

No. H.L. 2991/36.

28th September, 1936.

My Lord,

I am commanded by My Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to forward herewith copy of report dated the 2nd ultimo from the Naval Attache at Washington concerning the proposed restoration of the monument erected on the grave in Fort Hancock Military Reservation, Sandy Hook, New Jersey, which is believed to contain the remains of officers and men belonging to H.M.S. ASSISTANCE who lost their lives in 1783.

2. The Captain's log and the Muster Book of H.M.S. ASSISTANCE for the period in question, which are now preserved amongst the Admiralty records at the Public Record Office, have been consulted.

3. From these documents it is found that the ASSISTANCE, under the command of Captain William Bentinck, sailed from Spithead on 17th October 1783 and moored in Sandy Hook Bay on 21st December following. On 31st December she sent her launch on duty to the JUNO transport, anchored in the Bay. Later in the day it was reported, that the crew of the launch had taken her and deserted in a body. Thereupon the barge of the ASSISTANCE was manned and armed under the command of Lieutenant Hon. H.D. Hallyburton and sent in chase of the deserters. The barge not having returned by the 2nd January (1784) the ship's cutter was despatched in search of her. At 4 p.m. the cutter returned with the barge which had been swamped,

resulting...

The Rt. Hon. The Earl of Morton,
Conaglen,
Ardgour,
Argyllshire.

resulting in the deaths of Lieutenant Hallyburton, Lieutenant Champion of the Marines and 12 men. The names and particulars of those who perished are given in the enclosed list copies from the Muster Book of the ASSISTANCE. The bodies, except those of Hamilton, Wood and Tomlinson, had been recovered and were brought on board the ASSISTANCE. Coffins were made on board and at 10 a.m. on 3rd January the bodies were taken ashore for burial.

4. As the Hon. Hamilton Douglas Hallyburton, R.N., one of the officers who lost their lives on this occasion, was the younger son of Catherine, Countess of Morton, who is understood to have erected the original monument, My Lords feel that your Lordships may wish to be associated with the proposed restoration of the memorial.

5. I am, therefore, commanded by Their Lordships to enquire as to your wishes in the matter, and whether you may be able to furnish any of the further particulars asked for by H.M. Naval Attache.

I am, etc.,

(Signed) H. EASTWOOD.