

this instance, I admit, the bitterest that could be offered! I shall endeavour,' he added, 'to acquaint Madame Dalzell with the interesting fact, that her nephew, having heard of the happy change in his aunt's fortunes, has arrived in the Crimea with the amiable object of cultivating her acquaintance. And now, au plaisir, messieurs, I happen to have important business to transact within.' He then re-entered the café.

'I am glad,' said Hartmann, as soon as his choking rage permitted speech—'I am glad you did not tell the scoundrel of your introduction to Prince Menschikoff.'

'It was as well, perhaps; but there is something of much more importance. Does Gabriel Dejarvin know who you are?'

'No, I think not; but it may be that he suspects. You, at all events, he cannot harm, nor ultimately baffle. And there are reasons why he would not denounce me, even if he were sure—'

He knows, too, if he knows anything, that he plays with his own life, who threatens mine—Major Kriloff! In turning the corner of a street, we had come full butt upon the major. He was slightly confused, but for a moment only.

'Ah, messieurs,' said he, 'you are like me, then, out for a quiet stroll; and a curious, tumble-down part of the town it is we have hit upon. I shall soon rejoin you at the hotel.'

'Dogged!' I exclaimed, as soon as we were out of hearing, 'as I told you we should be. Depend upon it, he will find out whom we have been talking with, and have a chat himself with Dejarvin!'

'Very likely; but I am, as you see, fastened to the stake, and, bear-like, must fight the course. The end is in the stars.'

Incidents of the War.

OFFICIAL DESPATCHES.

THE SEA OF AZOFF.

H. M. S. Vesuvius, Gulf of Azoff, July 17.

Sir,—Heavy gales and much sea obliged the squadron in this sea to take shelter under Berutch Spit for several days. Coaling, provisioning and completing stores were proceeding with, and that every break in the weather the vessels were actively employed destroying some extensive fisheries on Berutch Spit, as well as guard-houses, barracks, and stores of forage and provisions, to within an easy gunshot of the Arabat Fort. The only pontoon or means of communication between Arabat Spit and the Crimea, at the entrance of the Kara-su River, has been burnt by Commander Rowley Lambert, of H. M. S. Curlew, and we have now entire possession of the Spit. A lull in the weather enabled me to put to sea upon the 13th of July, for a sweep round the Sea of Azoff, the Ardent Weser, and Clinker being left under the orders of Lieutenant Horton to harass Genitchi and Arabat, as well as to cut off all communication along the Spit.

Delayed by the weather, we did not reach Berdiansk until the 15th of July; a heavy sea was running, but anxious to lose no time, the Senior officer of the French squadron (Captain De Centre, of the Milan) and myself determined to go at once and endeavour to burn the forage and corn-stacks upon the landward side of the hills overlooking the town.

No inhabitants were to be seen, but the occasional glimpse of soldiers showed that a landing was expected, and that they were prepared for a street fight. I hoisted a flag of truce, in order, if possible, to get the women and children removed from the town; but, as that met with no reply and the surf rendered landing extremely hazardous, I hauled it down, and the squadron commenced to fire over the town at the forage and corn stacked behind it, and I soon had the satisfaction of seeing a fire break out exactly where it was wanted. The town was not touched, except by an occasional shell.—The wheat and forage being fired, it became necessary to move into deeper water for the night, and from our distant anchorage the fires were seen burning throughout the night.

On the 16th of July the allied squadron proceeded to Fort Petrovski, between Berdiansk and Marioupol. As I approached the place there were evident symptoms of an increase to the fortifications since the Vesuvius silenced its fire three weeks ago. A redan, covering the curtain with faces to the sea, showed seven new embrasures, and some new earth led me to expect some masked works.

Captain De Centre, commanding the French steamer Milan, although my senior, in the most handsome manner surrendered the right of planning the attack, and, keeping alone in view the good of the allied cause, gallantly took up the position I wished him to do, followed by Captain De Lallemande in the Mouette.

At 9.30 a. m. all arrangements being made, the squadron, named in the margin, took up their positions, the light draught gunboats taking up stations east and west of the fort, and enfilading the works in front and rear, while the heavier vessels formed a semicircle round the front. The heavy nature of our ordnance crushed all attempts at resistance, and soon forced not only the garrison to retire from the trenches, but also kept at a respectable distance the

reserve force, consisting of three strong battalions of infantry and two squadrons of cavalry.

We then commenced to fire with carcasses, and although partially successful, I was obliged to send the light boats of the squadron to complete the destruction of the fort and batteries—a duty I entrusted to Lieutenant Hubert Campion, of the Vesuvius, assisted by the officers in the annexed list.

In a short time I had the satisfaction of seeing all the cantonment, gun platforms, public buildings, corn and forage stores on fire, and the embrasures of the earthworks seriously injured; and, although an enemy from an earthwork to the rear opened a sharp fire upon our men, Lieutenant Campion completed this service in the most able and perfect manner, without the loss of one man.

Lieutenant Campion reports that the fort was fully as formidable a one as it appeared from the ships; the platforms were laid ready, but the guns either had not yet arrived or had been withdrawn by the enemy. Leaving the Swallow, Commander Craufurd, to check any attempt of the enemy to re-occupy the fort and extinguish the fire until the destruction was complete, the rest of the squadron proceeded to destroy great quantities of forage and some most extensive fisheries, situated upon the White House Spit and about the mouth of the river Berda. By dark the works were done, and 30 fisheries, numbers of heavy launches, and great store of salted fish, nets, and gear, as well as much forage, had fallen into our hands, in spite of considerable numbers of Cossack horses.

Nothing could exceed the zeal and energy displayed by every man and officer throughout the day; and the skilful manner in which the various officers in command of her Majesty's vessels took up their positions in the morning, the beautiful accuracy of the fire, and the care with which the squadron was handled in shallow water, deserve to be called to your favourable notice. The able and cheerful co-operation of the French throughout the day was beyond all praise.

I have &c., SHERARD OSBORN,
Commander and Senior Officer.
Rear-Admiral Sir E. Lyons, Bart., G. C. B.,
Commander-in-Chief.

H. M. S. Vesuvius, Gulf of Azoff, July 21.

Sir,—The day I closed my last report to you, the Beagle, Lieutenant Hewett, was detached to Berdiansk.

Lieutenant Hewett rejoined me yesterday, and states one of the Russian sunken vessels was blown up. Lieutenant Hewett, the same evening, landed under cover of his vessel's guns, and destroyed an extensive collection of fish stores and two large granaries full of corn.

On the 17th of July, in consequence of information received of extensive depots of corn and forage existing at a town called Glofira, upon the Asiatic coast, near Gheisk, I proceeded there with the squadron, accompanied by the French steamers Milan and Mouette. The Vesuvius and Swallow were obliged to anchor a distance off shore; I therefore sent Commander Rowley Lambert (her Majesty's ship Curlew), with the gunboats named in the margin, to reconnoitre in force, and, if an opportunity occurred to destroy any stores of provisions he was to do so.—Commander Lambert found Glofira and its neighbourhood swarming with cavalry; the town an open straggling agricultural village, and no appearance of corn or forage in it; he very properly confined his operations to destroying upon Glofira Spit some very extensive corn and fish stores, but spared the town. The skill with which this service was executed in the face of large bodies of cavalry, reflects no small credit upon Commander Lambert; and he speaks most highly of the able assistance rendered him by the French officers and men under Captains De Centre and Lallemande.

From Glofira I next proceeded to the Crooked Spit, in the Gulf of Azoff, the French squadron parting company to harass the enemy in the neighbourhood of Kamisheva and Obitolchina.

The squadron reached the Crooked Spit the same day (July 18), and I immediately ordered Commander Frederick Craufurd, in the Swallow, supported by the gunboats Grinder, Boxer, and Cracker, and the boats of her Majesty's ships Vesuvius, Curlew, and Fancy, under Lieutenant Grylls, Rowley and Sullivan, to proceed and clear the spit of the cavalry and Cossacks of the enemy, and then land and destroy the great fishing establishments situated upon it. Commander Craufurd executed this service with great vigour, and his report I have the honour to enclose. The extraordinary quantity of nets and stores of fish, and the scale of the works destroyed, fully confirm the statements made by the workpeople, that their occupation consisted in supplying food to the army in the Crimea, everything going to Simpheropol by the great Northern road along the steppe. While this service was being executed, I reconnoitred the mouth of the river Mious, 15 miles west of Taganrog, in her Majesty's ship Jasper, Lieutenant J. S. Hudson. The shallow nature of the coast would not allow us to approach within a mile and three quarters of what in the chart is marked as Fort Temonos. The fortification was an earthwork of some extent, and ditched, but not pierced for guns. It was evidently of an old date, and, as I could see no one within it, I again returned to the same place, accompa-

nied by the boats of her Majesty's ship Vesuvius and Curlew, and her Majesty's gun vessels Cracker, Boxer, and Jasper.

Cavalry in large bodies, armed for the most part with carbines or rifles, were evidently much harassed by riding upon supposed points of attack; and when we got to Fort Temonos, and the usual Cossack picket had been driven off, I and Commander Lambert proceeded at once with the light boats into the river. When there, and immediately under Fort Temonos, which stands upon a steep escarpe of 80 feet, we found ourselves looked down upon by a large body of both horse and foot, lining the ditch and parapet of the work. Landing on the opposite bank, at good rifle shot distance, one boat's crew, under Lieutenant Rowley, was sent to destroy a coilec ion of launches and a fishery, while a careful and steady fire of Minie rifles kept the Russians from advancing upon us.—Assuring ourselves of the non-existence of any object worth hazarding so small a force any farther, we returned to the vessels, passing with-in pistol-shot of the Russian ambuscade. The cool steadiness of the officers and men in the gigs, together with the wonderful precision of the fire from the covering vessels, distant as they were, doubtless kept the enemy in check and prevented serious consequences. To Commander Lambert, Lieuts. Grylls and Rowley, and Mr Tobuteau (mate), who were in the gigs, as well as Lieuts. Marryatt, Townshend, and Hudson, who commanded the gun-vessels, my best thanks are due.

The gig of the Grinder, under Lieutenant Hamilton, had a narrow escape upon the same day from a similar ambuscade at a place called Kirpe, 10 miles east of Marioupol, the very proper humanity of Lieutenant Hamilton in not firing into an open defenceless town, as it appeared to him, having nigh entailed the loss of a boat's crew when he attempted to land and destroy a corn store. A heavy fire of musketry at half pistol shot providentially injured no one, and Lieutenant Hamilton appears to have skilfully escaped.

The 19th of July I reconnoitred Taganrog in the Jasper gunboat. A new battery was being constructed upon the heights near the hospital, but, although two shots were thrown into it, it did not reply.

Every part of the town showed signs of the injuries it had received when we visited it under the late Capt. Edmund Lyons of the Miranda. The long series of government stores burnt by the allied flotilla had not been repaired, and the only sign of any communication being now held by water with the Don was one large barge upon the beach.

To put a stop, however, to all traffic of this nature, and to harass the enemy in this neighbourhood, I have ordered Commander Craufurd to remain in the Gulf of Azoff with two gun vessels under his orders.

That the squadron has not been idle I trust this report will show; and, without entering more into details than I have done, I can assure you, Sir, that from Genitchi to Taganrog, and thence round to Kamisheva, we have kept the coast in a state of constant alarm and their troops incessantly moving. The good service done by the gunboats in this way has been very great.

The total amount of provisions, corn, fisheries, forage, and boats destroyed has been something enormous.

Nothing can exceed the zeal or activity of the officers or good conduct of the men constituting this squadron, and constant work does not I am happy to say, appear as yet to impair their health.

I have, &c., SHERARD OSBORN,
Commander and Senior Officer.
Rear-Admiral Sir E. Lyons, Bart., G. C. B., &c.

Her Majesty's ship Swallow, off Crooked Spit, Sea of Azoff, July 15, 1855.

Sir,—In compliance with your orders, I proceeded in her Majesty's steam gun-boat Grinder, with Cracker and Boxer, and boats of the squadron, to reconnoitre the Crooked Spit.

Having cleared the spit of some mounted troops who occupied it, I ordered a detachment of boats, with their respective officers, to land and destroy the immense fishing establishments and nets found upon the point of it. The country seemed swarming with cavalry, but, by the able management of the officers in command of the gun boats, and by their good fire, they were effectually driven off the spit some distance inland.

Having reconnoitred as far into the land as we could see from the mast-head of the Grinder, all the boats were ordered to land and set fire to very extensive Government stores upon the upper part of the spit, including large fishing establishments, an enormous quantity of nets, haystacks, and several large houses used as Government stores. I learnt from a Russian fisherman, that the fish caught in this spit, and cured there, was immediately forwarded to Simpheropol, for the use of the Crimean army; and I concluded that a very severe blow has been inflicted upon the enemy by the amount of property which was destroyed, including spars, timber, fish, nets and boats—apparently the most extensive fishing establishment in the Sea of Azoff; and I am happy to say without a casualty. My thanks are due to Lieutenants Hamilton of the Grinder, and Townshend, of the Boxer, as also to Lieutenants Rowley, of

the Curlew, Grylls, of the Fancy, Sullivan, of the Vesuvius, Mr Aldrich, master of the Swallow, Mr Dear, gunner of the Curlew, and Mr Windsor, gunner of the Swallow; who all and each by their zeal and activity rendered, great service in destroying so large an accumulation of stores and houses in so short a space of time. I have, &c.,

FRED. A. B. CRAUFURD, Commander.
Commander Osburn, Senior Officer.

THE BALTIC.

Arrogant, off the Mouth of the Kymene, July 28, 1855.

Very early on the morning of the 26th I was joined, off the Island of Hogland, by the Cossack and Magicienne, bringing with them the mortar vessels Prompt, Pickle, Rochet, and Blazer. I stood immediately to the northward; leaving the Ruby to bring on the gun-boats, which were not then in sight. They joined at noon, and at 2 p.m., we all anchored off Fort Rotsensholm. As the safety of our expedition rested chiefly on our investing and holding the entire profession of the fortified Island of Kotka, I determined upon taking it at once. Accordingly I anchored the large mortar vessels out of range, and leaving two-gun boats to look after them, I proceeded with the rest of the vessels to the westward of Kotka, for the purpose of destroying the bridge, so as to cut off the retreat of the garrison, and prevent their receiving their reinforcements from the main land. Captain Vansittart, of the Magicienne, with his accustomed zeal and activity, threaded his way at once through the shoals, and destroyed the bridge. As soon as all the vessels had anchored, so as to command the great military road leading from the fort of Hogfors Holm, and also the channel dividing the island from the main, I landed all the marines, under command of S. N. Lowder, R. M., with Lieut. George D. Dowell, R. M. A., and Lieut. H. C. Mudge, and P. R. Holmes, R. M., who took possession without being opposed, as the garrison (no doubt apprised of our coming by the telegraphs along the coast) had very recently evacuated, leaving behind them a large amount of military stores, which have since been burnt.

The following morning I weighed, leaving Captain Fanshawe with the Cossack in charge of the most important point, which required the utmost care and attention, as the enemy on several occasions threw out reconnoitring parties, as if inclined to attempt the recovery of the island.

Owing to a change of wind to the eastward, I regret to say that the village unfortunately caught fire from some Government buildings, and I fear much injury was done to it. It is a source of congratulation to be able to add that the fine church on the island sustained no damage whatever, owing to the precautions that were immediately taken to save it.

Return of Buildings and other Government Property Destroyed on the Island of Kotka, July 26, 1855.

Barracks.—1. Cavalry barracks, with stabling for 160 horses, bomb-proof magazine, and range of casemated stores, containing a large quantity of sponge, rammers, hand-carts, spikes, &c. 2. Infantry barracks for 300 men, detached range of officers' quarters, stables, cooking-houses, and clothing stores. 3. Infantry barracks for 200 men. Officers' quarters and other buildings in an unfinished state. 4. Cavalry barracks and stabling for 50 horses.

Magazines.—1. A large brick casemated magazine in two stories, roofed with sheet iron, and surrounded with a high wall; fitted to contain 3,500 barrels. 2. Brick casemate, fitted to contain 1,100 barrels; a small laboratory close to it. 3 and 4. Stone casemates, roofed with iron, fitted to contain 1,200 barrels each.

Guard-houses, Detached Buildings.—1. At the bridge-head. 2. At the telegraph station. 3. In front of Governor's House. 4. Adjoining cavalry barracks.

Stores Detached.—1. Large stone casemate, used for keeping oil, tar, &c., and containing a quantity of casks. 2. Large stone building full of miscellaneous military stores. 3. Wooden store, with stone casemate attached, containing sleighs, water carts, and buckets for extinguishing fire; lanterns, tent-poles, and pickets, stoves, and iron tubing. 4. Large forage barn, stone, with iron roof, enclosing three sides of an area of 150 feet, containing sleighs, brooms, and other stable stores.

Other Buildings.—1. Commandant's or governor's residence, with offices and out-buildings. 2. Block of buildings used as field-officers' quarters, stabling and offices. 3. Telegraph station, look-out house and flagstaff. 4 and 5. Solid brick buildings (without fittings) intended to be used as block houses, or quarters for artillerymen or troops stationed at the round battery, on the south point. 6. Extensive brick manufactory, with sheds and implements.

Miscellaneous.—Some workshops, a quantity of squared timber and stocks of staves prepared for manufacturing bandsaws, tent-poles, sponge staves, and several thousand loads of cut firewood.

YELVERTON, Commander.

Berdiansk, on the Sea of Azoff, has been bombarded afresh, and had suffered severely.

It is positively stated that the coronation of the Emperor of Russia will take place at Moscow in the autumn.