

*Princess Charlotte, Beyrout,*  
October 31, 1840.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge receipt of their Lordships orders, of the 5th instant, No. 322, with the letter, therein referred to, from Viscount Palmerston, Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, to make, under certain circumstances therein stated, an attack upon the fortress of St. Jean d'Acree, upon which I was previously deliberating, and preparing arrangements for ensuring, as much as possible, its success. And I have now to acquaint you, for their Lordships' information, that, having embarked three thousand Turkish troops and supernumerary marines in the different ships of the squadron, as per margin,\* I shall proceed on that service the moment wind and weather will permit, with the Austrian squadron, under Rear-Admiral Bandiera, and the Turkish flag-ship, Rear-Admiral Walker, who had already proceeded himself, with a flag of truce, to summon the place, but was not received.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) ROBT. STOPFORD,  
Admiral.

*R. More O'Ferrall, Esq.*  
&c. &c. &c.

*Princess Charlotte, off St. Jean d'Acree, Nov. 4, 1840.*

SIR,

YOU will be pleased to acquaint the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty that the town and fortress of Acree were taken possession of by the allied forces under my command this morning, in the name of the Sultan.

The circumstances which led to this result occurred on the 3d, when a heavy cannonade from the ships and vessels, beginning at two P.M. and ending at five, completely demolished the town, and materially damaged the fortifications, inducing the Egyptians to evacuate the place in the night. A tremendous explosion of a large magazine of powder took place about four P.M. on the 3d.

The attacks were made upon the west lines, and the south face of the works, the former composed of the following ships, viz. Princess Charlotte, Powerful, Bellerophon, Revenge, Thunderer, and Pique, under the immediate command of Commodore Napier (as I thought it advisable to accompany Colonel Sir Charles F. Smith in the Phoenix steamer, to be ready to take advantage of any breach that might be made in either of the two sea forces of the walls of the place for an immediate assault.) The south face being a more contracted anchorage, was occupied by the Edinburgh, Benbow, Castor, Carysfort, Talbot, Wasp, and Hazard, the destruction caused by the fire of the ships on both sides sufficiently proves its rapidity and precision.

Rear Admiral Baron de Bandeira, in the Austrian frigate Medea, and the Guerriere, under the command of His Imperial Highness the Archduke Frederick, with the Arabian Corvette Lipsia, rendered much assistance. Rear Admiral Walker Bey, in the

\* Princess Charlotte, Powerful, Bellerophon, Revenge, Thunderer, Edinburgh, Benbow, Castor, Carysfort, Gorgon, Vesuvius, Stromboli, Phoenix.—Turkish Admiral, 2933 troops.

Sultan's ship Mookuddimay-i-hive, of 74 guns, took up a most favourable position opposed to the south face, and did good service.

The steamers Gorgon, Vesuvius, Phoenix and Stromboli fired shot and shells into the town with much precision, and it is generally supposed that shells from the Gorgon occasioned the destruction of the powder magazine.

A flag of truce having been offered by the Turkish Admiral and rejected a short time before, I did not think it necessary or becoming that the summons should be repeated, particularly as hostilities had already commenced, and the ships and steamers had been fired upon as they approached the walls.

I have not been able to ascertain the number of troops in the town of Acree at the commencement of our fire; they have been estimated at four thousand five hundred, besides a body of cavalry outside the town of eight hundred: many lives were lost by the explosion of the magazine: seven hundred Egyptians and two officers of rank came in this morning with their arms and surrendered themselves as prisoners.

To Colonel Sir Charles Smith devolves the task of putting the town and fortifications into a posture of defence, and I am happy to find that his health enables him to perform this duty with his usual intelligence.

A great quantity of arms and ammunition were found at Acree, and the fortifications were fast getting into a state of preparation against attack.

I am much indebted to Captain Edward Boxer, of the Pique, and to Captain Codrington of the Talbot, for the excellent surveys which they made of the shoals round Acree, which enabled the ships to go in without risk of getting ashore.

I return a list of the killed and wounded in the Allied squadron, but the damages to the masts and rigging can be made good without the ships being sent off the station.

The success of this enterprise so important in its results, has called for my acknowledgments in general orders to the officers and men of the combined squadrons, whose united exertions had so much contributed to its attainment.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) ROBERT STOPFORD,  
Admiral;

*R. More O'Ferrall, Esq.*  
&c. &c. &c.

*Return of Killed and Wounded in the Squadron under the Orders of Admiral the Honourable Sir Robert Stopford, Commander in Chief, in the Attack of the Fortifications of St. Jean d'Acree, on the 3d November 1840.*

PRINCESS CHARLOTTE.

Killed.

1 seaman.

POWERFUL.

Wounded.

1 seaman severely; 2 seamen, 1 royal marine, slightly.

BELLEROPHON.

None killed or wounded.