

collected between 20 and 30,000 men for the protection of this military depôt, as well as for the security of vessels seeking shelter under the guns of the place, Admiral Hamelin and I decided on sending the joint demand to the Governor, of which the Enclosure No. 5 is a copy.

As no answer had been received up to 7 A.M. this morning, the combined steam division noted in the margin,\* with 6 rocket-boats, under the immediate orders of Captain Jones, opened fire on the Imperial Fort and Mole, and Russian vessels lying there. By 3 P.M. the magazine was blown up, the forts were destroyed, and the ships sunk or burnt.

The city of Odessa, and the Mole containing the merchant-vessels of all nations were not molested, agreeably to the commands of Her Majesty to respect private property as much as possible.

Our loss has happily been small—one killed and ten wounded; and the damage to the ships by the enemy's fire can be repaired at sea.

It is my pleasing duty to state, that between the two Squadrons the greatest cordiality exists, and that the conduct of the French steam-frigates calls for my warmest praise. The Vauban was set on fire by red-hot shot, but by the cool courage and activity of her Captain and crew, the fire was extinguished.

I recommend all the Officers, Seamen, and Royal Marines, employed on the service, to their Lordship's notice, particularly Captain Jones, the Senior Officer of the Steam Division, and Commander Dickson, of the Britannia, who, in charge of the rocket-boats, did good service.

I enclose a copy of a letter I have received from Captain Jones, and a list of the killed and wounded.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. W. D. DUNDAS,  
Vice-Admiral.

*The Secretary of the Admiralty.*

(Enclosure No. 1.)

Translated Copy.

*Odessa, April 14, 1854.*

THE Aide-de-Camp, General Baron d'Osten Sacken believes it his duty to express to Admiral Dundas his surprise to hear it asserted that from the port of Odessa they have fired on the Fury † Frigate when covered by a flag of truce.

On the arrival of the Fury, two blank guns were fired, in consequence of which the vessel hoisted the national flag, and stopped out of gun shot; immediately there left her a boat under a white flag, proceeding in the direction of the Mole, where it was received by the officer on duty, who, on the question of the English officer, replied that the English Consul had already left Odessa. Without further conversation, the boat retook the direction of the vessel, but as it went to rejoin her, the frigate, in place of awaiting her, advanced in the direction of the Mole, leaving the boat to the left, and approached the batteries within gun-shot.

It was then that the Commandant of the Battery of the Mole, faithful to his orders to prevent

\* Sampson .. .. Captain Jones.  
Tiger .. .. " Giffard.  
Retribution .. .. " The Hon. J. R. Drummond.  
Furious .. .. " Loring.  
Terrible .. .. " M'Cleverty.

Vauban .. .. Captain D'Herbington.  
Descartes .. .. " Darrican.  
Mogador .. .. " de Wailly.  
Caton .. .. " Pothuau.

† "Furious."

all enemies' vessels of war to come within shot, felt it his duty to fire, no longer on a flag of truce, which had been respected until the end of its mission, but on an enemy's vessel which advanced too near the land after having received, by the two first blank guns, intimation to stop.

This simple exposition of facts, such as they have been reported to His Majesty the Emperor, ought to destroy of itself the supposition, otherwise inadmissible, that in the ports of Russia they do not respect a flag of truce, of which the inviolability is guaranteed by laws common to all civilized nations.

(Signed) BARON D'OSTEN SACKEN,  
Aide-de-Camp General of H. M.  
the Emperor.

*Vice-Admiral J. W. D. Dundas, &c.*

(Enclosure No. 2.)

*Her Majesty's Ship Furious, off Odessa,  
April 21, 1854.*

SIR,  
I HAVE carefully read the letter of the Governor of Odessa, on the subject of the batteries having fired at the flag of truce, on Saturday, April 8.

His statement is entirely untrue. On that occasion Her Majesty's Ship under my command made Odessa at daylight, and at 5 50 A.M., when at about 4 miles' distance, the English colours and a flag of truce were hoisted.

It was not until at least 20 minutes afterwards (about  $\frac{1}{4}$  past 6 A.M.) that two blank guns were fired from the battery.

As I considered these guns as an intimation that I was not to proceed any further, the engines were immediately stopped, and the helm put hard a port, and from that time until the return of the boat the wheels were not again moved, and the ship gradually drifted off shore, in consequence of the moderate N.W. wind which was blowing off the shore and on her port beam.

Her stern was towards the Lazaretto, and I carefully abstained from opening the main-deck ports, or clearing away the upper-deck bulwarks, so that there should not be the slightest indication of hostility on my part.

Seven shotted guns were fired; the first one was evidently intended for the boat (then about a mile off shore), as it fell about 60 or 70 yards short of her, and she was then somewhat to the southward of the line between the battery and the ship. The remainder, which all fell short, may have been intended for either boat or ship, as she pulled more into the straight line.

Lieutenant Alexander when at the Mole asked to see the English Consul; he was told that he was not down there, and that it was too early, and that the Captain of the Port would be sent off, and he was desired to return to his ship. He asked if the English Consul was still at Odessa; he was again told by the officer of the guard to return to the ship, and by a person who acted as interpreter in English, "that he was not permitted to say anything more."

Throughout the whole proceeding the English colours and the flag of truce were conspicuously displayed on both ship and boat.

These statements can be verified by the evidence of the Officer of the Watch, the Chief Engineer, and the Engineer of the Watch, and indeed by every person on board of the ship.

I remain, &c.,

(Signed) WILLIAM LORING,  
Captain.