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ADMIRALTY, November 20, 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 :—

*Royal Albert, off Sevastopol,
November 6, 1855.*

SIR,

THE accompanying copy of a letter from Captain Sherard Osborn, of the *Vesuvius*, with its several inclosures, will place the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty in possession of a detailed account of the active and energetic proceedings of the squadron in the Sea of Azoff, under the command of that valuable officer.

The enterprize, which was undertaken and so successfully carried out by Commander J. E. Commerell, of the *Weser*, in crossing the Isthmus of Arabat, and in destroying a large quantity of forage on the Crimean shore of the Sivash, reflects great credit on that officer, and adds still further proof of his having deserved that promotion which their Lordships have lately been pleased to confer upon him. The gallantry of William Rickard, Quartermaster of the *Weser*, deserves to be particularly mentioned; and I beg leave to recommend him to their Lordships' favourable consideration for the medal and gratuity for distinguished service.

Lieutenant Geo. F. Day, commanding the *Recruit*, has also displayed his usual activity and zeal in harassing the enemy on the north-east coast of the Sea of Azoff; and I regret to find that his foot has been severely injured by the recoil of a gun.

I am, &c.

(Signed) EDMUND LYONS,
Rear-Admiral and Commander-in-Chief.

The Secretary of the Admiralty.

Her Majesty's Ship Vesuvius,

At Sea, October 25, 1855.

SIR,

I AM now returning westward towards Ghenitch, having been employed with Her Majesty's ships named in the margin,* since the 9th October, 1855, along the north coast of this sea as far as Taganrog.

On Crooked Spit, as well as Bielosarai or White House Spit, the enemy had established a large force in the remains of the old fishing establishments, and constructed a series of rifle pits and breastworks, from which they opened fire upon any of our vessels taking shelter under those points; and as the enemy had a number of boats with them, with which they could easily board a vessel in distress, I thought it right to destroy the latter and dislodge the men.

The *Recruit*, Lieutenant Geo. F. Day, came in collision with them on the 15th instant, and although he could not dislodge the riflemen, he succeeded in destroying seven launches, and five large fisheries, in spite of the enemy's cavalry and infantry.

Lieutenant Day, I am sorry to say, received a severe injury of the foot by the accidental explosion of an 8-inch gun, but he speaks in high terms of the satisfactory manner in which Mr Wm. Parker, Second Master of the *Recruit*, executed the service entrusted to him.

On the 20th October the *Ardent*, Lieutenant Hubert Campion, drove in a large force of cavalry which attempted to prevent him approaching Crooked or Krivaia Spit, and he likewise destroyed three boats.

On the 24th October, the weather was sufficiently favourable to enable me to get the *Vesuvius* close enough to force the enemy from their rifle-pits upon the Bielosarai Spit; at one P.M., the small-arm men and marines of this ship landed, under Lieutenant Chetham H. Strode, Mr R. R. Armstrong, Mate, and Mr H. D. R. Farquharson, Midshipman, supported by the ship and boats.

Directly the enemy saw their escape threatened they beat a rapid retreat, though fully 150 in number, and effected their escape by a superior knowledge of the paths through the swamps.

Lieutenant Strode then destroyed their posts, which had been recently re-constructed; they were eight in number, and calculated to house 200 men; besides these, eleven fine boats and an extensive fishery were set fire to, near the town of Alti.

The *Recruit*, Lieutenant Day, at the sametime destroyed in the neighbourhood of Marianpol two large fisheries and some fine launches, mounted on regular travelling land-carriages, and in the evening we were complete masters of the only portion of the coast the enemy have attempted to re-establish themselves upon; and, as the frosts have already

* Curlew, *Recruit*, *Ardent*.

