

stroying the guns; both having performed their duty much to my satisfaction.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) WM. ARMYTAGE, Lieutenant
and Commander.

*Captain George Giffard, H.M.S. Leopard,
Senior Officer.*

*Royal Albert, off Sevastopol,
March 17, 1855.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to enclose, for the information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, a letter which has been addressed to me by Captain Giffard, stating that while making a reconnaissance near Soujak-Kalé, with Her Majesty's ship *Leopard*, under his command, and accompanied by Her Majesty's ships *Highflyer*, *Swallow*, and *Viper*, and also by H. I. M.'s steam ship-of-war *Fulton*, he was informed by the Circassians in the neighbourhood, that the enemy had so reduced the strength of that fortress by the removal of men and guns to Anapa, that they were ready to attack it by land if he would do so by sea; and that he, wishing to encourage the natives and to embarrass the Russians, had assented to the proposal, and moved the ships to within 1000 yards of the south face of the fort, where he performed his part, but that, on finding the Circassians did not perform theirs, he withdrew, after having driven all the garrison out of the place, with the exception of a few gunners in the earthen batteries, and having also dismounted several guns, and done considerable damage to the arsenal and public works; leaving the garrison about a mile from the place, surrounded by Circassians, who were collecting reinforcements.

The ships appear to have been well placed, and to have fired with great effect; and Captain Giffard expresses his thanks to Captain *Le Bris*, his able coadjutor on former occasions, as well as to Captain *Moore*, Commander *Craufurd*, and Lieutenant *Armytage*, and their respective officers and ships' companies, for their support.

Of Captain Giffard himself, I may perhaps be permitted to observe that this is not the first time that his zeal and gallantry have been conspicuous since he has been under my command.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ED. LYONS,
Rear-Admiral and Commander-in-Chief.

*To the Secretary of the Admiralty,
London.*

REPORTING AN ATTACK UPON SOUJAK.

*Her Majesty's ship Leopard, Soujak Bay,
March 13, 1855.*

SIR,
I HAVE the honour to acquaint you, that from the information I had received from the Circassians at Ghelenjik, and also from the observations of Monsieur *Le Bris* of His Imperial Majesty's steam-vessel *Fulton*, as well as my own, on the 6th instant, in Soujak Bay, I was led to believe the Russians had sent many guns, stores, &c., away from that fort, and would probably leave if a force appeared off it.

Wishing to have more certain information for you, on my return to your flag, I, on the evening of the 11th instant, when the *Highflyer* joined me,

proceeded with the vessels named in the margin* to Soujak Bay, where we anchored on the morning of the 12th; but a fresh gale, with heavy swell, prevented our closing the batteries. I therefore threw some shells into the place; and the Circassians, who soon appeared in numbers, at the same time attacked the small fort at the head of the bay, opposite the town, drove out the garrison, and burnt it, at 8 A.M. This morning the Circassians informed me they had a sufficient force, and would attack Soujak Kalé by land if I would do so by sea, and wishing to encourage them and embarrass the enemy, I immediately moved the squadron to within 1000 yards of the South Face, and opened fire on it. From this point the enemy only had ten guns to bear on the ships, but the light wind and damp weather made the smoke hang over and conceal them from our fire, while our masts above were conspicuous to them.

We soon drove all the inhabitants and troops out of the place, except those in the earthen batteries, but I was much disappointed to find that the Circassians did not advance to attack them when out of the town, as they had promised. I therefore moved out again, as, with our small force of men, it would have been too great a risk to land, the main body of the garrison being close at hand.

The arsenal and public buildings are much injured, and several of the guns were silenced and dismounted. Our loss, I am happy to say, has been small; and some injury has been done to the masts and hulls of the ships.

I was much pleased with the able way in which all the ships took up their assigned positions, and have to thank Monsieur *le Bris*, of the *Fulton*, Captain *Moore*, Commander *Craufurd*, and Lieutenant *Armytage*, commanding the *Viper*, for their able support, as well as all the officers and men.

The Russian force, apparently 1500 or 2000 men, and the other inhabitants, are now encamped about a mile north of the town, having left a few men in the batteries; they will have great difficulty in communicating with Anapa, being surrounded by the Circassians (who were collecting reinforcements), and should they return to the town, a small naval force can at any time drive them out again.

I enclose List of Casualties among the ships.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) GEORGE GIFFARD,
Captain.

*Rear-Admiral Sir Edmund Lyons,
Bart., G. C. B.*

Sub-Enclosure No. 1.

*Casualties on board Her Majesty's ship Leopard,
received during the attack at Soujak, on the 13th
March 1855.*

KILLED.

David Marchmont, gunner, Royal Marine Artillery, shot wound, carrying away the soft parts of the neck anterior to the spine.

WOUNDED.

George Davis, A.B., splinter wound of thigh, severe.
William Brewerton, Private Royal Marine, contused wound of back, slight.

(Signed) J. ACHESON, Surgeon.

* *Leopard*, *Highflyer*, *Swallow*, *Viper*, and *Fulton*, French steamer.