

inform your Lordships of the particulars and result of this blockade.

I mean to leave this place to-morrow night for Naples, Messina, and Malta, to complete stores and provisions, and expect to be at the latter place on or about the 2d of August.

I hope the parrow will sail with the last of the transports from Naples for Genoa in a day or two, and I understand that General Maitland, in the Sabrina, sails for Leghorn on Saturday.

I have the honour to be, &c.

C. V. PENROSE, Rear-Admiral.

To Admiral the Right Honourable Lord
Exmouth, K. C. B. &c. &c. &c.

Boyne, off Marseilles, Aug. 21, 1815.

SIR,

IN reference to my letter, written on the 21st instant, I have now the honour to forward you, for their Lordships' further information, Captain Fahie's report on the late attack on Gaeta.

I have conveyed my approbation and thanks to Captain Fahie and the officers and men under his orders, for the persevering zeal and gallantry displayed throughout the whole of this arduous service, and have only to regret that their exertions have not been attended with a more successful issue.

The operations against Gaeta are now turned into a blockade.

I have the honour to be, &c.

EXMOUTH.

To John Wilson Croker, Esq.
&c. &c. &c.

His Majesty's Ship Malta, before Gaeta,
July 23, 1815.

MY LORD,

I INFORMED your Lordship in my letter of the 15th instant, that the Austrian batteries would be ready on the 17th.

Having previously agreed with the Austrian General on the plan of attack on the part of the flotilla, they took their positions at three o'clock, and at day-light the firing commenced simultaneously; (the first gun from the batteries being the signal) and continued without intermission till past six, when the boats were drawn off to replenish their ammunition and refresh the men. At one o'clock the attack was renewed and continued till the expenditure of the ammunition obliged us to retire. This was speedily supplied, and the flotilla in readiness to return to their positions, when the Austrian fire ceased, and I soon after received a letter from the General acquainting me that his batteries had been nearly ruined; but that they would be restored and ready to renew their fire at three o'clock the next morning. The flotilla accordingly took their position in the night, and at the hour fixed, a heavy fire was recommenced on all sides, and only ceased on ours for the want of ammunition: at six o'clock we were soon in a state to return to our posts; but the Austrian batteries had been again knocked up, and it was now completely evident that they were too feeble to produce

the desired effect, or to support for any time the superior fire which the enemy opposed to them from his commanding position. The General had, however, been ordered to persevere for three days; and we therefore agreed to make a final effort for that night. At eleven o'clock the attack was renewed, and continued till day-light. In all these attacks the enemy's fire from the sea-face of his works was completely silenced.

The conduct of the flotilla throughout the operations here, and particularly in the more recent and animating scenes, has been highly zealous and meritorious, and I must beg leave especially to express to your Lordship my approbation of the conduct of the Lieutenants of this ship and the Berwick, who for nearly two months (with the exception of a very few nights) have in their turn been under the fire of this powerful fortress; and I must gratefully ascribe it to the extraordinary interposition of Providence that I have the happiness of inclosing so small a list of casualties.

I have uniformly received from Captain Brace the most able and friendly assistance; and my best thanks are also due to Colonel Robinson for the cordiality and judgment with which he has carried into execution all my wishes with respect to the flotilla.

As the operations against this place are now turned into a blockade, I shall send the Berwick immediately to join your Lordship with all the gun-boats of the Anglo-Sicilian flotilla; but Colonel Robinson finds it impossible to accompany them, for reasons which he will state.

I cannot deny myself the satisfaction of bearing my humble testimony to the energies displayed by the Austrian General, Baron Lauer, under all the difficulties he had to contend with, and to the persevering bravery with which his weak batteries were fought against treble their number, of guns pouring down on them; and it will be most gratifying to us, if your Lordship has the means of communicating these sentiments to the Commander in Chief of the Austrian army in Italy.

The destruction of Buonaparte's hopes and the restoration of His Majesty Louis the 18th have been communicated to the Governor of Gaeta; but he persists in his defence of the place; this conduct can only be the effect of despair; for it cannot be accounted for on any reasonable principle.

I forward herewith a report of killed and wounded.

I have the honour to be, &c.

WILLIAM CHARLES FAHIE.

To the Right Hon. Admiral Lord Exmouth, K. C. B. Commander in Chief
&c. &c. &c.

List of Killed and Wounded belonging to His Britannic Majesty's Squadron employed at the Siege of the Fortress of Gaeta, in Action against the Place, between the 21st day of May and the 22d day of July 1815, under the Orders of Captain Fahie, of His Majesty's Ship Malta.

Malta—4 wounded.

Berwick—1 wounded.

Total—5 wounded.