

gation, will prevent ships approaching the main fortress so near as could be wished ; but when the batteries are established acting in the rear of the fort, and supported by the shell guns in front, it cannot hold out more than a few hours.

9. I have put off to the last moment the departure of the mail, but I shall send an extra courier the moment the fort surrenders.

10. The western tower was fired either by accident or design, I do not know which, and blew up at 11 A.M. yesterday.

11. I am sorry to add that Lieutenant Cowell, Royal Engineers, Aide-de-Camp to Brigadier-General Jones, was unfortunately wounded in the leg by the accidental discharge of his pistol; he is now on board the Belleisle, doing well, but the loss of his services is much to be regretted.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) CHAS. NAPIER,
Vice-Admiral and Commander-in-Chief.

The Secretary of the Admiralty.

P.S. A return of the whole of the force landed, and of casualties, will be forwarded by the next opportunity, together with an inventory of stores and list of prisoners.

SURRENDER OF BOMARSUND.

No. 355.

SIR,

*Bulldog, off Bomarsund,
August 16, 1854.*

In continuation of my despatch of this date, I beg you will inform their Lordships that after sending away the mail the fortress opened a heavy fire on Captain Pelham's battery, which had annoyed them much, and which he maintained all yesterday and to-day, and it is wonderful how he and his men escaped. He had with him Lieutenant Close and Mr Wildman, Mate, of whom he speaks highly. Seeing his position, I immediately ordered the ships and steamers named in the margin,* who were within range with their 10-inch guns, as well as the French mortars on shore, which had been playing on them some time, to give them a shot and shell every five minutes ; and their fire was so well directed that the enemy held out a flag of truce.

2. I sent Captain Hall (of the Bulldog) on shore, who was shortly joined by Admiral Parseval's Aide-de-Camp and two of General Baraguay d'Hilliers's Staff, and the troops in the fortress agreed to lay down their arms and march out.

3. After I had landed I was joined by the French Admiral and the Commander-in-Chief of the Army ; the prisoners (about 2,000 I believe) were marched out and embarked in steamers, and proceeded to Led Sund, to Commodore the Honourable Frederick Grey, who will conduct them to the Downs to await further orders.

4. I beg to congratulate their Lordships on the fall of this important fortress, which will be followed by the submission of the Garden of Islands, with so small a loss ; and I am happy to say the greatest cordiality has subsisted between the French General and Admiral and myself, as well as between the soldiers and sailors of the two Nations.

5. As soon as I can collect a list of the stores surrendered, it shall be forwarded to their Lordships, and a Commissary has been named for that purpose.

Edinburgh ; Ajax ; Arrogant ; Amphion ; Valorous ; Sphynx ; Driver.

6. This despatch will be delivered by my Flag Lieutenant (Lieutenant John de Courcy Agnew), whom I beg to recommend to their Lordships for promotion.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) CHARLES NAPIER,
Vice-Admiral and Commander-in-Chief.

The Secretary of the Admiralty.

ADMIRALTY, August 23, 1854,

The following ADDITIONAL DESPATCH has been received from Vice-Admiral Sir Charles Napier, K. C. B., detailing operations connected with the fall of the Fortress of Bomarsund :—

No. 340.

SIR,

*Bulldog, off Bomarsund,
August 11, 1854.*

By the last mail I informed their Lordships of the arrival and debarkation of the troops ; I now beg to acquaint you that on Wednesday morning, the 9th instant, the troops were in position, both to the north and south, and the western battery of the enemy completely invested.

2. It was now time to land the guns, and as we had no horses it was necessary to employ the ships' companies instead. Enclosed is a copy of the order I gave to Rear-Admiral Chads, and his report of proceedings.

3. There were many instances last war of guns being placed in extraordinary positions, but I do not believe that in any one case such difficulties were overcome as in the present instance.

4. The moving of the guns was under the command of Captain Hewlett, of the Edinburgh ; but Admiral Chads, with his usual activity, was there to cheer them on, and indeed all the Captains occasionally gave the benefit of their presence to the men employed on this hard and fatiguing service.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) CHAS. NAPIER,
Vice-Admiral and Commander-in-Chief.

The Secretary of the Admiralty.

Enclosure No. 1, in Sir Charles Napier's Letter,
No. 340.

*Bulldog, off Bomarsund,
August 9, 1854.*

(Memorandum.)

I WISH as many thirty-two pounder guns as General Jones may require, to be landed from the Belleisle, and conveyed to him.

Having the fullest reliance on your skill and exertions to perform this difficult and important service I shall give you no other instructions than to get them there.

If the portion of your squadron now here is not sufficient, you shall have what further assistance as is in my power to give you.

(Signed) CHAS. NAPIER,
Vice-Admiral.

*Rear-Admiral H. D. Chads, C.B.,
H.M.S. Edinburgh.*

Enclosure No. 2, in Sir Charles Napier's Letter,
No. 340.

No. 18.

SIR,

*Edinburgh, off Bomarsund,
August 12, 1854.*

In obedience to your directions to give every aid from the four ships of my squadron named in

