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TUESDAY, MARCH 13, 1855.

ADMIRALTY, March 8, 1855.

DESPATCHES, of which the following are Copies, have been received from Rear-Admiral Sir Edmund Lyons, Bart., G.C.B., Commander-in-Chief of Her Majesty's Ships and Vessels in the Mediterranean and Black Sea.

UNSUCCESSFUL ATTACK BY THE RUSSIANS ON EUPATORIA.

*Royal Albert, off Sevastopol,
February 20, 1855.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to enclose, for the information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, copies of two letters which I have received from Captain Hastings, of the *Curaçoa*, Senior Officer at Eupatoria, reporting an unsuccessful attack made upon that place, at daybreak, on the 17th instant, by a large Russian force of cavalry, artillery, and infantry, and enclosing a letter from Omar Pasha, expressing warm acknowledgments for the great services rendered by Her Majesty's ships *Curaçoa*, *Valorous*, *Furious*, and *Viper*, as well as his Highness' thanks for the reinforcements of steamers which I had sent to him on hearing that the enemy was still in force in his neighbourhood.

2. Captain Hastings appears to have conducted his share of the defence with his accustomed zeal and ability, and to have been well and effectively seconded by Captains Buckle and Loring, and Lieutenant Brock, and the officers, seamen, and marines of all Her Majesty's ships present on that occasion.

3. Colonel Simmons, of the Royal Engineers, who is attached to Omar Pasha's Staff, estimates the attacking force at 40,000 of all arms, and he states that as many as sixty guns, some of them 32-pounders, played upon the place at one time.

4. I understand that at nine o'clock the enemy's infantry formed under the shelter of a wall, at 350 yards from the place, and advanced to the attack, but were repulsed with considerable loss, and soon afterwards retired, leaving nearly two hundred dead on the nearest spot, and removing the rest of their dead from the more distant parts of the field.

5. Omar Pasha's army appears, from the latest and most authentic accounts, to have had nearly a hundred men killed, and about two hundred and fifty wounded, and to have had eighty artillery horses killed, and some guns much damaged.

6. The *Banshee* has brought me a report from Captain Hastings up to noon yesterday, at which time the enemy remained encamped about five miles from Eupatoria, with his left leaning on the Putrid Lake Sasik; whilst Omar Pasha, with the garrison, having been reinforced after the battle by further Turkish Troops brought over from Varna in British transports, as well as by the Dauntless, Curlew, Arrow, and Lyux, sent by me from hence, and by two French steamers sent by Admiral Bruat, awaited an attack with confidence in a favourable result.

I am, &c.

ED. LYONS,

Rear-Admiral and Commander-in-Chief.

To the Secretary of the Admiralty,
London.

Enclosure No. 1.

*Her Majesty's Ship Curaçoa, Eupatoria,
February 17, 1855.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to acquaint your Excellency that this morning, about 6.30 A.M., the Russians in considerable force attacked the Turkish troops which are encamped at this place under the command of his Highness Omar Pasha.

The ships under my command at this anchorage, which are named in the margin,* immediately proceeded under steam to close the flanking position of the Turkish entrenchments,—*Valorous* and *Viper* taking the left flank, and *Curaçoa* and *Furious* the right. About half an hour after the commencement of the attack, I received from his Highness Omar Pasha, a request to strengthen as much as possible the right flank, as the enemy were pressing their attack upon that point.

The *Viper* was immediately recalled, and from her light draught of water was enabled to effect good service, as also the three other ships in their respective positions.

The conduct of the captains, officers, seamen, and marines under my command on this occasion, deserves your Excellency's approbation.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) G. F. HASTINGS,

Captain.

* Her Majesty's ships *Valorous*, *Furious*, and *Viper*.