

mand of the Curlew, states to Captain Osborn that at one place alone the rows of stacks were six deep and extended two miles, and it appears that for economy in transport and storage the straw was cut near to the ears of the corn.

5 As the ice is now forming on the shores of the Sea of Azof and the squadron is withdrawn, I feel it to be due to Captain Osborn to record that under circumstances of great difficulty, occasioned by unusually tempestuous weather, he has most ably continued through the summer, and brought to a successful close in the autumn, operations novel in their nature and extremely detrimental to the enemy, which commenced auspiciously in the spring under the direction of the late Captain Lyons of the *Miranda*; nor is it too much to say, that both commanding officers were supported throughout, by as dashing and as intelligent a band of young officers, seamen, and marines, as ever shone in the British Navy.

I am, &c.

(Signed) EDMUND LYONS,
Rear-Admiral and Commander-in-Chief.

The Secretary of the Admiralty, London.

No. 41. *Her Majesty's steam-sloop Vesuvius, off Gheisk, November 7, 1855.*

AFTER dark on the evening of the 3rd instant, the squadron under my command was assembled and anchored in 16 feet water, off Gheisk-Liman, and I made arrangements for the morrow to operate against the extensive collection of corn, forage, and fuel, belonging to the enemy, stacked along its shores, so as to distract the attention of the large force which, from previous observation, I knew to be in the neighbourhood.

Under Lieutenant Ross, of the *Weser*, I placed the *Curlew* in the temporary charge of Lieutenant Miall, and the *Ardent* in charge of Mr. Tilly, Second Master, each vessel having sufficient men left in her to weigh an anchor, or fight a gun, and man a few boats, giving orders to Lieutenant Ross to close in on the northern face of Gheisk, and to be prepared to co-operate with me inside the Liman.

The *Vesuvius* I left in the offing, denuded of every available person; embarking officers and men as in the annexed list, from the *Vesuvius*, *Curlew*, *Weser*, and *Ardent*, with their boats, we left at daylight, towed by Her Majesty's gun-boats, *Recruit*, Lieutenant G. Day.

Boxer, Lieutenant S. P. Townsend.

Cracker, Lieutenant J. H. Marryat.

Clinker, Lieutenant J. S. Hudson.

By 6:30 A.M. the flotilla was off *Vodina*, three miles north of *Glofira*; here long tiers of corn-stacks and much fuel was stored along the coast, with a Cossack guard for its protection; I immediately detached Commander Kennedy with the boats, covering him with the gun-vessels, and in a short time all was in flames, and the party cleverly re-embarked at the moment that a large body of Cossacks rode up from *Lazalnite*.

The town of *Glofira* became the next point of attack; it was greatly changed in appearance since visited by Captain Rowley Lambert in July last. Corn stacks, for some miles in extent, might now be seen along its southern and eastern face, placed close to the water's edge ready for transport; and between the rows of houses tier on tier were to be seen.

An entrenchment had been cut along the edge of the cliff commanding the spit; large bodies of dismounted cavalry were seen lining it, and armed men shewed in the rear of every house.

To endeavour to flank the defences, as well as destroy the corn stacks stored on a high hill east of *Glofira*, I despatched Commander Kennedy, with the boats of Her Majesty's ship *Curlew*, a paddle-box boat and cutter of the *Vesuvius*, the whole towed by the *Clinker*, Lieutenant Hudson, with orders to turn the spit end, and then attack in that direction, after giving a certain time to allow the enemy's attention to be divided by the other attack. The gun-boats *Recruit*, *Grinder*, *Boxer*, and *Cracker*, opening fire on the entrenchments with Shrapnell shell, and on the corn ricks with carcasses.

As the enemy could only be dislodged from the extreme west, and the carcasses did not well answer, and moreover endangered the whole town, I despatched Lieutenants Day and Campion with the small force of marines available, a howitzer boat and two rocket boats, to aid more effectually in carrying out my object.

Lieutenant Campion, with Mr. Verey, gunner, charging at the head of the marines, supported by Lieutenant Day and the seamen, all being under a sharp fire of musketry, succeeded in driving the enemy, with considerable loss, out of their trench work, and captured a small brass piece, and then steadily forced them back, with loss, from store to store, until the whole of the vast quantity of corn, stacked ready for thrashing and transport, was in flames.

The gallant manner in which Lieutenant Campion led the marines deserves to be brought under your notice.

Seeing the enemy collecting a number of men, ready to charge our men if they advanced beyond a ravine on the east face of the town, I recalled my force, and had the satisfaction of seeing all embarked, with only one man wounded.

The vessels off *Gheisk* were now seen to be engaged, Lieutenant Ross, of the *Weser*, having placed them in capital positions; and, as the enemy moved down large bodies of troops, especially cavalry, to resist his landing, and opened fire on him, he very unwillingly had to fire on the town, to dislodge them.

The proceedings of Lieutenant Ross were ably executed, and he fully succeeded in keeping in check a heavy body of cavalry which might have much incommoded the small force under Commander Kennedy, who, by the most strenuous exertions, had reached his position, and finding the cliff too steep to scale in the face of a large number of troops, who were firing on him from its crest, he very judiciously executed the duty I had entrusted to him, with the gun and the carcass rockets of the ship's boats, setting every store in flames, except one large government building considerably in the rear.

Commander Kennedy speaks in the highest terms of his party, for the shallowness of the water obliged the crews of the boats to be rowing and wading through the water from noon until midnight, the season too being now very cold.

Throughout the night the stores were burning fiercely, a sheet of flames extending fully two miles, but the town of *Glofira*, except where the troops had used the houses against us, remained untouched.

At an early hour on the 6th November, we weighed and proceeded into the Liman, steering towards *Gheisk*; the valuable services of Mr. George Perry, Acting Master of the *Vesuvius*, and Mr. Parker, Second Master of the *Recruit*, came here into play; and, at an early period, I had the satisfaction of seeing all the gun-boats anchored just in their own draught of water, within long gun-shot of the east extreme of *Gheisk* and the