

our own correctly, and this will of course be detailed in the military reports.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) C. V. PENROSE.

*J. W. Croker, Esq.*

P. S. Since the date of Captain Dickson's letter, two other guns have been discovered, which were buried in a house; and from deserters, I apprehend that a twenty-four-pounder is also hid at some little distance.

Admiralty-Office, January 28, 1812.

*Copy of a Letter from Vice-Admiral Sir Edward Pellew, Bart. Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Ships and Vessels in the Mediterranean, to John Wilson Croker, Esq; dated on board His Majesty's Ship the Caledonia, Port Mahon, 16th December 1811.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to enclose a letter from Rear-Admiral Fremantle, giving cover to one from the Honourable Henry Duncan, Captain of His Majesty's ship *Imperieuse*, detailing the particulars of a very gallant service performed by that ship and the *Thames*, at *Palinuro*, on the coast of *Calabria*, on the 21st October last, aided by a party of the 62d Regiment, under the command of Major *Darley*.

Captain Duncan, on this as on all other occasions, has shewn the greatest judgment and enterprise; and I have read with great satisfaction the handsome expressions which he uses towards Captain *Napier* and Major *Darley*, the officers and men under their orders.

I have to regret this very gallant affair has not been performed without loss; and sincerely lament that the public service has been deprived of Lieutenant *Pipon*, of the Royal Marines, and Lieutenant *Kay*, of the 62d, killed, and the severe wound of Captain *Oldham*, of that Regiment, on this occasion. I have the honour to be, &c.

EDW. PELLEW.

*John Wilson Croker, Esq. Secretary to the Admiralty, &c. &c. &c.*

*His Majesty's Ship Imperieuse, Melazzo, 9th November 1811.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to inform you, that on the 21st ult. the *Imperieuse* and *Thames* discovered ten of the enemy's gun-boats in the port of *Palinuro*, with a number of merchant vessels, and a quantity of spars (intended for the equipment of the Neapolitan navy) hauled up on the beach; but, from the strength and situation of the harbour, I did not think the force I then had sufficient to attack it with a prospect of complete success, I therefore sent the *Thames* to *Sicily* to request the assistance of a detachment of soldiers; and on the 28th she rejoined me with two hundred and fifty of the 62d Regiment, under Major *Darley*, but unfortunately at the commencement of a S.W. gale, which precluded all possibility of landing till the evening of the 1st, when the troops, together with the marines of both ships, under Lieutenant *Pipon*, and detachments of seamen under Lieutenant *Travers* of the *Imperieuse*, the whole commanded by Captain

No. 16567.

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*Napier*, were disembarked from the *Thames* at the back of the harbour, and immediately ascended the heights in a very gallant style, under a heavy fire from the enemy, who were assembled in force to oppose them, and who, soon after dark, endeavoured to retake their position, but one volley obliged them instantly to retire. The *Imperieuse* had in the mean time been endeavouring to occupy the attention of the gun-boats and battery in front, but light and baffling winds prevented our getting nearer than long range during that evening. Next morning, finding that nothing could be done on the land side against the battery and a strong tower that protected the vessels on the beach, and within pistol-shot of which the gun-boats were moored, I ordered the *Thames* to close; and having directed Captain *Napier* to return on board her, we bore up at the commencement of the sea-breeze, and running along the line of gun-boats within half musket-shot, obliged them almost instantly to surrender, and two were sunk. We then anchored close to the fort, which in about fifteen minutes was completely silenced, and in a quarter of an hour more the colours on the tower were struck to his Majesty's ships, and it was instantly taken possession of by Lieutenant *Travers*, who, on seeing us stand in, had most gallantly pushed down the hill with a party of marines and seamen, and was waiting almost under the walls of the fort, ready to take advantage of any superiority the ships might have over it. The guns (twenty-four pounders) were then thrown into the sea; the gun-boats secured; and the crews of both ships sent to launch the vessels and spars, which could not be completed till after noon next day, when the troops (who had all this time remained in undisputed possession of the heights) were re-embarked, the marines withdrawn from the tower, which was completely blown up, together with two batteries and a signal-tower on the hill; and the ships and prizes put into sea with the land wind. Captain *Cacciolo*, Captain of a frigate, commanded the division of gun-boats; and General *Pignatelli Cercero* the land forces, which consisted latterly of about seven hundred men, including peasantry.

I cannot sufficiently express my high approbation of the conduct and gallantry of every officer and man belonging to both services. Captain *Napier*, of the *Thames*, particularly distinguished himself both on shore and in the command of his ship. Major *Darley* also deserves every praise, and is entitled to my best thanks for his intrepidity and judgment, which could not have been exceeded. I have before had an opportunity of representing the gallantry of my first Lieutenant *Travers*; his behaviour on this occasion was most exemplary, and called forth the admiration of every officer, whether of the army or navy. Captain *Napier* and Major *Darley*, most handsomely allow to him the credit of having discovered and led them by a short cut to the heights which most probably saved the lives of many men.

Enclosed is a list of the vessels taken and destroyed, and a return of the killed and wounded. Among the former I have to regret Lieutenant *Kay*, of the 62d Regiment, and Lieutenant *Pipon*, of the Royal Marines of the *Imperieuse*.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) H. DUNCAN, Captain.

*Thomas Francis Fremantle, Esq; Rear-Admiral of the Blue, &c. &c. &c. Sicily.*

