HISTORICAL ACCOUNT OF 1745 FRENCH INVASION

Boston Post-Bay (Boston, Mass) 5 August 1745

Philadelphia, July 25

Extract of a Letter from a Gentleman in Anguilla, to his Friend

in St. Kitt, dated May 24, 1745

"On the 21st Instant, early in the Morning, we were sur-
prised by a Fleet of French, consisting of two Men of War, one
of 36 Guns, the other of 32, with 3 Privateers, and two Dutch
Vessels, as Tenders. They had undiscovered put on Shore 759
Men, at a place call'd Rendezvous Bay: The Success in Landing
was a great Encouragement to them, and a great Discouragement
to us; our who c Force being 97 Men only. These our **Lieut.**
Governor Arthur Hodge, formed into three Divisions, and
posted them in a very narrow Path [by which the French were
to pass] secured with Breast-works, the first of which would con-
tain but 22 Men, commanded by **Capt Richardson**; these en-
gaged the Enemy, firing by Platoons regularly, and with so true
in Aim, that every shot took place and the French fell so fast,
that in less than ten Minutes they loss Courage, and fled with
Precipitation, having in this short Action at least 100 Men killed
and wounded, an drowned in getting into their Boats. We ex-
pected a fresh Onset the next Day, but it seems they (unreadable)
of it, for they went quietly. We have buried 35 (unreadable)
Dead, and are daily in search of such, as have hid themselves (Unreadable)
the Bushes, or died there of their Wounds, which latter we be-
lieve, by the Stench to be many, but can give no certain Account
of them, nor of the drowned. Among the dead are the second
Capt. of the Commodore (**Monsieur LeTouch**) the first Lieutenant
of the other Ship; **Capt. Rolough**, an old Privateer; **Benar** their

Pilot who married his Wife of this Island; the Governor of St. Baatholomew's Son, and several other Officers; The Commodore himself was wounded in his Arm and Thigh so much, that they were obliged to carry him on board, as they did 25 others. Some of these Particulars we learn by some Prisoners set on Shore by a Flag of Truce sent by the Commodore. They had landed several Hand Grenadoe Shells, Swivel Guns fixed on Triangles, Beef, Cheese, Bread and Wine; The four last Articles were Good Plunder for our Negroes. Every dead Man had in his Pockets, Nettles, or small Lines for pinioning our Negroes. We had not one Man hurt, and have got by this Expedition, besides two Pair of their Colours, a great many fine Buccaneer Guns, Cartouchboxes, & c. which they left behind, and with which we intend to arm our most truly and sensible Negroes, to strengthen our Island.