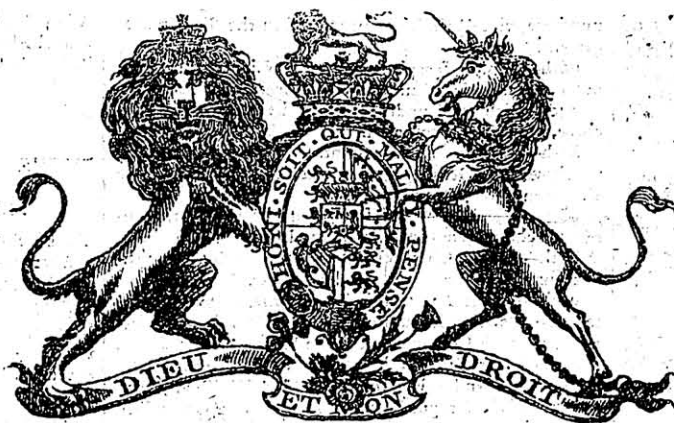


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FROM TUESDAY, JULY 19, to FRIDAY, JULY 22, 1808.

ADMIRALTY-OFFICE, JULY 12, 1808.

Extract of a Letter from Captain DIGBY, of his Majesty's Ship the *Cossack*, addressed to the Right Honourable Lord GAMBIER, Admiral of the Blue, &c. and transmitted by his Lordship to the Honourable WILLIAM WELLESLEY-POLE.

His Majesty's Ship Cossack, of Saint Andero, June 25, 1808.

MY LORD,
The last opportunity I had of writing to your Lordship, I acquainted you of my intention to go to St. Andero immediately, and afford every assistance in my power to the loyal inhabitants, and bring off any British subjects that might wish to come away, in the present uncertain state of the country; and I had intelligence that the French frigate in passage, accompanied by several gun-boats, was expected to make a descent on that part of the coast; owing to the strong easterly winds, and long calms, I did not get there till the 21st. The signal-post displayed a flag of truce, which was answered by both ships. The Captain of the port, Don Vincento Camino, came on board; he told us the French army were soon expected to make an attack on the Pass in the mountains that guarded the approach to the town; he invited us to anchor in Sardenero bay, which we did at five P. M.; until he had made his report to the Bishop, who was the present Governor, he wished us not to land. No boat returning by one o'clock the next day, I concluded some sudden attack, or unexpected event must have taken place. In the afternoon a brig came out of the harbour full of people of all descriptions, who had left the town on the report that the French were advancing. I immediately got under weigh, and sent Captain Daly, of the *Comet*, up the harbour, to gain some confirmed intelligence; and should the report prove true, to reconnoitre the fort, and find out where the

principal magazine was, and, if it was possible, to destroy it. Between eight and nine P. M. Captain Daly returned with certain information, that the French army had gained the Pass, and had halted only a few miles from the town, and were expected to enter that night or next day.

Captain Daly also made every possible observation, and had himself spiked the guns in two forts near the town, and he requested to go and destroy the magazine, and the guns in the forts that guard the entrance of the harbour. I should certainly have sent the boats that night, but the great chance of their being taken by surprise, should the enemy advance, and the night being very dark and squally, with every appearance of bad weather, made me defer it till the next morning; at day-light we stood into the bay, and manned and armed two boats from each ship, under the orders of Captain Daly; he was accompanied by Lieutenant H. M. Herbert, of the *Cossack*, and Lieutenant Read, of the Royal Marines, and several of the younger officers, who all volunteered their services; they left this ship soon after six o'clock, and landed about eight, spiked all the guns in fort St. Salvador de Ano, and fort Sedra, and wedged shot in the chambers of them, which renders them quite useless; the magazine was at some little distance, and had five hundred whole barrels of powder in it, besides quantities of other stores; all which was completely destroyed, great part by throwing it over the cliffs into the sea, leaving sufficient to blow up the magazine; the train was for a considerable distance, and it was let off about ten o'clock; which instantly levelled the whole building to the ground; finding some more powder in fort Sedra, a train was laid to it, which took effect, and blew part of the house and store-house in it up; the two other forts on the west side of the bay they could not attempt, as the surf was so

high it was impossible to land, and to walk round was too far from the boats, as they had not a moment to spare; having heard before they set fire to the first train, that the French had entered the town, and they expected a strong guard at the forts; the boats left the shore by eleven o'clock, and had just got round the point of De Ano, when a considerable body of French dragoons appeared on the hill, and took post near the smoking ruins of the magazine. I am sorry to say, Captain Daly, and Lieutenant Read of the marines, are much scorched, particularly Lieutenant Read, in setting fire to the last train, but am happy to find his eyes are safe, and he is doing well. Captain Daly speaks in high commendation of the zeal and exertion of every officer and man employed with him.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) GEORGE DIGBY.

Copy of a Letter from the Honourable Captain DUNDAS, of his Majesty's Ship *Euryalus*, to Captain GRAVES, of the *Brunswick*, and transmitted by Vice-Admiral Sir JAMES SAUMAREZ to the Hon. W. W. POLE.

His Majesty's Ship Euryalus, in the Great Belt, June 12, 1808.

SIR,
After having seen the convoy clear, I proceeded in company with his Majesty's sloop *Cruizer*, and late yesterday evening discovered several vessels at anchor near the entrance of the Naskon, very close to the shore. We anchored at dark, and I sent Lieutenant Head with the boats of this ship and *Cruizer* (four in number) to destroy them; and it is with great pleasure I have to inform you, he executed this service with his usual bravery and judgment, by burning two large vessels fitted for the reception of troops, capturing a gun vessel of the largest dimensions, mounting two eighteen pounders, and having sixty-four men on board,

Price Sixpence.

