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FROM FRIDAY, AUGUST 26, to TUESDAY, AUGUST 30, 1808.

ADMIRALTY-OFFICE, August 23, 1808.

Dispatches, of which the following are copies, have been this day received at this office from Rear-Admiral KEATS, addressed to the Honourable WILLIAM WELLESLEY POLE.

*Superb, off Sproe in the Great Belt,
August 13, 1808.*

SIR,

I have the honour herewith to transmit a copy of my letters to Vice-Admiral Sir James Saumarez, relative to the escape and embarkation of great part of the Spanish army serving in this part of Europe. An event produced as well by the honour, patriotism, and talents of its distinguished chief, as by the assistance and protection which I was directed by their Lordships orders to afford it.

If the weather proves moderate I hope to disembark the greater part on the island of Langeland this day; where we have already a post of two thousand five hundred men.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) R. G. KEATS.

To the Hon. W. W. Pole,
Secretary, &c.

*Superb, off Sproe in the Great Belt,
August 11, 1808.*

SIR,

I have the honour and satisfaction to inform you, that by an immediate and zealous pursuit of the measures recommended in the duplicate of instructions received by the Musquito on the 5th inst., his Excellency the Marquis de la Romana, and nearly six thousand of the Spanish troops under his command, were embarked this morning at Nyborg, which place he took possession of on the 9th.

By a combination of the same plan, more than one thousand have joined us this morning, by sea, from Jutland, and another thousand are thrown into Langeland, to strengthen the post held by the Spanish forces in that island, where

it is proposed to land the remainder the moment circumstances of weather will permit of our moving. The arrival of the Spanish officer in the Edgar, on the 5th, of whose spirited escape to the squadron you were informed by Captain Graves, greatly facilitated our means of communication.

No doubt could be entertained of the honour and patriotism of soldiers, who, indignant at the proposal of deserting their allegiance, though surrounded by hostile battalions, planted their colours in the centre of a circle they had formed, and swore on their knees to be faithful to their country. All were equally anxious of returning to it. But one regiment in Jutland was too distant and too critically situated to effect its escape; and two in Zealand, after having fired on the French general Frision, who commanded them, and killed one of his aid-de-camps, have been disarmed.

Some untoward circumstances having occasioned suspicion, and made a premature execution of the plan necessary, the wind and current being adverse, I left the Superb on the 8th, and went in my barge to the Brunswick off Nyborg, and two hours after my flag was hoisted. On the 9th the general took possession of the town.

Although the Danish garrison yielded to circumstances, an armed brig of eighteen guns, the Fama, and a cutter, the Salorman, of twelve, moored across the harbour near the town; rejected all remonstrance on the part of the Danes, and every offer of security made by the general and myself. The reduction of these vessels being absolutely necessary, and the Spanish general unwilling to act hostilely against Denmark, such small vessels and boats as could be collected were put under the command of Captain M'Namara, of the Edgar, who attacked and took them. On this occasion I have to lament

the loss of Lieutenant Harvey, an officer of much merit, of the Superb, and two seamen wounded; the enemy had seven killed and thirteen wounded.

I should have noticed that the Spaniards, irritated at the opposition their friends who came to their support met with, departed in some measure from the general's intention, and fired some shot at them before they struck.

Expedition being deemed of the greatest importance, I shifted my flag to the Hound in the harbour; and as neither of the three ships of the line, from circumstances of the weather, could be brought near in, fifty-seven sloops or doggers, found in the port, were fitted by the seamen, into which great part of the artillery, baggage, and stores were embarked that night and the following day, and removed to the point of Slypsbarn, four miles from Nyborg; where the army was embarked safely, and without opposition, this morning, notwithstanding the very unfavourable state of the weather, and they are now under the protection of his Majesty's ships at the anchorage off the island of Sproe.

Some sacrifices of horses and stores were conceived necessary by the general; and as I considered it right, under the peculiar circumstances, to enter into the views and wishes of the Marquis de la Romana, every unavoidable act of hostility was rigidly abstained from; for I did not consider it any to bring away the brig and cutter that rejected our offer of security, and forcibly opposed our entrance into the port; and I even undertook to liberate the vessels employed as transports; provided no interruption was made by any to the peaceable embarkation of our friends.

I should be unjust to the meritorious exertions of the officers and seamen employed on this short but fatiguing service, if I neglected to represent their merits on this occasion to you; Captain

Price Sixpence.

