

I then observed a boat, with a flag of truce in the bows, leave the ship, and pull towards the shore.

I was present when the boat arrived at the back part of the Mole. There were two Government officers there, when, through an Interpreter, the officer of the boat was asked his business. He replied that he had come to take the English Consul away. He was informed he had left several days; and, to the best of my belief, the following was the conversation that passed between them. Afterwards the Interpreter said the authorities were not down from the town, and that he had better return to his ship and come back again in an hour, or an hour and a half. The boat then left the shore, and set sail towards the ship. I walked a little distance from the spot where the above conversation took place; in a few minutes I observed some excitement and bustle on a six-gun battery at the back of the Mole, I then turned and looked towards the battery, and from thence to the boat, she was about three-fourths of the distance between the shore and the man-of-war steamer; at that moment a shot was fired from the battery before mentioned, and I observed it nearly struck the boat; a soldier then ran down from the six-gun battery towards the battery on the Mole head, and immediately shotted guns were fired from both batteries to the steamer; as nearly as I can recollect seven shots were fired at the man-of-war and the boat; it was reported on shore that one shot struck the steamer's paddle-box; when the boat reached the ship the steamer left the roads without firing a shot.

Dated on board the *Britannia*, off Odessa, 21st April 1854.

(Signed) JNO. CRUTWELL, Barque *Lavinia*.

I hereby certify that the above statement is perfectly correct.

(Signed) JNO. TATE, Barque *Princess*.

(Enclosure No. 4.)

Her Britannic Majesty's Ship Britannia,
off Odessa, April 21, 1854.

VICE-ADMIRAL DUNDAS has had the honour to receive from General Baron D'Osten Sacken a note purporting to be an explanation of a fire from the batteries at Odessa having been opened upon Her Britannic Majesty's steam-vessel *Furious* and her boat on the 8th instant, both having a flag of truce flying at the time.

Vice-Admiral Dundas regrets that the statements made to General Baron D'Osten Sacken are not in accordance with the facts substantiated by evidence before the Vice-Admiral, and he has still more to regret that so wanton and uncivilized an act of aggression should have been perpetrated by the forces under the orders of General Baron D'Osten Sacken.

(Enclosure No. 5.)

SIR,

Off Odessa, April 21, 1854.

CONSIDERING that the letter of your Excellency, dated the 14th April, and which has only been received by us this morning, contains only erroneous statements in justification of the unqualifiable aggression of which the authorities of Odessa have been guilty, with respect to one of our frigates and her boat, both of them bearing a flag of truce.

Considering that notwithstanding this flag the batteries of that city have fired several shot, as well as the frigate as at the boat, at the time that the latter had quitted the Mole where it had arrived with perfect confidence.

The two Vice-Admirals, Commanding in Chief the combined squadrons of England and France, believe themselves entitled to exact reparation from your Excellency.

In consequence, all the English, French, and Russian vessels, now anchored near the fortress or the batteries of Odessa, must be delivered immediately to the two combined squadrons.

If at sunset the two Vice-Admirals should not receive any answer, or should have received a negative, they will be obliged to have recourse to force to revenge the insult that has been committed against the flag of one of the combined squadrons, although the interests of humanity lead them to adopt, with great regret, this last resolution, of which they throw the responsibility upon him who has the right to bear it.

(Signed)

HAMELIN.

J. W. D. DUNDAS.

His Excellency General Baron
D'Osten Sacken, Odessa.

(Enclosure No. 6.)

Her Majesty's Ship Sampson, off Odessa,
April 22, 1854.

SIR,

HEREWITH I have the honour to forward a list of casualties sustained on board Her Majesty's ship under my command, in the attack and destruction of the Fort and Shipping in Port Imperial this day, and I avail myself of the opportunity to express my entire satisfaction at the conduct of the Steam Division which you did me the honour of placing under my command.

The management of the several ships, in close proximity to each other, and in very shallow water, manœuvring for several hours, required the most vigilant attention, and were executed without an accident; but as these proceedings were under your own immediate eye, it is not requisite for me to say more on such and similar particulars.

The French steamer *Vauban* was obliged to retire at an early period of the attack in consequence of some red-hot shot from the batteries having made a lodgement in the lining of the ship, but as soon as the fire could be extinguished she returned to her post in the attack.

The conduct of this ship's company was such as might be expected of a British Crew devoted to their Queen and Country, and the arrangements in detail by Lieutenant Shute B. Piers, first of this ship, had provided for every exigency.

The precision with which the captains of the guns took aim elicited my warmest commendation during the attack, and did full justice to the care and correctness with which Lieutenant E. McArthur, R. M. A., prepared the fuzes for the required range; as Marksmen, William Barker, Gunner's Mate, and John Edwards, Sailmaker, were especially noticeable.

The engine was worked with that steady obedience to order which has at all times distinguished the conduct of Mr Jago, whether under fire or otherwise.

The division of rocket-boats under Commander Dickson were admirably managed, and contributed most essentially to the success of the day.

The ships and vessels in Port Imperial amounted to about 24, most of which being sunk or on fire at the time of your making the recall, and the explosion of the battery on the pier head, rendered further operations in that quarter unnecessary.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) L. T. JONES, Captain.

Vice-Admiral J. W. D. Dundas, C.B.,
Commander-in-Chief.