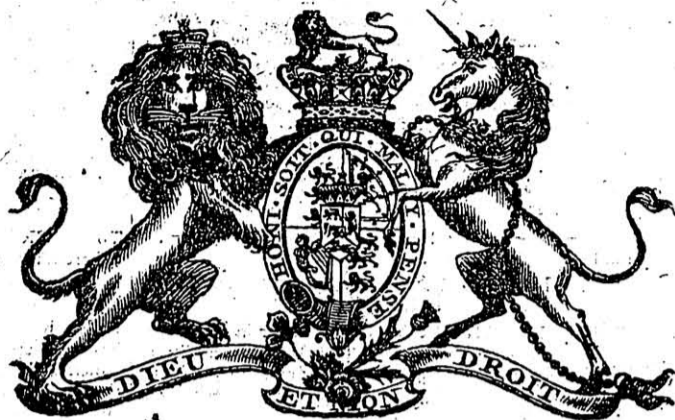


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FROM FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14. TO TUESDAY, DECEMBER 18. 1804.

ADMIRALTY OFFICE: Dec. 15. 1804.

Copy of a Letter from the Right Hon. Lord Keith, Admiral of the Blue, &c. to Wm. Marfden, Esq. dated on board the Monarch, off Ramsgate, 16th December 1804.

SIR,

Divisions of the enemy's flotilla passing from the eastward towards Boulogne, having frequently, when pursued by his Majesty's ships and vessels, taken shelter in the harbour of Calais, their entry into which has been particularly covered and protected by the advanced pile battery of Fort Rouge, I considered it an object of some importance to effect the destruction of that work, and lately directed Captain Sir Home Popham of the Antelope, amongst other objects, to hold in view a favourable opportunity for making this attempt.

I now transmit, for their Lordships' information, a letter, and the inclosures to which it refers, which I have received from that officer, reporting the result of an assault which he directed to be made upon it early in the morning of the 9th inst. and from which there is reason to conclude that the fort has sustained material damage; but that, from the unfortunate circumstance of its not having been possible, under the existing state of weather and tide, to carry up two of the explosion vessels to the point of attack, the injury has been far less extensive than might have been otherwise expected.

The conduct of Lieutenant Hew Stuart of the Monarch, on this recent occasion, will not fail, I am sure, to excite their Lordships' admiration and praise. I have great pleasure in conveying to their Lordships Capt. Sir Home Popham's testimony to his distinguished merit, and to the zeal and active assistance which he received from Capt. Brownrigg, Lieut. Lake, and Mr. Bartholomew.

I have the honour to be, &c. KEITH.

MY LORD, Antelope, Downs, Dec. 10.

I avail myself of the first moment of my return to the Downs to acquaint you, that towards noon on Saturday the 8th, the wind promised to come to the S. E. and knowing it to be your Lordship's intention to attack the enemy at every available point, I sent the Dart, on the close of the evening, to an assigned station between Sengate and Fort Lapin, accompanied by the Sufannah explosion ves-

sel and two carcasses, with a view of making an assault against Fort Rouge.

Lieut. Stewart, of the Monarch, commanded the explosion-vessel; Mr. Bartholomew, acting Lieutenant of the Antelope, had the charge of the first carcass intended to be applied, and Captain Brownrigg requested to take the other.

Your Lordship is aware how difficult it is to ascertain the precise injury done to the enemy in an enterprise of this nature, which, in most cases, must be undertaken in the night; but, that you may be possessed of the best information in this respect, I sent the Fox cutter, whose Master is an active intelligent man, and well acquainted with Fort Rouge, to reconnoitre the place as close as possible without risk, and I annex his report to Lieutenant Stewart's, as the clearest account that can be given of the able and officer-like manner in which the Sufannah was placed, and the evident consequences of such an application, even under the circumstance of considerable disadvantage.

I very much regret that Mr. Bartholomew could not fetch the port; for I am positive he would have lashed the carcass to the piles; he, however, very prudently returned with it to the Dart; and although something prevented the second carcass from going off, which evidently had been striking against the piles, from the indentation at one end, yet he recovered and brought it also on board.

I am most perfectly satisfied with the zeal and activity which Captain Brownrigg manifested on this occasion; the Dart was admirably placed, and every assistance afforded from her that could insure the success of this service, which must now be considered as confined to the efforts of the Sufannah; and I take this opportunity of most particularly recommending Lieut. Stewart to your Lordships' notice; which, I hope, will also be extended to Mr. Bartholomew, notwithstanding he could not fetch the battery; and your Lordship must be alive to the enterprising conduct of these two officers on a former occasion.

I cannot conclude my report without assuring your Lordship, that Lieut. Lake, of the Locust gun-brig, who was appointed to cover the boats, behaved in a most exemplary manner; by keeping so close in as to draw all the fire upon his own vessel; and I have great satisfaction in stating, that not an of-

ficer or man was hurt in this operation.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) HOME POPHAM.

Rt. Hon. Lord Keith, K.B. &c.

His Majesty's Ship Dart, Dec. 10, 1804.

SIR,

In pursuance of your instructions, and according to the arrangement you made for the attempt on Fort Rouge only, I left this ship at two A.M. and proceeded in shore with the explosion vessel in my charge, until the water shoaled to two and a half fathoms, when I tacked, and stood off so as to enable me to fetch the battery, which I did about half-past two, and placing her bowsprit between the piles, left her in that situation. In a few minutes I observed her swinging with her broadside to the battery, in consequence of the bowsprit being carried away, and as anchor was dropped the instant she struck the piles, I had not the smallest doubt of her remaining there until the explosion took place, which was in a few minutes; I could not fetch the covering brig, and as it had every appearance of coming on to blow from the S.E. in which quarter it was when I left the Dart, I hope you will excuse my running in the gully to the Downs.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HEW STEUART.

Sir Home Popham, K.M. Antelope.

Fox Cutter, off Calais, Dec. 9, 1804.

SIR,

According to your order I proceeded off Fort Rouge and examined it very strictly. As I proceeded towards the shore I saw a great quantity of plank and timber floating, and would have picked up some, but was afraid I should lose the tide, as I wished to examine it at low water. In standing in, I could discern a great number of people all round the S.W. end of the fort, and from the West Head all the way to the San-Hills. I did not discover any alteration on the east side of the fort; but when I got to the westward of the fort, I could plainly discover the moff part of it to be damaged, and the breast-work knocked down, and I have every reason to believe it was very much injured, by such a number of people being assembled there, and seeming at work upon it.

I am, &c. (Signed) W. BLAKE.

Sir Home Popham, K.M.

[Price Sixpence.]

