



THE
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ADMIRALTY-OFFICE, *May 22.*

Captain WINTHROP, of his Majesty's ship *Circe*, arrived here with a dispatch from Captain HOME RIGGS POPHAM, of his Majesty's ship *Expedition*, to EVAN NEFFAN, Esq. Secretary to the Admiralty, of which the following is a copy:

*His Majesty's ship Expedition, Ostend Roads,
 May 20. 1798.*

SIR,

I Beg you will do me the honour to inform my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, that, in pursuance of their orders of the 8th inst. I proceeded to sea the 14th, with the ships and vessels having on board the troops, under the command of Major-General Coote, for the purpose of blowing up the bason gates and sluices of the Bruges canal, and destroying the internal navigation between Holland, Flanders, and France. On the 18th P. M. I spoke the *Fairy*, when Captain Horton told me he had taken a cutter from Flushing to Ostend, and he understood from the people on board, that the transport schuyts sitting at Flushing were to go round immediately by the canals to Dunkirk and Ostend; and although it was impossible that any information could give additional spirit to the troops forming this enterprize, or increase the energy and exertion of the officers and seamen under my command, yet it convinced Major-General Coote and myself that it was of the greatest importance not to lose any time, but to attempt, even under an increased degree of risk, an object of such magnitude as the one in question; and as the weather appeared more favourable than it had been, I made the signal for Captain Bazely, in the *Harpy*, to go ahead, with the vessels appointed to lie as beacons N. W. of the town of Ostend, and for Captain Bradby, in the *Ariadne*, to keep between the Expedition and *Harpy*, that we might approach as near the coast as

possible, without the chance of being discovered from the shore.

At one A. M. we anchored; soon afterwards the wind shifted to west, and threatened so much to blow, that the General and myself were deliberating whether it would not be better to go to sea and wait a more favourable opportunity, when a boat from the *Vigilant* brought a vessel alongside, which she had cut from under the light-house battery, and the information obtained from the persons who were on board her, under separate examinations, so convinced us of the small force at Ostend, Newport, and Bruges, that Major-General Coote begged he might be landed to accomplish the great object of destroying the canals, even if the surf should prevent his retreat being so successful as he could wish. I of course acceded to his spirited propositions, and ordered the troops to be landed as fast as possible, without waiting for the regular order of debarkation. Many of the troops were on shore before we were discovered, and it was not till a quarter past four that the batteries opened on the ships, which was instantly returned in a most spirited manner by Captain Mortlock, of the *Wolvereene*, Lieutenant Edmonds, of the *Asp*, and Lieutenant Norman, of the *Biter*. The *Hecla* and *Tartarus* bombs very soon opened their mortars, and threw their shells with great quickness and precision. The town was on fire several times, and much damage was done to the ships in the bason. By five o'clock all the troops ordered to land, except from the *Minerva*, were on shore with their artillery; miners, wooden petards, tools and gun-powder; and before six o'clock I heard from General Coote that he had no doubt of blowing up the works. I now became very anxious for the situation of the Major-General, from the state

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(R.)



of the weather, and I ordered all the gun-boats that had anchored to the eastward of the town to get as near the shore as possible, to cover and assist the troops in their embarkation. The batteries at the town continued their fire on the Wolvereene, Asp and Biter, and as the Wolvereene had received much damage, and the Asp had been lying near four hours within 300 yards of the battery, I made their signal to move, and soon after directed the Dart, Harpy, and Kite to take their stations, that the enemy might be prevented from turning their guns against our troops; but it being low water, they could not get so near as their Commanders wished. At half past nine the Minerva came in, and as I thought an additional number of troops would only add to the anxiety of the General, from the little probability of being able to embark them, I sent Capt. Mackellar on shore to report his arrival with four light companies of the guards. In his absence, Colonel Ward filled two flat boats with his officers and men, and was proceeding with every zeal to join the battalion of guards, without considering the danger he was exposed to in crossing the surf, when Captain Bradley fortunately saw him, and advised him to return immediately to his ship. At twenty minutes past ten I had the pleasure of seeing the explosion take place; and soon after the troops assembled on the Sand Hills, near the shore; but the sea ran so high, that it was impossible to embark a single man; therefore I could only make every arrangement against the wind moderated; and this morning at day light I went in shore, in the Kite, for the purpose of giving every assistance, but I had the mortification to see our army surrounded by the enemy's troops; and as I had no doubt the General had capitulated, I ordered all the ships to anchor farther out, and I sent in a flag of truce, by Colonel Boone of the guards and Captain Brown of the Kite, with a letter to the Commandant, a copy of which I inclose for their Lordships information. At ten this morning the General's Aide-de-Camp, Capt. Williamson, came on board, and though it was very painful to hear that General Coote was wounded, after all his exertions, yet it was very satisfactory to learn, that under many disadvantageous circumstances, and after performing a service of such consequence to our country, the loss, killed and wounded, was only between 50 and 60 officers and privates; and that the General capitulated in consequence of being surrounded by several thousands of the national troops. I inclose, for their Lordships information, a copy of such minutes as were left me by Capt. Williamson, from which their Lordships will see the sluice gates and works are completely destroyed, and several vessels intended for transports, burnt.

I this morning learnt that the canal was quite dry, and that the works destroyed yesterday had taken the states of Bruges five years to finish.

I hope your Lordships will be satisfied that the enemy was surprised, and every thing they wished was accomplished, although the loss of the troops far exceeded any calculation, except under the particular circumstances of the wind's coming to the northward, and blowing very hard. If the weather had continued fine, the troops would have been embarked by twelve, at which time the return of killed and wounded did not exceed four rank and file.

I cannot help again noticing the particular good conduct of Capt. Mortlock, Lieut. Edmond, and Lieut. Norman, and beg to recommend them to their Lordships protection.

Gen. Coote sent to inform me that he was highly pleased with the uncommon exertions of Captains Winthrop and Bradby, and Lieut. Bradby, who had acted on shore as his Aide-de-Camp: He also noticed the

assistance he had derived from Capt. Mackellar, after his landing.

I take the liberty of sending this dispatch by Capt. Winthrop of the Circe, who commanded the seamen landed from the different ships, and as he had the particular charge of getting the powder and mines up for the destruction of the works, in which he so ably succeeded, he will be enabled to inform their Lordships of every circumstance. Captain Mackellar, with the officers and men on shore, were included in the capitulation: But I have not yet been able to collect an exact return of the number of seamen taken.

I transmit you a list of killed and wounded on board his Majesty's ships; and I have the honour to be, &c.
HOME POPHAM.

*His Majesty's Ship Expedition, Ostend Roads,
May 20. 1798.*

SIR,

I have just heard with concern that the British troops and seamen, under the command of Major-General Coote, and Captain Mackellar, of the royal navy, have capitulated to the troops of the Republic, and I trust they will be treated with that attention which is due to officers and men executing the orders of their Sovereign.

It has been the invariable rule of the British Government to make the situation of prisoners as comfortable as possible; and I am sure, Sir, in this instance, you will do the same to the troops, &c. who have fallen into your hands.

It will not be against any rule to exchange the prisoners immediately, but, on the contrary, add to your name by marking it with humanity and liberality; and I give you my word the same number of troops, or other prisoners, shall be instantly sent from England to France, with such officers as you shall name, or as shall be named by the National Convention, provided no public reason attaches against the release of any particular person.

I have sent the officers what things they left on board the ship, and I am confident you will order them to be delivered as soon as possible.

I beg you will allow the officers and men to write letters to England by this flag, as a satisfaction to their families, it being impossible for me to know who have fallen or received wounds, which I hope will be very inconsiderable from the accounts I have received from the shore.

I beg your answer to this letter without loss of time, and confiding in your liberality towards the troops under capitulation, I have the honour to be, &c.

HOME POPHAM.

To the Officer Commanding the Troops of
the National Convention at Ostend.

Extract from the minutes left on board the Expedition by Capt. WILLIAMSON, Aide-de-Camp to General COOTE, dated 10 A. M. May 20, Ostend Roads.

Sluice-gates destroyed in the most complete manner, boats burnt, and every thing done, and the troops ready to embark by twelve o'clock. When we found it impossible to embark, took the strongest position on the Sand-Hills, and about four in the morning were attacked by a column of 600 men to our left, an immense column in front, with cannon, and a very large column on the right.

The General and troops would have all been off with the loss of not more than three or four men, if the wind had not come to the northward soon after we landed, and made so high a sea. We have not been able to ascertain the exact number of men killed and wounded, but it is supposed they amount to fifty or sixty.

The officers killed and wounded are,

Major-General Coote, wounded;
Col. Hely, 11th regiment, killed;
Col. Campbell, wounded;
Capt. Walker, royal artillery, wounded.

A List of Killed and Wounded in his Majesty's ships and vessels under the command of HOME POPHAM, Esq. May 19. 1798, Ostend Roads.

Seamen, &c. of Woolverene.—1 killed, 10 wounded.
23d regt. on board the Woolverene.—1 killed, 5 wounded.
Asp.—1 seaman killed, Lieut. Edmond, wounded.

HOME POPHAM.

PARLIAMENT STREET, May 22.

A dispatch, of which the following is a copy, has been this day received by the Right Hon. HENRY DUNDAS, one of his Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, from Lieut.-Col. WARDE, of the 1st regiment of guards, dated on board the Expedition frigate, eight o'clock, P. M. May 20. 1798.

SIR,

In consequence of the Minerva frigate (on board which were the four light infantry companies of the 1st regiment of foot guards) having unfortunately lost her situation in the Squadron under the command of Capt. Popham, of the royal navy, during the night of the 18th inst. the command of the remainder of the troops, from that accident, has devolved upon me; and I have the honour to transmit to you the most correct account that I have been enabled to collect:

Early on the morning of the 19th inst. the following troops, under the command of Major-Gen. Coote, viz.

Two companies, light infantry, Coldstream guards.
Two ditto, ditto, 3d guards,
11th regiment of foot,
23d } Flank companies,
49th }

with six pieces of ordnance, disembarked, and effected their landing, at 3 o'clock in the morning, to the eastward of Ostend, and completed the object of the expedition, by burning a number of boats destined for the invasion of England, and by so completely destroying the locks and bason gates of the Bruges canal, that it was this morning without a drop of water; and as I understand all the transports fitting out at Flushing were intended to be brought to Ostend and Dunkirk by the inland navigation, to avoid our cruizers, that arrangement will be defeated, and it will be a long time before the works can be repaired; as they were five years finishing, and were esteemed the most complete works of the kind in Europe. The troops had retreated, and were ready to re-embark by twelve o'clock the same morning, with the loss of only one rank and file killed, and one seaman wounded, but found it impossible from the wind having increased, and the surf running so high as entirely to prevent their regaining the boats, upon which they took up a position on the Sand Hills above the beach, where they lay the whole of that day and night upon their arms. The enemy taking advantage of the length of time and the night, collected in very great force, and soon after day-break this morning, attacked them on every side, when, after a most noble and gallant defence, I am grieved to add, they were under the necessity of capitulating, to a very great superiority of numbers.

I herewith inclose a list of the killed and wounded, and I have every reason to believe it correct.

Lieut.-Colonel Hely, 11th foot, killed.
Major-General Coote, wounded.
Colonel Campbell, 3d Guards, wounded.
Major Donkin, 44th foot, wounded.
Captain Walker, Royal Artillery, wounded.
And near sixty rank and file killed and wounded.

I have the honour to be, &c.

HENRY WARDE,
Capt. and Lieut.-Col. 1st Guards.

THE AVERAGE PRICE OF SUGAR,

Computed from the Returns made in the week ending the 16th day of May 1798,

is Sixty-seven Shillings and Nine Pence
per Hundred Weight,

Exclusive of the Duty of Customs paid or payable thereon, on the Importation thereof into Great Britain.

TO THE CREDITORS OF
JAMES SIMPSON, Farmer and Cattle Dealer in
Mains of Invereberey.

On the application of the trustee on the sequestrated estate of the said James Simpson, the Sheriff of Aberdeen, on the 5th day of May curt. ordained the said James Simpson, his family, and others connected with his business, to appear within the Laigh Tolbooth of Aberdeen, upon Tuesday the 22d curt. at 12 o'clock noon; and again within the said Laigh Tolbooth, upon Thursday the 7th of June next, at the foresaid hour, for first and second diets of examination of said bankrupt, upon the state of his affairs, and all circumstances relative thereto.

And a meeting of Mr Simpson's creditors is to be held, on Friday the 8th of June, within the house of George Moir, vintner in Aberdeen, at one o'clock afternoon.

N.B. In a former advertisement Tuesday the 8th of June was, by mistake, mentioned for the second examination of the bankrupt, in place of Thursday the 7th.

NOTICE.

THAT in the Process of Ranking the Creditors and Sale of the Estate of ALLAN M'LEAN of Drimmin, and CHARLES M'LEAN of Kinlochaline, his son, depending before the Lord Ankerville Ordinary (office M. P. Bruce), his Lordship this day assigned the 22d day of June next, to the several creditors who have not produced their interests, to produce their several claims, and vouchers thereof; with certification as in a reduction and improbation; and that for the Second Term—and appointed this notice to be given to all concerned, once every week for three weeks successively.
Edinburgh, May 22. 1798.

TO THE CREDITORS OF

PETER FISHER, late Bleacher in Rutherglen.
Francis Blaikie, merchant in Glasgow, the trustee, has made up a state of the affairs, in terms of the act of Parliament, which will lie at his office, for the inspection of all concerned, till Monday the 18th day of June next; on which day, at twelve o'clock noon, the trustee requests the attendance of the creditors, within his office, to receive payment of the first dividend.

TO CREDITORS.

THE Trustee on the Sequestrated Estate of JAMES BOWACK, Tenant at Pitforthie, hereby requests a general meeting of the creditors, to be held in the house of John Martin, vintner in Brechin, on the 1st June next, by 12 o'clock noon, finally to determine as to the disposal of the said James Bowack's household furniture, and the propriety of applying for a personal protection to him, to enable him to assist the trustee in the future management of the estate; and to comply with an order of the Lord Ordinary, appointing him to appear at Edinburgh for an examination in the process, at William Robertson's instance against him.

TO THE CREDITORS OF

JOHN M'QUEEN, Smith in Edinburgh. — —
William Braidwood, merchant in Edinburgh, trustee on the sequestrated estate of John M'Queen, requests a general meeting of the creditors, in John's Coffeehouse, on Wednesday the 27th day of June next, at 12 o'clock noon, to receive a report of the present state of the funds, and to give directions about the future management of the estate.—No further dividend can as yet be made.

TO THE CREDITORS OF

DAVID BRYDON, Writer and Merchant in Beith.
That, at the meeting of creditors held on the 11th curt. immediately after the second examination of the bankrupt, he made offer to his whole creditors of a composition of 2s. 6d. per pound of their respective debts, payable at Martinmas next, and to find security for the same; which offer the meeting thought reasonable, and appointed another meeting to be held at Beith, within the house of John Willon, vintner there, on Tuesday the 5th day of June next, at 12 o'clock noon, for the purpose of deciding on this offer.—Of which notice is hereby given, in terms of the Statute.
May 18. 1798.

