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NAVAL ACTIONS AT ALGEZIRAS.

Admiralty Office (London)
Aug. 1, 1801.

Letter from Rear Ad. Sir. Jas. Saumarez, to Evan Nepean, Esq. dated on board the *Cæsar*, at Gibraltar, July 6.

SIR—I have to request you will be pleased to inform my lords commissioners of the admiralty, that, conformably to my letter of yesterday, I stood through the Straits with his Majesty's Squadron under my orders, with the intention of attacking three French line of battle ships and a frigate, that I had received information of being at anchor off Algeziras; on opening Cabareta Point, I found the ships lay at a considerable distance from the enemy's batteries, and having a leading wind up to them, afforded every reasonable hope of success in the attack.

I had previously directed Capt. Hood, in the *Venerable*, from his experience and knowledge of the anchorage, to lead the Squadron, which he executed with his accustomed gallantry, and although it was not intended he should anchor, he found himself under the necessity so to do, from the winds failing (a circumstance so much to be apprehended in this country,) and to which circumstance I have to regret the want of success in this well intended enterprise. Capt. Sterling anchored opposite the inner ship of the enemy, and brought the *Pompee* to action in the most spirited and gallant manner, which was also followed by the commanders of every ship in the Squadron.

Captains Darby and Ferris, owing to the light winds, were prevented for a considerable time from coming into action; at length the *Hannibal* getting a breeze, Captain Ferris had the most favourable prospect of being alongside one of the enemy's ships, when the *Hannibal* unfortunately took the ground, and I am extremely concerned to acquaint their Lordships, that after having made every possible effort with this ship and the *Audacious*, to cover her from the enemy, I was under the necessity to make sail, being at the same time only three cables length from one of the enemy's batteries.

My thanks are particularly due to all the captains, officers, and men under my orders; and although their endeavours have not been crowned with success, I trust the thousands of spectators from his Majesty's garrison, and also the surrounding coast, will do justice to their valour and intrepidity, which was not to be checked by the fire from the numerous batteries, however formidable, that surround Algeziras.

I feel it incumbent upon me to state to their Lordships the great merits of Captain Brenton of the *Cæsar*, whose cool judgment, and intrepid conduct, I will venture to pronounce, were never surpassed. I also beg leave to recommend to their Lordships' notice, my flag lieutenant, Mr. Philip Dumaresq, who has served with me from the commencement of this war, and is a most deserving officer. Mr. Lamborne and the other lieutenants are also entitled to great praise, as well as Capt. Maxwell of the marines, and the officers of his corps serving on board the *Cæsar*.

The enemy's ships consisted of two of 84 guns, and one of 74, with a large frigate; 2 of the former are aground, and the whole are rendered totally un-serviceable.

I cannot close this letter without rendering the most ample justice to the great bravery of Capt. Ferris; the loss in his ship must have been very considerable both officers and men; but I have the satisfaction to be informed, that his Majesty has not lost so valuable an officer.

I have the honor to be,
&c. &c. &c.
JAMES SAUMAREZ.

[The former account of the killed, wounded and missing in the above action was stated at 361.—Adm. Sir James Saumarez gives a total of 365.]

Algeziras, July 7, 1801.

SIR,

I have little more to tell you of the fate of his Majesty's ship *Hannibal* than yourself must have observed, only, that from the number of batteries and ships, gun-boats, &c. we had to encounter, our guns soon got knocked up; and I found it was impossible to do any thing either for the preservation of the ship, or for the good of the service; our boats, sails, rigging and springs being all shot away, and having so many killed and wounded, I thought it prudent to strike, and thereby preserve the lives of the brave men that remained.

Had I been successful in the view before me, previous to the ship's taking the ground, my praises of the conduct of my officers and ship's company could not have exceeded their merits; but I have, notwithstanding, the satisfaction to say, that every order was observed and carried in execution with that promptitude and alacrity becoming British officers and seamen.

I am &c.

(Signed) S. FERRIS.

Rear Admiral Sir James Saumarez, &c. &c. &c.

August 3.

The Hamburg mail due yesterday, arrived this morning; a messenger also arrived. The Constantinople account informs us, that the whole of the British and Turkish force, consisting of General Hutchinson's army, the Captain Pacha's and the Vizier's, have joined near Cairo. The amount of this force is stated at 42,000 men. Against such an enemy it is impossible that Cairo can hold out long.

The accounts from the French and Flemish coasts continue to talk of the great military and naval preparations. At Boulogne, Calais and Dunkirk, there are near 20,000 troops assembled. But these accounts confess that our cruisers keep all those ports in a state of blockade, and form a cordon from Calais to Havre.

We understand that dispatches were received by government this morning from Egypt; but their contents are not important.

[HAMBURG MAIL.]

Constantinople, June 28.

The whole of the Turkish and English force, which has formed a junction against the French at Cairo, is estimated at 42,000 men. A corps of English, under General Hutchinson, has likewise joined the army of the Grand Vizier, and the corps of the Captain Pacha.

Brussels, July 23.

In the negotiations for peace with England, the First Consul, it is understood, insists especially on the restoration of the Cape of Good Hope, and of the French ships taken by the English at Toulon. These points occasion much difficulty on the part of the English government.

August 5.

It was truly said, that the active spirit of Lord NELSON, not confining itself to defensive operations, would attempt and achieve something bold and decisive. On Saturday, as our readers know Lord NELSON sailed from Deal in the *Medusa* frigate, with a division of gun-boats and bomb vessels for the coast of France. On Sunday and Monday other divisions of gun-boats followed, and the whole force was collected and concentrated before Boulogne on Monday morning. In the evening his Lordship stood in to Boulogne Bay and kept working on and off until yesterday morning, when he determined

to commence the attack. It began according to some accounts, between six and seven o'clock, other accounts state that it began a quarter before eight. The atmosphere was so clear, that the bombardment was plainly discernible from Dover Heights, which were crowded with thousands of anxious spectators—Some gentlemen even went off from Deal to Dover in boats to see the engagement more nearly.

Our private letters, which will be found to be extremely interesting, inform us, that the firing was tremendous on both sides. The French seem to have expected an attack, and to have been prepared for it. The gun-boats and bomb vessels were, it is said, stationed in two lines, flanked by the batteries. As soon as our Squadron opened their fire, it was returned from the batteries and bomb vessels. Till about twelve o'clock the engagement was very warm. The batteries then slackened their fire, and about half past twelve were totally silenced. The bomb vessels, however continued to throw bombs till half past five yesterday evening, when the firing entirely ceased. At one time during the bombardment, the town of Boulogne was on fire in two places.

No Officer is yet arrived from Lord NELSON, and no official particulars had reached the Admiralty when this paper was put to press. It is reported, however, and we are inclined to give credit to the rumour, that his Lordship succeeded in destroying most of the gun-boats and bomb vessels in the harbour.

The Town of Boulogne is also said to have been considerably damaged.

Some gun-vessels, which attempted to get out of Calais yesterday morning, were forced by one of our vessels to seek again the shelter of their own harbour.

August 6—7.

We communicated to our readers yesterday some particulars, and the general result of Lord Nelson's attack upon Boulogne. Letters concur in representing his Lordship's exertions to have been crowned with the desired success.

The attack commenced on Tuesday morning, and continued with little intermission till half past five in the afternoon. Before the firing ceased, Lord Nelson it is said, sent off a letter to a correspondent of his Lordship's in town, which gives the most gratifying account of the commencement of the operations. This letter was written before the firing was over, and cannot be expected to furnish many particulars.—The Noble Admiral states, "that he had taken five of the enemy's floating batteries, and that he had silenced two of the principal batteries on shore; that by the bombardment the lower town of Boulogne had suffered considerably, and that the steeple of the great church had fallen down. He observes, that the success of the attack was such that England would experience no molestation from this port; and he added, that after he had completed the object of his instructions at Boulogne, he was to proceed to see what preparations for invasion the enemy had made elsewhere. His Lordship says that the enemy had been very pointed in their attentions to him, as they directed a great part of their fire against the vessel which bore his flag.

We understand that as soon as his Lordship perceived the town to be on fire, he sent in a message to declare, that he did not wish to injure the property and persons of inoffensive individuals. He only wished to convince the enemy that their threats of invasion would be productive of disastrous consequences to themselves.

As soon as his Lordship had completed the object of his mission at Bou-

logne, he was to proceed to some other port to attack other flotillas of gun-boats.

The success which has attended his Lordship's efforts is extremely seasonable and important. The enemy perhaps thought us to be so entirely occupied in preparations of defence against invasion, as not to be able to execute offensive operations.—They will now be convinced that the project of invading us only produces the effect of uniting us more firmly against any power that dares to menace us.

We received this morning the Paris Papers to the third of August. Their contents are extremely interesting and important. Our readers will find long details of the two naval battles. They state that the two Spanish ships which blew up mistook each other for enemies, and maintained a warm action for a considerable length of time. Of the *St. Antonio* they add that they have no certain accounts. The French Admiral Linois, and the remainder of the Spanish Squadron, got into Cadiz. Of the Spanish Admiral Moreno, the French accounts say, that he had *calculated every thing*: but that the misfortune which happened to the Spanish ships in the midst of a stormy and dark night was beyond all calculation.

The news from Egypt is of considerable importance; it is to the 21st of June. At that period Alexandria and Cairo were still in possession of the French. The Grand Vizier had advanced against Cairo, and had been completely defeated by Gen. Belliard, and driven back to Salahich. Gen. Hutchinson was at Tarannee, and the Captain Pacha on the heights of Tarannee. Gen. Belliard was about to attack Gen. Hutchinson.

On the 9th of June, a corvette, sent by Gantheaume, got into Alexandria with ammunition and some troops. This vessel left Gantheaume at anchor 25 leagues off Alexandria. It can no longer therefore be doubted that he landed the troops which he had on board his Squadron.

An article in the *Moniteur* of the 28th, under the head of Calais, noticing the prohibition of our Government to land any passengers from France, says, "this measure is evidently founded upon the alarm excited in England by the preparations for invasion, which are pressed forward with activity upon our coasts."

The French Funds, however, continue to fall—they are at 42.

JOHN L. VENNER,
HAS IMPORTED
IN THE MINERAL SPRING, FROM
LONDON,
An Extensive Assortment of
BRITISH GOODS,

Which are opening for Sale at his Store,
on the Market-Wharf.

THESE GOODS are perfectly adapted to the consumption of the Country—they have been put up under Mr. VENNER'S own inspection, and in a way that enables the Subscriber to sell unusually low, and to warrant the articles in general of a superior quality.—His former friends it is presumed will find it greatly advantageous to renew their orders, they may be assured the business will be conducted in the same liberal manner, and as much to their satisfaction as heretofore.

For the accommodation of purchasers out of town, payments will be received in the Produce of the Country on the fairest terms.

ZALMON WHEELER.

CASH and the highest prices always given for SKINS and FURS,
St. John, 21st July, 1801.