

Philadelphia Newspaper transcript on Galvez report.

(The Pennsylvania Packet or the general Advertiser June 6, 1780 page 3)

P H I L I D E L P H I A, June 6.

Bay of Mobile, May 8, 1780

SIR,

I have happily concluded the expedition which I undertook against the fort of mobile, which was possessed by the English, and I have prevailed on Mr. William Pickles, Captain of the American sloop called the West – Florida, to go to your States on the mutual service of my own ND YOUR NATION, AND our common cause. The good conduct and behavior which this gentleman has manifested to me, and the inhabitants of this province of Louisiana, while he commanded the ship Morris, (which was cast away in the hurricane of the 18 of August, last year ) his experienced valour and services at the capture of West-Florida with his schooner , which facilitated that undertaking: his talents and qualifications : the manner in which he conformed to every direction that I gave him: entitles him to my warmest acknowledgements; and induce me to recommend him to your Excellency’s protection; he being a worthy officer, on whom I wish you to bestow your favour.

I have the honor to be,

Your most humble and

Obedient servant,

BERNARDO de GALVEZ.

To His Excellency

The President of Congress. ,

Articles of Capitulation proposed by ELIAS DURNFORD, esq; Lieutenant-Governor of the Province of West Florida, Captain of Engineers, and Commandant to his Britannic Majesty’s troops in Fort Charlotte of Mobile, and agreed to by his excellency DON BERNARDO De GALVEZ, Knight Pensioner of the Royal and distinguished Order of Charles the Third, Brigadier of his Majesty’s armies, Inspector, Intendant and Governor general of the Province of Louisiana , and Commander in Chief of the Expedition , &c,&cr.

ART. 1 THAT the regular troops composing the garrison, shall be allowed to go to Pensacola by way of the river Perdidos, with their armies and cartridge boxes full of ammunition, and escort to conduct their baggage.; or , without being searched, to be transported by sea to the same place as quick as possible, and allowed six days provisions.(Refused.)

ART. II. The first article having been refused, it is demanded that they troops may march out of the fort, with drums beating, and eighteen rounds of ammunition in their cartridge boxes; and being at a certain distance from the covered way, they shall deliver up their arms; but the Commandant and the other

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officers shall keep their swords, and neither their baggage or that of the soldiers shall be searched.  
(Granted)

ART.III. The Mariners, mechanics, and inhabitants of whatever demonization, shall have liberty to retire to their places of their residence, under the same conditions as were granted to the inhabitants of the Natchez.

ART. III The seamen will be considered as the troops; and the inhabitants who are at the fort, and have taken arms in the defence, must become prisoners of war. And in case Pensacola should be attacked, the inhabitants here must submit to the same fate: That is to say, if they take arms, and become prisoners of war, those that are here shall continue such; if not, they shall from that moment, enjoy their liberty. But if Pensacola should not be attacked, this liberty shall be granted them in eight months; but yet under an oath not to bear arms during the war, and the preventions and customs usual on such occasions.

But the inhabitants who have not bore arms, shall enjoy the same advantages as were granted by the capitulation to those of Baton Rouge and the Natchez.

ART. IV. The sick and wounded, who may not be in a condition to be transported, shall be attended by our Physicians and Surgeons, and shall be furnished gratis with lodgings, provisions and other necessaries, on the same terms as the other troops and inhabitants.

ART. IV. The sick and wounded shall have the same care taken of them as the troops of his Catholic Majesty; and shall be attended by their own Surgeons, his Britani Majesty paying the expence, agreed ly to the Commissaries accounts, and when cured they shall remain prisoners of war as the others, and be sent to join their respective corps.

ART. V. The inhabitants who may have lodged any of their effects in the Fort shall dispose of them as they may think proper.

ART. V. All effects found in the Fort shall belong to his Catholic Majesty.

ART. VI. The inhabitants who have assisted in the defence of that fort, shall be treated as virtuous patriots.

Answered in the third article.

ART. VII Whatever effects may have been taken from the inhabitants by his most Catholic Majesty's troops during the siege, shall be restored or paid for; on proper proofs and vouchers being produced.

Art. VII. All cattle which have been killed for the use of the troops of his Catholic Majesty, shall be paid for, upon sufficient proof, to those of the inhabitants who have not born arms, and who have not been found in a situation to be considered as enemies.

ART. VIII If there are found in the fort any deserters, of whatever nation they may be, they shall be treated as the other troops.

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ART. VIII If there are any deserters whatever, they shall be treated as the other prisoners.

ART. IX The prisoners shall be furnished daily with their rations until exchanged.

ART. IX. The customary ration of provisions shall be furnished to the prisoners, at the expence of his Britanic Majesty, agreeable to the Commissary's accounts.

ART. X. The soldiers shall not be permitted to abandon their corps or companies, or to enter into any other service.

ART. X. The soldiers will be treated in such a manner that it will never be suspected that there is any design to oblige them to quit their own service, to enter into that of another nation; but they shall remain their own masters, to enter into the service of Spain, if they shall desire it of their own free will.

ART. XI. The fort shall be delivered to His Catholic Majesty's troops, tomorrow morning at ten o'clock. The besieged shall faithfully deliver all the ammuniton, arms, artillery, powder, provisions, and other effects remaining at the time of capitulation, to the Commissaries who shall be nominated for this purpose, without destruction or embezzlement.

A true copy of the Original, in the Bay of Mobile, the 8<sup>th</sup> of May, 1780.

BERNARDO De GALVEZ.

Published by order of Congress,

CHARLES THOMSON, Sec'ry.

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(The Pennsylvania Packet or the General Advertiser February 22, 1780 page 3)

Account of the operations and advantages acquired by his Catholic Majesty's arms, under the command of Brigadier General Don Bernardo de Galvez, Governor of the province of Luciana, against the English situated on the river Mississippi, taking possession of all their establishments, of three forts at Mantchak and Nantshes defended by 550 privates and a number of inhabitants and blacks who took up arms and were made prisoners of war under the dominion of the King of Spain, and about fifteen hundred miles of the very best fertile and prime ground. This account has been sent to this town by the Governor of Havannah, under the date November 23, 1779 and is as follows:

"GENERAL Galvez set out from the town of New-Orleans the 27<sup>th</sup> of August last, towards the establishments which the Germans and Acadians dependent on that government possess there, to effect the joining their militia, having left orders that the troops he had destined for the enterprize should set out that very afternoon, leaving a sufficient garrison at that place for its custody and preservation.,

All the people jointly amounted to 1427 men; including in that number 600 of all kinds and colours. Seven American volunteers and 160 Indians undertook a march to Mantchac, distant one, hundred and five miles, which they performed in six days with great difficulty, occasioned by the acceleration with which they executed it and the excessive heat of the weather which they experienced, many of them having fallen sick, by which means the number of the army was reduced to two thirds.

"The morning of the 7<sup>th</sup> of September took the fort of Mantchak by storm, without losing (of the Spaniards) a single man, making prisoners one Captain, one Lieutenant, eighteen privates; one Lieutenant and five privates escaped at the time of the storm; the English having had advice two days before of the march of the Spaniards, the rest of the garrison, with the artillery, ammunition and provisions, had retired to the fort called Baton Rouge.

"The Spanish general ordered an inventory to be made of what was found in the fort, and gave six days respite to his army, at the expiration of which time he proceeded on against Baton Rouge fort, making five prisoners on his way.

"Having reconnoitered the fort, it was found to be completely and regularly fortified with a ditch of eighteen feet wide and nine feet deep, with palisades and thirteen guns, defended by 400 regular troops and 100 armed inhabitants: These were sufficient motives to obstruct the storming of it, which occasioned General Galvez to determine a regular siege, approaching gradually to the fort, forming a false attack to hide from the enemy the true one, of which they had no knowledge until the last night, when the entrenchments and batteries were perfectly placed. The firing began on the 21<sup>st</sup> of said month at break of day, with so much success, that in three hours and a half the fort was so shattered that the English were obliged to beat a call, and sent two officers with the propositions of capitulation to the Spanish General, who would not admit them, demanding that all the garrison should remain prisoners of war, and deliver up with equal condition the fort of Palmure and of Nantshes, garrisoned with 80

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grenadiers. The English being forced to submit to these conditions, the garrison marched out of Baton Rouge with military honours, and advancing 500 steps, delivered themselves prisoners of war to the Spanish troops, who received these formed; in number 375 men, with arms and colours.

“to the same fate were subject 500 inhabitants and blacks who were armed in Manchak, Baton Rouge and other places, but the Spanish General did them the favour of leaving them free, in honour of his Catholic Majesty, to whose royal dominions remained subject all the establishments and grounds which the English had on the river Mississippi, whose inhabitants are chiefly employed in the skin and fur trade.

“It is not known what loss the English have sustained, they having taken the greatest care to conceal it. That of the Spaniards was only one killed and two wounded.

“The prisoners taken amount to 550 regular troops, including 28 ,, viz. 1 Lieutenant Colonel, 5 Cap.tains, 10 Lieutenants, 5 Sub Lieutenants, a Quarter-master, 2 Commissaries, a Store keeper, and three chief Surgeons, also eight vessels, with fondry provisions, and different boats with above 50 sailors.

“General Galvez gave the greatest praise to the bravery, intrepidity and constancy of the troops under his command; and of the love, zeal, and extraordinary good will with which the inhabitants of Louisiana behaved in assisting to the successful issue of the enterprize.”