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DOWNING STREET, SEPTEMBER 4, 1809.

Dispatches, of which the following are copies, were yesterday morning received at the office of Lord Viscount Castlereagh, one of his Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, from Lieutenant-General Sir J. Stuart, dated Ischia, 5th and 9th July last.

MY LORD, *Ischia, July 5, 1809.*

In my dispatch to your Lordship of the 9th ult. from Milazzo, I did myself the honour to acquaint you with a project which I had formed, in concert with Rear-Admiral Martin, to make such a movement as, although it should produce no issue of achievement to ourselves, might still operate a diversion in favour of our Austrian allies, under the heavy pressure of reverse with which we had learned, at the period, they were bravely but unequally struggling.

The first measure that suggested itself to our contemplation, was a menace upon the kingdom and the capital of Naples, and the army as within detailed being embarked, we sailed under convoy of his Majesty's ships Canopus, Spartiate, Warrior, and some frigates and smaller vessels, on the 11th of last month, leaving orders to the division of his Sicilian Majesty's troops, which had been placed under my conduct, and were waiting my instructions at Palermo, under the command of Lieutenant-General de Bourcard, to proceed to a given rendezvous. His Royal Highness Prince Leopold, I found at our subsequent junction, had embarked with this division.

Our appearance on the coast of Calabria, which we reached on the morning of the 13th, had the effect of inducing the body of the enemy stationed in that province, to abandon, for the purposes of immediate concentration, the greater part of their posts along the shore, when those upon the line opposite Messina were seiz-

ed and disarmed by a corps under Lieutenant-Colonel Smith, who had been detached from the fleet immediately after our sailing from Milazzo, with provisionary orders for that purpose.

Major-General Mackenzie, who had sailed with me, as designed to bear a part in this expedition, returned also at my request about this period, for the general superintendance of these services, as well as to hold a general command in Sicily, which becomes a charge so important during the term of our present operations.

On the 24th ultimo the advanced division of the British and Sicilian fleet, namely, that which contained the British troops, anchored of Cape Miseno in the vicinity of Baia, when our preparations were immediately made for a debarkation upon the island of Ischia; and the necessary arrangements and dispositions of boats being intrusted by the Admiral to Sir Francis Laforey, a descent was forced on the following morning by the troops named in the margin,* commanded by Major-General Macfarlane, under the immediate fire of his Majesty's ships Warrior and Success, aided by the British and Sicilian gun-boats, in the face of a formidable chain of batteries, with which every accessible part of the shore was perfectly fortified. These were turned and successively abandoned as our troops gained their footing. About two hundred and fifty or three hundred men of the 1st Légère, in the first instance fell into our hands. General

Colonna, who commanded, retired with his principal force into the castle, where he rejected a summons from Major-General Macfarlane, and held out until the 30th ultimo, when a breaching battery having been erected against his works, he surrendered upon terms of capitulation.

As it was conjectured by the Admiral and myself that the success and promptitude with which the landing upon Ischia was effected, might probably operate an influence upon the adjacent garrison of Procida, a summons was immediately sent to the commandant thereof, who, in the course of the day, submitted to our proposed terms; an event which contributed most fortunately to the almost entire capture or destruction of a large flotilla of about forty heavy gun-boats, which attempted their passage during the night and following morning to Naples from Gaeta, and expected to find protection, as well as co-operation, under the artillery of the fortress, in their passage through the narrow straight that separates the island from the main.

This important service was executed by Captain Staines, of his Majesty's ship Cyane, assisted by the *Espoir* sloop, and the British and Sicilian gun-boats. It is with regret I add, that in a subsequent intrepid attack upon the frigate and corvette of the enemy in the bay, the above gallant officer has received a wound, which must for some time deprive the service of his assistance.

The amount of prisoners who have fallen into our hands, already exceeds one thousand five hundred regular troops, exclusive of their killed and wounded, both of military and marine, in different partial encounters, which we have reason to think are considerable. Among the prisoners are a general of brigade, two colonels, and upwards of seventy officers of progressive ranks.

* Troops that landed under the command of Major-General Macfarlane, assisted by the Honourable Brigadier-General Lumley.

1st batt. light infantry	850
2d batt. light infantry (foreign)	330
81st regiment	600
Corsican rangers	400
Detachment Calabrian free corps	150
Artillery, staff corps, &c.	50
	—2,380

4 six-pounders. 2 howitzers.

Price Sixpence Halfpenny.

