

Hanickoff, after being chased Thirty-four Hours by His Swedish Majesty's Squadron, under Rear-Admiral Nauckhoff, accompanied by this Ship and the Implacable, under my Orders, have been forced to take Shelter in the Port of Rogerfwick, with the Loss of One Ship of Seventy-four Guns. I shall have great Satisfaction in detailing to you the Services of the Captains, Officers, Seamen, and Marines under my Command; and have also to state, that in no Instance have I seen more Energy displayed than that by His Swedish Majesty's Squadron, which although from the Inferiority of their sailing were prevented from getting into Action, Rear-Admiral Nauckhoff and the Captains under his Command, from their Perseverance and judicious Conduct, were enabled to give Confidence to His Majesty's Ships; and could we have forced the Enemy to a general Action, the whole of their Squadron must have fallen to the superior Bravery of the united Force of our respective Sovereigns, in so just and honourable a Cause.

My Letter of the 25th will have acquainted you of the Russian Squadron having appeared off Oro Road on the 23d. The Arrangements for quitting that Anchorage, after His Swedish Majesty's Ships from Jungfur Sound had joined Rear-Admiral Nauckhoff, were completed on the Evening of the 24th. Early the next Morning the whole Force put to Sea; soon after the Russian Fleet was discovered off Hango Udd, the Wind at N. E. Not a Moment was lost in giving Pursuit, and every Sail pressed by His Swedish Majesty's Squadron. From the superior sailing of the Centaur and Implacable they were soon in Advance, that at the Close of the Evening the Enemy were not far off, and noticed in the greatest Disorder, apparently to avoid a general Battle. In the Morning of the 26th, about Five o'Clock, the Implacable was enabled to bring the leewardmost of the Enemy's Line of Battle Ships to close Action, in a most brave and gallant Manner; and so decided and judicious was this Manœuvre executed, that the Russian Admiral, who bore up with the whole of his Force, could not prevent that marked Superiority of Discipline and Seamanship being eminently distinguished. Although the Enemy's Ship fought with the greatest Bravery, she was silenced in about Twenty Minutes; and only the near Approach of the Enemy's whole Fleet could have prevented her then falling, her Colours and Pendant being both down; but I was obliged to make the Signal for the Implacable to close me. Captain Martin's Letter, stating the brave and gallant Conduct of Lieutenant Baldwin, his other Officers and Men, I send herewith; and it would be needless for me to add more to you on their meritorious Conduct. If Words of mine could enhance the Merit of this brave, worthy, and excellent Officer, Captain Martin, I could do it with the utmost heartfelt Gratification, and the high Esteem I have for him as an Officer and a Friend, no Language can sufficiently express.

The Russian Admiral having sent a Frigate to tow the disabled Ship, again hauled his Wind; and the Implacable being ready to make sail, I immediately gave chase, and soon obliged the Frigate to cast off her Tow, when the Russian Admiral was again under the Necessity to support her by several of his Line-of-Battle Ships bearing down, and I had every Prospect of this bringing on a general

Action, to avoid which he availed himself of a favourable Slant of Wind, and entered the Port of Rogerfwick.

The Line-of-Battle Ship engaged by the Implacable having fallen to Leeward grounded on a Shoal just at the Entrance of the Port; there being then some Swell, I had a Hope she must have been destroyed, but the Wind moderating towards the Evening, she appeared to ride at her Anchor, and Exertions made to repair her Damage. At Sunset, finding the Swell abated, and Boats sent from the Russian Fleet to tow her into Port, I directed Captain Webley to stand in and endeavour to cut her off; this was executed in a Manner that must ever reflect the highest Honour on Captain Webley, the Officers and Ship's Company of the Centaur, for their Valour and Perseverance in the Support of my Orders. The Boats had made a considerable Progress, and the Enemy's Ship was just entering the Port when we had the good Fortune to lay her on board; her Bow-sprit taking the Centaur's Fore-rigging, she swept along with her Bow grazing the Muzzles of our Guns, which was the only Signal for their Discharge, and the Enemy's Bows were drove in by this raking Fire; when the Bow-sprit came to the Mizzen-rigging, I ordered it to be lashed; this was performed in a most steady Manner by the Exertions of Captain Webley, Lieutenant Lawless, Mr. Strode the Master, and other brave Men, under a very heavy Fire from the Enemy's Musketry, by which, I am sorry to add, Lieutenant Lawless is severely wounded. The Ship being in Six Fathoms Water, I had a hope I should have been able to have towed her out in that Position; but an Anchor had been let go from her unknown to us, which made it impossible to effect it; at this Period much Valour was displayed on both Sides, and several Attempts made to board by her Bow-sprit, but nothing could withstand the cool and determined Fire of the Marines, under Captain Bayley and the other Officers, as well as the Fire from our Stern-chase Guns, that in less than Half an Hour she was obliged to surrender. On this Occasion I again received the greatest Aid from Captain Martin, who anchored his Ship in a Position to heave the Centaur off, after she and the Prize had grounded, which was fortunately effected at the Moment Two of the Enemy's Ships were seen under sail standing towards us, but retreated as they saw the Ships extricated from this Difficulty.

The Prize proved to be the Sewolod, of Seventy-four Guns, Captain Roodneff; she had so much Water in her, and being fast on Shore, after taking out the Prisoners and wounded Men, I was obliged to give Orders for her being burnt, which Service was completely effected under the Direction of Lieutenant Biddulph, of this Ship, by Seven o'Clock in the Morning.

I cannot speak too highly of the brave and gallant Conduct of Captain Webley, and every Officer and Man under his Command; and I beg Leave to recommend to you, for the Notice of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, Lieutenant Lawless, for his Exertions and gallant Conduct, and who has severely suffered on this Occasion; and I also must beg Leave to recommend Lieutenant William Case, the senior Officer of this Ship.

Herewith you will receive a List of the Killed and Wounded on board this Ship and the Implacable.