

board the ships of war, stationed to the westward of the town, as well to divert the enemy's attention to that point, as to land and spike the cannon, should an opportunity offer.

By the time the troops were properly posted, the necessary materials were brought up to the sluices, by the indefatigable exertions and extraordinary good conduct of Captains Winthrop, Bradby, and M^r Kellar, and Lieutenant Bradby, of the royal navy, whose services on shore cannot be too highly praised.

Lieutenant Brownrigg, of the royal engineers, in about four hours made all his arrangements, and completely destroyed the sluices; his mines having in every particular the desired effect; and the object of the expedition thereby attained; and which, I have the satisfaction to add, was accomplished with the trifling loss of only five men killed and wounded. Several vessels of considerable burden were also destroyed in the canal near the sluices.

No danger even for an instant abated the ardour of the seamen and soldiers.—To their unanimity his Majesty and the country are indebted for our success.

No language of mine can do justice to the forces employed upon this occasion; and, as it is impossible to name each individual, I beg leave to state the great exertions of a few.

To that excellent officer, Major-General Burrard, I shall feel everlasting obligation: To his counsel, exertions, and ability, I am in a great measure to attribute the success of the enterprise.

His Majesty's Guards, conspicuous upon all occasions, on this service have added to their former laurels. To Colonel Calcraft, who commanded them; Colonels Cunningham and Campbell, of the same corps; Major Skinner, of the 23d regiment, commanding the grenadiers; Major Donkin, of the 44th regiment, commanding the light infantry; and Captain Walker, commanding the royal artillery; I feel myself much indebted for their good conduct in the various services in which I employed them.

In Lieutenant Brownrigg, of the royal engineers, I found infinite ability and resource. His zeal and attention were eminently conspicuous; and in my opinion this gentleman bids fair to be of great future service to his country.

I should not do justice to the zeal and spirit of Lieutenant Gilham, of the Sussex militia, if I did not state to you, that, anxious to be employed in the service of his country, and to learn his profession, he applied to his Commanding Officer at Dover, the night before we sailed, for permission to join our force. He left Dover in a violent gale of wind, and came on board the morning we got under weigh. I attached him to Colonel Campbell's company of the battalion of Guards, where he acquitted himself much to his honour.

Captain Visscher, Sir Charles Gray's Aid-de-camp, Captain Williamson, my Aid-de-camp, and Major of Brigade Thorley, I sent to attend the Guards, light infantry, and grenadiers, in their different positions, as well to give their assistance to the respective Commanding Officers, as to apprise me of any circumstance that might occur, so as to require my immediate information, they being thoroughly acquainted with the nature of the expedition. They conducted themselves to my most perfect satisfaction, as did Lieutenant Clisten, of the royal artillery, who attended me, Captain Cumberland of the 83d regiment, and Cornet Nixen of the 7th light dragoons, who acted as Aid-de-camp to Major-General Burrard.

In my letter of the 13th instant, I had the honour to inform you of my having accepted the services of Mr Jarvis, a surgeon of Margate. His great attention was

unremitting, and his conduct upon this occasion is highly praiseworthy.

To Colonel Twiss I shall ever feel great obligation for the able assistance he gave me at Dover, in preparing the necessary instruments for destroying the sluice-gates, as well as for the instruction he was so kind as to give Lieutenant Brownrigg for this service.

As a feint to cover the operation of bringing up the materials, and of destroying the sluices, Captain Popham and myself sent a summons to the Commandant of Ostend, to surrender the town and its dependencies to his Majesty's forces under our command, which had the desired effect. I have the honour to inclose you a copy of the summons, with the Commandant's answer.

By an unavoidable accident, the four light companies of the 1st guards, under the command of Lieutenant-Colonels Warde and Boone, were not landed in the morning; I think it however but justice to declare, that every thing that brave men then could attempt was done at the imminent risk of their lives to accomplish it; and I am conscious the zeal and courage they manifested to partake in the dangers of their brother soldiers, would have made them ample sharers in any honour to be acquired, or danger to be encountered on shore, had they been able to reach it.

I have sent a dispatch to Sir Charles Grey by his Aid-de-Camp, Capt. Visscher; and Capt. Williamson, my Aid-de-Camp, will have the honour to deliver you this. Both these gentlemen are well qualified to give you any farther information, and I beg leave to recommend them to your notice and protection.

I have the honour to be, &c.

EYRE COOTE, Major-Gen.

Right Hon. Henry Dundas, &c.

Copy of the summons sent for the town of Ostend, &c. to surrender; dated east of the harbour of Ostend, May 19. 1798.

SIR,

We the officers commanding the sea and land forces of his Majesty the King of Great Britain, think it necessary to apprise you, that we shall be obliged to bombard and cannonade the town of Ostend, unless you, as Commandant, shall immediately surrender the same, with its dependencies, troops, and military stores belonging to the Republic, to the arms of our Sovereign.

We leave to you to take into your serious consideration the very formidable force now lying before the town and port of Ostend, as you cannot but be responsible for the consequences of a vain and fruitless resistance.

We are willing to grant half an hour for your full consideration of the above terms, and are convinced that your humanity and good sense will point out the necessary steps to be taken to accede to our proposals, as, in default thereof, we shall be under the necessity of immediately commencing hostilities.

We have the honour to be, &c.

EYRE COOTE, Major-Gen.

HOME POPHAM, Capt. R. N.

To his Excellency the Commandant
of Ostend.

Translation of the Commandant of Ostend's answer to the summons.

LIBERTY.

EQUALITY.

Garrison of Ostend, 30th Floreal,
6th year of the Republic.

MUSCAR, Commandant of the garrison of Ostend, to the Commander in Chief of the troops of his Britannic Majesty.

GENERAL,

The Council of War was sitting when I received the honour of your letter; we have unanimously resolved not to surrender this place until we shall have been buried under its ruins.

(Signed)

MUSCAR,
Commandant of the Garrison.