

13. 13.  
( No. 1663. )



# Edinburgh Gazette.

PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY.

FROM TUESDAY, JUNE 6, to FRIDAY, JUNE 9, 1809.

DOWNING STREET, JUNE 2, 1809.

A dispatch, of which the following is a copy, has been received from Lieutenant-General Sir George Beckwith, K. B., Commander in Chief of his Majesty's forces in the Leeward Islands, by Lord Viscount Castlereagh, one of his Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State.

*Fort Royal, Martinique,  
April 20, 1809.*

MY LORD,

The French squadron, consisting of three sail of the line and two frigates, from L'Orient, having taken shelter in the Saints, in the vicinity of Guadaloupe, where they were blockaded by Rear-Admiral Sir Alexander Cochrane, with a superior force, I detached a corps of between two and three thousand men, under the command of Major-General Maitland, to co-operate with the navy in the reduction of those islands, to destroy or capture the ships of the enemy, or to force them to sea.

I have the satisfaction to report to your Lordship, for his Majesty's information, that after three days of great toil, and most active service, the forts were reduced, and the troops surrendered prisoners of war.

The French ships of the line pushed to sea early on the night of the 14th; on the 16th, the Admiral was within four miles of them, and, I trust, will be enabled to bring them to close action.

I have the honour to inclose the Major-General's report upon the honourable termination of this service; and I beg leave to recommend to his Majesty's favourable consideration the meritorious services of this general officer, not only in the present instance, where he held a distinct command, but for his general good conduct during the whole campaign.

The officers of all ranks have done their duty in a most exemplary manner, and the troops

employed upon this service have maintained that superiority which has distinguished this army during the whole series of our operations since our departure from Barbadoes.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) GEO. BECKWITH.

*The Right Hon. Lord Viscount  
Castlereagh, &c.*

SIR, *Camp at the Saints, April 18, 1809.*

I have the honour to transmit you a report of the proceedings of his Majesty's troops detached for the reduction of the Saints.

We sailed from Fort Royal Bay on the 12th. Captain Beaver, of his Majesty's ship *Acasta*, who was Commodore of the division, left the squadron under charge of Captain Carthew, of his Majesty's ship *Gloire*, and went forward to meet Rear-Admiral Sir Alexander Cochrane. The 13th was passed in examining the enemy's positions, and in making arrangements.

The disembarkation was fixed to be at six o'clock in the morning of the 14th, but a bad night separated our ships. By ten they were collected. Soon after the *Acasta* led in, through a very narrow channel, which was buoyed on each side. The *Gloire*, *Narcissus*, and *Circe* followed; the *Intrepid* about an hour after, but the *Dolphin* not until next day. His Majesty's ships anchored opposite to the little bay Bois Joly. The landing was meant to have been at the next to the eastward, called *Ance Vanovre*. As much time, it was then seen, would be lost by persevering to go to *Ance Vanovre*, because the boats would have had a long row against wind and current, we landed at *Ance Bois Joly*; a secure landing, though a stony beach, protected by the fire of the frigates. We experienced no opposition, except a cannonade from the *Islet of Gabrit*, the guns of which fired over the ridge among the shipping.

When advanced to the first ridge, we found

the enemy occupied the great mountain, which is above eight hundred feet high, called *Mount Russel*. This was immediately on our right, nor could we advance. The rifle companies of the 3d and of the 4th battalions of the 60th regiment were ordered to dislodge the enemy. The exertion of these companies, under Captains *Dolling* and *Lupton*, was great; the ascent no less steep than an angle of fifty degrees, covered with bush and prickly pears, they most gallantly effected the service, and drove back the enemy, who suffered considerably. The rifle companies were supported to their right by the flank companies of the 3d West India regiment, and one company of the royal York rangers, led by Lieutenant-Colonel *Campbell*, Deputy Adjutant-General, whom I detached for this service. We had now a strong position. Before us were the enemy's three forts, showing stout garrisons, and three line of battle ships, and two frigates in the harbour. The large ships very full of men. We found, however, we could not advance without being flanked on our left by the fort on *Isle de Cabrit*. Two eight-inch howitzers were immediately landed, a battery quickly constructed by Lieutenant *Hobbs*, of the royal engineers. Brigadier-General *Stehelin*, of the royal artillery, and all his officers and men, were most strenuous; and before six that evening, our battery opened on the enemy's squadron at a very fair distance. About an hour after, there were indications that the French squadron was about to push out, and by eight it was not doubtful. Not a moment was lost. Captain *De Courcy*, of the Quartermaster-General's department, was sent by me to Captain *Beaver* of the *Acasta*, and we fired six rockets from a headland; at five minutes interval, being the signal fixed on by the Admiral. About ten at night, the three French line of battle ships were seen to go

Price Sixpence.

