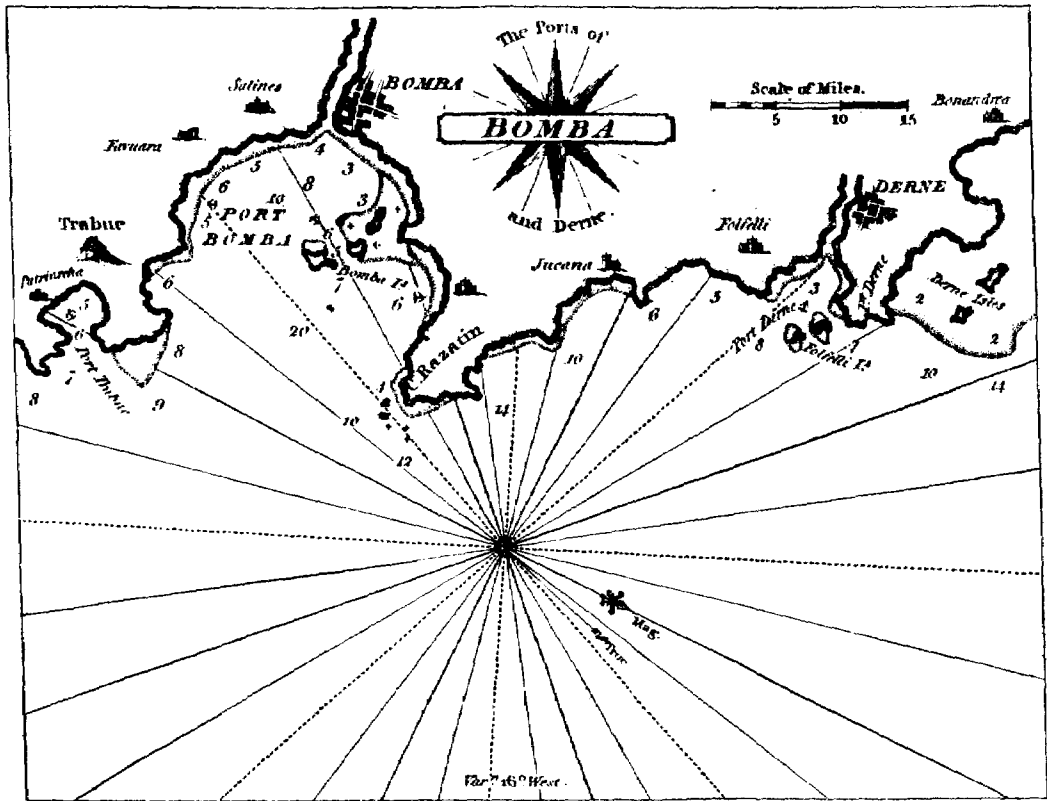
US SCH<sup>r</sup> *Nautilus*

April 26<sup>th</sup> 1805

D<sup>r</sup> SIR After considerable Difficulty and very contrary winds I[t] gives me great pleasure to have reached you before you made the attack as I am fully sensible you must have suffered for the want of the field pieces — I have two on board comple[te] except gen for the horses — I have made two hundred bags of musket balls for grape fillerd [?] & 150 round shot — 9 Barrels of powder — & a quantity of Musket Balls & Lead which I am runing daily for your use — I have on board a quantity of Small Stores for you and which I am sure must be acceptable — I anchored in Bomba the day after you marched & left the Brig *Argus* & Sloop yesterday evening off Cape Razatin on this way here — you will please send a large party down early in the Morning for the field pieces & ammunition — which I am affraid you will find some difficulty in getting the hill I sent an arab from Cape Razatin yesterday with a Letter to you, informing you of my being on the coast — I likewise sent you a Letter from the Com. & two packages from the US — you will please let me know in the morning what you want & any thing I have on board you shall freely have — Make my respects to OBannon & all your Brave followers & wishing you all the Success you so fully deserve

When you make the attack I shall render you all the assistance by Sea the Schooner is capable of

[HS of Pa. Gratz Col.]





Extract from Memorandum Book of Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, Friday,  
26 April 1805

[At Boston] Purchased a schooner of 102 tons 11 mo. old for 4,000 Dollars and a sloop 92 tons 2 years old for 3,000 dollars to be fitted as Bomb ketches. Sent them over to Navy Yard, Charlesto[w]n.

[LC original.]

Extract from journal of William Eaton, U. S. Navy Agent for the Barbary Regencies,  
Friday, 26 April 1805

Eight a. m. made signals by smoke upon the highest point of the mountain At 2. p. m. the *Nautilus* hove in sight: — exchanged signals: — and at six we spoke — I expressed my determination to attack the town tomorrow if the other vessels came in seasonably. —

[H. E. Huntington L&AG.]

Extract from journal of Midshipman Charles Morris, Jr., U. S. Navy, on board  
U. S. Frigate *President*, Master Commandant George Cox, U. S. Navy, commanding,  
Friday, 26 April 1805

Sent an Officer and 7 Men to each prize and took them in tow.  
4 lost Sight of the *Constitution*.

Latitude Observed 35° 30' N.

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

To Lieutenant Colonel Commandant Franklin Wharton, U. S. Marine Corps, from  
First Lieutenant John Howard, U. S. Marine Corps, U. S. Brig *Siren*

MALAGA April 27<sup>th</sup> 1805

I wrote you December last Inclosed you, the state of the Detachment, at that time. Inclos'd now five Enlistments their Size Roll, Cloathing returns & Pay Roll to April 1<sup>st</sup> 1804 [?] I expect to come across those left at Hospital @ Sirucuse, & them Turnd over to Brig *Scourge*, and fetch them up to 1<sup>st</sup> Jan<sup>r</sup> 1804 [?]. The Drummer, I have Enlist a good one, Graham, & He, practise every Day. —

We left the Squadron at Malta October 7<sup>th</sup> And been Stationed here. I have been inform'd of the Change of Marine Officers Lt Johnson to a Frigate & I was not there at the Change, And as long as we stay on the lower Station, I shall be contented, but should we be order'd up, I shall, should an Opportunity offer, Make Application, to return to America.

The few Men I have are Young, Healthy an clean Men, our being often in Port requires them to be so they are in New Uniform, and Pride themselves on it. Not haveing Supplies; I am Oblige to purchase Hatts, Shirts, Shoes, Overalls, &c. W<sup>th</sup> Cooper, & Thos Revenness, Deserted I expended a goodeal of time & Money after them I caut Cooper at S<sup>t</sup> Maries he has deserted the second time. —

We have nothing new from our Squardren off Tripoli, we understand the Commodore cant get the King of Naples Gun Boats as the French has got possession of Naples, the King has fled to Mesina in Siciesly. — The French Fleet pased us April 11<sup>th</sup> whilst we lay at Tanger, consisting of 19 Sail they appeard off Cadiz at 4 OClock the same Day, and gave a Signal for the Spanish, & French fleets to come out in 6 Hours; consisting five Ships of the Line, & Six Frigates, with 3000 Troops the City was much in confution all the Culprits was taking out of goals Workhouses &c to Make up the compliment

was Put on Board in the Time Mentioned Sir Jno Ord formed a line with his Squadron when the French hove in site Night coming on the french not wanting to come to Action made their best way on Sir Jno Ord disappeard Supposing He will not loose Sight of the French no one at Gibraltar, Cadiz or Here, has any Idier where they are agoing. There is report Nelson went to Malta to repair his fleet and Died there His Fleet is not yet come Down —

Please give My respects to Marine Officer at Barracks

[USMC. LR, 1805.]

To Captain John Rodgers, U. S. Navy, from Charles Biddle

PHILADELPHIA April 27. 1805.

SIR. You have enclosed a letter from our friend Com. Truxtun who has this day moved from Amboy to Philadelphia —

You will oblige me very much by any service you may render James.

I understood from Commodore Preble, that he would have made a peace with Tripoli if the *John Adams* had arrived a day later than she did; and would have done it after her Arrival, if he had not been informed by Lieutenant Chauncey, that it was the expectation of the Government and people here, that the prisoners would be obtained without ransom; in this he was certainly mistaken. The trifling sum of 150,000 Dollars or much more would have been paid with pleasure —

I sincerely hope you will soon conclude an honorable peace with Tripoli and restore the Prisoners to their Country

[LC. JRP, Vol. 1, Series Two, Feb. 1775–May 1805.]

To Secretary of the Navy from Lieutenant Nathaniel Fanning, U. S. Navy

CHARLESTON S. C.

April the 27<sup>th</sup> 1805

SIR I have enclosed you a rough sketch of the new Goat [Gun] Boat N<sup>o</sup> 9, which I have delivered up the charge, or Command of, to Lieu<sup>t</sup> Elbert; after having put the two Guns on Board of her, originally intended for Her; and I have the honour to say that She has sufficient room at each End for mounting them both, and I cannot help again repeating that I quit her with regret, believing her to be the largest, most Burthensome, and will Sail the fastest of any Boat, or Vessel belonging to our Navy. I believe that Three Days more will be sufficient to finish her equipment and make her ready for Sea.

[NDA. Misc. LB, Vol. 2, 1805.]

To Captain James Barron, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. *Essex*, from Master Commandant Thomas Robinson Jr., U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. Schooner *Enterprise*.

VENICE April 27<sup>th</sup> 1805

DEAR SIR Yours of the 23<sup>d</sup> is before me & your observations and difficulties have met mine exactly, we had almost arrang<sup>d</sup> for two before your letter arrived and shall conclude immediately. — I have every thing atanto and ready to come out of the Arsenal. But I am advised (by you know who) not to move until matters are prepared for [space]. then to take in the schooner such articles as cannot go out otherwise. I shall be prepared for every accident — and in case

of one. Ancona is my port for a finish, or rather to pick up the [space] I shall be ready for sea in seven or eight days, finished in *toto* and if anything occurs Sooner — had you not better wait a little time —

I shall want hands, recollect I have but thirty & can make but a weak defence when divided if by accident I should meet an enemy: think of this and the property I shall have in charge; it's worth attention — a few Days will make but little difference & surely we are early enough. — write me very particularly & every post let me know your determination. I shall attend to your observations, and if things go on Smooth (and no obstacles in the way) certainly shall follow them in either point I am safe. I must go in company (that's certain) with the little ones —

With compliments to our friends and sincere respect & friendship for you

NB M<sup>r</sup> Henzleman heard this day by a Barque that you have had difficulties — if so tell me: we have none but H<sup>e</sup> fears are alive from the report — write me particulars — think of Ancona — it is a Roman Port at War with the Turks & the kind of *boats wanted* are built *there* — we have bought one with Roman Papers or is Roman Property at least.

I can meet you at Ancona (if you please) in a very short time.

[NDA. Captain's LB, Vol. 1, 1805.]

[27 April 1805]

Resolution concerning Reward for March to and Capture of Derne

IN SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

March 18, 1806.

The following resolutions were submitted for consideration, and read.

#### RESOLUTIONS.

RESOLVED, by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That Congress entertain an high sense of the patriotism, intrepidity, and valor of William Eaton, late general in chief of the army of the ex-Bashaw of Tripoli, and of Priestly N. O'Bannon, and George Washington Mann; three American officers, who with a small number of American marines and the forces of the ex-Bashaw composed of *Greeks and Arabs*, courageously marched through the Libyan desert, defeated the Tripolitan army near *Derne*, and took that city on the twenty seventh day of April, eighteen hundred and five, and for the first time spread the American eagle in *Africa*, on the ramparts of a Tripolitan fort, and thereby contributed to release three hundred American prisoners from bondage in *Tripoli*.

Resolved, As a further testimony of the gratitude of their country, the President of the United States be requested to cause to be surveyed within the limits of the public lands of the United States now open for sale, as the said William Eaton shall elect, a township of six miles square to be called *Derne*, as a memorial of the conquest of that city forever; and to cause to be laid out, surveyed, and granted, to the said William Eaton in one entire tract within said township [space] thousand acres, and to Priestly N. O'Bannon, and George Washington Mann, each [space] thousand acres, and to Arthur Campbell, Bernard

O'Brian, David Thomas, and James Owen, the only surviving marines who served as volunteers in that expedition, three hundred and twenty acres each; to be granted to them respectively, their heirs and assigns forever.

[See letters of 28 and 29 April 1805.]

[LC. EPP, Vol. 17, Jan.-June 1806.]

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Extract from journal of William Eaton, U. S. Navy Agent for the Barbary Regencies,  
Saturday, 27 April 1805

At  $\frac{1}{2}$  past five in the morning the *Argus* and *Hornet* appeared in sight.

(See my dispatches to Commodore Barron of April 29.)

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

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Extract from journal of Midshipman Charles Morris, Jr., U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *President*, Master Commandant George Cox, U. S. Navy, commanding, Saturday, 27 April 1805

1 [A. M.]. Cast off the Vessels in tow.

9. Sent the pinnace into the harbour of Malta —

Latitude Observed  $35^{\circ} 59' N$ .

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

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To Sir Alexander John Ball, Governor of Malta, from Captain Edward Preble  
U. S. Navy

BOSTON Ap<sup>l</sup> 28<sup>th</sup> 1805

DEAR SIR I have the honor to acquaint you of my arrival in the U States and to repeat to you my thanks for your very friendly and polite attentions while at Malta.

The last letter with which you honored me previous to my leaving the station was dated the 20<sup>th</sup> Sep<sup>r</sup> 1804, in answer to mine enclosing you a copy of the official letter from my Government notifying me of my superceedure in the Command of our Squadron; the two letters I rec<sup>d</sup> from you previous to that were marked *Private*, and considered as such by me, but that of the 10<sup>th</sup> being in answer to a communication of a public nature and not mark'd *Private* I took the liberty to permit a friend in our service to peruse, and by his earnest request, to extract from it for the satisfaction of a friend of his in Congress a paragraph considered highly honorable to me, as it was expressive of your approbation of my Conduct, I however enjoin'd it upon him to not allow it go any farther than his friend, I was therefore astonished on my arrival to find published in one of our News Papers something like the Paragraph in question altho not literally the same, it is true that your Name is not mentiond as the writer, but in a Marginal note you are supposed to have been, indeed your character is so delineated in the paragraph itself as to justify the supposition.

I am extremely sorry that an extract from any letter with which you hon<sup>d</sup> me, should have been published without your consent and without my consent or knowledge, be assured it has given me much uneasiness. I do not however consider that it can in any way be injurious to you, altho conjecture has made you the author, and shall be extremely grieved should it in any way interrupt the harmony and good understanding heretofore subsisting between us.



I shall agreeable to your wish send out two fishing smacks, they will be loaded with provisions for our Squadron & will sail in about a month for Malta, our agent will have orders to discharge and deliver them to your Excell<sup>cy</sup> at the original cost here. I shall again write you by them.

I enclose you a paper containing the extract in question, and repeat my regret at its publication.

I beg you to present my respects to Lady Ball,

[LC. EPP, Vol. 14, 1804-1805.]

To Captain Samuel Barron, U. S. Navy, Malta, from Master Commandant Isaac Hull, U. S. Navy

UNITED STATES BRIG *Argus*  
DERNE 28<sup>th</sup> April 1805

SIR, I have the honor to inform you, that at 9 O.Clock in the morning of the 27<sup>th</sup> being about 10 Miles to the Eastward of the Town of Derne, with the *Hornet* in Company, we discovered the *Nautilus* at Anchor very close to the shore, which led us to suppose that Cap<sup>t</sup> Dent had fallen in with M<sup>r</sup> Eatons Army, as he had been sent in shore for that purpose the day before. — We made all sail for the *Nautilus*, and at  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 10 spoke her, and was informed by Cap<sup>t</sup> Dent that he had, had communication with M<sup>r</sup> Eaton the night before, and that he wished to have the field Pieces landed as soon as possible, and that M<sup>r</sup> Eaton intended to make an attack upon Derne as soon as he could get possession of them, being then about two and a half miles from the Town, and the Enemy having sent him a challenge, hoisted out our Boat to send the field Pieces on shore with such supplies as M<sup>r</sup> Eaton was in want of, but on approaching the shore we found that it was impossible to land the Guns without hauling them up an almost perpendicular rock Twenty feet above the Boat. But with the perseverance of the Officer and men sent on this service, they effected the landing one of them, by hauling them up the steep Rock. M<sup>r</sup> Eaton finding that we should loose time in landing the other, sent it off again informing me that he should march for the Town as soon as he could possibly mount the field Piece that he had on shore. gave Lieutenant Evans Orders to stand close in shore, and cover the Army while they were preparing to march, in case the Enemy should come out against them, as they had already made their appearance in large numbers outside of the Town, gave Orders for the necessary preparations to be made for the attack by Sea upon the Town and Batteries, and stood down very close to the Town. — At 2 P. M. M<sup>r</sup> Eaton began the attack by Land, at same time the *Hornet* Lieu<sup>t</sup> Evans Anchored with Springs on his Cables, within One hundred Yards of the Battery of eight Guns, and commenced a heavy fire upon it,

The *Nautilus* took her station to the Eastward of the *Hornet*, at  $\frac{1}{2}$  a miles distance from shore, and opened upon the Town & Battery The *Argus* Anchored without, and a little to the Eastward of the *Nautilus*, and began firing on the Town and Battery — The fort kept up a heavy fire for about an hour, after which the shot flying so thick about them, they abandoned it, and run into the Town and Gardens back — The Guns of the Vessels were turned on the Beach, and kept a heavy fire upon the Enemy to clear the way for the few

brave Christians M<sup>r</sup> Eaton had with him, to enter the fort as they were gaining ground very fast though a heavy fire of Musquetry was constantly kept upon them from behind the Houses and old Walls near the shore. At about a half past 3 we had the satisfaction to see Lieu<sup>t</sup> O. Bannon, and M<sup>r</sup> Mann Midshipman of the *Argus*, with a few brave fellows with them, enter the fort, haul down the Enemy's flag, and plant the American Ensign on the Walls of the Battery, and on turning the Guns of the Battery upon the Town, they found that the Enemy had left them in great haste, as they were found primed and loaded at their hand. —

Whilst our men were turning the Guns of the Battery upon the Town, Hamet Bashaw had taken possession of the back part of it, which brought the Enemy between two fires, which soon silenced them, and about four in the Afternoon we had complete possession of the Town and Fort, sent all our Boats on shore, for the purpose of carrying Amunition to the Fort, and to bring off the wounded men, as soon as possible, that they might be dressed. — M<sup>r</sup> Eaton gave the necessary Orders at the Fort, and went into the Town to see every thing quiet, and to make arrangements for the Towns being well guarded during the night. At a half past five, he returned on board to get his wound dressed, having received a Musquet Ball thro' his left wrist. — On collecting our men we found one killed and Thirteen Wounded, a list of which I have the honor to send you. —

(Signed) ISAAC HULL

John Wilton. a Marine.....	Killed
William Eaton Esq <sup>r</sup> .....	Wounded
David Thomas, Marine.....	d <sup>o</sup>
Bernard O. Brian d <sup>o</sup> .....	d <sup>o</sup>
George Emanuel (Greek).....	d <sup>o</sup>
Spedo Levedo.....d <sup>o</sup> .....	d <sup>o</sup>
Bernardo Jamase.....d <sup>o</sup> .....	d <sup>o</sup>
Nicholo George.....d <sup>o</sup> .....	d <sup>o</sup>
George Goree.....d <sup>o</sup> .....	d <sup>o</sup>
Cap <sup>t</sup> Lucca.....d <sup>o</sup> .....	d <sup>o</sup>
Names unknown 3 d <sup>o</sup> .....	d <sup>o</sup>
Angelo Feroso. Maltee.....	d <sup>o</sup>

[NDA. Isaac Hull LB, 1803-1806.]

Extract from journal of Midshipman Charles Morris, Jr., U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *President*, Master Commandant George Cox, U. S. Navy, commanding, Sunday, 28 April 1805

6 [P. M.] Came to anchor in the harbor of Valette in 10 fathoms water. The Prizes anchored in the Quarantine harbour, to the North of Valette.

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

Extract from journal of Hezekiah Loomis, Steward, U. S. Navy, in U. S. Brig *Vixen*, Master Commandant John Smith, U. S. Navy, commanding, Sunday, 28 April 1805

[Syracuse] Received 119 lbs Fresh Beef. Pleasant weather. I went this day into the Country, the first thing (except a pleasant country) worthy of notice is Dionisius's Cave. You ascend upon top of the ruins. From thence you are, by the help of a rope, lowered down into the "Cav" (as the Sicilians call it) from thence 150 feet in the

dark and gloomy cave where the least whisper is heard as distinctly as though your voice was raised to its common pitch. After satisfying my curiosity in this dreary mansion I departed further towards where the ancients had their theatres and ampitheatres. I here discovered the appearance of a great building, even some of their seats in the circus are still remaining to this day. I then proceeded to the catacombs where I was struck with wonder and surprise, to enter under large masses of stone and ruined buildings with streets and alleys almost as perfect as before it was sunk. After having traveled about 3 miles under ground we returned. My guide informed me that he could pass 30 miles in the same passage. How far it extends toward Etna I could not fine out, but sufficient reason to suppose it extends very near to the foot of the mountain.

[L. F. Middlebrook. NDA copy.]

Certificate concerning Isaac Eyre, shipbuilder

PHILADELPHIA April 29<sup>th</sup> 1805

We the Subscribers Ship Carpenters and Master Builders in the City of Philadelphia being personally acquainted with the Bearer Isaac Eyre Jun<sup>r</sup> who proposess to follow his trade on the Ohio and is now engaged to build gun boats there for the government do certify that he Served a regular apprenticeship in Philadelphia to John Wilson and that he is well acquainted with his trade and may be considered as a master builder having done Business on his own account at Chester for Some time past witness our hands

JOSEPH GRICE  
JOHN WILSON  
ISAAC WHITE  
FRANKLIN EYRE  
GEORGE EYRE

A true Copy of the Original  
witness, presant  
WM CONDON  
W<sup>m</sup> CONDON JUN<sup>r</sup>

I am now at Philadelphia on my way to Cumberland river and mean to Start on tuesday the 30<sup>th</sup> instant for Pittsburg: from yours &c —  
ISAAC EYRE JUN<sup>r</sup>

Sir please to give my respects to M<sup>r</sup> W<sup>m</sup> Oneal

[NDA. Misc. LB, Vol. 2, 1805.]

To Captain Samuel Barron, U. S. Navy, from Captain Stephen Decatur, Jr., U. S. Navy

U. S. SHIP *Congress* MESSINA

April 29<sup>th</sup> 1805

SIR I arrived here on the 24<sup>th</sup> after touching at Syracuse for the purpose of obtaining practique

I am happy to inform you there is no doubt but M<sup>r</sup> Ridgley will be acquitted of the charge—he is still on board the *Congress* where the Governor has been good enough to permit him to remain until the ship is about departing, when he will be comfortably lodged in the Citadel. —

M<sup>r</sup> Broadbents influence with the Government as well as with the

English Consul & merchants here is great, all of which he has exerted on the present occasion. — from what I have observed I feel it a duty to state to you Commodore that had not M<sup>r</sup> Broadbent interested himself in the manner he has the decision of the Tribunal would have been widely different from what there is no doubt it will now be. —

I have been waiting for a wind to carry me through the straits two days the moment it comes I shall depart. —

[Mrs. James S. Barron Col.]

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To Captain Samuel Barron, U. S. Navy, from William Eaton, U. S. Navy Agent for the Barbary Regencies

DERNE April 29<sup>th</sup> 1805

SIR The information I have the honor to forward of this date, stating in abstract occurrences since my last, will not disappoint the expectations my Calculations then may have formed.

Certain periods of your letter of 22<sup>nd</sup> Ult<sup>o</sup>. require a seperate and distinct answer, This I shall do with candor.

It was understood when Governme[n]t came to a determination to try the effect of a Co-operation with Hamet Bashaw, against the Enemy, that provision would be made adequate to the experiment Six field pieces, a thousand stand of Arms with suitable amunition and Eighty thousand Dollars were asked for by Hamet Bashaw while yet in possession of this province and gaining ground against the Usurper — the Secretary of the Navy inform'd me, that the Arms Amunition, & fifty Thousand Dollars would be furnish'd; and they were to have been put on board at Hampton Roads. While the Squadron were getting ready for sea, information arrived of the Bashaw having been driven from his post and retired to Egypt, In consequence of which it is to be presumed, the supplies getting in readiness were withheld as the success of the experiment then appear'd very doubtfull. The twenty thousand Dollars deposited with the Consul General at Algiers, to be applied to this service, cannot be supposed adequate to the purpose, of bringing the Bashaw from his exile in Egypt, placing him in a situation to act against a rival possessed of all the resources of his Kingdom, and of carrying his plan of operations into Effect, Whatever may have been the disposition of the people towards him, the twenty thousand Dollars therefore could have been meant, only to assist the research of the Bashaw, and the revival of his affairs, in case our plan should be thought feasible, Hence I think it is not presuming too far to conclude, that the unlimited discretion vested in the Commander in Chief, in regard to all the exigencies of the War, and particularly as it relates to the object in view, extends to every matter necessary to its accomplishment. The instructions of the Secretary of the Navy, certainly cannot mean to tie him down to any limited application, The advantages calculated to result from the Success of this measure, have been heretofore stated; and thus far, the experiment has not disappointed those calculations We are in possession of the most valuable province of Tripoli The high estimation the enemy places on this department of the Kingdom is evidenced by the extraordinary efforts he has used to defend it, and by the menaces to which he has resorted to deter us from the operations here; his Camp was only fourteen hours march from the place when

we seized it by assault. I am this evening inform'd they are retrograding, and only regret that we have not the means of pursuing them.

The expences already incurred in this expedition will amount to nearly thirty thousand Dollars, for thirteen thousand of which we are indebted to Mess<sup>rs</sup> Briggs, Brothers, of Alexandria, Eleven thousand have been received through the hands of Cap. Hull, including his advances and drafts in Egypt — I have disbursed nearly two thousand and for the residue shall be indebted to individuals. This expence will not appear extravagant, when it is consider'd, that it covers all our expenditures in Egypt, where many sacrifices were necessary to pass the barriers of Turkish jealousy, and avidity in getting the Bashaw through that Country, of furnishing horses, tents, arms, and amunition, preparatory to our entering the desert — of provisioning a thousand two hundred souls, and about two hundred horses, in that barren desert upwards of forty Days, a distance of nearly five hundred miles, and of Caravans for transporting those provisions the whole distance from Alexandria; and also the unavoidable expenditures in presents to chiefs, and payments to troops in order to gain the one and avail ourselves of the services of the other —

MAY 1<sup>st</sup>

The situation in which it is known Hamet Bashaw was found in Upper Egypt must of itself suggest the idea, that he must be destitute of all means of moving a Military expedition except the attachment of his subjects. The possession of this Province does not materially alter that situation. The general failure of the Harvest, which the whole coast of barbary experienced last Season, together with the extraordinary tributes which Jussuf Bashaw has exacted to support the War, has render'd not only this, but every other part of Tripoli, poor & oppress'd; wholly destitute of contributing any thing, very considerable to either of the rival Brothers. This is a circumstance favorable to our measures, if we will go to the expence of profiting of it — No Chief, whatever may be the attachment of his followers, can long support Military operations, without the means of subsisting and paying his troops. The observation is peculiarly applicable to the temper and Circumstances of the Arabs of this Country, who in fact form, its real strength, who are poor, yet avaricious, and who being accustom'd to despotism, are generally indifferent about the name or person of their despot, provided he imposes no new burthens. Stronger proof of this cannot be brought, than the difficulty Jusuf Bashaws Camp has found in recruiting in its progress from Tripoli. it left there long since with about two hundred Men,

I have this morning intercepted six letters from that Camp, dated only four days since, sign'd by the Commander in Chief, the Governor of Bengazi, and an Aid de Camp address'd to the Governor of Derne, & to several Chiefs or Shieks encouraging them to hope & perseverance & stating that their delay has only been occasioned by expectations of receiving reinforcements from the Arab Tribes. They have increased their number only three hundred 'tho they have pass'd through that part of the Country nearest, and most nearly attached to the Enemy. Hamet Bashaw brought two thousand Arabs into the field on the 27<sup>th</sup> This serves to shew the weight of money with these people, and as a pretty good criterion of the ballance of influence between the two Bashaws. With the aids contemplated by Government to have been furnished Hamet Bashaw, when in the position

he now holds. I have no doubt, but he may proceed to the Walls of Tripoli. But while I offer this Opinion, I cannot conceal my apprehensions, grounded on experience, that when arrived there he would effect little, without more military talent & firmness, than exists either in himself or the *hordes* of Arabs who attach themselves to him; They are exactly what Volney describes of the Camps of the Egyptian Beys, rather a rabble than an Army, & in our affair here, they held safe positions to catch fugitives, untill the doors of the Enemy were open'd for plunder, when they became at once brave, & impetuous. If therefore the co-operation is to be pursued with him and 'tis direction is to be confided to me, it must be on condition that detachments of regulars may be occasionally debark'd from the Squadron, or procured elsewhere, to aid and give effect to such operations as require energy. With the supplies asked for, provisions for our Christians, and with the firm front of our regular regiment, I believe it would not be presuming too far to engage, in conjunction with the Squadron, to force the enemy to take refuge in a Sanctuary; But I confess, Sir, there is one discouraging circumstance resulting from the declared views, in affording auxiliaries to Hamet Bashaw. These aids are to be withdrawn at any period, when the Enemy shall propose terms of peace, which may be accepted by the Agent of Government on the spot. If Hamet Bashaw is to be used *solely* as an instrument, to the attainment of an Object, exclusively to the advantage of the United States, without any consideration to his future existence and well being. I cannot persuade myself that any bonds of patriotism dictate to me the duty of having a Chief Agency, nor indeed any, in so extraordinary a Sacrifice. Certainly the Enemy will propose terms of Peace with us, the moment he entertains serious apprehensions of his Brother. This may happen at any stage of the War, most likely to rid him of so dangerous a rival, and not only only Hamet Bashaw, but every one acting with him, must inevitably fall victims to our economy, If we proceed no farther, it wou'd seem incumbent on the honor of Government in the event of Peace, at least to place Hamet Bashaw, in a situation as eligible as that from which he has been drawn; out of the power of an incens'd and vindictive enemy — Probably Jusuf Bashaw would agree to establish him in the Government of this province and Bengaza, and to restore to him his family He may perhaps be made satisfied with such an Accomodation, & the United States experience from it, many of the advantages calculated to result from carrying the original plan into execution, and consistently with both our honor and interest, At all events I am deeply impress'd with the opinion, that the post we have secured here, should not be abandoned, nor terms of peace precipitately embraced; Indeed it were to be wished that the effect of the success of Co-operation might be tried — It would very probably be a death blow to the Barbary System. Any accomodation savoring of relaxation would as probably be death to the Navy, and a wound to the National honor. If it is determined to proceed, or hold a position here; further supplies of cash & provisions, must immediately be sent to the Coast, for reasons which will suggest themselves, from preceding observations, It would not be good policy in Hamet Bashaw, to levy Contributions during the Contest with his brother, least it should alineate his friends. On the contrary, he ought to be enabled to move with a liberal hand. Cash will do much with the inhabitants

of this Country; even those whom it will not engage to fight, will by it be engaged not to fight: With it we can pass generally. But if we here & there find a wall'd town, or a garrison impervious to its influence, cannon balls & bayonets come in as irresistible Agents.

The Convention I have enter'd into with Hamet Bashaw, may be useful, in case he succeeds in getting repossession of his Government; otherwise it can do no mischief, even if ratified, as will appear, by the precaution in the second article. I enclose a copy

It is with much pain I keep a sedentary position to write, this circumstance with the indulgence I allow myself to expect from your goodness, will I am persuaded; furnish me an apology for omissions and inaccuracies

It has been deemed expedient by Cap. Hull & the other Commanders whom I have consulted, and myself, that the *Argus* & *Nautilus* should remain here, untill these dispatches can receive answers, on account of the Enemy's Camp being in the Vicinity — I am confident it will not approach us, but disperse if it has not already, Should it perceived however, that the coast is to be abandon'd, it would encourage an effort in the Commanders to gain their post of destination

I have not language to express my sense of gratitude and obligation, for your exertions in forwarding us supplies; without them we must have perished. — With my most cordial wishes for the speedy and perfect re-establishment of your health, and with the Assurance of my sincere respect and attachment, I have the honor to be

(Signed) W<sup>m</sup> EATON —

[NDA. Captain's LB, Vol. 3, 1805.]

To Captain Samuel Barron, U. S. Navy, from William Eaton, U. S. Navy Agent for the Barbary Regencies

DERNE April 29<sup>th</sup> 1805

SIR Oweing to impediments too tedious to detail, but chiefly to delinquency in our Quarter Masters department, which I had confided to Richard Farquhar. I did not leave Alexandria, 'till the third of last Month — The host of Arabs who accompanied the Bashaw from that place, and joined him on the rout, moving chiefly with their families & flocks, render'd our progress through the desert slow & painfull, add to this the ungovernable temper of this maurauding Malitia, and the frequent fits of despondency, amounting sometimes to mutiny, occasion'd by information almost every day meeting us of formidable re-enforcements from the Enemy, for the defence of this place, and it will not seem unaccountable, that it was not 'till the fifteenth instant we arrived at Bomba, We had now been twenty five days without meat, and fifteen without bread, subsisting on Rice —

Happily the next morning, discover'd the *Argus*, to whom I made Signals by Smoke, which were discover'd and answered — The *Hornet* soon after appeared, Cap. Hull sent off a Boat. I went on board, & had the honor and inexpressible satisfaction of receiving your communications of 22<sup>nd</sup> Ult. — The timely supplies that came forward in these Vessels gave animation to our half famished people; and no time was lost in moving forward on the morning of the 25<sup>th</sup> We took post on an eminence in the rear of Derne, Several chiefs came out to meet the Bashaw with assurances of fealty and attachment; By them I learn'd, that the City was divided into three departments, two of which were in the interest of the Bashaw and one in opposition —

This department 'tho fewest in numbers, was strongest in position & resources, being defended by a Battery of eight guns — the blind walls of the houses, which are provided in all directions with loop holes for Musketry, and by temporary parapets thrown up in several positions, not covered by the Battery, this department is nearest the Sea and the residence of the Bey.

On the morning of the 26<sup>th</sup> terms of Amity were offered the Bey on condition of allegiance and fidelity, The flag of Truce was sent back to me with this laconic answer "my head or yours!" At 2 P M discover'd the *Nautilus* & spoke her at six, in the morning of the 27<sup>th</sup> the *Argus* & *Hornet* appear'd & stood in. I immediately put the Army in motion and advanced towards the City, A favorable land breeze enabled the *Nautilus* & *Hornet*, to approach the shore, which is a steep & rugged declivity of rocks With much difficulty we landed and drew up the precipice one of the field pieces, both were sent in the boat for the purpose, but the apprehension of loosing this favorable moment of attack, induced me to leave one on board. We advanced to our position, Lieu<sup>t</sup> Evans stood in and anchoring within one hundred yards of the battery, opened a well directed fire Lieu<sup>t</sup> Dent dropped in and anchor'd in a position to bring his guns to bear upon the Battery & City, Cap. Commandant Hull brought the *Argus* to anchor a little South of the *Nautilus* so near as to throw her 24 P<sup>d</sup> Shot quite into the Town — A detachment of six American Marines, a company of 24 Cannoniers and another of 26 Greeks including their proper Officers, all under the immediate Command of Lieu<sup>t</sup> OBannon, together with a few Arabs on foot, had a position on an eminence opposite to a considerable party of the enemy, who had taken post behind their temporary parapets and in a ravine at the S E quarter of the town — The Bashaw seized an old Castle which overlook'd the town on the S. S. W. disposing his Cavalry on the plains in the rear, A little before 2 P M the fire became General in all quarters where Tripolitans and Americans were opposed to each other, In three quarters of an hour the Battery was silenced but not abandoned, 'tho most of the enemy withdrew precipitately from that quarter, and join'd the party opposed to the handful of Christians with me, which appeared our most vulnerable point, Unfortunately the fire of our field piece was relaxed, by the rammer being shot away

The fire of the enemy's Musketry became to warm, and continually augmenting, Our troops were thrown into confusion, and undisciplined as they were, it was impossible to reduce them to order, I perceived a charge — our dernier and only resort, We rushed forward against a host of Savages, more than ten to our one. They fled from their Coverts, irregularly, firing in retreat from every Palm tree, and partition wall in their way, At this moment I rec<sup>d</sup> a Ball through my left wrist, which deprived me of the use of the hand and of course of my Rifle, — M<sup>r</sup> OBannon, accompanied by M<sup>r</sup> Mann of Annapolis urged forward with his Marines, Greeks, and such of the cannoniers as were not necessary to the management of the field Piece, pass'd through a shower of Musketry from the Walls of houses, took possession of the Battery, planted the American Flag upon 'its ramparts, and turn'd 'its guns upon the Enemy, who being now driven from their Out Posts fired only from their houses, from which they were soon dislodged by the whole fire of the Vessels, which was suspended during the charge being directed into them, the [Hamet] Bashaw soon



got possession of the Bey's Pallace; his Cavalry flank'd the flying enemy, and a little after four O'clock, we had compleat possession of the Town The Action lasted about two hours & a half The Bey took refuge, first in a Mosque & then in a Hiram the most sacred of Sanctuaries, among the Turks, and is still there, But we shall find means to draw him thence — As he is the third man in Rank in the Kingdom, he may perhaps be used in exchange for Captain Bainbridge. —

I have fixed my post in the Battery, raised parapets and mounted Guns towards the Country, to be prepar'd against all events, 'tho I have no serious apprehensions of a Counter revolution, The moment of gaining Derne has been peculiarly fortunate, as the Camp, which long since left Tripoli for 'its defence were within two days, fourteen hours march, the day of our Attack; of which we had information in the morning and from which circumstance, it was with much difficulty I could prevail on the Bashaws Army to advance to the City, & to obey my dispositions — The Camp will probably take up a retrograde march —

Of the few Christians who fought on shore I lost fourteen Killed and Wounded, three of whom are Marines, one dead and another dying, the rest chiefly Greeks, who, in this little affair well supported their ancient character

It would be going out of my sphere to comment on the conduct of Naval Commanders, yet I should do violence to my own sense of duty & obligations were I not to observe, they coul'd not have taken better positions for their Vessels nor managed their fire with more skill and advantage.

The detail I have given of M<sup>r</sup> OBannons conduct, needs no encomium, and it is believed the disposition our Government has always discover'd to encourage merit, will be extended to this intrepid, judicious and enterprising Officer M<sup>r</sup> Manns conduct is equally meritorious.

I am bound also by a sense of well merited esteem, to mention to your particular patronage, a young English Gentleman, Mr. Farquhar, who has Volunteer'd in our expedition through the desert, and has in all cases of difficulty, exhibited a firmness and attachment, well deserving my Gratitude, If compatible with our Establishments, I request you will ensure him a Lieutenantancy in the Marine Corps

(Signed) WILLIAM EATON —

[NDA. Captain's LB, Vol. 3, 1805.]

To Captain Samuel Barron, U. S. Navy, from Master Commandant Isaac Hull, U. S. Navy

UNITED STATES BRIG *Argus*  
DERNE 29<sup>th</sup> April 1805

SIR, From the best information I can gain since having possession of this place, I find that the former Bey of Derne, has yet a party in the Town of about one third of the inhabitants, many of which, are men of influence, which makes it necessary to keep a good look out for them — Consequently have thought proper to detain the *Nautilus* a few days longer, and send the *Hornet* into Port, her Guns being disabled by the Plank Shears giving way, and being aware of your intention of fitting her for a Bomb Vessel this Summer, lead me to believe that you are anxious for her arrival, to commence her repairs. — Cap<sup>t</sup>

Dent has from three to four weeks Provision on board, and the *Argus* has Provision for about the same time, which I hope will enable us to keep the Station until I hear from you, as I think it will not be safe to leave this place in the hands of the few Christians that we have with us, Yet I should be under no apprehensions for them if the Weather will allow us to keep in sight of the land & call into the harbour every two or three days, as they are very much affraid of M<sup>r</sup> Eatons great Guns, which are pointed on the Town, and are well convinced, what ours from Sea can do, by the sample they received on the 27<sup>th</sup> —

Should you think proper to keep possession of this place, until you are made acquainted with the effect that our having it will have on the Bashaw of Tripoli, it may be easily done with supplies sufficient for the support of the few Christians that have the fort, and a Vessel kept cruizing off the Town, but I am clearly of opinion that three or four hundred Christians, with additional supplies will be necessary to pursue the expedition to Bengaze and Tripoli — I presume M<sup>r</sup> Eaton will write you fully on this subject, and inform you what provisions are necessary for the expedition — Should you think proper to have it pursued — I send you a copy of the principal occurrences, and remarks, that has happened since we left Malta, by which you will be informed of the many difficulties we have been obliged to encounter in search of the Army, and in following them to this place. —

Your Letter to Mess<sup>rs</sup> Briggs I have opened to take a copy of to forward to them, in hopes that an opportunity would offer, from this place, but have not as yet been able to send it forward — I have not seen M<sup>r</sup> Eatons communications to you, but presume that he has informed you of the sum they are in advance for the United States, which I find to be much more than when I left Alexandria. —

(Signed) ISAAC HULL

[NDA. Isaac Hull LB, 1803–1806.]

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

NAV DEP<sup>t</sup> 30 April 1805. —

Two Bomb Vessels now equipping under the direction of Comm<sup>re</sup> Preble at Boston will leave this Country about the 1 June next and join you as early as may be practicable. —

(By the *J. Adams*. Copy by gun boat N<sup>o</sup> 4 —)

[NDA. LB, 1799–1807.]

To Secretary of the Navy from Lieutenant Samuel Elbert, U. S. Navy

CHARLESTON April 30<sup>th</sup> 1805

SIR I received yours of the 17 Instant and be assured that no time shall be lost in getting the Boat ready for sea. I have already entered ten Seaman — If I cannot enter more before the first of May, tomorrow, I shall take three Men out of N<sup>o</sup> 1 — which will be enough whith the ten I have got to work her across the Atlantic

Lieut. Fanning gave me up the Command Yesterday. — I shall get my provision on Board tomorrow Morning & sail in the afternoon if the Weather is favourable —

[NDA. Misc. LB, Vol. 2, 1805.]

To Lieutenant Samuel Evans, U. S. Navy, U. S. Sloop *Hornet*, from Master Commandant Isaac Hull, U. S. Navy

UNITED STATES BRIG *Argus*  
DERNE 30<sup>th</sup> April 1805

SIR, On receipt of this you will get under way with the United States Sloop *Hornet* under your command, and proceed with all possible expedition to Malta, and report yourself to the Commodore — You will take with you the Tripolitans Prisoners taken in the Latteen Boat bound to Bengaize, and deliver them to the Commodores Order, should he be at Malta, but should he have left there, you will inform yourself where he is, and loose no time in communicating to him, your arrival, and give him every information in your power of our affairs in this place. — Your departure from this being so sudden, prevents my writing so fully to him as I could have wished, but the perfect knowledge you have of every transaction, since we left Malta will enable you to give him correct information concerning our operations on this coast and of our present situation here. —

[NDA. Isaac Hull LB, 1803-1806.]

To Timothy Mountford, Algiers, from Tobias Lear, U. S. Consul General, Algiers

MALTA April 30<sup>th</sup> 1805

MY DEAR SIR I have now before me your several letters of the 24<sup>th</sup> of October and 16 of December 1804, and of the 11<sup>th</sup> of Feb<sup>r</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>d</sup> of March, and assure you that I feel the highest satisfaction at the full information contained in them

My absence from Algiers has been very far beyond any thing I could have calculated upon when I left that place, and not a single direct opportunity of writing to you has offered untill the present. —

I am much pleased to find the Continuance of a good disposition towards the U. S. in the Dey and Gov<sup>t</sup> of Algiers I was fully impressed with the good grounds on which we stood when I left that place, and had the best Confidence in a Continuance of their friendship; in which I am happy in not finding myself disappointed. — The Expressions of regard and friendship expressed by His Excellency and the Great Officers, must be reciprocated with Cordiality — The Conduct of Segnor Juan has surprized me and mortified me Much, as I had conceived a high opinion of his correctness of conduct and believed that the treatment which he had experienced from me would have restrained him from doing any thing which might be likely to bring me into difficulty. — The attachment of the Drogerman & Sidi Alli, and their attentive Conduct will not be forgotten on my return; and those of the Servants who Continue to behave well will find their reward. — I am pleased to learn that B & B [Bacri and Busnah?], continue their attentions, and I am fully convinced they will find it their interest to pursue the same line of conduct. The arrival of the Regalia Ship, *William & Mary*, must shew the Dey that we are attentive to our engagements; altho the Cargo was not exactly such as might have been wanting. — Your answer to the request for building a 74 Gun Ship was highly prudent and proper. — I approve very much of your conduct towards Capt<sup>n</sup> Keets and those with him, when they came to settle their affairs with the Regency. — I have received a letter from Lord Nelson expressive of his sense of such Conduct, and his particular thanks to you. — I shall enclose

you a Certificate to act as a Chargé d'Affaires of the U. S. during my absence, and send the Consular Seal, in the fullest confidence, of the Prudence and propriety of your Conduct during my absence. — I am exceedingly sorry that any disagreement has taken Place between yourself and the Sweedish Consul; but shall forbear any animadversion on the subject untill I have the pleasure of seeing you. — You will be pleased to make my best respects and Congratulations to His Excellency the Dey on his escape from the late outrageous and wicked attack made on him. Tell him I pray God to preserve him many years. — Having now adverted to the several subjects mentioned in your letters, I have to inform you that you receive this letter by the Imperial Polacre ship *Premvura*, Capt<sup>s</sup> Bartolomew Smucheriech, which I have chartered and loaded with Wheat for Algiers, as you will see by the enclosed, Charter Party, Invoice and Bills of Lading. — There are on board this Ship fourteen hundred salms of wheat, each Salm making eight bushels & more of English measure; besides two Bales of Mocho coffee of 300 and odd pounds english each and 3 barrels of loaf Sugar, Containing 500<sup>lbs</sup> together & 50 stone flower pots with some other small articles which will be mentioned in the Poscript of this letter or in another.

I have made this Shipment in consequence of your advice in your letter of the 15<sup>th</sup> of March, that wheat was @ 6 dollars per measure, in Order to place a sum of Money in Algiers, on account of the United States, to pay our annuity in Cash, if it can be done, up to the 25<sup>th</sup> of March 1805, which was the day on which our annuity became due from our last settlement. — The advantages of making a payment in Cash are to obvious to need a comment, and altho' our annuity by Treaty is Stated at 21,600 dollars or 12,000 Sequins yet by sending stores it amounts to more than double that Sum; and if we can by paying 30,000 dollars in cash, settle an Annuity we must be great gainers. — This Cargo Costs here upwards of 34 dollars, with Charges; as you will see by the Invoice &<sup>c</sup> — The Scudo of Malta being 2/ — and the dollar 5/ — You will have enclosed a letter to Mess<sup>rs</sup> Bacri & Busnach consigning this Cargo at least the Wheat, to them, if they should stand on the high ground which I presume they do from your letters, and from the Situation in which I left them. — The Sugar & Coffee, together with that sent from Gibraltar, will put a large [supply?] in your hands. Some of it must be used occasionally to keep up a good understanding with certain persons, and I trust to your Prudence and good judgement to have such distributions as are necessary made with Proper economy, at the same time that they may be Serviceable to our Country.

As this Cargo is very valuable I have judged it proper to send a Supercargo with it, to attend to the delivery, the same person who has seen it put on board. His Name is Luigi Paduani and is recommended to me by M<sup>r</sup> Higgens (who you will see has procured and ship<sup>d</sup> the Cargo for me) as a very honest, sober, and intelligent man. You will see by a translation of the agreement with him, enclosed, that he will live at my house untill an opport<sup>y</sup> may offer for him to return to this place, and I hope you will find him an agreeable inmate. —

I have a double view in sending this Cargo of *Wheat* to Algiers, The first is to place money there to pay an annuity, if it can be done in Cash, and to convince the Dey of our readiness to meet our engagements punctually; and the Other, that as wheat is so necessary an

Article, and so very scarce it might have a good effect to shew that we are attentive to give that facility to such indispensable wants, as will prove our Friendship in a double Point of view; at the same time there is no doubt of its making a handsome Profit, as it is of a very Superior Quality, and in the Very best order. Let these impressions be made in the fullest manner. —

There are two Packages of letters & Papers for the British Consul, put into my hands by Sir Alexander Ball, which I beg you will deliver to him, with my best Compliments, and expressions of the pleasure which M<sup>rs</sup> Lear & myself promise ourselves from having him in our neighbourhood. — There is also a Package for M<sup>rs</sup> Norderling of some things which she requested M<sup>rs</sup> Lear to purchase for her here, and a letter for her enclosed. The amount of the Articles [ space ] dollars M<sup>rs</sup> Lear has sent to her, which you may receive, if offered, but do not wish to demand it, as it may stand till we return.

I shall give you a short history of our Voyage &<sup>c</sup> and a Statement of our situation with respect to Tripoli. — We had a pleasant passage from Algiers to the Coast of Tripoli, where we first heard of the Attacks made by Commodore Preble, who had then left that Station with the force under his Command, We found there the U. S. Frigate *President* Commodore Sam<sup>l</sup> Barron, and the *Constellation* Capt<sup>n</sup> Campbell. As the Operations, against Tripoli for this season were given up, and no prospect of opening an immediate Negotiation, we went on board the Commodore, who was going to Syracuse, and sailed for that place, where we remained about ten days and then came over here, where we have been stationary ever since, excepting a short trip which I made to Syracuse in Jan<sup>y</sup> last to see Commodore Barron who was very ill, and who returned hither with me. — we have met with every attention here that we could wish, and have passed our time very agreeably; but my anxiety to return to Algiers, and for the ill Health of Commodore B. ever Since we first met him has been great. But I did not think it proper for me to return to Algiers until I should have been able to effect the Object of my mission; or put it beyond an expectation of doing so. Thus has the Winter passed on without effecting anything, as the Communications from Tripoli, Gave no hope of a d'esprit on the part of the Bashaw to make peace on admissible terms. Lately there seems to be a Change in his Sentiments, as he finds the Season for Active Operations Approaching, and knows our force to be considerable, and our determination Strong to act on the Offensive against him; I am therefore in hopes that a few weeks will decide the matter, whether we shall settle our differences by negotiation; or try the effect of our Cannon. In either case, I presume I shall be able to depart for Algiers in the course of two months. In the mean time, I trust that every thing will remain quiet and friendly in that Quarter; and especially as it is possible we may have a rupture with Tunis, the Bey of which has been long Speaking in a threatening tone, and as Capt<sup>n</sup> Rodgers sent in here a few days ago a Cruizer of eight guns who calls himself a Tunesian, and was going with two Italian Vessels, his prizes, into Tripoli, then blockaded by our Ships. If the Bey is serious in his [th]reats, he will not fail to put them now in execution, unless he is deterred by the Neapolitan Squadron, which is said to be in his Bay, *This information is for yourself alone.*

As your communication is again open with Europe, I presume it is unnecessary to say that the French Fleet have got out of Toulon, and

passed the Straits, followed by Lord Nelson, of whom they had the advantage of 3 or 4 days. Their destination & object is unknown here

You will observe that the Capt<sup>s</sup> of the Polacre has 35 running days to take in and deliver his Cargo, after which he allows ten days demurrage at 10 doll<sup>s</sup> per day. The time of his delay here will be noted on the back of the Charter party, which I presume will not exceed 10. or 12, which will allow him 23 or 25 for discharging without encroaching upon his ten days of demurrage. — The ship will not return here as she is chartered for another Voyage, as the Capt<sup>s</sup> can shew by his Charter party

I have not received a line from the U. S. since I left Algiers, neither has the Commodore had any official advices from thence. —

M<sup>rs</sup> Lear has but indifferent health since she has been here; but I flatter myself that the settled weather which we may now expect, and the sea air, will restore to her again that invaluable blessing, She sends her best regards to you, and says it is unnecessary to desire you to take care of all our things, as she is sure it will be done, and that an attention to airing such as may be injured by laying will not be omitted. — M<sup>r</sup> Henly is in good health, and desired his best regards, when we last saw him. — He is now on the Coast of Tripoli in the Frigate *Constitution*, Capt<sup>s</sup> Rodgers, of which ship he is second Lieu<sup>t</sup> and bids fair to be an honor to his Country & friends as an attentive Active, and enterprising Officer. — Capt<sup>s</sup> S. Decatur Commands the *Congress*. — Our Small Vessels are now all out; but as soon as one can be spared, I shall request her to be sent to Algiers to see how matters stand there, and bring letters from you &<sup>s</sup> —

I shall write a few lines to the Sweedish Consul if I have time, if not present my best regards &<sup>s</sup> to him as also to the French, Spanish, Danish and Dutch Consuls and their respective families in which M<sup>rs</sup> Lear unites with me, also to M & M<sup>rs</sup> Ferarea to D<sup>r</sup> Martiningo, to Mess<sup>rs</sup> B. & B. say all Complaisant things. To the Drogerman, Sidi Alli, Francisco and all the Others of our family let us be remembered. —

I must impress upon you the necessity of great caution & circumspection in all your Conduct, which I am persuaded I shall have cause to approve —

Wishing you the enjoyment of health and every Blessing

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

[Enclosure]

[30 April 1805]

To all whom it may Concern

WHEREAS my Absence from the Regency of Algiers, On the business of the United States of America, may make it necessary to have some person there Charged with the Affairs of those States, I do hereby Authorize and appoint Timothy Mountford, my Secretary in Algiers, Chargé d'Affairs of the United States of America in the said Regency of Algiers, during my absence from thence; or untill this said power may be revoked or otherwise annulled

(SEAL) Given under my hand & seal at the City of La Valetta in the Island of Malta this thirtieth day of April, one thousand eight hundred & five —

(Signed) TOBIAS LEAR,  
Consul Gen<sup>l</sup> of the U States  
of America at Algiers &<sup>s</sup> —

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

To Bacri & Busnah, Algiers, from Tobias Lear, U. S. Consul General, Algiers

MALTA, April 30<sup>th</sup> 1805

GENTLEMEN I have sent to Algiers the Imperial Polacre Ship *Premura*, Capt<sup>n</sup> Bartolomeo Smucheriech, with a Cargo of the best hard wheat, consisting of fourteen hundred Salms of Malta, which I have Consigned to your address, to be sold to the best advantage. — The Charter Party, Invoice and Bills of Lading, you will receive from M<sup>r</sup> Mountford. —

Having heard that Wheat was very scarce at Algiers I have been induced to send this Cargo, in Order to place there a Sum of Money to pay one years Annuity from the United States of America to His Excellency the Dey and the Regency of Algiers if he should be disposed to receive an Annuity in Cash to the Amount of 30,000 dollars. —

I send Wheath in preference to money, to Shew our disposition to supply that necessary Article where it is so much wanted. — I hope it will turn to good Account — Our Annuity was settled up to the 25 day of March 1804, and we have sent one Cargo since, the amount of which I do not yet know. If the balance up to March 1805, can be paid in Cash I shall be much pleased, as it will convince the Dey of our wish to be punctual in our payments, when the distance from our Country is so great as to make the Arrival of Cargoes from thence very uncertain. — If a payment can be made in Cash you will hold the balance of the proceeds of this Cargo subject to my orders. If Cash will not be received, you will be pleased to hold the whole of the proceeds, after paying the freight, subject to like Orders. There is a Supercargo named Luigi Paduanai who goes in this Vessel. He saw the Cargo put on board, and will attend to its delivery —

I have been much longer from Algiers than I expected, as I did not find an opportunity of negotiating with the Bashaw of Tripoli upon terms which were likely to bring about a peace. — The[re] is now a prospect of coming to terms, which if effected, will enable me to return very soon to Algiers, where I wish much to be.

I have heard of the attack made on the life of his Excellency the Dey of Algiers, which I am happy to find did not take the effect intended. — I salute him on his escape and wish him many happy years. —

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

To the Swedish Consul, Algiers, from Tobias Lear, U. S. Consul General, Algiers

MALTA, April 30<sup>th</sup> 1805

The Hon<sup>ble</sup> Consul NORDERLING

DEAR SIR This is the first direct Opportunity which I have had of Writing to Algiers since I left that place, and I do not fail of embracing it to inform you of the Welfare of M<sup>rs</sup> Lear and myself, and to express our wishes that you, your good Lady and Children may enjoy every blessing. —

Our passage from Algiers to Sicily and this place was very pleasant and we have had every reason to be pleased with our residence here, and the attention which we have received. — Notwithstanding which, we still wish to be again at Algiers, considering that as our home for some time at least. — we have been absent much longer than we expected, as no occasion has yet offered of terminating the

object of my mission with Satisfaction; but I hope a better prospect now offers itself, and that we shall soon have the pleasure of seeing you again

I presume it is no news to you to hear that the French Fleet has got out of Toulon and passed the Straits. Their destination and Object are yet unknown here. Indeed in our insulated situation we are almost as much in want of information as you are at Algiers, especially in the Winter Season.

M<sup>rs</sup> Lear writes to M<sup>rs</sup> Norderling by this opportunity, and sends her part of the Articles which she requested her to procure. My best respects and regards attend M<sup>rs</sup> Norderling and all your family. Kiss your Charming Children for me; and present my regards & Compliments to Consul Billee & his Secretary, as well as to all friends in Algiers —.

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

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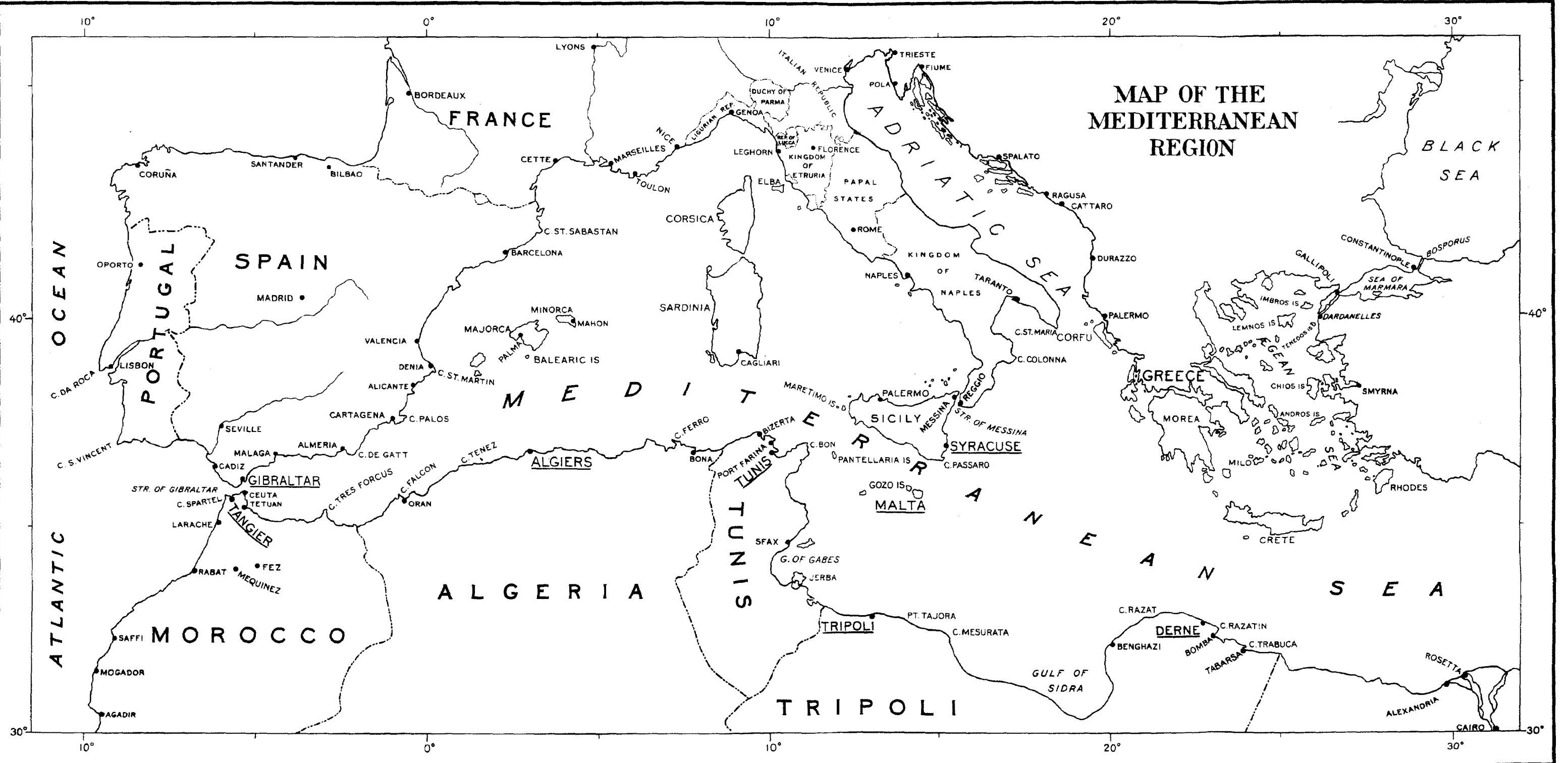
Extract from journal of Hezekiah Loomis, Steward, U. S. Navy, U. S. Brig *Vixen*, Master Commandant John Smith, U. S. Navy, commanding, Tuesday, 30 April 1805

[Syracuse] This day received from Mr. Dyson 121 lbs F. beef. Pleasant weather. At 12 o'clock I went to the arsenal and soon, saw Mr. Jno Lyon and Mr. Wm. Ballard, attended with their seconds going out of town to settle a dispute of honor. (They were both Midshipmen belonging to the Brig *Vixen*). Myself and Boatswain soon followed at a little distance and saw them exchange two shots. The second round they were both wounded, Mr. Lyon shot through the knee and Mr. Ballard was shot a little below his hips in the fleshy part. They were brought on board and the ball extracted from Ballard and afterwards sent to the Hospital, the wounds not considered mortal.

[L. F. Middlebrook. NDA copy.]



# MAP OF THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION





MOVEMENTS OF UNITED STATES NAVAL VESSELS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN, SEPTEMBER 1804 - MAY 1805.

	PRESIDENT	CONSTITUTION	CONSTELLATION	CONGRESS	ESSEX	JOHN ADAMS	ENTERPRISE	SIREN	ARGUS	NAUTILUS	VIXEN	SCOURGE	HORNET	
SEPT. 1804	1. AT MALTA 3. ARR. TRIPOLI 7. DEP. TRIPOLI 13. ARR. ALGIERS 15. DEP. ALGIERS 23. DEP. TRIPOLI 26. ARR. SYRACUSE	7. OFF TRIPOLI 13. DEP. TRIPOLI 16. ARR. MALTA 23. DEP. TRIPOLI 30. ARR. SYRACUSE	9. ARR. TRIPOLI 11. ARR. MALTA 23. DEP. TRIPOLI 30. ARR. SYRACUSE	13. ARR. ALGIERS 15. DEP. ALGIERS 23. OFF TRIPOLI 30. OFF TRIPOLI	15. AT TANGIER 26. ARR. LISBON	6. DEP. TRIPOLI 15. ARR. SYRACUSE 26. ARR. LISBON	4. DEP. TRIPOLI 15. ARR. SYRACUSE 26. DEP. SYRACUSE 30. DEP. SYRACUSE	6. DEP. TRIPOLI 15. ARR. SYRACUSE 26. DEP. SYRACUSE 29. ARR. MALTA	7. OFF TRIPOLI 18. ARR. MALTA 22. DEP. MALTA 23. ARR. SYRACUSE 30. DEP. SYRACUSE	6. DEP. TRIPOLI 15. ARR. SYRACUSE 20. ARR. MALTA 24. OFF TRIPOLI 30. OFF TRIPOLI	7. OFF TRIPOLI 11. DEP. TRIPOLI 16. AT MALTA 23. AT MALTA	15. AT SYRACUSE 16. AT SYRACUSE		
OCT.	6. DEP. SYRACUSE 7. ARR. MALTA 12. AT MALTA	9. DEP. SYRACUSE 10. ARR. MALTA 12. AT MALTA 23. ARR. OFF TRIPOLI	9. DEP. SYRACUSE 10. ARR. MALTA 12. AT MALTA 23. ARR. OFF TRIPOLI	1. OFF TRIPOLI 6. DEP. MALTA 10. ARR. SYRACUSE 10. AT SYRACUSE	17. ARR. TANGIER 17. DEP. TANGIER 23. ARR. MALTA 29. ARR. SYRACUSE	2. DEP. SYRACUSE 10. ARR. MALTA 15. DEP. SYRACUSE 18. ARR. MESSINA 21. DEP. MESSINA 28. ARR. PALERMO	3. ARR. MESSINA 5. AT MESSINA 14. ARR. SYRACUSE 15. DEP. SYRACUSE 17. ARR. MALTA 24. DEP. MALTA 27. DEP. SYRACUSE	12. DEP. MALTA 15. DEP. MESSINA 19. ARR. SYRACUSE 22. DEP. SYRACUSE 24. ARR. MALTA 26. DEP. MALTA	3. ARR. MESSINA 15. DEP. SYRACUSE 22. DEP. SYRACUSE 24. DEP. MALTA	18. OFF TRIPOLI 24. OFF TRIPOLI	23. AT MALTA 28. DEP. MALTA 29. ARR. SYRACUSE	1. AT SYRACUSE 13. AT SYRACUSE 25. AT MALTA 26. DEP. MALTA		
NOV.	2. DEP. MALTA 4. ARR. SYRACUSE 8. ARR. SYRACUSE 12. DEP. SYRACUSE 16. ARR. TRIPOLI 17. OFF. TRIPOLI 18. OFF. TRIPOLI 24. OFF. TRIPOLI	2. DEP. MALTA 4. AT SYRACUSE 18. OFF. TRIPOLI 20. DEP. SYRACUSE	3. ARR. MALTA 18. OFF. TRIPOLI 19. DEP. TRIPOLI	1. OFF TRIPOLI 6. DEP. MALTA 10. ARR. SYRACUSE 10. AT SYRACUSE	2. ARR. SYRACUSE 5. AT SYRACUSE 10. AT SYRACUSE	3. DEP. MALTA 3. ARR. SYRACUSE 15. DEP. SYRACUSE 18. ARR. MESSINA 21. DEP. MESSINA 28. ARR. PALERMO	4. ARR. SYRACUSE 6. DEP. SYRACUSE	5. ARR. SYRACUSE 14. DEP. SYRACUSE 16. ARR. MALTA 18. DEP. MALTA 22. ARR. ALEXANDRIA	5. ARR. SYRACUSE 14. DEP. SYRACUSE 16. ARR. MALTA 18. DEP. MALTA	1. OFF TRIPOLI 6. DEP. SYRACUSE 7. ARR. SYRACUSE 11. DEP. SYRACUSE 18. OFF. TRIPOLI 24. OFF. TRIPOLI 26. OFF. TRIPOLI	6. DEP. SYRACUSE 7. ARR. SYRACUSE 11. DEP. SYRACUSE 18. OFF. TRIPOLI 24. OFF. TRIPOLI 26. ARR. PALERMO	5. AT SYRACUSE 16. DEP. SYRACUSE 21. DEP. MESSINA 26. ARR. PALERMO		
DEC.	7. OFF TRIPOLI 12. ARR. SYRACUSE 18. OFF GIBRALTER 19. ARR. TANGIER 2. DEP. TANGIER 29. AT SYRACUSE	1. OFF MALTA 2. DEP. MALTA 11. OFF ALGIERS 18. OFF GIBRALTER 19. ARR. TANGIER 2. DEP. TANGIER 22. ARR. LISBON	1. OFF TRIPOLI 12. AT SYRACUSE 12. AT SYRACUSE 29. AT SYRACUSE	1. OFF TRIPOLI 12. AT SYRACUSE 12. AT SYRACUSE 20. DEP. SYRACUSE	12. AT SYRACUSE 12. AT SYRACUSE 29. AT SYRACUSE	2. DEP. PALERMO 5. ARR. NAPLES 23. DEP. NAPLES		17. AT CADIZ		2. AT SYRACUSE	6. ARR. MALTA 7. DEP. MALTA 14. OFF TRIPOLI 26. OFF TRIPOLI 28. OFF MALTA 29. ARR. SYRACUSE	6. ARR. MALTA 7. DEP. MALTA 14. OFF TRIPOLI 26. OFF TRIPOLI 28. OFF MALTA 29. ARR. SYRACUSE	18. OFF GIBRALTER 19. DEP. GIBRALTER	
JAN. 1805	3. AT SYRACUSE 6. AT SYRACUSE 7. AT SYRACUSE 10. DEP. SYRACUSE 26. AT SYRACUSE		16. DEP. SYRACUSE FROM MALTA 24. ARR. SYRACUSE FROM MALTA	7. OFF TUNIS 10. OFF. TUNIS	6. OFF TRIPOLI 9. DEP. GIBRALTER	5. AT GIBRALTER 9. DEP. GIBRALTER		8. OFF TANGIER		3. IN SYRACUSE 4. DEP. SYRACUSE 23. AT P. MESSINA				
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