

cepted, knowing the imminent risk there would be in landing a party in presence of such a superior force, and out of gun-shot of the ships. This very dangerous service they most gallantly performed, narrowly escaping the Cossacks, who all but cut them off from their boat; at the same time Lieutenant Mackenzie pushed on and burned the remaining vessels, the enemy opening a fire from four field-guns and musketry, placed almost within point blank range of the boats. Everything being now effectually accomplished, the boats returned. Although several of them were struck by grape and case shot, most fortunately only one man was slightly wounded. Lieutenant Mackenzie speaks in high terms of the coolness and excellent behaviour of all employed under his orders; and I trust I may be allowed to bring to your notice the conspicuous merit of Lieutenant Mackenzie himself on this occasion, when more than ninety vessels, and also corn for the Russian army of the value of £100,000 were destroyed, owing to his gallantry and ability, with so trifling a loss as one man slightly wounded.

Since the squadron entered the Sea of Azoff, four days ago, the enemy has lost four steamers of war, 246 merchant vessels, also corn and flour magazines to the value of at least £150,000.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) E. M. LYONS,
Captain.

A List of Boats under the Command of Lieutenant J. F. C. Mackenzie, at Genitchesk, on the 29th day of May 1855.

Miranda.—

Pinnacle—One 12-pounder howitzer, with small arms for boat's crew.

Cecil W. Buckley, Lieutenant.
Benjamin Crabbe, Assistant-Surgeon.

1st Cutter—

Wm. H. Lilley, additional Boatswain.

2d Cutter—Small arms for boat's crew.

John Liddell, Midshipman.
Henry Cooper, additional Boatswain.

Vesuvius.—

Two Paddle-box Boats—One 24-pounder howitzer in each boat, with small arms.

Herbert Campion, Senior Lieutenant.
John H. Patterson, Surgeon.
Shuldham Hill, Assistant Clerk.
William Kirk, Boatswain.

Stromboli.—

Starboard Paddle-box Boat—One 24-pounder howitzer, with small arms for boat's crew.

John F. Ross, Lieutenant.
John S. Adams, Assistant-Surgeon.
Arthur K. Forde, Mate.

Port Paddle-box Boat—One 24-pounder rocket tube, with rockets and small arms.

Augustus H. Webb, Acting-Mate.

Ardent.—

1st Cutter—Small arms for crew.

E. P. Bedwell, Acting 2d Master, only employed in second attack. One man slightly wounded.

2d Cutter—One 12-pounder rocket-tube, with rockets and small arms.

J. Roberts, Gunner,

Swallow.—

Gig—One 12-pounder rocket tube, and small arms for boat's crew.

Hugh T. Burgoyne, Lieutenant.

(Signed) E. M. LYONS,
Captain and Senior Officer.

Name of one man Wounded at Genitchesk, on the 29th day of May 1855, belonging to Her Majesty's Steam-vessel Ardent.

William Walker, Captain maintop, received a contusion on left knee by a shrapnell shell.

(Signed) E. M. LYONS,
Captain and Senior Officer.

NAVAL OPERATIONS IN THE STRAITS OF KERTCH.

*Royal Albert, Straits of Kertch,
May 30, 1855.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you, for the information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, a copy of a letter that has been addressed to me by Captain Lyons of the *Miranda*, recounting the measures he took for obliging the enemy to abandon his last hold in these Straits, and reporting his having entered the Sea of Azof, with the squadron I had placed under his orders.

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

To the Secretary of the Admiralty.

*Her Majesty's Ship Miranda, at anchor
above Yenikale, May 25, 1855.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to inform you that having yesterday afternoon taken under my orders the ships named in the margin,* I, in pursuance of your orders, passed the Straits of Kertch, and anchored for the night just out of gun shot of the batteries of Yenikale. At 7 P.M. the enemy blew up the magazines and these batteries with a tremendous explosion.

At 4 o'clock this morning I sent Mr George Williams, Master of this ship, to find and buoy a channel through the Straits on the Yenikale side; and I desired Lieutenant Armytage in the *Viper* to follow as near as possible, and endeavour to pass the Straits and get into a position to threaten the retreat of the Russian garrison of the forts on the Chesura Spit side of the Strait, by commanding the neck of the Spit; at the same time I sent Lieutenant Aynsley, in the *Lynx*, to pass round by the Taman Lake and take up a position to command the rear of the Russian forts. This service was ably performed by these officers, and on their obtaining the assigned positions, the enemy, as I had anticipated, exploded his magazines, abandoned his works, and made a precipitate retreat under the fire of the *Viper's* guns. Mr Williams now returned, having found and buoyed a 16 feet channel, and I immediately weighed, and with the vessels under my orders, proceeded through the Straits of Yenikale; thus we became complete masters of the Sea of Azof.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) E. M. LYONS, Captain.

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

* Vesuvius, Curlew, Swallow, Stromboli, Ardent, Medina, Wrangler, Lynx, Recruit, Arrow, Viper, Snake, Beagle.