



# Edinburgh Gazette.

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ADMIRALTY OFFICE, JULY 29.

Copy of a Letter transmitted by Lord Keith.

His Majesty's Ship *Blanche*, Yarmouth Roads, July 26, 1856.

MY LORD—I have the honour to acquaint you of my return to Yarmouth Roads, having in company *La Guerriere* French frigate, commanded by Monsieur Hubert (of the Legion of Honour), whom I captured on the 19th inst. in lat. 62 deg. N. off the Ferroe islands, after a sharp contest of 45 minutes.

*La Guerriere* is of the largest class of frigates, mounting 50 guns, with a complement of 317 men, but these were soon sadly reduced by our destructive fire, and the ship has also suffered very severely, while the damages of the *Blanche* are confined to the top-masts, rigging, and sails.

It now becomes a pleasing duty to beg you to recommend Lieut. Henry Thomas Davies to their Lordships' notice, and to speak in terms of respect of his general good conduct, as also of Lieuts. Bastin and Allan; of Mr Robertson, the Master; and Lieut. John Campbell of the marines.

The Warrant Officers, Midshipmen, and Ship's Company, are likewise entitled to my warmest praise. Underneath you will observe the list of killed and wounded.

I have, &c. THOMAS LAVIE.

*Blanche*—None killed.—Wounded, Lieut. Bastin, not dangerously; Thomas Wilkinson, James Wilkins, marines, not dangerously; Geo. Morley, marine, dangerously.

*La Guerriere*—Twenty killed—Thirty wounded, ten dangerously.

T. LAVIE.

The Rt. Hon. Admiral Lord Keith, &c.

ADMIRALTY OFFICE, JULY 29.

The following letter from Rear-Admiral Sir William Sidney Smith, addressed to Vice-Admiral Lord Collingwood, has been forwarded to the Admiralty in his Lordship's letter of 2d inst.

Pompee, at anchor, off Scyllia, May 24.

MY LORD—I arrived at Palermo in the *Pompee* on the 21st of last month, and took on me the command of the Squadron your Lordship has done me honour to place under my orders. I found things in the state that may be well imagined on the Government being displaced from its capital, with the loss of one of the two kingdoms, and the dispersion of the army assembled in Calabria. The judicious arrangement made by Captain Sotherton of the ships under his orders, and the position of the British army under Sir John Stuart at Messina, had however prevented further mischief.

I had the satisfaction of learning that *Gaeta* still held out, although as yet without success, from a mistaken idea, much too prevalent, that the progress of the French armies is irresistible. It was my first care to see that the necessary supplies should be safely conveyed to the Governor. I had the inexpressible satisfaction of conveying the most essential articles to *Gaeta*, and of communicating to his Serene Highness the Governor (on the breach battery, which he never quits) the assurance of further support to any extent within my power, for the maintenance of that important fortress hitherto so long preserved by his intrepidity and example. Things wore a new aspect immediately on the arrival of the ammunition, the redoubled fire of the enemy with red-hot shot into the Mole (being answered with redoubled vigour) did not prevent the landing of every thing we had brought, together with four of the Excellent's lower deck guns, to answer this galling fire, which bore directly on the landing place.

A second convoy, with the Intrepid, placed the garrison beyond the immediate want of any thing essential, and the enemy from advancing his nearest approaches within 250 yards, was reduced to the defensive in a degree, dreading one of those forties which the Prince of Hesse had already shewn him his garrison was equal to, and which was become a much safer operation, now that the flanking fire of eight Neapolitan gun boats, I had brought with me, in

addition to four his Highness had already used so successfully, would cover it, even to the rear of the enemy's trenches. Arrangements were put in train for this purpose, and according to a wise suggestion of his Serene Highness, measures were taken for the embarkation of a small party from the garrison to land in the rear of the enemy's batteries to the northward.

I confided the execution of the naval part of this arrangement to Captain Richardson, of his Majesty's ship *Juno*, putting the Neapolitan frigate and gun-boats under his orders. His Serene Highness possessing the experience of European warfare, and a most firm mind, having no occasion for further aid on the spot, I felt I could quit the garrison without apprehension for its safety in such hands, with the present means of defence, and that I could best co-operate with him by drawing some of the attacking force off for the defence of Naples. I accordingly proceeded thither with the line of battle ships named in the margin\*. The enemy's apprehension of attack occasioned them to convey some of the battering train from the trenches before *Gaeta* to Naples. The city was illuminated on account of Joseph Bonaparte proclaiming himself King of the Two Sicilies! The junction of the *Eagle* made us five fail of the line, and it would have been easy for their fire to have interrupted this ceremony and shewn of festivity, but I considered that the unfortunate inhabitants had evil enough on them; that the restoration of the capital to the lawful sovereign and its fugitive inhabitants would be no gratification if it should be found a heap of ruins, ashes, and bones, and that as I had no force to land and to keep order, in case of the French army retiring to the fortresses, I should leave an opulent city a prey to the licentious part of the community, who would not fail to profit by the confusion the flames would occasion; not a gun was fired; but no such consideration operated on my mind, to prevent me dislodging the French garrison from the Island of *Capri*, which, from its situation,

\* *Pompee*, *Excellent*, *Athenien*, *Intrepid*.



protecting the coasting communication fourthward, was a great object for the enemy to keep, and by so much one for me to wrest from him. I accordingly summoned the French Commandant to surrender: on his non-acquiescence (see the annexed correspondence,) I directed Capt. Rowley, in his Majesty's ship Eagle, to cover the landing of marines and boats' crews, and caused an attack to be made under his orders. That brave officer placed his ship judiciously, nor did he open his fire until she was secured, and his distance marked by the effect of musketry on his quarter-deck, where the 1st Lieutenant, James Crawley, fell wounded, and a seaman was killed; although Capt. Rowley regretted much the services of that meritorious officer in such a critical moment, he has since recovered.

An hour's fire from both decks of the Eagle, (between nine and ten o'clock) with that of two Neapolitan mortar boats under an active officer, Lieut. Rivera, drove the enemy from the vineyards within their walls, the marines were landed, and gallantly led by Capt. Bunce, the seamen in like manner, under Lieutenant Morrell of the Eagle, and Lieut. Redding of the Pompee, mounted the steps; for such was their road, headed by the officers, nearest to the narrow pass by which alone they could ascend. Lieut. Carrol had thus an opportunity of particularly distinguishing himself. Capt. Stannus commanding the Athenien's marines gallantly pressing forward gained the heights, and the French Commandant fell by his hand: this event being known, the enemy beat a parley, a letter from the second in command, claimed the terms offered, but being dated on the 12th after midnight, some difficulty occurred, my limitation as to time being precise; but on the assurance that the drum beat before twelve, the Capitulation annexed was signed, and the garrison allowed to march out and pass over to Naples with every honour of war, after the interment of their former brave Commander, with due respect.—We thus became masters of this important post. The enemy not having been allowed time to bring two pieces of heavy cannon, with their ammunition, to Capri, the boat containing them, together with a boat loaded with timber for the construction of gun-boats at Castilamare, took refuge at Massa, on the main land opposite to the island, where the guard had hauled the whole upon the beach, I detached the two mortar boats, and a Gaeta privateer, under the orders of Lieutenants Falverne and Rivera, to bring them off, sending only Mr Williams, Midshipman of the Pompee, from the squadron, on purpose to let the Neapolitans have the credit of the action, which they fairly obtained; for, after dislodging the enemy from a strong tower, they not only brought off the boats and two thirty-five pounders, but the powder (twenty barrels) from the magazine of the tower, before the enemy assembled in force.

The projected forties took place on the 13th and 15th in the morning, in a manner to reflect the highest credit on the part of the garrison and naval force employed. The covering fire from the fleet was judiciously directed by Capt. Richardson and Vicuna, whose conduct on this whole service merits my warmest approbation. I inclose Captain Richardson's two letters as best detailing these affairs, and a list of the killed and wounded on the 12th.

On the 19th ult. the boats of the Pompee, under Lieut. Beacroft, brought out a merchant vessel from Scalvitra, near Salerno, although protected by a heavy fire of musketry. That officer and Mr Sterling distinguished themselves much. The enemy are endeavouring to establish a land carriage there to Naples.

On the 23d, obtaining intelligence that the enemy had two 36 pounders in a small vessel on the beach at Scalia, I sent the Pompee's boats in for them. But the French troops were too well posted in the houses of the town for them to succeed without the cover of the ship. I accordingly stood in with the Pompee; sent a message to the inhabitants to withdraw; which being done, a few of the Pompee's lower deck guns cleared the town and neighbouring hills,

while the launch, commanded by Lieut. Mouraylian, with Lieut. Oats, of the marines, and Mr Williams, drove the French, with their armed adherents, from the guns, and took possession of the castle and of them. Finding, on my landing, that the town was tenable against any force the enemy could bring against me from the nearest garrison, in a given time, I took post with the marines; and, under cover of their position, by the extreme exertions of Lieut. Carrol, Mr Ives, master, and the petty officers and boats' crews, the guns were conveyed to the Pompee, with twenty-two barrels of powder.

I have the honour to be, &c.  
(Signed) W. SIDNEY SMITH.

On board his Majesty's Ship La Pompee,  
11th May 1806.

SIR—Before I make a regular attack, which must necessarily reduce an insulated and irregular fortress without works, I have thought proper, according to the custom of war, to summon you to evacuate the post which you occupy. If you refuse, I inform you that you will be forced to yield upon terms more or less favourable, according to the degree of force and time which you may oblige me to employ to reduce you to this extremity; thus, Sir, you see that the terms of the surrender of the post depend upon yourself to-day. In the hope of an answer, which will spare blood on both sides,

I have the honour to be, &c.  
W. SIDNEY SMITH.

To the Commander of the French  
Troops at Capri.

Capri, 11th May, 1806.

The Commandant of Capri to Rear-Admiral Sir  
Sidney Smith.

I received, Sir, your letter dated this day, and for answer, I have to observe to you, that a true soldier does not surrender till he has tried his force with that which attacks him. You are, Sir, too good and brave a soldier to blame me if I do not accept your polite invitation.

I have the honour to be, &c.  
(Signed) CHERVEF, Capt. 101st regt.

Island of Capri, May 12, 1806.

Capt L'Etang, commanding the French troops, to  
Sir Sidney Smith, Rear-Admiral of the English  
Squadron.

Good fortune having favoured you, together with the advantage you had in landing, oblige me to make you the following proposals:—

To give up to you the town of Capri and all the island, reserving to myself for my honour, and that of the troops I command, the liberty of returning to Naples, with arms and baggage, at the time which it shall please you to grant me. I expect this generosity from your hands to avoid bloodshed on both sides in default of which I shall be obliged to continue till extinction.

I have the honour to be, &c.  
L'ETANG.

#### CAPITULATION.

Capri, at Midnight, 11-12th June, 1806.

In consequence of the good conduct of the officers and troops of the garrison of Capri, the English Commanders have granted the following articles; to wit,

Art. 1. The officers, subalterns, and soldiers shall embark as soon as possible, with the arms and baggage belonging to them.

Art. 2. They shall be conveyed to Pozzuoli.

Art. 3. The English officers engage to cause the French troops to be respected as much as possible during the time they shall be in their power.

Art. 4. The French officers make the same engagement towards the troops and vessels which shall transport them to their destination.

This present treaty was concluded at midnight of the 11-12th of May 1806; between Captain Charles Rowley, Captain of the Ship, and Mr L'Etang, Captain of the 22d regt. of Light Infantry, commanding in the Island of Capri.

To which have signed  
(Signed) L'ETANG.  
CHARLES ROWLEY.

N. B. The Commandant since wishing to disembark with his troops at Massa, invites the English Admiral to grant it him.—Approved,  
(Signed) W. SIDNEY SMITH.

List of the Killed and Wounded in taking Capri,  
May 12. 1806.

Eagle—Lieut. James Crawley, 1st Lieut. slightly wounded; 1 seaman and 1 marine killed; 4 seamen and 6 marines wounded.

List of the Killed and Wounded in the Sortie of  
Gaeta, May 15. 1806.

Divisions of the boats detached from the Juno—  
4 seamen killed and 5 seamen wounded.  
(Signed) W. SIDNEY SMITH.

His Majesty's Ship Juno, Gaeta,  
May 14. 1806.

SIR,—The enemy having erected a battery of four guns on the Point of La Madonna della Catterra, his Serene Highness the Prince of Hesse ordered 60 men from the garrison to be embarked in four fishing boats; and, on the night of the 12th, I proceeded with the Juno's boats, armed, accompanied by those of his Sicilian Majesty's frigate Minerva, commanded by Captain Vicugna, and landed the troops, undisturbed, in a small bay in the rear of the enemy's works. Lieutenant Parisio, who commanded the party, having advanced, the enemy abandoned the post, after firing to alarm their camp; but, before they could arrive with a reinforcement, the guns were spiked, the gun-carriages destroyed, and the troops re-embarked without any loss.

I have the honour to be, &c.

H. RICHARDSON.

Sir William Sidney Smith, K. S.  
Rear Admiral of the Blue, &c.

His Majesty's Ship Juno at Gaeta,  
May 16, 1806.

SIR—His Serene Highness the Prince of Hesse Philipthal, having signified to me on the 14th inst. his intention of making a sortie early on the following day, to attack the French lines, and directing me to have the necessary arrangements made, that the boats might cooperate with and support the troops from the garrison, I caused the gun boats to be divided into three divisions, (four in each) and delivered copies of the enclosed order to Capt. Vicugna of his Sicilian Majesty's frigate Minerva; and Lieutenants Le Chevalier Beliamo and Valguarrier.

The sortie took place precisely at half past eight o'clock yesterday morning, and was attended with success; the Neapolitan troops having driven the enemy out of their trenches, and taken the Serapo battery, (the guns of which were spiked,) returned into the garrison with little loss; bringing in with them a Captain of Engineers and some others; their prisoners, the numbers I have not yet learnt.

They were supported in their attack and retreat, on their left along the shore of Serapo by the boats of this ship, armed under the direction of Lieut. Wells of the Navy, and Lieut. Mant of the marines, and the first division of gun boats, which I took the command of; and on their right by the second division, under the orders of Lieut. Valguarrier;—the third division (having embarked 50 men from the garrison) were ordered with the Minerva frigate, to make a diversion on the other side of the bay; but, owing to the calm, the Minerva could not reach her station, though the boats succeeded in landing the troops, and brought off some cattle; the fire from this division, having kept in check and prevented from advancing a considerable body of the enemy's cavalry, which were sent to attack the party landed.

The loss of the garrison I have not yet understood; that of the boats are, first division, 2 killed; second division, 2 killed, and 5 wounded. The enemy must have suffered considerably, as more than 100 muskets have been brought in.

I think it my duty to recommend to your notice, on account of their good conduct and courage, the Lieutenants of his Sicilian Majesty's Navy, Le Chevalier Belfamo, Valguarrier, and Pugheffe.

I have the honour to be &c.

H. RICHARDSON.

Sir W. S. Smith, K. S. Rear-Admiral  
of the Blue, &c. &c. &c.