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To the Honble. August John Hervey, Captain in His Majesty's Navy. . . This Perspective View of His Majesty's Ship Dragon. . . attacking ye Moro July 1, 1762

Stock#: 47643mp2
Map Maker: Serres
Date: 1762 circa
Place: London
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG
Size: 19 x 27 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Dramatic hand-colored engraved view of the sea bombardment of the Moro Castle at Havana.

The three main ships involved at this point were the Dragon, under the command of Augustus John Hervey, the Cambridge, under the command of William Goofrey, and the Marlborough, under the command of Thomas Burnett.

The engraving is of the highest quality; the skill of the artists is particularly evident in the diverse and elaborate typography below the image. The rendering of the clouds and the ability of the engraver to suggest the billowing smoke around the ships is also quite remarkable.

The "secret expedition" to capture Havana set off from Spithead on March 5, 1762. By the 26th of April it had arrived in Martinique, pausing there before setting off again on May 6. The flotilla landed troops six miles east of Havana on June 7 and siege-works were started upon at once. The army was aided by a large number of seamen who helped land canon, man the batteries, and supply the troops with water. The British had received detailed reports of the weak points in Havana's defenses provided by the Governor of Jamaica, Admiral Knowles. By the 30th of June, the batteries were ready, and they opened fire on the July 1. Three ships of the line engaged from the water, but two of them left action after heavy losses six hours into the battle. Eventually, the land batteries subdued the Spanish defense, and on the 30th of July, the Moro was stormed. The city capitulated on August 13. The prize money was considerable, netting Pocock over £122,000 alone.



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Detailed Condition:

Expert restoration of some small tears in the sky.