*[This letter is an account of the Spanish Prizes taken at the Battle of Cape*

*St Vincent, written by John Irwin - Captain of the Prince George]*

W.m (William) Locker ??? Esq.

Royal Hospital

Greenwich

B R

*Prince George* Lagos Bay Feb.17

1797

My S.r (Sir) William.

I have the pleasure to

acquaint you of our arrival here

yesterday evening, with an addition

to our Fleet of 4 sail of the

Line, two of 112 guns, one of 80. &

one of 74 guns, Captur’d on Tues.d (Tuesday)

from the Spanish Fleet, tho’ very

much superior to ours, they having 27

of the Line we only 15, we discover’d

them early in the morning about 7

O’ Clock, and immediately gave Chase

to them about 11 we cut through

their Line, tacked & return’d through

again, by 4 in the afternoon the

4 struck, to our very superior

fire at 5 we or there about we left

of(f). at that time the Spanish Admiral

appeared to be sinking, /the *Trinidad*

a four Decker/ a part of their Fleet

coming up that had not been in

Review ~~coming up~~ sav’d her from

being Captur’d. we are informed to

Day she is gone down. *[The Santissima Trinidad had actually escaped]*

never was ships so completely beaten

as those taken also all those engag’d

our John *[Admiral Jervis]* behav’d with wonderfull

bravery & coolness. we by fast

Sailing, bore a Conspicuous part.

your good neighbour Admiral

Parker is a charming man, make

my best respects to his Family tho’

I have not the honor of being acquainted

with them, he leaves us to morrow (tomorrow).

Admiral Thompson comes, he is very

sorry to leave the *Prince George* as

the *Barfleur* is not ready for him

Adml Waldgrave (Admiral Waldegrave) having no orders to

return Home, a most extraordinary thing.

Commodore Nelson is well, I need not

Say which part he bore, the Gazette

will inform you of the whole, Sir

John *[Admiral Jervis]* – return’d(;) publish thanks to

Day to the Flag officers, Captains

Officers & Ship’s Companys. we suppose

the Spanish Fleet are so maul’d

that they will get into Cadiz as soon

as possible, we are getting the Prizes

ready to go to Lisbon with them,

they are terb terribly shatter’d, some

totally dismasted their Topmast

sails & all cut to Pieces. we

have suffer’d in our rigging & Topmast

also our Bowsprit much wounded.

however we are in tolerable good

kilter, remember you write me at

Lisbon sent me a new navy List

& Ships List, get them sent with

the Admiralty Letters. make my best

Respects to your Father, compl.s (compliments) to

Miss Eliza, John & Edward. & believe

me Sr. William yours very truly

John Irwin

PS:

don’t forget to send

my Brothers Book to

Willes, I saw him at Lisbon. we was

there a few Hours. I hope our

Lads will get Promotion from the business.

names of the Prizes

Salvadore del mundo. 112 Guns

S.n Josef *(San Jose)* 112

S.n Nicolas *(San Nicolas)* 80

S.n Izydero *(San Isidro)* 74

Capt Foote *[Capt. Edward Foote of the Niger]* is with us he

begs his Compl.s (Compliments) to you. he has made

a handsome fortune since he left

England. /Feby (February) 18th Admiral Parker is

just leaving us. a brave & worthy

man as ever Liv’d, be sure you make

my best respects to his Family & Congratulations

on his success.