

Wasp, lately arrived from Halifax, to man our gun boats, and the captured American vessels at Isle aux Noix, for the purpose of joining with a body of eight hundred picked men, in making a movement on that Lake, to arrest the progress of the reinforcements moving towards the American armies at Sackett Harbour, under Major-General Lewis, and at Niagara, under Major-General Dearborn. I have selected an officer of merit and enterprise for this service, and he has received my instructions to destroy the vessels and boats of every description along the shore, and such public buildings as are used for military purposes. He is also to bring away or destroy provisions and warlike stores of every kind which may fall into his possession; but all private property, and the persons of the unarmed and inoffensive inhabitants, are to be respected, and every care and precaution are to be taken to preserve both inviolate.

Admiralty-Office, October 12, 1813.

THE letters, of which the following are copies and extracts, have been transmitted to John Wilson Croker, Esq. by Vice-Admiral Sir Edward Pellew, Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Ships and Vessels in the Mediterranean.

SIR, *Milford, off Porto Ré, July 6, 1813.*

I HAVE the honour to acquaint you, that on the 28th ult. I left Melada, and on the 30th, assembled the Elizabeth and Eagle off Promontorio. On the 1st inst. the squadron entered the Quarrier Channel, and on the 2d, in the evening, anchored about four miles from Fiume, which was defended by four batteries, mounting fifteen heavy guns. On the 3d, in the morning, the ships named in the margin* weighed, with a light breeze from the S.W. with the intention of attacking the sea line of batteries, (for which the arrangement had been previously made and communicated) leaving a detachment of boats and marines with the Haughty, to storm the battery at the Mole Head, as soon as the guns were silenced; but the wind very light, shifting to the S.E. with current from the river, broke the ships off, and the Eagle could only fetch the second battery, opposite to which she anchored. The enemy could not stand the well directed fire of that ship. This being communicated by telegraph, I made the signal to storm, when Captain Rowley, leading in his gig the first detachment of marines, took possession of the fort and hoisted the King's colours, whilst Captain Hoste, with the marines of the Milford, took and spiked the guns of the first battery, which was under the fire of the Milford and Bacchante, and early evacuated. Captain Rowley leaving a party of seamen to turn the guns of the second battery against the others, without losing time, boldly dashed on through the town, although annoyed by the enemy's musketry from the windows of the houses, and a field-piece placed in the centre of the great street; but the marines, headed by Lieutenants Lloyd and Nepean, and the seamen of the boats, proceeded with such firmness, that the enemy retreated before them, drawing the

* Milford, Elizabeth, Eagle, Bacchante, and Haughty.

field piece until they came to the square, where they made a stand, taking post in a large house. At this time, the boats with their carronades, under Captain Markland, opened against the gable end of it with such effect, that the enemy gave way at all points, and I was gratified at seeing them forsake the town in every direction. Captain Hoste, with his division, followed close to Captain Rowley, and on their junction, the two batteries, with the field piece, stores, and shipping, were taken possession of, the Governor and every officer and man of the garrison having run away. Considering the number of troops in the town, above three hundred and fifty, besides natives, our loss has been trifling; one marine of the Eagle, killed; Lieutenant Lloyd, and five seamen and marines, wounded. Nothing could exceed the spirit and disposition manifested by every captain, officer, seaman, and marine, in the squadron.

Although the town was stormed in every part, by the prudent management of Captains Rowley and Hoste, not an individual has been plundered, nor has any thing been taken away except what was afloat, and in the Government stores.

I herewith send a return of the property and vessels captured, and have the honour to be &c. &c.

THOS. FRAS. FREEMANTLE.

Vice-Admiral Sir Edward Pellew, Bart.

&c. &c. &c.

A List of Vessels, Stores, &c. taken and destroyed at Fiume on the 3d July 1813.

99 vessels, more than half of the smaller class were returned to the proprietors, 13 sent to Lissa, laden with oil, grain, powder, and merchandise; the rest were destroyed.

59 iron guns (part only mounted), rendered totally useless.

8 brass eighteen-pounders, and one field-piece, taken away.

500 stand of small arms.

200 barrels of powder.

Rations of bread for seventy thousand men, and two magazines with stores, &c. burnt.

THOS. FRAS. FREEMANTLE.

SIR, *Milford, off Porto Ré, July 6, 1813.*

I HAVE the honour to inform you, that yesterday the squadron under my orders moved from Fiume to this place, and the Haughty was dispatched with prizes to Lissa.

Captains Hoste and Markland landed with the marines, and found the forts abandoned by the enemy, who had spiked the guns, and thrown the ammunition into the sea. The boats went up to Bocca Ré, where a convoy of thirteen sail were scuttled; one of them only could be recovered. Having rendered the guns, ten in number, entirely useless, burnt the carriages, and blown up the works, I have ordered the ships to their several stations.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) THOS. FRAS. FREEMANTLE.

Vice-Admiral Sir Edward Pellew, Bart.

&c. &c. &c.