

RESCUED SPANISH TROOPS.

LONDON.

ADMIRALTY OFFICE, AUGUST 23, 1808.

The following Dispatches from Admiral KEATS, develop the manner in which the escape of the Spanish troops was effected:—

Superb, off Langeland, August 5, 1808.

SIR,—I have the honor to inform you, that I have received from my government the most positive instructions to endeavor to communicate with the Spanish officers commanding the troops of that nation in the vicinity of my command, and to concert with them measures to secure their retreat, from any place of embarkation which they may possess, and for placing them in a state of security until transports for their reception can be provided to convey them to Spain, for which, as well as the necessary provisions, measures have already been taken, and indeed of the arrival of them I am in hourly expectation. Until that period shall arrive, they are welcome to share in the accommodation and provisions of the ships under my command; but as that might not afford ample means at present, although I am in expectation of the commander in chief, I would suggest, under the pressure of circumstances, the removal of the troops to some of the Islands in the Belt for their perfect security. But as a measure of this magnitude to the interests of the Spanish nation, would necessarily require a concerted plan, lest by attention to partial interests the general one might suffer, I request an unreserved and confidential communication, either to the ships off Nyborg, that are stationed off Langeland, or any of his Britannic Majesty's ships in the Belt; and through the bearer of this, or by any other means. I propose sending on Sunday, unless I should earlier receive some person on board, a flag of truce under some pretext to the Spanish post at Spoyberg, and if this should be safely received, I wish, in token of it, a small guard might parade in some conspicuous situation at noon to-morrow, near the English ship at anchor, or under sail near Spoyberg.

In my present situation it is impossible, ardently as I enter into the views of my government and the Spanish nation, to attempt to lay down any fixed plan. My services, and that of every Englishman under my command, are devoted to the cause; but before measures can be adopted, we must communicate, agree on, and combine as far as it may be possible, the interests of the Spanish troops in Jutland and Zealand, with those in Funen and Langeland. I shall keep a ship for some days off Spoyberg; and every ship under my command will be on the look out to receive any boats that may approach them. I have the honor to be, &c.

(Signed) R. G. KEATS.

To the officers of his most Catholic Majesty's troops.

Superb, off Langeland, August 7.

SIR,—Understanding from the Spanish Officer, that the accompanying paper* is the true state and situation of the Spanish troops in Denmark and its dependencies, the following, according to the various circumstances that present themselves to my view, appears to form a plan that promises the fairest prospect of success to ensure their security; and ultimate embarkation.

Those in Zealand I would propose to force their way to the Peninsula, of which *Halskon* near *Corsoir*, forms the projecting point towards *Sproe*. That isthmus appears capable of being defended, or at least seems to afford the means of defence for a few days, till I could remove them to the Island of *Sproe*.

Those at *Frederisca*, by seizing on vessels might possibly force an embarkation, and unite with those on *Funen*, which might perhaps be favored by some movements of the troops at *Odense*.

Separate, or united with those in Jutland, I apprehend those in *Funen* could secure themselves in the *Presqu' Isle*, (Peninsula) which terminates near the Island of *Romsøe*, of which the Pass near *Kurteminde* appears to form the *George*, and I could, if necessary, remove them to *Romsøe*; it would greatly facilitate the necessary naval operations, and might enable me to send a ship of the line towards *Frederisca*, to favor the troops in Jutland, if those in Langeland should be thought in security on that Island; if they should, the other troops might be landed at leisure on that Island, and the whole embarked from thence; but if the troops at present there, are incapable of maintaining themselves at that place, in that case I must leave a ship of the line and a sloop, which could almost at any time receive them on board, and convey them to any other place that might be approved of, till transports could be procured for their reception. My means, (three ships of the line and half a dozen small vessels at most,) are not perhaps sufficient to embrace all these objects at once; but the zeal and exertions of the officers and ships' companies would greatly diminish the difficulties, and should be much aiding in lending assistance to the troops at *Frederisca*, if, as I have before said, those in Langeland should be considered capable of maintaining that post without any immediate support.

I am aware some sacrifices of horses, and perhaps cannon, might be necessary, and we must be prepared to encounter even unforeseen difficulties; naval arrangements and movements are ever dependent in some degree, on weather; but I should hope to surmount them all. It would of course be right to drive in cattle, and take whatever provisions might be practicable with the troops, as it would not only save our present supply, which, the victuallers not having at this moment arrived, is rather scanty for the Spanish army, but would put me at ease on that score, provided any unavoidable delay should intervene, and prevent my sending supplies to them on shore.

In my present uninformed state, I am not in a situation to judge how far it might be in the power of, or deemed preferable by the Spanish Commander to seize on *Nyborg*. It would secure the inactivity of the gunboats in that port. But such a measure might possibly involve the safety of the troops in Zealand and Jutland by inducing the Danes to

* Thought unnecessary now to send.

act hostilely, when otherwise they might be disposed to wink at, or make no serious efforts to impede the quiet removal of the Spanish troops.

But if the principles of this plan should be approved of and deemed feasible by those in command, I would recommend the movement to be general. That it be agreed to act upon it in all its parts the same day, except a discovery should take place in which case each part should act immediately without hesitation.

I acknowledge I should have little expectation of the success of my negotiation for the peaceable removal of the troops. But a Declaration immediately after the movement shall have commenced of the peaceable and unoffending object in view, accompanied with a threat of retaliation in the event of any hostile opposition on the part of the Danes or French might perhaps be found advantageous.

In stating the naval force at present under my command, it is right to observe, I am in expectation of more ships, and have been informed, that a sufficient supply of provisions for all the Spanish troops is now on its passage to me.— I have the honor to be, &c.

(Signed) R. G. KEATS.

To his Excellency the Marquis de la Romano, Commander in Chief of the Spanish troops in Denmark.

N. B.—I have just heard that the expected supply of provisions has in part arrived, which obviates difficulties on my part.

Brunswick, August 9, 1808.

SIR,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's letter of this morning, and to congratulate you and the Spanish nation on the firm and manly step you have taken on this important occasion. Circumstances of weather unavoidably prevent the arrival of two ships of the line now in sight. I send Captain *Groves* of the *Brunswick*, informed of my ideas, to see what uses can be made of the vessels at present in Nyborg. In my present situation I can receive nearly 1500 men on board; and, under all circumstances, it appears to me the most advisable to convey the troops with all expedition to Langeland; and as it appears to be the opinion of your Aid de Camp that you will be in a situation to maintain that Island, to take possession there till the arrival of transports to embark the army, I shall order seamen to man 20 of the smacks at present in the port, and more as the ships arrive. I apprehend that the baggage and artillery had better be embarked in them, and moved out under my protection. Among the Spanish troops perhaps seamen may be found; and I would suggest the propriety of the immediate establishment of a marine corps on the most extensive scale possible; and I beg your Excellency to keep in mind, the embarkation of water and provisions with the troops, in our present circumstances, is of great consequence. I have the honor to be, &c.

(Signed) R. G. KEATS.

To his Excellency the Marquis de la Romano, Commander in Chief of the Spanish Troops in Denmark.

Brunswick, off Nyborg, August 9, 1808.

SIR,—His Excellency the Commander in Chief of the Spanish forces in Denmark having deemed it expedient under the present circumstances to take possession of Nyborg, my duty naturally calls me to a co-operation with the troops of that nation, and a consequent frequent communication with the town of Nyborg. To place your Excellency as much at ease as possible respecting the line of conduct that may be adopted in the present event by the English Admiral commanding in the Belt, notwithstanding the hostility of this day, I have the honor to inform you, that I have given the strictest orders to all under my command, to observe towards the inhabitants of Nyborg the utmost civility; and it is my wish to abstain from every hostile and offensive act, so long as no hostile and offensive measures are pursued by the troops of Denmark or France against those of Spain; but if any opposition should be attempted either by the Danes or French to the peaceable and unoffending object in view, namely, the quiet embarkation of the Spanish troops, I shall certainly, though most reluctantly, take measures which it is to be apprehended might occasion the destruction of the town of Nyborg. I have the honor to be, &c.

(Signed) R. G. KEATS.

To his Excellency the Governor of the town of Nyborg.

Hound, Nyborg Harbor, August 10, 1808.

SIR,—It must be evident to your Excellency, that as my entrance into the harbor of Nyborg was hostilely opposed, I am bound by no absolute law or usage to abstain from hostilities, and to respect the property of the inhabitants.— But although neither one nor the other could be better secured than by the word of a British Officer, still it must be evident to your Excellency that under existing circumstances the Spanish General has occasion for several of the small craft in port, and that unless the Masters and Crews of them will lend their aid to equip and navigate their vessels, it may not be in my power to secure them from injury; but if they will, I pledge myself, after the service on which they are required (and which will be of short duration) shall have been ended, that I will not only use every means in my power to secure them from injury, but grant passports to them all to return in safety. I have the honor to be, &c.

(Signed) R. G. KEATS.

To his Excellency the Governor of the town of Nyborg.

Superb, off Langeland, August 13, 1808.

SIR,—I have detained the *Euryalus* a few hours, for the further satisfaction of assuring their Lordships that the whole of the Spanish troops taken off by his Majesty's ships at Nyborg, will be landed in the course of this afternoon at Langeland.

A Convention has been entered into between his Excellency the Marquis de la Romano and the Governor of the Island, which, on one hand enjoins abstinence from hostility, and on the other a sufficient supply of provisions, provided the Island, which is fertile, can produce it. I am, Sir &c.

(Signed) R. G. KEATS.

The Hon. W. W. POLS, &c. &c.

LONDON, SEPTEMBER 20.

We understand that the two following Resolutions have been agreed to by the Roman Catholic Prelates assembled at present in Dublin:—

“That it is the decided opinion of the Roman Catholic Prelates of Ireland assembled, that it is inexpedient to introduce any alteration in the canonical mode hitherto observed in the nomination of Irish Roman Catholic Bishops, which mode long experience has proved to be unexceptionable, wise and salutary.”

“That the Roman Catholic Prelates pledge themselves to adhere to the rule by which they have been hitherto uniformly guided, namely, to recommend to his Holiness only such persons as are of unimpeachable loyalty and peaceable conduct.”

Letters from Rear-Admiral Sir SAMUEL HOOD, to the Swedish Rear-Admiral NAUCKHOFF.

CENTAUR, AUGUST 27, 1808.

“It is with the utmost satisfaction I congratulate you on the complete success of our endeavours to frustrate the object of sailing of the enemy's fleet; and it gives me peculiar pleasure that I have it in my power to inform you, that at the attack made yesterday, on the enemy's fleet, when a Russian ship of 74 guns was taken, our success is to be entirely attributed to the skill, bravery, and zeal, displayed by his Swedish Majesty's fleet, under your command, which inspired with confidence both the officers and men under my orders. The enemy having perceived this, found it necessary to retreat into port, in order to avoid a general action, the only circumstance we have to lament. I assure you Sir, that the cordial assistance I received from your fleet, was of the most satisfactory nature; and nothing would give me greater satisfaction than to know that my services could be of any use to the attainment of his Majesty's views, whereby I should be sure to obtain the approbation of my King.”

“I have the honor to be, &c.

SAMUEL HOOD.”

“Account of the ships and vessels which composed his Imperial Russian Majesty's fleet on the 21st of August, 1808, when it was defeated by his Swedish Majesty's fleet under the command of Rear-Admiral Nauckhoff, and his Britannic Majesty's ships Centaur and Implacable, under the orders of Rear-Admiral Hood, Knight of the Bath.

Blagodah, 120 guns; Gabriel, 118 guns; Nordstjerna, 74; Amgenoz, 74; St. Anna, 74; Boreas, 74; Ornen, 74; Sewolod 74; (taken and burnt); Michael, 74; Hero, 50; Rapid, 50; Argus, 50; St. Theodor, 44; Scharthwoy, 44; Callor, 24; Pollus, 24; Hermoine, 20; Melpomene, 20; Woltoff, 18; Liffette, 18; two corvettes, and two cutters.

SAMUEL HOOD.

CENTAUR, AUGUST 27, 1808.

To Sir J. SAUMAREZ, Knight of the Bath, Vice-Admiral of the Blue, &c.

CENTAUR, before ROGERWICK, AUGUST 27.

SIR—I have the honor to inform you with peculiar satisfaction, that the Russian fleet, commanded by Admiral —, after a chase which lasted 34 hours, was compelled to take shelter in Rogerwick harbor, with the loss of a 74 gun-ship. It gives me particular pleasure to bear testimony to the steady and gallant conduct of the officers, seamen and marines, under my orders, and to add, that I never saw on any occasion more zeal and activity displayed than was evinced by his Swedish Majesty's fleet; for although the ships of which it was composed, on account of their inferiority in point of sailing, prevented them from taking share of the action, yet the exertion made by Rear-Admiral Nauckhoff, and the officers under his command to come up with the enemy, gave security to his Britannic Majesty's ships, and had we been able to bring the enemy to a general action, his Squadron must have ceded the palm to the superior valour and exertions of their Majesty's combined forces in a cause so just and honorable. The ship taken proved to be the *Sewolod* of 74 guns, commanded by Captain Roodner, she was so leaky, and had stuck so hard a ground; that I was induced, after the prisoners and wounded had been taken out, to order her to be burnt, which was carried into effect at seven o'clock in the morning by Lieut. Biddulph of my ship.

“I cannot forbear to pass due praise on the gallant conduct of Capt. Wehly, and all the Officers under my command; and I feel obliged to make particular mention of the distinguished zeal and valour displayed on the above occasion by Lieut. Lawless, who was severely wounded, and Lieut. Wm. Case.

“I enclose a list of the killed, and wounded on board this ship and the Implacable, and also, as far as I have been able to obtain it, an account of the loss sustained on board the enemy's ship which was taken.

I have the honor to be, &c.

SAMUEL HOOD.

On board the Centaur, 3 killed, and 37 wounded; and in the Implacable, 6 killed, and 26 wounded; among the latter are 1 officer, and 2 petty officers.

TO HIS ROYAL SWEDISH MAJESTY.

Rear-Admiral Sir Samuel Hood has the honor to present to His Royal Swedish Majesty the colours which were hoisted on board the Russian 74 gun ship, *Sewolod*, when she was taken on the 26th inst. and requests that His Majesty will be pleased to accept the same.

Centaur, before Rogerwick, 28th August.

The above colours His Swedish Majesty transmits to His Britannic Majesty, because they were taken by his ship of war, and as an additional proof of the peculiar satisfaction which his Swedish Majesty feels on account of the distinguished gallantry displayed by Rear-Admiral Hood, and the officers and men under his orders, which His Majesty considers as the most unquestionable proof of the close connection which unites the two nations.

SEPTEMBER 24.

A letter from an officer in the expedition under the command of Sir David Baird, dated Cork, the 15th inst. says