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ADMIRALTY, July 27, 1854.

**D**ESPATCHES, of which the following are copies, have been received from Vice-Admiral Dundas, C. B., Commander-in-Chief of Her Majesty's Ships and Vessels in the Mediterranean and Black Sea :—

*Destruction of Batteries, &c., at the Sulina. Death of Captain Hyde Parker of the Firebrand.*

No. 330. *Britannia, off Baljik, July 11, 1854.*

I HAVE the honour to enclose for the information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, copies of the Reports of Commander Powell and other officers who on the 8th instant attacked and completely destroyed the inner batteries, stockades, and buildings, at the Sulina Mouth of the Danube.

2. The satisfaction I feel at the perfect success of this gallant exploit, is much diminished by the death of Captain Hyde Parker, who fell when leading his men.

The service has lost in him a most promising young officer, who was always zealous to do his duty, and never made a difficulty.

3. Acting Lieutenant Lyons, after the fall of his gallant captain, commanded the Firebrand's boats, and most admirably did his duty, suffering a loss in his own boat of five men wounded.

I have, &c.

J. W. D. DUNDAS, Vice-Admiral.

*The Secretary of the Admiralty.*

Enclosure No. 1, in Mediterranean Letter No. 330.

*Her Majesty's Ship Vesuvius, off Sulina, July 8, 1854.*

SIR,

It is with great grief that I have to report to you that Captain Hyde Parker, of Her Majesty's steam-frigate Firebrand, has been this day killed whilst in the act of leading his men to take a stockade battery on the Danube.

The loss of this gallant Officer is but ill compensated by the complete success with which his attack was attended.

The circumstances are as follows :—Captain Hyde Parker directed a strong party of boats from the Firebrand and Vesuvius to accompany him up the Danube for the purpose of destroying some works which were occupied by the Russians. At 2 P.M. the boats entered the Danube, Captain

Parker's gig in advance ; at a bend of the river, opposite a number of houses on the right bank, and a large stockade. A sharp fire was opened upon him, and at was nearly riddled ; some of his men were killed.

The heavy boats coming up, and Captain Parker at once pulled back to them, hailing me to land the marines as ready to storm. This order was executed the marines and a detachment of seamen the same gallant spirit with which it was given. Captain Parker then dashed on shore, in his gig, and at once advanced with a few men ; he was in front and greatly exposed ; a tremendous fire was soon opened by the enemy upon them, and a few minutes after landing a bullet passed through their leader's heart, and in a moment this gallant sailor ceased to live. Thus died an officer whose merits, Sir, are well known to yourself. His conduct on this occasion leaves an example of valour that never can be erased from the memory of those who were present.

The command of the force then devolved upon myself. I directed the gun-boats and rocket-boat at once to be brought to the front ; the storming party was formed by Lieutenant Jull, R. M. A., the gun-boats commenced a most effective fire upon the houses and battery, and in a short time the enemy's fire was silenced.

I directed the storming party to advance, and the place was entered at a run by a detachment of marines and sailors, headed by Lieutenant Jull, R. M. A., and Lieutenant Hawkey, R. M.

We found that the enemy had already retreated at the rear, and so thick was the cover that pursuit was in vain.

The work that we had taken was a gabion battery, the guns of which had been taken away and the embrasures filled up. It consisted of a front along the river, raised about 15 feet high, and 400 yards in extent ; in the rear was a morass, and the two flanks, which were not 30 yards in length, were defended as in front ; this work enclosed about fifty Government houses, stables, store-houses, and a magazine. The works have been entirely demolished, the houses destroyed, and nothing now marks the spot but a heap of ruins. Part of the Town of Sulina, from whence the enemy had opened fire, has been burnt ; the principal street I have thought it proper to spare.

There was no means of computing the enemy's loss, although they were seen to fall inside the in-