

Season of the Year, Commodore Linzee, with Three Ships of the Line and Two Frigates, was detached with the Troops in Transports, and on the 7th in the Morning we anchored in an open and exposed Bay adjoining to that of Mortella, which we wined to occupy, as it affords the best Anchorage in the Gulph of Fiorenzo. The same Evening the Troops were landed, consisting of the Second Battalion of the Royals, 11th, 25th, 30th, 50th, 51st and 69th Regiments, amounting to about 1400 Men bearing Arms.

As the Enemy, beside the Town of Fiorenzo, possessed several Heights and Points, in order to command the Anchorage of the West Side of the Gulph, it was necessary to dislodge them, before the Squadron could anchor in Security; and these Points in Succession, on entering the Gulph, were the Tower of Mortella, the Redoubt and Batteries of the Convention, and the Tower of Fornelli, with Two considerable Sea Batteries dependent upon it.

Expecting little Opposition from Mortella Tower, and trusting from Intelligence that we could approach near enough to that of Fornelli to attack it with light Artillery, Lieutenant-Colonel Moore was detached on the 8th with the Royal and 51st Regiments, a small Howitzer and a Six Pounder, to effect this Purpose; but after a March of Seven or Eight Miles, through a rocky, desert and mountainous Country, destitute of Roads, and where the Artillery was carried by a Detachment of Sailors, under Captain Cook, he arrived on the Heights immediately above Fornelli, and then found that the Distance was too great to hope for any Effect from his Small Guns. The same Day we began from a commanding Height, within 150 Yards, to batter the Tower of Mortella; but it was not till the 10th, after the Attack made by the Fortitude and Juno, and after establishing an Eighteen Pounder, Two Nine Pounders, and a Caronade against it, that we were enabled to reduce it, and take an Officer and Thirty-two Men Prisoners.

During this Time, having been enabled to examine the Mountains that skirted the Western Part of the Gulph, and which overlooked the Enemy's Posts, (particularly the principal one, the Redoubt of the Convention, which originally was, and by us was expected to be found, an open Battery, but which, by indefatigable Labour, they had now converted into a close Work, mounted with Twenty-one Pieces of heavy Ordnance, and which, from intercepted Letters, they considered as the Key of the Whole, and of great Strength) it appeared, that if heavy Cannon could be established on Points where the Enemy had deemed it impossible to place them, that their Works might be ruined, and then attacked to Advantage.

This Operation the Officers of the Navy cheerfully undertook; and, by the most surprizing Exertions of Science and Labour from the 12th to the 16th, placed Four Eighteen-Pounders, a large Howitzer, and a Ten-Inch Mortar in Battery, on Ground elevated at least 700 Feet above the Sea, and where every Difficulty of Ascent and Surfaze had opposed the Undertaking.

On the 16th in the Morning we opened with Two Batteries of Three Pieces of Artillery each. One of these, at the Distance of 1000 Yards, enfiladed the Redoubt of the Convention, and the other, at the Distance of 800 Yards, took it in Reverse. The Redoubt itself was of a long narrow Form, occupying the Summit of a detached Height, and about 250 Feet above the Sea.

Our Fire was heavy and unremitting during the 16th and 17th; and, notwithstanding the Gallantry of the Enemy, both in serving their Guns and in repairing their Works, their Fire was nearly overpowered. On the Evening of the 17th a Fifth

Eighteen-Pounder was brought up by the Scamers, and a Sixth was also placed on an advanced Point near the Shore, to prevent the Two French Frigates in the Bay from placing themselves in a Situation to enfilade our proposed Attack.

On the 17th, Measures having been concerted, the Second Battalion of the Royals, 25th, 50th, and 51st Regiments, under the Command of Lieutenant-Colonel Moore, were destined for the Attempt, while the 11th, 30th, and 69th, remained in Reserve. The Troops marched in Three Columns, and having nearly equal Distances to go over, moved at the same Hour, (Half past Eight o'Clock) in order to arrive at the Enemy's Works a little after the Rising of the Moon. Lieutenant-Colonel Moore, on the Right, with the Second Battalion of the Royals, commanded by Captain M'Kenzie, and the 51st Regiment, came down on the advanced Point of the Redoubt; Lieutenant-Colonel Wauchop, with the 50th, advanced towards it's Center; and Captain Stewart, with the 25th, keeping close to the Sea Shore, was directed to enter on the Left and most commanding Part of the Work.

Notwithstanding the whole of the Ground over which the Troops marched was rocky, rough and covered with thick Myrtle Bushes, they approached the Redoubt without the Enemy being certain of their Progress, and, under a very heavy Fire, they arrived nearly at the same Time at their Points, rushed into their Works, prevented more than Two or Three Discharges of Cannon being given, and, with their Bayonets, drove the Enemy down the steep Hill which formed the Rear of the Work.

The judicious Fire kept up from our Batteries by Captain Wilkes and Lieutenant Duncan, jun. of the Royal Artillery, till the very Moment of the Attack, facilitated much the Approach of the Troops; and a false Attack made by the Corsicans on Lieutenant-Colonel Moore's Right, served also to engage and distract the Attention of the Enemy, who were not aware of the Extent of their Danger.

The Loss of the Enemy on the 16th and 17th amount to upwards of 100 Men killed and wounded, and 10 Officers (amongst whom was the Commandant) and 60 Men made Prisoners, out of 550 Men that occupied the Work.

The Conduct of Lieutenant-Colonel Moore, of the several Commanding Officers, and of all the Officers and Soldiers under his Orders, was firm and judicious, and merits every Commendation.

The Enemy being now reduced to their last Posts on the Height of Fornelli, at about 400 Yards Distance, from which we were separated by a strong and deep Ravine, fearing that their Retreat would be cut off, abandoned them about Midnight, crossed over to Fiorenzo, hauled off their Frigates, and left us in Possession of the Tower and Batteries of Fornelli, against which we otherwise must have placed Cannon, and, in a Delay of Two or Three Days, probably have lost a Number of Men.

On the 18th the Squadron anchored in perfect Security in Mortella Bay.

On the 19th, after taking Measures for the March of the Troops to the other Side of the Town, to cut off the Enemy's Communication with Bastia, a Summons was sent to Fiorenzo to surrender. In the Afternoon a negative Answer was received; but during the Day strong Symptoms of a speedy Evacuation were perceived.

One of the Frigates having been sunk by our Shot, the other was set on Fire about Four in the Afternoon, when a Boat came off to announce that the Enemy had quitted the Town. It was immediately taken Possession of.