



The Edinburgh Gazette.

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FRIDAY, AUGUST 25, 1854.

ADMIRALTY, August 21, 1854.

DESPATCHES, of which the following are Copies, have been received from Vice-Admiral Sir Charles Napier, K.C.B., Commander-in-Chief of Her Majesty's Ships and Vessels in the Baltic:—

CAPTURE OF TWO TOWERS OF BOMARSUND.

No. 354. *Bulldog, off Bomarsund, August 16, 1854.*

1. At four o'clock in the morning of the 13th instant the French battery, of four 16-pounders and four mortars, opened a splendid fire on the western tower, which commands the fortress of Bomarsund and the anchorage; a white flag was displayed in the afternoon, which led to nothing; but on the morning of the 14th the tower was surprised by the Chasseurs. General Jones's battery of 32-pounders was finished in the night, and ready to open; but not being wanted was turned against the eastern tower, and on the morning of the 15th he opened his fire; the battery was manned by seamen and marine artillery from the four ships named in the margin,* under the direction of Captain Ramsay of the Hogue, assisted by Commander Preedy, Lieutenant Somerset of the Duke of Wellington, and the officers named in the margin;† their fire was beautiful.

2. At six p.m. one side was knocked in, and the tower surrendered.

* Edinburgh; Hogue; Ajax; Blenheim.

† H.M.S. Blenheim—

Lieut. F. A. Closs.
J. J. Ball, Master.
L. Wildman, Acting Mate.
Lieut. T. L. Ward.
David Orr, Acting Mate.
P. B. Nolloth, Brevet-Major, R.M.
Wm. Sanders, First Lieut. R.M.
S. Wade, Asst.-Surgeon.

H.M.S. Ajax—

W. L. Sayer, Capt. R.M.
Thos. Bent, First Lieut. R.M.
H. L. C. Robinson, Mate.

H.M.S. Hogue—

Chas. Smith, Mate.
M. Singer, Lieut. R.M.
Capt. Fosbrooke, R.M.
A. R. Bradford, Surgeon.

H.M.S. Edinburgh—

Lieut. G. F. Burgess.
Capt. Delacombe, R.M.
A. Tait, Lieut. R.M.
E. J. Giles, Passed Clerk.

In the attack on the western tower the Chasseurs, with Minié rifles, were employed so successfully that it was difficult for the enemy to load their guns; in the attack on the eastern tower we had no Chasseurs, and they were enabled to load their guns with more facility.

3. Our loss has been trifling, one man killed and one wounded, but I have to lament the death of the Honourable Lieutenant Cameron Wrottesley, R.E., who was mortally wounded by a cannon ball, and died twenty minutes after he had been sent to the Belleisle.

4. The enemy had 6 men killed; 7 wounded, and 125 were taken prisoners. I have sent the latter to the Termagant.

5. The loss of the French at the western tower was also trifling.

6. Both batteries were admirably constructed and admirably fought, which accounts for the small loss. General Jones speaks in high terms of the conduct of the seamen and marine artillery, and the precision of their fire.

7. During the time the operations were going on, General Baraguay d'Hilliers was employed in establishing his breaching batteries against the great fortress, and the French and English steamers, as per margin,* supported by Trident (bearing the flag of Rear-Admiral Penau), Duperré, Edinburgh, and Ajax, kept up a well-directed fire from their shell guns, and very much damaged the fortress, whilst Captain the Honourable F. T. Pelham, of the Blenheim, kept up a beautiful fire from a 10-inch gun, landed in the battery we had driven the enemy out of a few days before. His position was one of great danger, but the battery was put in such good order by Captain Pelham that the men were well covered, and he had no loss.

8. The General's breaching batteries will be ready by to-morrow, and they shall be well supported by the ships-of-the-line of both Nations, and the steamers. The narrowness of the ground on which the General has established his breaching battery, very much circumscribes the space; the greatest caution will be necessary to prevent firing on his troops, and the little space in the anchorage before Bomarsund, and the intricacy of the navi-

* Asmodée, Phlegethon, Darien; Arrogant, Amphion, Valorous, Driver, Bulldog, Hecla.