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ADMIRALTY, November 5, 1854,

THE following DESPATCHES from Vice-Admiral Dundas have this day been received at the Admiralty:—

No. 523.

*Britannia, off the Katscha,
October 13, 1854.*

1. I beg you will acquaint the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty that the Allied Armies are employed in erecting batteries to the south of Sebastopol, but I hear are much retarded by the rocky nature of the ground; the Russian fire of shot and shell by day and night has produced little or no effect. The Naval and Marine battalions are healthy, and there is less sickness in the army.

2. Sir Edmund Lyons, in the *Agamemnon*, with the *Diamond*, and a squadron of steamers, is at Balaklava, assisting the troops. A French squadron, under Vice-Admiral Bruat, is anchored between the lighthouse and the harbour, in communication with the left of the French Army. A division of steam-vessels watches the mouth of the port constantly, where four or five Russian steam-vessels always have their steam up, and the large sailing vessels are with Admiral Hamelin and myself, anchored off the Katscha River, the weather hitherto having permitted our remaining in those positions.

3. The *Sidon* and *Inflexible*, with *Cacique* and *Caton*, are still in Odessa Bay, to prevent any communication by sea with the Crimea, and I have sent a transport to them with coals and fresh provisions, which I have drawn from Sinope.

4. On the 11th, an Austrian vessel, laden with hay for the Commissariat, got within range of the batteries, and was deserted by her crew at the second shot; she ran on shore about 1500 yards south of the harbour mouth, and was got off that evening and towed to Balaklava. I enclose the report of Captain Jones, of the *Sampson*, who, with Captain Stewart, of the *Firebrand*, and Mr Boxer, Second Master in charge of the *Beagle*, assisted by the French launches, of the inshore squadron, got the Austrian to sea from under the batteries in a very successful and creditable manner. The *Firebrand* has four shots in her hull, but fortunately no casualties.

5. I learnt from Captain King of the *Leander*, of the approach to Eupatoria of a large Russian force near the town. I have sent the *Firebrand* and *Vesuvius* to assist in the defence, should it be attacked, and shall send two other vessels to-day.

6. The French and Turkish troops sent for from Varna and Constantinople by the *Simoom*, *Vulcan*, *Cyclops*, and our transports, are hourly expected; they have been kept back and detained by the late strong nor.-east gales.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) J. W. D. DUNDAS,
Vice-Admiral.

To the Secretary of the Admiralty,
&c. &c. &c.

*Britannia, off the Katscha,
October 18, 1854.*

SIR,

1. I beg you will acquaint the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty that the siege batteries of the Allied Armies opened fire upon the Russian works south of Sebastopol about half-past six o'clock yesterday morning, with great effect, and small loss.

2. In consequence of the most urgent request of Lord Raglan and General Canrobert, it was agreed by the Admirals of the Allied Fleets that the whole of the ships should assist the land attack by engaging the sea batteries north and south of the harbour, on a line across the port, as shown in the accompanying Plan, but various circumstances rendered a change in the position of the ships necessary and unavoidable.

3. The *Agamemnon*, *Sanspareil*, *Sampson*, *Tribune*, *Terrible*, *Sphinx*, and *Lynx*, and *Albion*, *London*, and *Arethusa*, towed by the *Firebrand*, *Niger*, and *Triton*, engaged Fort Constantine and the batteries to the northward; while the *Queen*, *Britannia*, *Trafalgar*, *Vengeance*, *Rodney*, *Bellerophon*, with *Vesuvius*, *Furious*, *Retribution*, *High-flyer*, *Spitfire*, *Spiteful*, and *Cyclops*, lashed on the port side of the several ships, gradually took up their positions as nearly as possible, as marked on the plan.

4. The action lasted from about half-past one to half-past six P.M., when, being quite dark, the ships hauled off.

5. The loss sustained by the Russians, and the damage done to Fort Constantine and batteries cannot of course as yet be correctly ascertained.

6. An action of this duration against such formidable and well armed works could not be maintained without serious injury, and I have to regret the loss of 44 killed, and 266 wounded, as detailed in the accompanying lists. The ships, masts,