

Mohumra, in the following order: the Semiramis, with the Clive in tow, followed by the Ajdaha, proceeded up the western channel to support the mortar battery, the Ferooz, Assaye, and Victoria, the latter with the Falkland in tow, remaining in reserve until the fire of the forts was deranged.

This was soon accomplished, on which the vessels in reserve entered the Eastern Channel, the Ferooz opening her fire on the South Fort, at less than point blank range, as she passed to take up her position against the North Fort, and sufficiently in advance to receive support from the Assaye, immediately astern of her. The division of the ships in the Western Channel was then recalled, and joined in close attack; the Semiramis and Victoria, the latter with the Falkland in tow, engaging the South Fort, as well as the inland one on the north side. Besides the fire maintained on the forts, frequent discharges of shell and grape were made in the direction where it was supposed the enemy's entrenched camp was situated.

So effective was the fire from the ships that, in less than three-quarters of an hour from its commencement, the batteries were only able to reply from three or four guns. At this period (7.45 A.M.) of the engagement, the Ferooz, flying my pendant, hoisted the rendezvous flag at her mast head, which was repeated by the other vessels engaged, being the preconcerted signal for the troop ships to advance.

This movement on the part of the vessels in question not being made with such celerity as could be desired, Commander Rennie, of the Ferooz, volunteered to proceed through the fire to accelerate their advance, which was accomplished in admirable order, although at the time the fire from the batteries was far from being silenced.

From between nine and ten o'clock, five heavy explosions, in different parts of the fortifications, indicated the overwhelming nature of the attack, and led me to suppose that the resistance hitherto offered could not much longer continue. I was therefore anxious to have the troops landed as expeditiously as a due regard to their security would allow, so that a combined and simultaneous movement by the naval and military forces might be made with the certainty of a successful issue, and with this view passed up the river, until close to Jaber's Fort, where the disembarkation was effected easily, and without interruption.

After the batteries had ceased firing artillery, a fire of musketry was opened from them, as well as from breast-works in their vicinity, and maintained with great spirit for some time, when storming parties were landed from the Semiramis, Clive, Victoria, and Falkland, who drove before them the last of the enemy, and took possession of their works and guns.

Considering the strength of the fortifications, both as regards position and construction, with a numerous garrison, and the large number of guns which could be brought to bear on the ships, in consequence of their closeness to the enemy's defences, which were likewise strengthened by breastworks occupied by large bodies of small arm men, whose fire at times was annoying, I am thankful to say the casualties sustained by the squadron during the engagement amounted only to five killed and eighteen wounded.

Before concluding, I feel it to be the most pleasant part of my duty to bring to your notice the great gallantry and coolness displayed by every officer and seaman under my command, during the operations so successfully carried out.

The important services rendered by Commander Rennie, of the Ferooz, are a further and honorable addition to an already well established reputation.

Commander Selby, to whose local knowledge I am much indebted, elicited my warmest admiration by the dashing manner in which he carried the Semiramis into the channel leading to Mohumra, between the forts on either bank.

To the excellent way in which Commander Grieve, of the Clive, Acting Commander Manners, of the Victoria, and Lieutenants-Commanding Tronson, of the Falkland, and Worsley, of the Ajdaha, handled their respective ships, and to the closeness and precision of their fire, much of the success of the day is to be attributed. Special commendation is due to Commander Adams, of the Assaye, for the gallant and most efficient manner in which he seconded my attack on the northern forts. The conduct of Lieutenant Chitty, of the Berenice, also calls for my approval, for conducting his vessel, under shelter of the ships of war, past the batteries, with about fourteen hundred troops and followers on board.

Commander Nisbett, Agent for Transports, by the assiduity with which he had my arrangements carried into effect, was of material assistance.

To Acting Masters Commanding McLaurin, of the Napier, Holland, of the Comet, Fletcher, of the Planet, Neal, of the Assyria, Davies, of the Etherley Flat, and Mr. Dark, of the Hugh Lindsay, my warmest acknowledgments are due for the zeal and intelligence with which they acted on this occasion, and by all of whom my instructions were ably carried out.

The peculiar nature of the services required to be performed, rendered unavoidable the exposure of the steam transports to the effects of musketry fire. The able manner, however, in which the officers in command of these vessels brought them through the ordeal, with all but immunity, was highly creditable and praiseworthy.

To the commanders of the transports generally, too much praise cannot be accorded for the willing assistance they rendered throughout the day, both personally, and with earnestness of the means at their disposal, for the furtherance of the public service.

Finally, allow me personally to acknowledge the many obligations I owe you for the great assistance you afforded me in maturing and facilitating measures that appeared likely to conduce to the success of the enterprise. My thanks are also due to your staff for the completeness with which every arrangement was made for the immediate landing of the troops, in a state fit for active service.

I feel confident that, although the victory is a naval one, it would not have been so complete but for the sight of the imposing force with which the enemy felt he must soon come in hopeless contact, unless he made an immediate retreat.

I have, &c.,

J. W. YOUNG, Acting Commodore,  
Commanding Persian Gulf Squadron.

P.S. The many matters of detail to be attended to at a period of such hurry has placed it out of my power to obtain an authenticated list of the casualties sustained during the action: you will, however, observe that, according to the numbers already given, they have been comparatively few. This is in a great measure to be attributed to the very efficient protection afforded the crews by a breastwork made of trusses of pressed hay, which were placed on the bulwarks round the several vessels. Neither have I an account of the damages inflicted on the ships by the enemy's fire. They have been, however, considerably cut up in the rigging, and injured in the hull, although rarely, if at all, below the water-line.