

Basque Roads

(3)

- 164 French flagship cut her cables, ran aground in mud. In the confusion 2 battleships rammed her and lost 50 of her crew through fire shot and collision. All the French ships were stuck in mud, braced to wind & tide, which was falling and the enemy ships started to roll over and throw guns overboard.
- 165 When Cochrane told Gambia ~~that~~ 7 were ashore nothing happened at 6 am he signalled 11 on shore with bottoms exposed to shot, then at 7:40 with tide turning "only two afloat".
- 166 "Frigate alone can destroy the enemy"
- 167 French had only 13 guns in port manned by conscripts. Remaining 2 French ships drifted aground. "No attack intended" at noon flagship afloat. Gambia sent a bomb vessel. French ships ran into Cleve's River for cover.
- 168 Cochrane decided to go in with his own frigates after them. joining at 3 battleships April 12.
- 169 started having casualties, "assistance" arrived from Gambia 5 frigates + 2 74's. several French captured or sunk, most escaped into the river.
- 170 Gambia signalled recall 4 am April 13 for all ships sent in "assistance"
- 171 Gambia tried to order him back.
- 172 If you throw blame upon what has been done, it will appear like arrogantly claiming all merit to yourself.
- 173 Gambia ordered him to return to England on April 15. On Apr. 26 Geo. III made Cochrane KCB. Gambia's despatch did not mention that Cochrane had led the perilous attack to destroy the brown with his explosion vessels.
- 174 Gambia claimed attack was led by Capt of fire ship. Cochrane intended to oppose vote of thanks to Gambia.
- 178 Gambia, at Admiralty suggestion, rewrote his despatch to remove all reference to Cochrane's gallantry from official record.