

SIR, *Tarifa, January 9, 1812.*

IN my letter of the 5th instant, I omitted to mention the unremitting exertions, and the great assistance afforded to this place for a considerable time past by Captains Dickson, Searle, Pell, and Carroll, of His Majesty's navy, the last of whom commanded the division of gun-boats, and has on many occasions materially annoyed the enemy, and impeded his progress in bringing up his guns for the siege, in which service he has been exposed to considerable danger, which I request may be added to my report.

I have the honour to be, &c.
(Signed) J. B. SKERRETT, Colonel.
To Major-General Cooke, &c. &c. &c.

WAR DEPARTMENT.

Downing-Street, January 28, 1812.

A DISPATCH, of which the following is an extract, has been this morning received at Lord Liverpool's Office, addressed to his Lordship by Lieutenant-General Campbell, dated Gibraltar, 3d January 1812.

AN incessant fire of cannon and musketry at intervals, continued at Tarifa on the 30th ultimo, and during that night.

On the 31st, between eight and nine o'clock in the morning, the enemy (having effected a breach in the east wall of the town) advanced with two thousand picked men, grenadiers and light infantry, to assault the place. Eight companies of the 87th regiment, under the orders of Lieutenant-Colonel Gough, were stationed on the walls in that district of the town. The enemy was received by them, when near the breach, with three cheers, under a steady discharge of musketry. From the spirited behaviour of this corps, aided by a well directed fire from two field-pieces mounted on the north east tower, under the command of Captain Mitchell, of the royal artillery, which flanked the column as it advanced, the enemy was broken and dispersed with great slaughter.

Contrasting our loss with that of the enemy in the defence of the town, it appears that ours amounts to two officers killed, three wounded, seven non-commissioned officers and privates killed, and twenty-four wounded; whilst the enemy have lost, from the best reports, at the smallest calculation, three hundred men in killed and wounded, besides ten officers prisoners, many deserters, and a great number of sick, which are left without accommodation. Fifty deserters reached Algeiras yesterday in the most deplorable state, and they assure us that many would come in but for the difficulty which they experience.

Admiralty-Office, January 28, 1812.

Copy of a Letter from the Honourable Rear Admiral Legge to John Wilson Croker, Esq. dated, on board the Revenge, in Cadiz Bay, 11th inst.

SIR,

IHAVE great satisfaction in informing their Lordships of the retreat of the enemy from before Tarifa, leaving their guns, stores, and ammunition, after an unsuccessful assault at the breach,

in which they were most gallantly resisted, and sustained an immense loss. I understand the British forces under Colonel Skerrett had two officers and seven men killed, and between twenty and thirty wounded.

I inclose copies of two letters I have received from Captain Dickson, of his Majesty's ship *Stately*, who commanded the naval forces before Tarifa, whose conduct in the many trying situations he has been placed in merits my warmest acknowledgments. He speaks in the highest terms of that of the officers and men under him, in the arduous duties they had to perform, increased by the badness of the weather they had to contend with in that exposed and dangerous anchorage.

I have the honour to be, &c.

A. K. LEGGE.

*His Majesty's Ship Stately, Tarifa Bay,
4th January 1812*

SIR,

IHAD the honour to write to you by the *Dart* (cutter) on the 30th ult. and informed you that the enemy had summoned the town to surrender. I have now the satisfaction to acquaint you, that on the 31st ult. they made a breach and desperate attack with two thousand men and voltigeurs, and were repulsed with immense loss, leaving in our possession eight officers and several men, and the valley by which they made the attack, covered with their wounded. Our loss is most trifling; two officers killed and a few men. They soon after requested permission to bury their dead, which was granted them. The extreme bad weather we have had, with the deluge of rain that has fallen, has much impeded the enemy, and they are dying in their trenches by cart-loads, with wet and cold. The ships and vessels of war and transports under my orders, I have the pleasure to say, are all safe: the *Druid*, *Thunder* and *convoy* are sheltered in *Sandy Bay*: the flotilla of gun-boats are here with me.

Lieutenant Jenkins has been most active in placing the *Desperate* in every direction to annoy the enemy, and if you can possibly spare him, Sir, to return, he may be of essential service.

The *Basilisk* has had letters for you this week past, and has been repeatedly driven back with westerly gales, but I am not without hopes of getting her to *Cadiz* in a day or two. The enemy are deserting to us in great numbers.

I have, &c.

G. S. DICKSON.

The Honourable A. K. Legge.

*His Majesty's Ship Stately, Tarifa Bay,
5th January, 1812.*

SIR,

IHAD the honour to state to you in my letter of yesterday's date, that the enemy had made a breach and desperate attack with two thousand men and Voltigeurs, and had been most gallantly repulsed with great loss, and some prisoners.

I have now the pleasure to inform you, that the whole of the enemy's army were observed this morning making a most precipitate retreat to the westward, leaving behind them in their trenches the whole of their artillery, consisting of nine pieces of cannon and two mortars, with an immense quantity of shot and shells, and intrenching tools.