

33
Sir RODGERS Potts Sept 9th 1814

In pursuance of your instructions I have to inform you, that on the 5th Inst. I proceeded down the Solomao with three small Fire Vessels under the protection of 4 frigates or cutters, manned with about sixty seamen armed with muskets, destined against two of the enemy's frigates and a Bomb Ship, which lay about 2 1/2 miles below Alexandria.

At 9 A.M. in advance of the Fire Vessels in my Flag, finding no colours displayed at Alexandria, but a Swedish Ensign on board a Schooner - being near the wharves, I halted and ordered the American Flag to be hoisted; ~~then I ordered that I should set Fire to the French~~

After seeing the Flag hoisted, I directed the Fire Vessels which were conducted by Lt. Newcomb, Lt. Forrest and Sailing Master Ramage, to proceed on to the objects of attack, and I have no doubt, would have succeeded in destroying two at least of the enemy's Ships, had not the wind failed them some time before & particularly after they had reached the uppermost Ship, within